

# **STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH**

## **Trustee Report and Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

Registered Charity No 1147230

### **Legal and Administrative Information for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

#### **The Committee is currently constituted as follows**

<b>Trustees</b>	President	Lynn Edwards OSNU
	Vice President	Geoff Jones LSSNU
	Treasurer	Robert Dangerfield
	Secretary	Kath Garrad LSSNU

Committee Member	Mark Grazier
Membership Secretary	Jean Jones LSSNU
Speakers Secretary	Roberta Harris
Booking Sitting Secretary	Rebecca Harris
Almoner	Annmarie Maybury
Committee Member	Dana Yardley

<b>Church Address</b>	49 Union Street
	Stourbridge
	West Midlands
	DY8 1PJ
	Telephone 01384 825060
	Website <a href="http://www.stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com">www.stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com</a>
	Email <a href="mailto:hello@stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com">hello@stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com</a>

<b>Bankers</b>	NatWest Bank
	L77, Merry Hill Centre
	Brierley Hill
	DY5 1QQ

#### **Independent Examiners**

Neil Westwood Chartered Accountant  
101 Dixons Green Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY2 7DJ

## **STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The trustees are both proud and pleased to present their annual report, along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The trustees have again adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in this paper and comply with the charities constitution and applicable accounting standards.

Stourbridge National Spiritualist Church was registered as a charity on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012, under the number 1147230, and became affiliated to the Spiritualists' National Union in June 1926.

#### **Charitable objectives**

The charitable objectives are to advance the religion and the religious philosophy of Spiritualism on the basis of the Seven Principles of the Spiritualist National Union.

#### **Financial Achievements and Performance**

The statement of financial activities for the year 2023 is set out in the following financial statement. In summary, the incoming resources for the year amount to £45,429, which compares to £92,419 received in 2022, with the major portions coming from collections and donations. The expenditure for 2023 was £49,640, compared to the expenditure of £51,542 in 2022, with the main expense being the upkeep and improvement of the building and also its interior, together with other general running costs. The deficit of income over expenditure for the year amounted to £4,211.

#### **Risk management**

The trustees continue to conduct its own review of major risks to which the charity is exposed. These procedures will be periodically reviewed to ensure that they meet the needs of the charity and are as follows:

- An annual review of the risks which the charity may face,
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified,
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statement**

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which shows a true and fair view of the charities financial activities during the year and to its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing the financial statement the trustees must follow best practice and

# STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (continued)

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply consistently,
- Make judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- Prepare the financial statement on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the project will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable charity rulings and other accounting standards. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Overview

As we venture into 2024 and we look back at 2023, it has been, once again, a very good year for Stourbridge Spiritualist Church in as much as we continue to thrive in a period of uncertainty for many, with rising bills and the shrinking economy so many challenges for people in all areas, among them, churches are struggling to survive, so we are all aware we are truly blessed and give our gratitude to be in this privileged position.

We give thanks to our new President of the Union, Minister Jackie Wright, for her continued support and leading by example by giving up her own fees when working at the college to help churches who are in dire need of financial support, and we hope that we are able to also give our assistance to fellow Spiritualists in some way, in the future. The committee will be discussing ways that we may contribute to helping those churches less fortunate than ourselves in the future months, in the spirit of our second principle, "The Brotherhood of Man".

We have continued with the earlier opening on Mondays with healing running from 12 15pm to 1 15pm and the afternoon service at 1 45pm, as the congregation has continued to increase with these times and we are finding that people who have not been for a while are finding their way back which is very gratifying and we hope the trend will continue. Unfortunately, we still fall victim to the dark and cold nights which, as you know, are beyond our control, but many thanks to all that brave those cold winter nights and days to support us as, without you all, there would be no church but, more importantly, we are grateful for the wonderful community we have that make the church that which it is.

We are welcoming many newcomers to the church via the very successful "Saturday Night Specials" where numbers are far exceeding all expectations, both financially and also in provoking interest in Spiritualism via the groups and visits to the Divine Services

This has not come by chance and I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee and volunteers for their continued dedication and work done for the church. It is sometimes hard to "juggle" time between family life, work and the church, as it is a great responsibility, and little is generally known of the "work behind the scenes". It is a great commitment, so my heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has given their time and expertise to make this church the success it continues to be.

