

Charity registration number 1147465

Company registration number 08039827 (England and Wales)

READING FAMILY CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

READING FAMILY CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	S E P Green P J Harley P I Chigada M D Blake N Davidson K L Twine	(Appointed 19 September 2023)
	S J Mitchell	(Appointed 23 January 2024)
Secretary	N Davidson	
Key Management	S E P Green S J Taylor E J Green T M Riches S K Raheja	
Charity number	1147465	
Governing Document	Memorandum and Articles of Association date 16th April 2012	
Company number	08039827	
Registered office	448a Basingstoke Road Reading Berkshire RG2 0RX	
Auditor	Bruton Charles The Coach House Greys Green Business Centre Henley-on-Thames Oxfordshire RG9 4QG	
Bankers	HSBC PLC 26 Broad Street Reading RG1 2BU	Nationwide Building Society Kings Park Road Moulton Park Northampton NN3 6NW
	Shawbrook Bank Ltd Lutea House Warley Business Park The Drive, Great Warley Brentwood CM13 3BE (Until January 24)	Virgin Money 177 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 7ER (From December 2023)

READING FAMILY CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Solicitors

Clifton Ingram LLP
22-24 Broad Street
Wokingham
RG40 1BA

READING FAMILY CHURCH

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READING FAMILY CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Reading Family Church's vision is 'To be a growing, Jesus-centred community, bringing God's Kingdom to Reading and beyond'.

The charity's objectives, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, for the public benefit are: -

- to advance the Christian faith, in accordance with its Statement of Beliefs, in Berkshire and in some other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the trustees may from time to time think fit;
- the prevention or relief of poverty in Berkshire and in some other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the trustees may from time to time think fit; and
- to fulfill other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales, and are connected to the charitable work of the Charity as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

This report aims to clearly demonstrate the public benefit that Reading Family Church continues to provide to the town of Reading and beyond; that it has achieved its aims and objectives (as above); and that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Activities

We are a vibrant church with a vision to be a growing, Jesus centred community, bringing God's kingdom to Reading and beyond.

We currently host 2 Sunday services (at a local school) and run outreach and social transformation ministries – Youth, Students, Toddler groups, Schools work, Debt Centre, Support groups, Food Pantry as well as courses to address marriage preparation, marriage enhancement, parenting, relationships, bereavement, and more.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Achievements and performance

Services, prayer and worship

After starting a second service in October 2022 (9am and 11.30am), the number of people attending our Sunday meetings continued to increase throughout 2023. The average attendance for adults and children in 2023 was 504 (2022:414). Our highest monthly average was November (564) and the lowest was August (394). During the school summer holidays (late July and throughout August) we reverted to holding just one Sunday meeting. The highest two Sundays (17th September and 5th November) of the year reached 607 (2022: 583) attendees across the two services. Attendance between the two meetings was fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, with the 9am slightly more attended.

During 2023 only the 9am meeting was livestreamed. The average monthly livestream peak audience remained steady throughout the year with an annual average of 29 live screens each week. The average number of screens watching the Sunday meeting by Tuesday lunchtime (in the week following the service) also held fairly steady, and averaged 76 per week.

Throughout 2023 we continued to hold weekly Sunday evening prayer meetings, initially alternating weekly between in-person and online, but moving to in-person only by the end of the year. Termly prayer weeks which included a series of online and in-person gatherings also took place during the year.

Children's work

In our children's work we have continued to care for our church children and families in person and have had many new families join us. The average number of children attending our kids groups across the 2 services has been 135 (2022:115). Our kids church team has over 60 adults serving with our under 11s including the main Kids Church, Creche and Comets (our group for children with additional needs).

Youth work

At Reading Family church our youth ministry is undertaken with the intention of helping those aged 11-18 build a personal relationship with Jesus. The aim is that by the end of their time in youth, young people will recognise the significance Jesus should have in their lives and be actively pursuing him through reading their Bibles, prayer and fellowship. RFC's youth work also provides a safe space for young people to bring their friends, socialise and meet different people of similar age.

