

TRINITY CHURCH LOWER EARLEY

England & Wales · Charity number 1147501

Details

Other names	EARLEY TRINITY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2012-05-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Trinity Church Chalfont Close Earley Reading RG6 5HZ
Phone	01189313124
Email	office@trinityearley.org.uk
Website	trinityearley.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSE OF THE CHARITY IS TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE PARTICIPATING CHURCHES. IN ACHIEVING ITS PURPOSE, THE CHARITY WILL ENGAGE IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, EITHER ON ITS OWN OR WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING(BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO):A) THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP; B) THE TEACHING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH; C) MISSION AND EVANGELISM; D) PASTORAL WORK, INCLUDING VISITING THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED; E) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES WITH A CHRISTIAN ETHOS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO)THE ELDERLY, THE YOUNG AND OTHER GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; AND F) THE SUPPORT OF OTHER CHARITIES IN THE UK AND OVERSEAS.

Activities: The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian Faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practises of the Participating Churches. In achieving its purpose, the Charity will engage in a range of Activities, a) the celebration of public worship:b) the teaching of the Christian faith;c) mission

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Reading
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£470,612	£406,443	-	-
2023-08-31	£363,959	£307,761	-	-
2022-08-31	£215,332	£210,291	-	-
2021-08-31	£194,025	£175,150	-	-
2020-08-31	£187,748	£172,465	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rod Eades	Chair	2019-11-24
Bethan Glenys Jones		2023-05-14
Dr Sarah Brayshaw		2019-11-24
JON SALMON		2012-05-04
Joanne Elizabeth Salmon		2019-11-24
Veronica Elleson		2020-09-01

TRINITY CHURCH LOWER EARLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1147501

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 2023 / 2024

From **1st September 2023 - 31st August 2024**

Charity name: **Trinity Church Lower Earley**

Charity registration number: **1147501**

Objectives and Activities

Trinity Church aims to advance the Christian faith in the area of benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the participating churches (Anglicans, Methodists, URC) and in recent years has developed to embrace a wide range of believers whether or not affiliated to one of the original three parent denominations.

In achieving its purpose, the church engages in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- a) the celebration of public worship;
- b) the teaching of the Christian faith;
- c) mission and evangelism;
- d) pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- e) the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- f) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Due regard has been paid to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, as detailed in the following paragraphs.

The church is committed to supporting other charities using the biblical principle of tithing. We aim to give 10% of relevant income away to deserving causes, which may be local, national, international, environmental or combinations of these. This is in addition to funds raised from the membership for specific charities, which are passed on in full to the charities concerned.

The church also recognises the enormous contribution made by its volunteers, whether in time, energy, engagement and commitment to the church's core values. This cannot be quantified in monetary terms but is invaluable in supporting the life of the church and promoting the well-being of those to whom we minister.

Examples include:

- helping organise and run worship services
- assisting with pastoral work
- helping run and organise groups for toddlers, fathers, elderly people and youth among others

aiming to show the light of Christ in our neighbourhood, including practical support for asylum seekers and other needy groups in our area.

Achievements and Performance

Trinity Church has always made a point of being an open and welcoming space in the neighbourhood, where all can feel accepted and welcomed. We aim to offer practical support and friendship, in the name of Jesus, to everyone who may come into the church whatever their need. The church offered a safe space for several asylum seekers based in our area, providing company, welcome and friendship along with practical donations of clothing and a warm space during the winter, and though the individuals concerned have now moved on, we continue to operate an open door policy for anyone in need.

Our weekly “Re:Fresh” café is run with the specific aim of reducing loneliness and isolation in our community, and this is being used by the local GP practices in social prescribing for their patients. We also organise a community lunch on a monthly basis, where a hot meal is provided for anyone who wants to sign up, for a nominal and voluntary monetary contribution. Another weekly café caters for people whose first language is not English, to help them practice their language skills in a welcoming space with members of the church who give their time to help these people communicate.

Our toddlers’ group supports young children, parents and carers, and our monthly “Who let the Dads out?” group helps fathers who may have little contact with their school-age children during the week, to have some quality time to reconnect their relationship. In addition, we are involved together with Brookside Church in running a weekly youth group for young people who are mainly not from a church background.

Over the past 2 years we have made a home in our church for a large number of Hong Kong Christians who have recently arrived in the UK and are now able to feel they can settle somewhere where they are welcomed and appreciated. They hold two weekly services in Cantonese, one at Trinity Church and another at St Mary’s Church in Winnersh, supporting the wider Hong Kong community who are moving into the area. Another Hong Kongers’ fellowship meets at Tyndale Baptist church in Reading, but all three fellowships fall under the Trinity Earley umbrella, and are supported by the Trinity leadership.

We are excited to be a part of this new venture and to move forward as God leads us. The Hong Kongers are also increasingly taking a greater part in the life of the church as a whole so that everyone involved is richer for the relationship, as well as holding a weekly café for any Cantonese speakers in need of fellowship and support, and a thriving weekly youth meeting.

In addition to the church’s own work above, Trinity Church plays its part in the TORCH Help Hub (a charity since January 2024) where volunteers from local churches across Reading provide a helping hand to those who otherwise cannot get help and tend to fall through the gaps of existing support or provisioning. Trinity was a founder member of TORCH which arose out the needs highlighted by the pandemic and has continued to offer support and volunteers to help with this work which is expanding all the time. We have also achieved a bronze Eco Church award, and are working towards a silver one.

Financial Review

The whole church was in a healthy financial position at the year end. There was a small deficit for the UK church of c. £1,200 in expenses over income at the 31st August 2024, which was better than budgeted. The HK church more than covered its expenses, and finished the year with a healthy surplus of over £15,000. In addition, we were all blessed to receive a large legacy of £50,000 during August, which will be used prayerfully after input from, and for the benefit of, all our congregations.

Our policy is to have a minimum of 3 months' expenses cover in the general reserve, although at the Church Council meeting in September 2021 it was agreed that we would try to maintain 4 months' cover in view of the uncertainty arising from the pandemic. This has been continued through the intervening years and the policy remains unchanged. At the year ending 31st August 2024, the **UK** general reserve (not including the monies from the legacy) stood at just under £80k, i.e. just over 4 months' expenses cover. There are no funds materially in deficit. The restricted Youth fund ended with a small deficit but we are working towards amalgamating the Youth fund with the General fund, on the principle that youth work is an integral part of our service to the community and should not be considered as a restricted expenditure.

In addition, there is currently a designated reserve connected with monies raised and spent by the new Hong Kong congregation until the end of August 2023. This was designated so that it could be clearly shown in the accounts, and to give this very new part of our church the opportunity to establish its likely income and outgoings as it became more established. We are moving forward towards further integration, with the aim of mutual benefit to both our UK and HK members, and for the past year the majority of the HK income and expenses has passed through the General fund.