We are very privileged to have such resourceful members of the team and many thanks must go to Robert Dangerfield for his immense talent with our finances, always finding the best deal for our savings and making sure everything balances to the penny. The sterling work he has done to procure the finest mediums and speakers, and to promote them with his knowledge of advertising through posters and through social media has been a great way to attract the younger generation, so, a very well done to him.

To all the Officers, who do so much behind the scenes and without whom we would not run as efficiently as we do, the amount of paperwork and mountains of correspondence to deal with can be a colossal undertaking, especially at this time of the year when Kath works so hard to get all the paperwork for the Annual General Meeting ready for the members on top of the normal workload. A massive thank you to Kath Garrad, and to all who to all those who contribute to this work in whichever way.

Last year saw building work undertaken, by virtue of the very generous donation of Margaret Hackett, so every toilet block was refurbished, including the toilet facilities in the medium's room, which was in great need of replacement. The guttering was replaced and the damage that the water had caused, i.e. cracks to the outer front wall have been rendered and the building painted, the outside woodwork cleaned and re-varnished. The outside cladding has been replaced and we are in the process of replacing the rear door frame as it has been found to leak. A complete fire system and fire doors have been installed and new fire emergency lights replaced.

It is of paramount importance to maintain this building for future generations and to ensure the safety of any member of the public.

We have also, this year, had a visit from the SNU's newly appointed and experienced Property Manager, to inspect the building and he suggested a very reputable firm to complete the 5-year survey. This has given us a full report on all aspects of the premises, enabling the committee to consider a long-term plan of maintenance for the coming years.

We aim to make this church a safe and welcoming place to be and to be a source of information regarding our religion of Spiritualism. This will be found in our divine services that we hold every week, so your valuable support is vital for not only our

existence, but for our future There has become an ever-increasing demand for more knowledge that our groups and healing sessions provide

If we are to move forward, we must be in a position to create that environment of knowledge and understanding of life through our seven principles, and our connection with God and the spirit world This should enable those who wish to know more to be furnished with the fundamental basics of our philosophy and mediumship and to deepen this to a more advanced level, should they wish

The church will always be somewhere like-minded people will find a safe and welcoming place to be, to share their thoughts and experiences, to make friends and a place of learning, a place of peace It is also a place to come together as a community, as we have found when we open the doors for coffee mornings which we are planning to make a regular attraction, supporting the local food bank and the installation of a defibrillator, which we believe has already been used by The West Midlands Ambulance Service

Let us continue to step boldly into 2024, remembering that we have, in our possession, this great legacy of not only the building, but the love and energy that has been by those who have gone before us, so we owe it to them to make sure that this church will still be here in another 100 years


We must keep that momentum, to strive to be the best there is, to maintain that dedication and that resolve that our pioneers worked so hard for and as in that wonderful song written by Laura Fisher, "Keep the Banner of Spirit still Burning", this is our goal, but we are not able to do it without the love and support of the members

We ask you to support us over the next year and to let us know what you want from the church We are and always will be a committee that listens and wants you to get the very best and the most from your church As we look to the future, we look for the younger generation to step forward with new ideas and technology for the continuation of this movement and knowledge of the Spirit.

We are privileged to be part of this fantastic journey and give our thanks to you all

#### **Independent Examiner**

Neil Westwood Chartered Account has expressed their willingness to continue as examiners and a resolution for their re-appointment will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting

Date 20/02 /2024 Chair Person 

Print Name L. EDWARDS.

## STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of Stourbridge Spiritualist Church in respect of the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

I report on the account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which are set out on the following pages

#### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act")

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

*N. Westwood*

N A Westwood  
Neil Westwood & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
101 Dixons Green Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY2 7DJ

Date *26<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

# STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	
	2023	2022
<b>Income</b>		
Church Collections	17339	14728
Charity Collections	270	612
Private Interviews	4419	2575
Membership Fees	944	928
Groups	2221	1986
Naming, Wedding & Funerals	0	0
Workshops	1994	1109
Church Shop	375	97
Healing Sessions	1644	1768
Sales of Books	16	17
Donations & Legacies	537	56712
Raffles	1526	1245
Coffee Mornings	550	-
Trip Contributions	1116	-
Mediums' Books	79	-
Social Events	859	-
Investment Income	10555	8098
Polling & Room Hire	250	325
Winter Fuel Contributions	350	-
Insurance Claim	0	1787
Interest	385	382
Sundry income	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>
Total receipts	45429	92419
<b>Expenditure</b>	<u>49640</u>	<u>51542</u>
<b>Excess /(Deficit) of income over expenditure</b>	<b>(4211)</b>	<b>40877</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>(13924)</u>	<u>(22408)</u>
<b>Net income/expenditure</b>	<b>(18135)</b>	<b>18469</b>
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Funds brought forward	<u>1122174</u>	<u>1103705</u>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b><u>1104039</u></b>	<b><u>1122174</u></b>
<i>There are no restricted or endowment funds</i>		

## STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	
	2023	2022
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Speakers' Expenses	6326	5727
Private Interviews	2175	1350
Hospitality	3927	2057
Cleaner	2375	1950
Gardening	720	195
Cleaning Materials/ Supplies	135	333
Stationery, Printing & Postage	537	437
Advertising	1415	1213
Flowers	171	195
Repairs, Renewals & Testing	16259	26212
Copier	45	39
Charity Donations	881	612
Gas & Electric	4107	4214
Water Rates	82	47
Committee Expenses	1050	865
Organist	940	910
Insurance	967	1015
AFC Coach Trip	1582	-
SNU Healers fees	238	265
SNU Capitation fees	625	665
Delegates' & NP Warden's Expenses	441	101
SNU AGM	636	-
SNU Diary	0	62
Healing Expenses	0	28
Members' Welfare	492	328
Telephone/ Wi-Fi	348	360
Refreshments	432	135
Raffle Expenses	491	314
General Expenses	0	62
Card Machine Fees	17	7
Group Leaders' Expenses	94	78
Garden Maintenance/ Materials	10	60
Shop Stock	51	-
Website & Hosting	1112	1116
Workshops	700	410
Mediums' Books	79	-
Independent Examiner's fee	180	180
	<u>49640</u>	<u>51542</u>

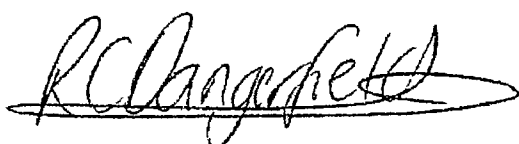


## STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

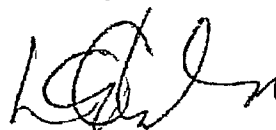
### Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Land & Buildings	850000	850000
Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings	<u>5000</u>	<u>5000</u>
	855000	855000
<b>Investments</b>		
Charities Property Fund	218435	232359
<b>Current assets</b>		
NatWest Current account	2170	3265
NatWest Business Reserve account	3023	-
SNU Trust Deposit account	253	251
SNU Trust Investment account	158	299
SNU Trust 1-5-1 account	-	1000
SNU Trust 1-6-1 account	1000	-
SNU Trust 1 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account (1)	-	10000
SNU Trust 1 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account (2)	-	10000
SNU Trust 2 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account	10000	10000
Dudley Building Society – 30 Day Notice account	4000	-
Hampshire Trust Bank – 1 Year Fixed Rate Bond	10000	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>30604</u>	<u>34815</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>1104039</u>	<u>1122174</u>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>		
Unrestricted funds	971901	990036
Revaluation reserve	<u>132138</u>	<u>132138</u>
	<u>1104039</u>	<u>1122174</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by



Church Treasurer



Church President

Date 20/02/2024

# STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Notes to the Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### 1) Accounting Policies

#### a) Accounting Standard

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102))

#### b) Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and the Trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

#### c) Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 December 2023, the Trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

#### d) Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Church becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain that they will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### e) Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

#### f) Depreciation

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2019 values following a revaluation of the property. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material.

### 2) Taxation

As a charity Stourbridge Spiritualist Church is exempt from Corporation Tax on the income and gains falling within the Taxation and Chargeable Gains' Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.