Throughout 2023 there were two regular ways RFC achieved these aims: the Friday evening youth meeting and the youth sessions on a Sunday morning. Friday evenings provided a safe space for young people to socialise and a place for the youth team to build relationship with young people. During 2023 we also saw a number of young people who did not regularly attend church join us due to invites from those in the youth group. Our Sunday sessions created a space for us to look deeper into what the Bible says and what Jesus calls us to do as Christians.

In August 2023, RFC took 39 (2022:30) young people, 8 youth leaders and 4 catering team camping to Norfolk for the Newday conference. They joined with over 8000 other young people from across the nation to worship God, receive teaching and build fellowship together.

Throughout the 2022-23 academic year the youth work was led by a group of volunteers but in September 2023 RFC employed a full-time youth worker to oversee all aspects of youth ministry at RFC.

Student work

The student work at RFC aims to help university students to grow in their faith by deepening their relationship with Jesus and with other Christians. This is enabled through a weekly student life group, Sunday lunches and supporting students throughout the week.

This year saw the continued rebuilding of student work following the Covid-19 pandemic, with an average attendance on a Sunday increasing from 10 to 20 students through the year and 5 students getting baptised in April 2023. This was aided by the reintroduction of a student weekend away, which provided a brilliant opportunity for the deepening of relationships and discipleship, as well as the employment of a student worker in September 2023.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Supporting our congregation and local community

RFC has a team who provide pastoral support for our congregation and local community. We also have a team who support 30 midweek groups running in homes all over Reading, where attendees can experience a sense of belonging, friendship and spiritual growth that comes from joining a community within the church.

At the start of 2023 a number of staff changes led to a review of the provision of services to the local community. Our existing community worker resigned at the beginning of 2023 meaning that the job club/ Friday group was discontinued. The appointment of a new Local Missions Co-ordinator (in January 2023) provided the opportunity to revisit our goals. Listening to local people, including a local councillor, we identified poverty, isolation, and addiction as the key issues in Whitley.

CAP Debt Centre

In 2023, the debt team continued to see 4 new clients struggling with unmanageable debt each month (totalling 44 new households over the year). In 2023 the team managed to support 8 (2022:7) more households to become debt free. Our relationship with the Reading Jobcentre Plus developed and 2 mini-workshops were delivered to their customers. We also saw an expansion of the Money Coaching service with 3 new volunteers joining the existing 3 coaches to train on CAP's updated materials. Together they completed 2 group courses (hosted at RFC and at the Calcot Parenting Hub) and began 1:1 support for our Debt Centre clients.

Up until April 2023, the CAP debt centre was funded by Mercy Central. This charity dissolved at this time with the remaining funds transferred to RFC. These funds have been restricted exclusively for the work of the CAP debt centre.

Rainbows

Rainbows toddler group has continued to meet twice a week. Our Monday session runs at the Whitley children's centre and is attended by an average of 16 local non-church families. This group is one of the most popular sessions that is run at the centre. Our Thursday morning group at our church offices sees around 25 families attend each week with roughly a 50/50 split of church families and non-church families. We have recently seen more local mums join the group with connections being made via CAP and existing attendees inviting friends.

Chapter2

Chapter 2 is a mentoring project for boys without a male role model. In 2023, it had 9 (2022:10) men from RFC actively involved in mentoring. Two new mentors were matched in 2023 and 4 new mentors signed up (pending matching). The average number of boys being mentored by RFC attendees in 2023 was 10 (2022:10).

READING FAMILY CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Craft Café

Our monthly Craft Café continued to grow, with neighbours, CAP clients, Pantry members and a Chapter2 mum attending regularly and beginning to bring their friends. Several visited church on Sundays and attended Alpha. A mix of 20 RFC/guests attended our first 'Pay as you Can' Christmas Dinner, which offered a dignified way for lower income individuals to take part.