The principal source of income for the whole church is donations from its members along with associated Gift Aid where applicable. We also currently receive some income from grants from the Anglican Church in support of our employees' salaries, but these are on a time-limited basis to allow the church to establish the posts and ensure they are viable going forward. The church's other material source of income is rentals of our rooms, but this and the grants together make up less than 15% of the total income of the church. Funds not immediately necessary for ongoing expenses are deposited with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church in an interest-bearing deposit account.

Structure, Governance and Management

Trinity Church is a charitable unincorporated association set up as a Local Ecumenical Partnership governed by a constitution based on the model governing documents for a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership produced by Churches Together in England. Trustees, who must have shown their willingness to act as trustees, are elected at the Annual General Meeting. If co-opted during the year, their election is confirmed at the following AGM.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity Address: Trinity Church, Chalfont Close, Earley, Reading RG6 5HZ

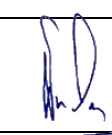
Trustees as at 31st August 2024:

Name	Date appointed if not for whole year	Office (if applicable)
Roderick John Eades		Chair and Secretary
Jon Salmon		Minister
Veronica Elleson		Treasurer
Bethan Glenys Jones		
Joanne Elizabeth Salmon		
Dr Sarah Brayshaw		

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature		
Full name	Veronica Margaret Elleson	Roderick John Eades
Position	Treasurer	Chair, Council and Trustees
Date	17/10/2024	18/10/2024



Trinity Church Lower Earley		1147501		
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	01-Sep-23	To	Period end date	31-Aug-24

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Restricted income funds			Total funds	Prior year funds
		Unrestricted funds	income funds	Endowment funds		
		£	£	£	£	£
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	372,342	7,285	-	379,627	273,058
Charitable activities	S02	15,287	-	-	15,287	15,865
Other trading activities	S03	22,141	1,725	-	23,866	24,185
Investments	S04	16,271	271	-	16,542	11,329
Separate material item of income	S05	3,138	32,152	-	35,290	39,522
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S07	429,179	41,433	-	470,612	363,959
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	S08	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	S09	120,008	59,176	-	179,184	158,588
Separate material item of expense	S10	224,300	-	-	224,300	144,050
Other	S11	2,959	-	-	2,959	1,972
Total	S12	347,267	59,176	-	406,443	304,610
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)						
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S13	81,912	- 17,743	-	64,169	59,349
Net income/(expenditure)	S14	-	-	-	-	-
Extraordinary items	S15	81,912	- 17,743	-	64,169	59,349
Transfers between funds	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):	S17	-	-	-	-	-
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	81,912	- 17,743	-	64,169	59,349
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	158,939	22,490	-	181,429	122,080
Total funds carried forward	S22	240,851	4,747	-	245,598	181,429

Section B Balance sheet

	Guidance Note					
		Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets						
Intangible assets (Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets (Note 14)	B02	15,206	-	-	15,206	16,162
Heritage assets (Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B05	15,206	-	-	15,206	16,162
Current assets						
Stocks (Note 18)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 19)	B07	1,212	1,119	-	2,331	-
Investments (Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 24)	B09	235,068	3,628	-	238,696	166,703
Total current assets	B10	236,280	4,747	-	241,027	166,703
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 20)	B11	10,635	-	-	10,635	1,436
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12	225,645	4,747	-	230,392	165,267
Total assets less current liabilities	B13	240,851	4,747	-	245,598	181,429
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	B15	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities	B16	240,851	4,747	-	245,598	181,429
Funds of the Charity						
Endowment funds (Note 27)	B17	-		-	-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)	B18		4,747		4,747	22,490
Unrestricted funds	B19	240,851		-	240,851	158,939
Revaluation reserve	B20				-	-
Total funds	B21	240,851	4,747	-	245,598	181,429

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	Veronica Elleson	07/05/2025
	Rod Eades	08/05/2025

Note 1 Basis of preparation

This section should be completed by all charities.

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- and with*

✓

 the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014
- and with*

✓

 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
- and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.*

✓

* -Tick as appropriate

1.2 Going concern

If there are material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, please provide the following details or state "Not applicable", if appropriate:

An explanation as to those factors that support the conclusion that the charity is a going concern;

Not applicable

Disclosure of any uncertainties that make the going concern assumption doubtful;

Not applicable

Where accounts are not prepared on a going concern basis, please disclose this fact together with the basis on which the trustees prepared the accounts and the reason why the charity is not regarded as a going concern.

Not applicable

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2.2.

Yes*

✓

No*

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 * -Tick as appropriate

Please disclose:

<i>(i) the nature of the change in accounting policy;</i>	Not applicable
<i>(ii) the reasons why applying the new accounting policy provides more reliable and more relevant information; and</i>	Not applicable

<i>(iii) the amount of the adjustment for each line affected in the current period, each prior period presented and the aggregate amount of the adjustment relating to periods before those presented, 3.44 FRS 102 SORP.</i>	Not applicable
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1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

Yes*	☒	* -Tick as appropriate
No*	☐	

Please disclose:

<i>(i) the nature of any changes;</i>	Not applicable
<i>(ii) the effect of the change on income and expense or assets and liabilities for the current period; and</i>	Not applicable
<i>(iii) where practicable, the effect of the change in one or more future periods.</i>	Not applicable

1.5 Material prior year errors

No material prior year error have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

Yes*	☐	* -Tick as appropriate
No*	☒	

Please disclose:

<i>(i) the nature of the prior period error;</i>	1. The church building and the Methodist Manse were recognised as owned by the church while in fact the asset was owned by the charity's parent churches. 2. The value of furnitures, fixtures and equipment recapitalised in the prior year due to adoption of accrual accounting was based on the replacement cost instead of purchase cost less accumulated depreciation. 3. The accrued expenses as of 31 August 2023 of £1,436 was not included in the expenditures reported under SOFA, N6 & N27.1. The fund amounts shown on the Balance Sheet were, however, correct.
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<i>(ii) for each prior period presented in the accounts, the amount of the correction for each account line item affected; and</i>	1. As a result of the errors 1 and 2 above, the Tangible Fixed Assets and Unrestricted Fund on the balance sheet as of 31 August 2023 was overstated by £2,945,41 (and £2,703,521 for the amount as of 31 August 2022). Since no depreciation was provided on the tangible fixed assets in the prior years, the impact on the SOFA was mainly due to the purchase cost and depreciation of furnitures, fixtures and equipment for the year 2022/23, amounting to £4,091 and £5,047, respectively. 2. As a result of the error 3 above, the total expenditures for FY2022/23 should increased by £1,436, while the fund balances as of 31 August 2023 on the SOFA and N27.1 should therefore be reduced by the same amount. There is no impact on the fund amounts shown on the Balance Sheet as of 31 August 2023.
<i>(iii) the amount of the correction at the beginning of the earliest prior period presented in the accounts.</i>	The corrected balances at the beginning of the earliest prior period presented in the account should be: <u>As of 1 September 2023 (N14 & N27.1):</u> * Freehold land & building b/f - zero. * Other land & building b/f - zero. * Furnitures ,fixtures, & equipment - £23,274 (cost) & £7,112 (accumulated deprecation). <u>FY2022/23 (SOFA & N6 & N27.2):</u> * Total funds b/f - £122,080 * Total expenditures for the year - £304,610

Note 2

Accounting policies

2.2 INCOME

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those ticked "No" or "N/a". Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

Recognition of income	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: - the charity becomes entitled to the resources; - it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and - the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.	Yes	No	N/a
		☒	☐	☐
Offsetting	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.	Yes	No	N/a
		☒	☐	☐
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).	Yes	No	N/a
		☒	☐	☐
Legacies	In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP). Legacies are included in the SOFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.	Yes	No	N/a
		☒	☐	☐
Government grants	The charity has received government grants in the reporting period	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☒	☐
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.	Yes	No	N/a
		☒	☐	☐
Contractual income and performance related grants	This is only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.	Yes	No	N/a
		☒	☐	☐
Donated goods	Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒
	The cost of any stock of goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries is deemed to be the fair value of those gifts at the time of their receipt and they are recognised on receipt. In the reporting period in which the stocks are distributed, they are recognised as an expense at the carrying amount of the stocks at distribution.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒
	Donated goods for resale are measured at fair value on initial recognition, which is the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale, and recognised in 'Income from other trading activities' with the corresponding stock recognised in the balance sheet. On its sale the value of stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds from sale are also recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒
	Goods donated for on-going use by the charity are recognised as tangible fixed assets and included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒
	Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as income from donations when receivable.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒
Donated services and facilities	Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☒	☐
	Donated services and facilities that are consumed immediately are recognised as income with an equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the SOFA.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒
Support costs	The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☒	☐
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.	Yes	No	N/a
		☒	☐	☐
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.	Yes	No	N/a
		☒	☐	☐
Income from membership subscriptions	Membership subscriptions received in the nature of a gift are recognised in Donations and Legacies.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒
	Membership subscriptions which gives a member the right to buy services or other benefits are recognised as income earned from the provision of goods and services as income from charitable activities.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒

Settlement of insurance claims	Insurance claims are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP) and are included as an item of other income in the SoFA.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓		

Investment gains and losses	This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.	Yes	No	N/a
				✓

2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓		

Governance and support costs	Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.	Yes	No	N/a
				✓

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.	Yes	No	N/a
				✓

Grants payable without performance conditions	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.	Yes	No	N/a
				✓

Redundancy cost	The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓		

Deferred income	No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓		

Creditors	The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts	Yes	No	N/a
			✓	

Provisions for liabilities	A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date	Yes	No	N/a
		✓		

Basic financial instruments	The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.	Yes	No	N/a
				✓

2.4 ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.00			
	They are valued at cost.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

Intangible fixed assets	The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 9.2.	Yes	No	N/a
	The charity has intangible fixed assets, that is, non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the charity through custody or legal rights. The amortisation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 9.5			✓

They are valued at cost.

Heritage assets	The charity has heritage assets, that is, non-monetary assets with historic, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. The depreciation rates and methods used as disclosed in note 9.6.1.4.	Yes	No	N/a
				✓

They are valued at cost.

Investments	Fixed asset investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at fair value (their market value) at the year end. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments unless fair value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.	Yes	No	N/a
				✓

Investments held for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than 1 year are treated as current asset investments

Stocks and work in progress	Stocks held for sale as part of non-charitable trade are measured at the lower or cost or net realisable value.	Yes	No	N/a
				✓

Goods or services provided as part of a charitable activity are measured at net realisable value based on the service potential provided by items of stock.

Work in progress is valued at cost less any foreseeable loss that is likely to occur on the contract.

Debtors	Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓		

Current asset investments	The charity has investments which it holds for resale or pending their sale and cash equivalents with a maturity date less than one year. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than one year held for investment purposes rather than to meet short term cash commitments as they fall due.	Yes	No	N/a
		☐	☐	☒

	Yes	No	N/a
They are valued at fair value except where they qualify as basic financial instruments.	☐	☐	☒

POLICIES ADOPTED ADDITIONAL TO OR DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ABOVE	Not applicable
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Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 3 Analysis of income

Analysis		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts (including HK Ministry)	283,055	5,902	-	288,957	242,835
	Gift Aid (including HK Ministry)	37,287	1,383	-	38,670	26,492
	Legacies	50,000	-	-	50,000	1,000
	Grants provided by other charities	2,000	-	-	2,000	2,731
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	372,342	7,285	-	379,627	273,058
Charitable activities:	Rental income from church hall and rooms	15,287	-	-	15,287	15,865
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	15,287	-	-	15,287	15,865
Other trading activities:	Contributions to church expenses including parochial fees	9,423	1,725	-	11,148	6,236
	Solar panel income	4,001	-	-	4,001	5,240
	Contributions from HK Fellowship (Tyndale)	6,793	-	-	6,793	8,759
	Other	1,924	-	-	1,924	3,950
	Total	22,141	1,725	-	23,866	24,185
Income from investments:	Interest income	7,350	271	-	7,621	4,139
	Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
	Rental and leasing income	8,921	-	-	8,921	7,190
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	16,271	271	-	16,542	11,329
Separate material item of income:	Anglican dev fund grant re associate pastor	-	5,167	-	5,167	9,292
	External funding re Torch employee salary	-	10,624	-	10,624	1,366
	Anglican grant re Torch employee salary	-	7,670	-	7,670	8,584
	Anglican grant re HK pastor	-	8,691	-	8,691	20,280
	Insurance claims	3,138	-	-	3,138	-
	Total	3,138	32,152	-	35,290	39,522
Other:	Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
	Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		429,179	41,433	-	470,612	363,959

Other information:

**All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for:
(please provide description and amounts)**

Contributions to youth worker salary and costs (£7,813) Anglican grant re associate pastor salary (£9,292) and HK pastor (£20,280) External funding and Anglican grant re the Torch employees (£9,950) Donations for Earley Help Hub (£275)
--

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.

N/A

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the prior period, please give the reason for the conversion.

N/A

Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Donations and legacies above include £164,578 in donations from the new HK congregation (2023/24: £117,197).

An additional £5,184 (2022/23: £8,152) was raised for specific charities and passed through the church bank account.

Note 5 Donated goods, facilities and services

	This year £	Last year £
Seconded staff	-	-
Use of property	-	-
Other	-	-
	-	-

	This year	Last year
Please provide details of the accounting policy for the recognition and valuation of donated goods, facilities and services.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Please provide details of any unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to resources from donated goods and services not recognised in income.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Please give details of other forms of other donated goods and services not recognised in the accounts, eg contribution of unpaid volunteers.	The charity's operation was supported by its unpaid voluteers throughout the year in various roles.	Same as this year.