Food Pantry

In September, we launched a Food Pantry in collaboration with Faith Christian Group located at Reading Borough Council's community centre in Whitley Wood. This project enables low-income residents to access groceries at a reduced price. Each week, members can choose 10 items (food and non-food), whose value far exceeds the £5 weekly charge. Our free pop-up café, which runs alongside, offers a warm space to counter isolation. This has been a huge success with 26 households attending the final pantry of the year.

Additional Projects

In the Autumn term, plans were made to pilot an English conversation group for internationals based in Reading (using materials from 2:19 Teach to Reach) and a team were trained to support Faith Christian Group's Bed4aNight for refugees. Both projects launched in Jan 2024.

Marriage Preparation

RFC has had the privilege of supporting 2 couples (2022:4) in marriage preparation as well as on their wedding day. Various couples in the church facilitated nine sessions looking at aspects of communication, conflict resolution as well as helping couples understand the impact of their families of origin and therefore a greater understanding of expectations and needs in marriage.

Marriage Crisis Support

Throughout the year our pastoral and eldership team have been meeting with couples who have been experiencing difficulties in their marriage and who have needed more immediate support. Often this has led to some crisis sessions and then longer-term pastoral support or alternatively signposting to counselling or other support services.

Support of other charities

The church has continued to financially support a number of local, national and international charities. These include:

Torch: a charity set up to give a 'helping hand' from local churches. Households are helped with varying tasks such as gardening, shopping and befriending.

Starting Point: mentoring of young people.

Mercy Central (up until April 23): a charity who provide support and services to people facing financial difficulty in the County of Berkshire. In April 23, Mercy Central was dissolved and its remaining funds transferred to RFC.

Transform Reading: a network of churches and Christian organisations working together to see Reading transformed.

Throughout 2023 RFC also partnered with Newday (New Frontiers), Readifood and Faith Christian group,

Support of overseas Missionaries

The church has financially supported individuals who work overseas. These missionaries are engaged in work that either advances the Christian faith or relieves or prevents poverty.

Building purchase

RFC has a goal of purchasing a building to function as a home for its church congregation and a hub for the local community. Little progress was made on this during 2023, except a review of the possibility of 'Change of Use' given to the current leased office facilities. Funds remain in place for such a time as the economic environment improves and a suitable building is available for purchase.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Financial review

At 31 December 2023, Reading Family Church had total funds of £3.04m (2022: £2.74m), of which £1.4m was available for the general purposes of the charity (2022: £1.16m), £1.6m were designated for future purposes by the trustees (2022: £1.58m) and £39,714 were restricted (2022: £81).

Total income for 2023 was £1,218,912 (2022: £940,667). This comprised of four key elements:

- £1,014,027 (2022: £843,002) of unrestricted donations from the attendees of the church and the associated reclaimed gift aid tax. These donations are intended to cover the regular running costs and activities of the church.
- £6,525 (2022: £9,433) which came from donations from the attendees of the church towards the Vision Fund and the associated reclaimed gift aid tax. The fund is a designated fund, intended for future projects in our community such as a building, but has no restriction on its specific use.
- £43,407 which was the transfer of funds to RFC following the closure of Mercy Central and is exclusively for the staff and operational costs of running the CAP centre.
- £22,663 which came from donations from the attendees of the church towards the Local Mission Fund and the associated reclaimed gift aid tax. This is a restricted fund for the purposes of local community projects including but not limited to the Whitley Wood Pantry, Craft Café, Just Talk (RFC's language café).

Expenditure for the year, was £921,870 (2021: £803,901).

Reading Family Church has acted as an agent for the disbursement of a small number of gifts made by church attendees to other attendees, where they wished for the gift to remain anonymous. As at 31 December 2023 it held a balance of zero (2022: zero).

Reading Family Church has three types of funds:

- Unrestricted funds which can be used for any purpose and which make up the charity's general reserves.
- Designated funds which have been set aside by the trustees for a particular purpose and require the trustees' permission to be used for any other purpose. This includes Reading Family Church's Vision Fund.
- Restricted funds that are given for a specific purpose and require the permission of the giver or the Charity Commission to use them for any other purpose. Only small proportions of Reading Family Church's funds are restricted.

The charity needs general reserves as a source of working capital and to cover expenditure in the event of an unexpected decrease in income or other change in circumstances. The trustees have defined the minimum level of reserves permissible as 3 months' worth of the charity's operating expenditure. Operating expenditure is defined as all of the charity's essential costs, and excludes discretionary spend such as voluntary donations to third parties. The rationale for this is to allow Reading Family Church to continue to operate for at least 3 months in the extreme scenario that its income reduces materially over a very short period of time.

At 31 December 2023 the charity's general reserves were £1.4m. This represented approximately 18 months' of operating expenditure. The fact that this is significantly higher than our minimum level represents the generosity of the church members throughout the year, as well as the prudent saving over the last 3 years to support the higher operating costs and immediate maintenance required in order to use the planned new building once purchased. These costs have yet to materialise due to complications with the purchase of the current building occupied by RFC, although a future purchase is still part of the church's strategy. The reserves policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the directors, and the level of reserves held is reviewed monthly as part of the management reporting.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Investment Policy

Reading Family Church has a duty to protect its investments, while balancing the rate of return that these investments produce. Currently the charity's assets are predominately cash, and the majority is for general use or in a designated fund. These funds may be needed at relatively short notice (3-6 months). The following criteria apply to the management of these funds:

- Any investment shall minimise the risk of loss of capital.
- It shall be possible to access the investment of general reserves with a maximum of four months' notice and longer-term designated funds with a maximum of six months' notice.
- The rate of return shall be as high as possible, but is secondary to the 2 criteria above.

Any risk associated with holding reserves in deposit accounts shall be minimised. The likelihood of financial institutions failing is low, however the potential impact of such as failure on Reading Family Church could be substantial, and this risk shall be mitigated as much as possible.

On this basis, Reading Family Church shall:

- Only invest in cash deposit accounts that are covered by the FSCS.
- Spread the level of investment over a number of accounts. The number of accounts should be reviewed by the trustees periodically and reflect the relative stability of the financial institutions.
- Only invest in deposit accounts with a notice period of up to six months (more if any penalties for early withdrawals do not impact the capital invested).
- Select cash deposit accounts with a high rate of return wherever possible.

Risk Policies

The trustees have a risk management strategy that includes an annual review of the principle risks and uncertainties facing the charity and its subsidiaries and the establishment of policies and procedures to mitigate those risks.

The primary risks and uncertainties were again safeguarding and health and safety. These risks are managed by ensuring effective policies and procedures are in place and staff and volunteers are appropriately trained.

Plans for future periods

Looking ahead to 2024, the church will continue its vision 'to be a growing, Jesus-centred community, bringing God's Kingdom to Reading and beyond'. We will continue preaching biblical truths at Sunday meetings as the primary means of advancing the Christian faith, and continue each of the activities outlined above to bring the prevention or relief of poverty.

Activities will continue in-person, including our two Sunday meetings that has the provision of a live stream at the 9am meeting (with recording available for later viewing) to support those unable to join in-person. The possibility of a third service in the Autumn term is currently under discussion.

We will continue to develop our CAP debt centre, and our community based transformational activities. The appointment of a local mission's co-ordinator at the beginning of 2023 has meant that our community work continues to be re-shaped to meet these challenges.

Restricted funds from Mercy Central will be wound down in 2024 with the CAP work being financed by unrestricted RFC funds by the end of the year.

We will continue our search to purchase a building to be a home for our church and a hub for the local community.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Reading Family Church has been in existence for over 20 years and was originally planted by Kerith Community Church in Bracknell. The charity is controlled by its governing document, the memorandum and articles of association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The company was incorporated on 20th April 2012 and commenced trading on 1st September 2012. Prior to that date, Reading Family Church was an unincorporated charity (Charity Registration Number 1090328).