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 6 Analysis of expenditure

Analysis	This year				Last year			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
				£				£
Expenditure on raising funds:								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities:								
Salaries and wages	57,406	58,100	-	115,506	48,399	52,969	-	101,368
Mission giving	19,200	-	-	19,200	19,051	-	-	19,051
Repairs and maintenance	11,666	-	-	11,666	8,864	-	-	8,864
Utilities inc buildings insurance	11,437	-	-	11,437	12,826	-	-	12,826
Depreciation	5,047			5,047	3,073			3,073
Other	15,252	1,076	-	16,328	10,486	2,920	-	13,406
Total expenditure on charitable activities	120,008	59,176	-	179,184	102,699	55,889	-	158,588
Separate material item of expense								
Parent church assessments	68,749	-	-	68,749	66,966	-	-	66,966
HK Ministry expenses	150,352	-	-	150,352	71,568	-	-	71,568
HK Fellowship expenses (Tyndale)	5,199	-	-	5,199	5,516	-	-	5,516
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	224,300	-	-	224,300	144,050	-	-	144,050
Other								
Buildings equipment purchase	2,959	-	-	2,959	1,972	-	-	1,972
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other expenditure	2,959	-	-	2,959	1,972	-	-	1,972
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	347,267	59,176	-	406,443	248,721	55,889	-	304,610

An additional £5,184 (2022/23: £8,152) was raised for and paid to specific charities having passed through the church bank account. No amount was held by the church as of 31 August 2024.

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 11 **Paid employees**
Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	82,134	87,040
Social security costs	9,247	8,040
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	3,182	3,133
Other employee benefits	20,943	3,155
Total staff costs	115,506	101,368

This year:

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

N/A

Last year:

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

N/A

Please give details of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within each band of £10,000 from £60,000 upwards. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

No such employee

Band	Number of employees	
	This year	Last year
£60,000 to £69,999	-	-
£70,000 to £79,999	-	-
£80,000 to £89,999	-	-
£90,000 to £99,999	-	-
£100,000 to £109,999	-	-

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity. For specific amounts paid to trustees, see Note 28.

This year £	Last year £
-	-

11.2 Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number*	Last year Number*
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	11	8
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	11	8

* 1 worked full-time and the rest part-time.

11.3 Ex-gratia payments to employees and others (excluding trustees)

Please complete if an ex-gratia payment is made.

Please explain the nature of the payment

This year	N/A
Last year	N/A

Please state the legal authority or reason for making the payment

This year	N/A
Last year	N/A

Please state the amount of the payment (or value of any waiver of a right to an asset)

This year	Last year
£ -	£ -

11.4 Redundancy payments

Please complete if any redundancy or termination payment is made in the period.

Total amount of payment

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-

The nature of the payment (cash, asset etc.)

N/A	N/A
-----	-----

The extent of redundancy funding at the balance sheet date

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-

Please state the accounting policy for any redundancy or termination payments

N/A	N/A
-----	-----

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 12 **Defined contribution pension scheme or defined benefit scheme accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.**

12.1 *Please complete this note if a defined contribution pension scheme is operated.*

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense	3,182	3,133

Please explain the basis for allocating the liability and expense of defined contribution pension scheme between activities and between restricted and unrestricted funds.	Pension contributions are allocated on the basis of the post. In the case of restricted funding posts, the pension contributions are allocated as appropriate. Same as last year.
--	---

12.2 *Please complete this section where the charity participates in a defined benefit pension plan but is unable to ascertain its share of the underlying assets and liabilities.*

Please confirm that although the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution plan, it is a defined benefit plan.	N/A
Please provide such information as is available about the plan's surplus or deficit and the implications, if any, for the reporting charity for this year and last year, if different	N/A

12.3 *Please complete this section where the charity participates in a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan that is accounted for as a defined contribution plan.*

Describe the extent to which the charity can be liable to the plan for other entities' obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan. If this is different for last year, provide details	N/A
Provide an explanation of how any liability arising from an agreement with a multi-employer plan to fund a deficit has been determined. If this is different for last year, provide details	N/A

Section C**Notes to the accounts****(cont)****Note 14 Tangible fixed assets***Please complete this note if the charity has any tangible fixed assets***14.1 Cost or valuation**

	Freehold land & buildings	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles	Funitures, fixtures and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
At the beginning of the year	-	-	-	23,274	23,274
Additions	-	-	-	4,091	4,091
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	-	27,365	27,365

14.2 Depreciation and impairments

**Basis	SL or RB (Straight Line or Reducing Balance)	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL	
** Rate				20 to 33%	

At beginning of the year	-	-	-	7,112	7,112
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	5,047	5,047
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	-	12,159	12,159

14.3 Net book value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	-	16,162	16,162
Net book value at the end of the year	-	-	-	15,206	15,206

14.4 Impairment

This year: Please provide a description of the events and circumstances that led to the recognition or reversal of an impairment loss.

N/A

Last year: Please provide a description of the events and circumstances that led to the recognition or reversal of an impairment loss.

N/A

14.5 Revaluation

If an accounting policy of revaluation is adopted, please provide:

the effective date of the revaluation

the name of independent valuer, if applicable

the methods applied and significant assumptions

the carrying amount that would have been recognised had the assets been carried under the cost model.

This year	Last year
-	-

14.6 Other disclosures

(i) Please state the amount of borrowing costs, if any, capitalised in the construction of tangible fixed assets and the capitalisation rate used.

(ii) Please provide the amount of contractual commitments for the acquisition of tangible fixed assets.

(iii) Details of the existence and carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment to which the charity has restricted title or that are pledged as security for liabilities.

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-
-	-

** The "transfers" row is for movements between fixed asset categories.*

*** Please indicate the method of depreciation by deleting the method not applicable (SL = straight line; RB = reducing balance). Also please indicate the rate of depreciation: for straight line, what is the anticipated life of the asset (in years); for reducing balance, what is the percentage annual deduction.*

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

19.1 Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

Total

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-
1,281.0	-
1,050.0	-
2,331.0	-

Please complete 19.2 where a material debtor is recoverable more than a year after the reporting date.

19.2 Analysis of debtors recoverable in more than 1 year (included in debtors above)

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

Total

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 20 **Creditors and accruals**

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

20.1 Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	-	-	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	10,635	-	-	-
Taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Pension liability not paid until after the year end	-	1,436	-	-
Total	10,635	1,436	-	-

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 24 **Cash at bank and in hand**

Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)
Short term deposits
Cash at bank and on hand
Other
Total

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-
238,696	166,703
-	-
238,696	166,703

Section C

Notes to the accounts

(cont)

Note 27

Charity funds

27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

* Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances b/f per last return £	Adjustments/ reclassification of funds b/f * £	Adjusted fund balances b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
General	U	Day to day business and charitable activities. No restrictions	83,292	15,966	99,258	419,614	- 342,068	176,804
HK Ministry	U	Designated for HK use during this period	59,685	- 6,010	53,675	2,772	-	56,447
HK Fellowship (Tyndale)	U	Designated for HK use during this period		6,006	6,006	6,793	- 5,199	7,600
Youth Fund	R	Payment of youth worker and related expenditure	20,473	- 55	20,418	9,281	- 29,987	- 288
Diocesan grant funds	R	Restricted funding for various posts - time limited	985	- 165	820	13,858	- 9,638	5,040
Other funds	R	Funds for Torch and Earley Help Hub	2,268	- 1,016	1,252	18,294	- 19,551	- 5
Total Funds			166,703	14,726	181,429	470,612	- 406,443	245,598

* The adjustments to General Fund include the net book value of fixed assets recapitalized as of 1 Sept 2023 as explained in footnote 1.5. The HK Fellowship (Tyndale) Fund is listed separately from the HK Ministry Fund starting from the current year. There are also some minor adjustments of £1,436 being creditors as of 31 August 2023 also explained in footnote 1.5, reducing the b/f by the same amount.

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

** Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds*

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances b/f per last return £	Adjustments of funds b/f * £	Adjusted fund balances b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Reclassification** £	Fund balances c/f adjusted £
General	U	Day to day business and charitable activities. No restrictions	67,002	10,717	77,719	189,457	- 171,636	3,718	99,258
HK Ministry and Fellowship	U	Designated for HK use during this period	12,768	858	13,626	126,857	- 77,084	- 9,724	53,675
HK Fellowship (Tyndale)	U	Designated for HK use during this period						6,006	6,006
Youth Fund	R	Payment of youth worker and related expenditure	24,149		24,149	7,813	- 11,544		20,418
Diocesan grant funds	R	Restricted funding for various posts - time limited	-		-	29,572	- 28,752		820
Other funds	R	Funds for Torch and Earley Help Hub	6,586		6,586	10,260	- 15,594		1,252
			-		-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds			110,505	11,575	122,080	363,959	- 304,610	-	181,429

* The adjustment represents the net book value of fixed assets recapitalized as of 1 Sept 2022 as explained in footnote 1.5.

** Some of the funds under HK Ministry and Fellowship was reclassified into the General fund (being the NBV of fixed assets purchased originally under this fund) and the HK Fellowship (Tyndale) fund to order to show the latter as a separate fund.

Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.3 Transfers between funds

This year

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds	N/A	
Between endowment and restricted funds	N/A	
Between endowment and unrestricted funds	N/A	

Last year

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds	N/A	
Between endowment and restricted funds	N/A	
Between endowment and unrestricted funds	N/A	

27.4 Designated funds

This year

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount as of 31 August 2024
Use by the HK leadership for the benefit of their congregation	To support the long-term development of the HK congregations at Trinity.	£56,447
Use by the HK Fellowship (Tyndale)	To cover the operating expenses of the HK Fellowship currently held at Tyndale Church	£7,600

Last year

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount as of 31 August 2024

Use by the HK leadership for the benefit of their congregation	To allow the new HK congregations at Trinity the chance to establish themselves and be enabled to fully gauge the extent of their income and expenditure, before this was amalgamated into the general fund	£53,675
Use by the HK Fellowship (Tyndale)	To cover the operating expenses of the HK Fellowship currently held at Tyndale Church	£6,006

TRINITY CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Accounts for Church Financial Year September 2023 to August 2024

Summary

The church's accounts are in good order. Scrutiny of the payments showed that all were appropriate to the activities of the church¹. Almost all the payments are now done and recorded online, and incoming paper invoices are also recorded in the computer files.

Trinity church's UK² income rose slightly from £226K in 2022/23 to £228K in 2023/24. This almost matched the UK expenditure of £229K. The HK³ income rose strongly, from £127K to £174K and the expenditure also rose from £80K to £157K as HK ministry staff costs came into the Trinity finances. The net result of these increases was a surplus of £16K, which exceeded the budgeted small loss. In addition Trinity received a legacy of £50K from Siew Yin, the deceased former HK pastor.

This year was the second full year of activity of the Hong Kong part of the church. Although most Hong Kong finances have been listed separately in the accounts, they are included in a single Trinity Church financial entity. Its total income in 2023/24 was £452K (including the £50K legacy).

The final accounts are a fair view for the church's accounting year 2023/24 (all funds). We have found no reportable matter of material significance⁴.

Recommendations

None.

Observations

It is noted that the church building is not owned by Trinity Church. It is also noted that Trinity Church has begun accounting for other fixed assets and their depreciation.

¹ These include some activities of other organisations which the church has been supporting.

² In this document, UK refers to the continued church activities excluding those of the HK staff and congregation. However the terms UK and HK are not symmetrical as the former includes all buildings and capital assets and their maintenance, as well as the parent churches' assessment charges.

³ The HK figures here include the Tyndale component (income £6.8K, expenditure £5.2K in 2023/24).

⁴ See Reference 2 for an official interpretation of this statement.

Examination Method

The method is described in Ref.1. In line with common practice to examine at least one aspect in more depth, an examination was made of the way in which capital items, including the church building, are accounted.

Findings

Independent Examination Requirements

The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the church's accounting year 2023/24 since the annual turnover (gross income) was less than £1M and that an independent examination by a qualified person is adequate, as the turnover exceeds £250,000 but is less than £1M. The level of turnover requires accrual accounts instead of the 'receipts and payments' accounts used up to 2021/22. We confirm that the church's turnover of £476K⁵ is in the range requiring a qualified Independent Examiner but not an audit.

Treasurer's Summary of Accounts

This is a fair summary for the financial year. The accounts have been prepared using accruals, as is appropriate to the church's turnover

Payments

All expenditure was properly incurred in the church's activities (including associated activities – see below) or as donations to charities. In addition, money collected directly for charities was passed on without deductions and, in many cases, supplemented from the church's Mission Giving fund.

The principal expenses of the Hong Kong activities, for which this is the second full year within the Trinity system, have been paid from the church's bank account, following appropriate authorisation of those who can incur or initiate such expenses.

Receipts

Inspection of the income records showed that all income had been transferred to the appropriate accounts and 'restricted' where donors specified this. Also, funds labelled 'designated' though not strictly limited, were generally used for the designated purpose.

Over 60% of the Trinity Church (including HK) income from church members comes through regular standing orders or the equivalent Parish Giving Scheme. Both enable the church to recover an additional 25% tax rebate on donations from standard rate taxpayers. In addition, some donations arrive through individuals' charity accounts in which tax rebates are included before the donations are made.

The major transition to a combined UK/HK church has been supported by a grant amounting to £6K in 2023/24. These will be reduced in future years once the transition is completed.

Accruals

This was the second year of accruals accounting. Accruals were therefore applied at both the beginning and end of the year. In practice so much of the church's annual income and expenditure is split into monthly amounts that the effects of accruals are small.

⁵ This represents the total church income £452K plus income from associated activities £24K. See "Associated Activities" below.

Buildings and Other Capital Assets

In previous years the church building had been assessed as an asset of Trinity Church in its role as a charity but this was not correct⁶. The church building is formally owned by trusts formed by the parent churches, with the Anglican Church as the lead trustee. The Manse is half owned by a parent churches trust and half by the Methodist Church.