Management

Reading Family Church is led by a team of elders, who provide Spiritual Governance, and set the Vision and Strategy of the church. The elders meet to discuss and oversee the affairs of the church and the charity. They work alongside other members of staff and a team of volunteers to implement the vision, goals and objectives of the trust. Currently there are seven elders, two of whom are full time employees of the church, one of whom is a part time employee and four of whom are volunteers. The trustees have delegated day to day management of the charity to the Senior Pastor.

The increasing number of ministries and activities of the church are led by a team of deacons, some of whom are employed by the charity but most of whom do so on a voluntary basis. The numbers of deacons is 13, each responsible or jointly responsible for running and managing one of the church's activities that help deliver its public benefit.

Governance

As of January 2024, there are seven directors (or trustees) who provide the governance of the church. They meet at least three times a year in their role overseeing the financial, legal and employment elements of the church. Natasha Davidson chairs the directors. Sean Green is the only paid director; he is also an elder of the Church.

The trustees have processes and procedures in place that determine when trustee approval is needed, which includes unbudgeted staff appointments and significant unbudgeted spend, alongside a number of matters reserved for the trustees. A trustee induction process is in place whereby existing trustees support those incoming and external training is offered when necessary.

Specific responsibilities are also delegated to the Salary Committee, a sub-committee of the Board with a membership of 3 individuals, all of whom are also directors. This committee performs an annual pay review, and also sets the pay and remuneration of key management personnel, as well as performing the Senior Pastor's appraisal. The Senior Pastor is not a member of the Salary Committee.

The elders of the church make recommendations for the appointment of directors. The nominee is then appointed by a resolution of the existing directors and remains in office thereafter. The directors of the charity are drawn primarily from the active members of the church with the appropriate skills for Board membership.

Affiliations

Reading Family Church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and Transform Reading. The church is also affiliated to Newfrontiers, which is a worldwide family of churches. This affiliation enables the church to help other Christian churches in the UK and abroad. It also provides a support network that allows the church to draw on the experience and expertise of other churches.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

S E P Green	
P J Harley	
M Abdul	(Resigned 23 January 2024)
P I Chigada	
M D Blake	
N Davidson	
J R Davis	(Resigned 23 January 2024)
K L Twine	(Appointed 19 September 2023)
S J Mitchell	(Appointed 23 January 2024)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Reading Family Church for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Bruton Charles be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



N Davidson
Trustee

6 May 2024

READING FAMILY CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF READING FAMILY CHURCH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Reading Family Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF READING FAMILY CHURCH

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Neil Major (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Bruton Charles

6 May 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

The Coach House
Greys Green Business Centre
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire
RG9 4QG

Bruton Charles is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	1,020,552	66,828	1,087,380	852,434	330	852,764
Charitable activities	3	58,565	-	58,565	65,209	-	65,209
Investments	4	72,967	-	72,967	22,694	-	22,694
Total income		1,152,084	66,828	1,218,912	940,337	330	940,667
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	894,675	27,195	921,870	790,419	13,482	803,901
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		257,409	39,633	297,042	149,918	(13,152)	136,766
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		2,742,237	81	2,742,318	2,592,319	13,233	2,605,552
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		2,999,646	39,714	3,039,360	2,742,237	81	2,742,318

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		26,771		27,814
Current assets					
Debtors	11	92,209		74,938	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,957,870		2,669,809	
		3,050,079		2,744,747	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(37,490)		(30,243)	
Net current assets			3,012,589		2,714,504
Total assets less current liabilities			3,039,360		2,742,318
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		39,714		81
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	1,603,379		1,581,485	
General unrestricted funds		1,396,267		1,160,752	
			2,999,646		2,742,237
			3,039,360		2,742,318