In 2023/24, following a recommendation made by the IE during the year, Trinity Church began accounting for fixed assets. All assets purchased in the last five years that cost over £1000 and have a useful life of more than one year were capitalised. Depreciation was calculated from the month each asset was acquired.

Solar Panels

This was the second year of solar income (£4K) without costs associated with the initial capital. Maintenance and repairs are financed without capital loans.

Mission Giving and other Charitable Donations

The long standing policy of giving 10% of the church's relevant income has been maintained with regard to the original Trinity (non-HK) income. The donations are entirely voluntary and do not create any legal obligations to make future donations. The same policy did not apply to the HK income in 2023/24 (but see below).

Some special collections were made and passed on directly to charities, sometimes with supplements from the general Mission Giving funds.

The following Observation was made last year: *As part of the process of integrating the HK activities into the combined Trinity Church, we expect the church to consider whether the combined relevant⁷ income should become the basis for the 10% Mission Giving policy.* The church has considered the matter and the combined relevant income will be used as the basis in 2024/25.

Manse Finances

Normal operation of the manse was restored before the start of 2021/22. The manse is managed by the Methodist church as equal partner and the costs deducted from the annual rental income are reasonable and fully documented. The Trinity half share of net income was £8.9K and this level can reasonably be expected to continue.

Hong Kong Activities

2023/24 was the second full year of HK activities, which, excluding the £50K legacy, were financially just over 40% of the total⁸. The HK activities use the Trinity bank account and they are included in these 2023/24 accounts under HK headings. The HK income was about £17K more than the direct costs of the HK ministry. In addition a legacy of £50K was received from Siew Yin, the deceased former HK pastor.

⁶ A correction has been issued to the Charity Commission.

⁷ Relevant income excludes some items such as grants and insurance claims

⁸ With the legacy included as HK income it becomes half the total.

Associated Activities

For many years the church has had minor associated activities, reported in previous independent examination reports under the title (Financially) Minor Activities, amounting to less than 5% of the total church finances. The church also provides some administrative facilities to associated organisations such as ‘Torch’, which have their own incomes and expenditures. These incomes and expenditures are not counted in the Trinity Church income and expenditures but are included for the assessment of turnover, as are the collections for charities which go into the Trinity bank account and out again. These activities raise the assessment of turnover to £476K rather than the £452K total church income.

Income and Expenditure

The church’s income rose from £354K in 2022/23 to £402K (+£50K legacy) in 2023/24. Of this income £32K was attributable to grants to support the new Associate Minister and the HK amalgamation.

The expansion to incorporate the HK activities has involved a further major increase in staff costs⁹, but there has been an even larger increase in income, resulting in a substantial excess of income over expenditure.

Financial Reserves

The end of year position for 2023/24 is: (£) {with last year’s figures for comparison}

	31 August 2024	31 August 2023
Bank accounts	238,695	166,702
Debtors	2,331	-
Creditors	(10,635)	(1,436)
Net balance	230,391	165,266

The net balance was 60% of the annual expenditure (£385K). This is a small increase from the 56% on 31 August 2023 even though the expenditure has increased by 31%. Without the £50K legacy the balance would have been 47% of annual expenditure.

The working reserve was well above the recommended minimum of 25% and also above the recommended ‘norm’ of 50% which is usually regarded as fully sufficient for all reasonable contingencies. Given that the last five years have included the pandemic and the HK amalgamation, both of which might have been financially challenging, this level of reserve is very satisfactory.

Matters of Material Significance Reportable to UK Charity Regulators

In the course of independent examination we have found no matter of material significance reportable to UK charity regulators. {See Reference 2 Section 5 for the relevant criteria}.

References

- 1 Trinity Church, Independent Examination of Accounts, FY September 2023 to August 2024. Examination Method. [Nigel Holloway, January 2024.]
- 2 Independent Examination of Charity Accounts: Directions and Guidance for Examiners. Charity Commission document CC32 (as amended).

⁹ Now including payments to those providing the HK ministry and pastoral activities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FORMAL STATEMENT

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

- 1 proper accounting records were not kept or,
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Mandy Lau (Independent Examiner)

Nigel Holloway (Assistant)

07/05/2025

07/05/2025

TRINITY CHURCH LOWER EARLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1147501

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 2022 / 2023

From **1st September 2022** To **31st August 2023**

Charity name: **Trinity Church Lower Earley**

Charity registration number: **1147501**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The purpose of the charity is to advance the Christian faith in the area of benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the participating churches.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	In achieving its purpose, the Charity engages in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to): a) the celebration of public worship; b) the teaching of the Christian faith; c) mission and evangelism; d) pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved; e) the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and f) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm that due regard has been paid to the guidance on public benefit, as detailed below.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Trinity Church is committed to supporting other charities using the biblical principle of tithing. We aim to give 10% of relevant income away to deserving causes, which may be local, national, international, environmental or combinations of these. This is in addition to funds raised for specific charities from the membership, which are passed on without deductions to the charities concerned.

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The church recognises the enormous contribution made by its volunteers, whether in time, energy, engagement and commitment to the church's core values. This cannot be quantified in monetary terms but is invaluable in supporting the life of the church and promoting the well-being of those to whom we minister. Examples include: • helping organise and run worship services • assisting with pastoral work • helping run and organise groups for toddlers, fathers, elderly people and youth among others • aiming to show the light of Christ in our neighbourhood, including practical support for asylum seekers and other needy groups
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Trinity Church has made a point of being an open and welcoming space in the neighbourhood, where all can feel accepted and welcomed. We offer practical support and friendship in the name of Jesus, to everyone who may come into the church whatever their need. In particular the church has offered a safe space for several asylum seekers based in our area, providing company, welcome and friendship along with practical donations of clothing and a warm space during the winter. Our weekly "Re:Fresh" café is run with the specific aim of reducing loneliness and isolation in our community, and this is being used by the local GP practices in social prescribing for their patients. We also organise a community lunch on a monthly basis, where a hot meal is provided for anyone who wants to sign up, for a nominal and voluntary monetary contribution. We organise another weekly café for people whose first language is not English, to help them practice their language skills in a welcoming space with members of the church who give their time to help these people communicate. Our toddlers group supports young children, parents and carers, and our "Who let the Dads out?" group helps fathers who

		may have little contact with their school-age children during the week, have some quality time to reconnect their relationship Over the past 18 months we have made a home in our church for a large number of Hong Kong Christians who have recently arrived in the UK and are now able to feel they can settle somewhere where they are welcomed and appreciated. They now hold weekly services in Cantonese, supporting the wider Hong Kong community who are increasingly moving into the area, and are also increasingly taking a greater part in the life of the church as a whole so that everyone involved is richer for the relationship. In addition to the church's own work above, Trinity Church plays its part in TORCH (a network of local church-based hubs providing advice, support and friendship to anyone in the community who may be in difficulties. Trinity was a founder member of the TORCH network which arose out the needs highlighted by the recent pandemic, and has continued to offer support and volunteers to help with this work, including allowing TORCH employees to be paid via the Trinity payroll.
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The church was in a healthy financial position at the year end, having shown a modest surplus over the year.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The church's policy is to have a minimum of 3 months' expenses cover in the general reserve, but at the Church Council meeting on 20th September 2021 it was agreed that for the present we would try to maintain 4 months' cover in view of the uncertainty arising from the pandemic.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	At the year end, the general reserve stood at just under 4 months' expenses. In addition, there is currently a designated reserve connected with monies raised and spent by the new Hong Kong congregation. This was designated so that it could be clearly shown in the accounts, and to give this very new part of our church the opportunity to establish its likely income and outgoings going forward. We are moving forward towards further integration, when the current designated fund will be amalgamated with the general fund.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	There are no funds materially in deficit

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The principal source of income for the church is donations from its members along with associated Gift Aid where applicable. We also currently receive income from grants from the Anglican Church in support of our employees' salaries, but these are on a time-limited basis to allow the church to establish the posts and ensure they are viable going forward. The church's other material source of income is rentals of our rooms, but this and the grants together make up less than 15% of the total income of the church.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Funds not immediately necessary for ongoing expenses are deposited with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution based on the Model Governing Documents for a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical partnership produced by Churches Together in England
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Trinity Church is a charitable unincorporated association set up as an LEP as per the previous paragraph.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees who must have shown their willingness to act as trustees, are elected at the Annual General Meeting. If co-opted during the year, their election is confirmed at the following AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Trinity Church Lower Earley
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1147501
Charity's principal address	Trinity Church, Chalfont Close, Earley, Reading RG6 5HZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Roderick John Eades	Chair & Secretary		AGM
2	Jon Salmon	Minister		"
3	Veronica Elleson	Treasurer		"
4	Bethan Glenys Jones		14 th May 2023	"
5	Mark Cann			"
6	Joanne Elizabeth Salmon			"
7	Dr Sarah Brayshaw			"
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Veronica M Elleson	Roderick J Eades
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Chair

Date	07/06/2024
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trinity Church Lower Earley			1147501	
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	01/09/2022	To	Period end date	31/08/2023

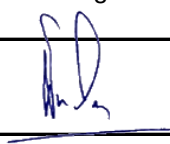
Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year funds £ F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies inc Gift Aid	S01	265,987	7,071	-	273,058	153,448
Charitable activities	S02	15,865	-	-	15,865	14,725
Other trading activities	S03	23,910	275	-	24,185	15,451
Investments	S04	10,553	776	-	11,329	8,806
Separate material item of income	S05	-	39,522	-	39,522	22,901
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S07	316,315	47,644	-	363,959	215,331
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	S08	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	S09	104,230	54,653	-	158,883	125,579
Separate material item of expense	S10	146,906	-	-	146,906	82,048
Other	S11	1,972	-	-	1,972	2,664
Total	S12	253,108	54,653	-	307,761	210,291
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)						
	S13	63,207	- 7,009	-	56,198	5,040
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) Extraordinary items	S15	63,207	- 7,009	-	56,198	5,040
Transfers between funds	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):	S17	-	-	-	-	-
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	63,207	- 7,009	-	56,198	5,040
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	79,770	30,735	-	110,505	105,465
Total funds carried forward	S22	142,977	23,726	-	166,703	110,505

Section B Balance sheet

	Guidance Notes					
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ F05
Fixed assets						
Intangible assets (Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets (Note 14)	B02	2,961,576	-	-	2,961,576	2,715,096
Heritage assets (Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B05	2,961,576	-	-	2,961,576	2,715,096
Current assets						
Stocks (Note 18)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 19)	B07	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 24)	B09	142,977	23,726	-	166,703	110,505
Total current assets	B10	142,977	23,726	-	166,703	110,505
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 20)	B11	200	1,236	-	1,436	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12	142,777	22,490	-	165,267	110,505
Total assets less current liabilities	B13	3,104,353	22,490	-	3,126,843	2,825,601
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	B15	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities	B16	3,104,353	22,490	-	3,126,843	2,825,601
Funds of the Charity						
Endowment funds (Note 27)	B17	-			-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)	B18		22,490		22,490	24,149
Unrestricted funds	B19	3,104,353		-	3,104,353	2,794,866
Revaluation reserve	B20				-	
Total funds	B21	3,104,353	22,490	-	3,126,843	2,819,015

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	Roderick Eades - Chair	07/06/2024
	Veronica Elleson - Treasurer	07/06/2024

Notes to the Accounts

1) The Church's structure, organisation and activities

Trinity Church Lower Earley is a Christian organisation governed by its constitution dated 16 January 2012, based on the model governing document for a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership as issued by the Charity Commission. Day to day management of the Church is undertaken by the Leadership team and Church Council along with the Minister. Trustees and council members are appointed at the AGM of the Church.

2) Basis of accounts preparation

General

- a. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102 as updated by Bulletin 1, and in accordance with charity law in the jurisdiction of England. The Church is a public benefit entity.

Accounting policies

a. Fixed assets

Fixed assets (i.e. church buildings and contents) are shown at insured value as at 31 August 2023, based on rebuilding cost indices. The church does not apply depreciation to the fixed assets.

b. Income

Income is recognised when the church becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

c. Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred committing the church to pay out resources.

d. VAT

Since the church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is included with the expenses to which it refers.

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 3 Analysis of income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
	Analysis					
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts inc HK Ministry	237,116	5,719	-	242,835	131,034
	Gift Aid	25,140	1,352	-	26,492	22,313
	Legacies	1,000	-	-	1,000	101
	General grants provided by government/other charities	2,731	-	-	2,731	-
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations					
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	265,987	7,071	-	273,058	153,448
Charitable activities:	Rental income from church hall and rooms	15,865	-	-	15,865	14,725
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	15,865	-	-	15,865	14,725
Other trading activities:	Contributions to church expenses including parochial fees	6,236	-	-	6,236	2,718
	Solar panel income	5,240	-	-	5,240	4,820
	Contributions from HK Fellowship	8,759	-	-	8,759	3,789
	Other	3,675	275	-	3,950	4,124
	Total	23,910	275	-	24,185	15,451
Income from investments:	Interest income	3,363	776	-	4,139	361
	Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
	Rental and leasing income	7,190	-	-	7,190	8,445
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	10,553	776	-	11,329	8,806
Separate material item of income:	Insurance claim following storm damage	-	-	-	-	9,472
	Anglican dev fund grant re associate pastor	-	9,292	-	9,292	7,333
	External funding re Torch employee salary	-	1,366	-	1,366	6,096
	Anglican grant re Torch employee salary	-	8,584	-	8,584	-
	Anglican grant re HK pastor	-	20,280	-	20,280	-
	Total	-	39,522	-	39,522	22,901
Other:	Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
	Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		316,315	47,644	-	363,959	215,331

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for: (please provide description and amounts)

Contributions to youth worker salary and costs (£11,981)
Anglican grant re associate paster salary (£7,333)
External funding re the Torch employee (£6,096)
Donations for Earley Help Hub (£1,600)

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the prior period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Donations and legacies above include £117,197 in donations from the new HK congregation (prior year £25,951) which were designated for their use while the congregation was establishing itself in Trinity Church.