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 6 May 2024

Natasha Davidson

N Davidson
Trustee

Company registration number 08039827

READING FAMILY CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	20		220,392		91,606
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(5,298)		(6,264)	
Investment income received		72,967		22,694	
Net cash generated from Investing activities			67,669		16,430
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net Increase in cash and cash equivalents			288,061		108,036
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			2,669,809		2,561,773
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			2,957,870		2,669,809

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Reading Family Church is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 448a Basingstoke Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 0RX.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £3,000 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	15% and 33% straight line on cost
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total	
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and regular giving	845,442	62,395	907,837	706,754	330	707,084						
Gift aid tax recoverable	175,110	4,433	179,543	145,680	-	145,680						
	1,020,552	66,828	1,087,380	852,434	330	852,764						

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Conferences and events	29,939	15,295
Fees for seconded staff	28,626	49,914
	<u>58,565</u>	<u>65,209</u>

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023 £	2022 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>72,967</u>	<u>22,694</u>

5 Charitable activities

	Direct 2023 £	Support 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Misistry and support staff costs	418,693	67,333	486,026	426,839
Depreciation and impairment	-	6,341	6,341	5,908
Church Ministry	24,183	-	24,183	26,034
Conferences, courses & events	43,259	-	43,259	21,336
Premises costs	224,100	-	224,100	193,669
Other support costs	-	24,296	24,296	21,322
Governance - audit fees	-	5,400	5,400	5,760
	<u>710,236</u>	<u>103,370</u>	<u>813,605</u>	<u>700,868</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 6)	108,265	-	108,265	103,033
	<u>818,501</u>	<u>103,370</u>	<u>921,870</u>	<u>803,901</u>
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	791,384	103,292	894,675	790,419
Restricted funds	27,117	78	27,195	13,482
	<u>818,501</u>	<u>103,370</u>	<u>921,870</u>	<u>803,901</u>

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Grants payable

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Grants to institutions:				
African Inland Mission	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Baptist Missionary Society	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Catalyst Network of Churches	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Catalyst Oxford Hub	25,000	-	25,000	20,000
Chapter 2	3,000	-	3,000	3,050
Christians Against Poverty	-	6,000	6,000	2,000
Creating Better Futures	-	-	-	6,060
Godfirst Church	-	-	-	10,000
Reading Refugee Support Group	-	-	-	5,000
Starting Point	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Torch	1,200	-	1,200	848
Transform Reading	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Whitley Community Development Association	-	-	-	2,000
Jubilee Plus	3,000	-	3,000	-
NewFrontiers (Newday)	5,000	-	5,000	-
Your Local Pantry	-	875	875	-
	56,200	6,875	63,075	67,958
Grants to individuals	45,190	-	45,190	35,075
	101,390	6,875	108,265	103,033

7 Trustees

The charity's key management comprise the trustees and the key staff named on the Company Information page. Total employment benefits payable to key management for the year were as follows:

Mr S E P Green (Trustee), salary and pension £75,751 (2022: £66,477)

Mrs E J Green (Key management, spouse of S E P Green), salary and pension £43,716 (2022: £34,928)

Other members of Key management, salaries and pensions £135,611 (2022: £127,060)

Mr S E P Green served as senior Pastor and received the above payments for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2023 Number	2022 Number
16	16

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries, Social Security and Pensions	471,507	414,699
Other staff costs	14,519	12,140
	<u>486,026</u>	<u>426,839</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	82,613
Additions	5,298
Disposals	(5,085)
At 31 December 2023	82,826
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2023	54,799
Depreciation charged in the year	6,341
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(5,085)
At 31 December 2023	56,055
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	26,771
At 31 December 2022	27,814

11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	-	1,675
Other debtors	15,236	14,089
Prepayments and accrued income	76,973	59,174
	92,209	74,938

12 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes £676,976, (2022: £622,911) that has immediate access, deposits that require notice of £2,279,294 (2022: £2,046,062) and petty cash of £1,599 (2022: £837).

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income	14	4,056	3,092
Trade creditors		16,999	15,522
Other creditors		8,739	3,007
Accruals		7,696	8,622
		37,490	30,243

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Other deferred income	4,056	3,092

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	4,056	3,092
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 January 2023	3,092	635
Released from previous periods	(41,392)	(1,986)
Resources deferred in the year	42,356	4,443
Deferred income at 31 December 2023	4,056	3,092

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Covid-19 hardship fund	12,058	-	(12,058)	-	-	-	-
CAP Debt centre	-	-	-	-	43,407	(25,383)	18,024
Other restricted funds	1,175	330	(1,424)	81	180	(261)	-
Local Mission Fund	-	-	-	-	23,241	(1,551)	21,690
	<u>13,233</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>(13,482)</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>66,828</u>	<u>(27,195)</u>	<u>39,714</u>

The Covid 19 Fund was set up to make financial gifts to individuals and organisations who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the Covid 19 crisis.

The CAP debt centre fund aims to provide support and services to people facing financial difficulty: to help individuals and families in clearing unmanageable debt; equip people to enter or re-enter the world of employment; offer life-long money management skills to avoid future financial problems.

The Local Mission fund has been set up to support local community initiatives in the Greater Reading area that promote the Christian faith or bring relief of poverty. Examples of (but not limited to) existing RFC initiatives and partnerships that the fund can be used for include: CAP debt centre, Food Pantry, Alpha, Rainbows, Torch, Chapter2, Bed for the Night. Grants can also be made to external agencies or partners sharing these aims.

The other restricted funds represent monies donated by Church members for a variety of areas. Examples include (but not limited to) outreach, Alpha courses, singles groups, marriage ministry and those experiencing financial difficulty.

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Movement in funds Incoming resources ¹	Balance at 1 January 2023	Movement in funds Incoming resources	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Vision fund	1,554,056	27,429	1,581,485	21,894	1,603,379
	<u>1,554,056</u>	<u>27,429</u>	<u>1,581,485</u>	<u>21,894</u>	<u>1,603,379</u>

The Vision Fund is an unrestricted fund designated by the trustees to support RFC's vision of being a growing Jesus centred community bringing God's Kingdom to Reading and beyond. Examples of this (but not limited to) may include purchase of a building but could equally be church planting overseas or in the UK or activity for the relief of poverty.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2022	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:					
Tangible assets	26,771	-	26,771	-	27,814
Current assets/(liabilities)	2,972,875	39,714	3,012,589	81	2,714,504
	<u>2,999,646</u>	<u>39,714</u>	<u>3,039,360</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>2,742,318</u>

Refer to note 16 for the designated fund movements as these are part of the unrestricted funds. Designated funds in respect of current assets/ (liabilities) above totalled £1,603,379 (2022: £1,581,485).

18 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	124,800	124,800
Between one and five years	171,600	296,400
	<u>296,400</u>	<u>421,200</u>

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

18 Operating lease commitments

(Continued)

The operating lease represents a lease in respect of rentals paid by the Church to the landlord of its premises. An amount of £10,400 is payable each month. The current lease is due to expire on 16th May 2026.

19 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

The Church received donations totalling £139,332 (2022: £93,566) from related parties (which includes trustees, members of key management and anyone closely linked with them).

In January 2023 the Church received £5,824 from Mercy Central, an organisation for which Mr S E P Green was Chair of Trustees. Mercy Central was dissolved in March 2023 and its remaining funds of £42,307 were transferred to the Church. These funds have been restricted to CAP work.

In September 2023 the Church paid £2,870 to Oakwood Youth Challenge for a Student Conference to be held in January 2024 - an organisation for which Mr J R Davis is Chair of Trustees.

There were no other disclosable transactions that took place during the year.

20 Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus for the year	297,042	136,766
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(72,967)	(22,694)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	6,341	5,908
Loss on the disposal of fixed assets	-	1,029
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(17,271)	(29,403)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	6,283	(2,457)
Increase in deferred income	964	2,457
Cash generated from operations	220,392	91,606

READING FAMILY CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.