An additional £8,152.00.00 was raised for specific charities and passed through the church bank account

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 6 Analysis of expenditure

Analysis	This year				Last year			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
Expenditure on charitable activities:								
Salaries and wages	48,203	51,733	-	99,936	47,281	14,831	-	62,112
Mission giving	19,051	-	-	19,051	16,138	-	-	16,138
Repairs and maintenance	13,364	-	-	13,364	26,183	-	-	26,183
Utilities inc buildings insurance	12,826	-	-	12,826	6,103	-	-	6,103
Other	10,786	2,920	-	13,706	7,411	7,632	-	15,043
Total expenditure on charitable activities	104,230	54,653	-	158,883	103,116	22,463	-	125,579
Separate material item of expense								
Parent church assessments	66,966	-	-	66,966	66,102	-	-	66,102
HK Ministry expenses	74,424	-	-	74,424	15,946	-	-	15,946
HK Fellowship expenses	5,516	-	-	5,516	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	146,906	-	-	146,906	82,048	-	-	82,048
Other								
Buildings equipment purchase	1,972	-	-	1,972	2,664	-	-	2,664
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other expenditure	1,972	-	-	1,972	2,664	-	-	2,664
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	253,108	54,653	-	307,761	187,828	22,463	-	210,291

An additional £8,152.00 was raised for and paid to specific charities having passed through the church bank account

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 11 Paid employees

Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages (net)	72,811	39,952
Tax and NI	8,040	6,783
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	3,133	2,294
Other employee benefits	3,155	13,083
Total staff costs	87,139	62,112

This year:

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Last year:

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Please give details of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within each band of £10,000 from £60,000 upwards. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

TRUE

Band	Number of employees	
	This year	Last year
£60,000 to £69,999	-	-
£70,000 to £79,999	-	-
£80,000 to £89,999	-	-
£90,000 to £99,999	-	-
£100,000 to £109,999	-	-

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity. For specific amounts paid to trustees, see Note 28.

This year £	Last year £
-	-

11.2 Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	7	5
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	7	5

11.3 Ex-gratia payments to employees and others (excluding trustees)*Please complete if an ex-gratia payment is made.*

Please explain the nature of the payment

This year	
Last year	

Please state the legal authority or reason for making the payment

This year	
Last year	

Please state the amount of the payment (or value of any waiver of a right to an asset)

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-

11.4 Redundancy payments*Please complete if any redundancy or termination payment is made in the period.*

Total amount of payment

This year	Last year
£	£
-	11,739

The nature of the payment (cash, asset etc.)

	CASH
--	------

The extent of redundancy funding at the balance sheet date

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-

Please state the accounting policy for any redundancy or termination payments

	Accounted for at date of payment
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Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 12 **Defined contribution pension scheme or defined benefit scheme accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.**

12.1 *Please complete this note if a defined contribution pension scheme is operated.*

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense	3,133	2,294

Please explain the basis for allocating the liability and expense of defined contribution pension scheme between activities and between restricted and unrestricted funds.

Pension contributions are allocated on the basis of the post. In the case of restricted funding posts, the pension contributions are allocated as appropriate.	
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Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 14 **Tangible fixed assets**

Please complete this note if the charity has any tangible fixed assets

14.1 Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
At the beginning of the year	2,517,855	275,000	-	168,721	2,961,576
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	2,517,855	275,000	-	168,721	2,961,576

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 20 **Creditors and accruals***Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.***20.1 Analysis of creditors**

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	-	-	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	-	-	-
Taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Pension liability not paid until September 2023	1,436	-	-	-
Total	1,436	-	-	-

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 24 **Cash at bank and in hand**

Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)
Short term deposits
Cash at bank and on hand
Other
Total

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-
166,703	110,505
-	-
166,703	110,505

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 27 **Charity funds**
27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

** Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds*

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
General	U	Day to day business and charitable activities. No restrictions	67,002	189,457	- 173,167	-	-	83,292
Youth Fund	R	Payment of youth worker and related expenditure	24,149	7,813	- 11,489	-	-	20,473
HK Ministry and Fellowship	U	Designated for HK use during this period	12,768	126,857	- 79,940	-	-	59,685
Diocesan grant funds	R	Restricted funding for various posts - time limited	-	29,572	- 28,587	-	-	985
Other funds	R	Funds for Torch and Earley Help Hub	6,586	10,260	- 14,578	-	-	2,268
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
Other funds	N/a	N/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds			110,505	363,959	- 307,761	-	-	166,703

Section C **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

** Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds*

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
General	U	Day to day business and charitable activities. No restrictions	88,177	158,581	- 170,856	- 8,900	-	67,002
Youth Fund	R	Payment of youth worker and related expenditure	19,834	11,981	- 7,666	-	-	24,149
HK Ministry and Fellowship	U	Designated for HK use during this period	-	29,740	- 16,972	-	-	12,768
Diocesan grant funds	R	Restricted funding for various posts - time limited	-	7,333	- 7,333	-	-	-
Other funds	R	Funds for Torch and Earley Help Hub	1,903	7,696	- 3,013	-	-	6,586
Solar panel loan	R	Loan re purchase of solar panels (final year)	- 4,450	-	4,450	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
Other funds	N/a	N/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds			105,464	215,331	- 201,390	- 8,900	-	110,505

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)****27.4 Designated funds****This year**

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount
Use by the HK leadership for the benefit of their congregation	To allow the new HK congregations at Trinity the chance to establish themselves and be enabled to fully gauge the extent of their income and expenditure, before this was amalgamated into the general fund	117,197

Last year

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount
Use by the HK leadership for the benefit of their congregation	To allow the new HK congregations at Trinity the chance to establish themselves and be enabled to fully gauge the extent of their income and expenditure, before this was amalgamated into the general fund	25,951

TRINITY CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Accounts for Church Financial Year September 2022 to August 2023

Summary

The church's accounts are in good order. Scrutiny of the payments showed that all were appropriate to the activities of the church¹. Almost all the payments are now done and recorded online, and incoming paper invoices are also recorded in the computer files.

Trinity church's own income rose from £178K in 2021/22 to £227K in 2022/23. The increase was attributable to a substantial increase (+26K) in donations and a much higher level (+24K) of grants. The grants are associated with a £25K increase in staffing costs and have a limited duration.

This year was the first full year of activity of the Hong Kong part of the church. This produced a surplus of £43.6K income over expenditure, compared with £10K in the part-year in 2021/22. The Hong Kong finances have been listed separately in the accounts, but are included in a single Trinity Church financial entity. Its total income in 2022/23 was £354K.

The final accounts are a fair view for the church's accounting year 2022/23 (all funds). We have found no reportable matter of material significance².

Recommendation

None.

Appropriate responses have been made to last year's recommendation on separating or amalgamating the accounts of Earley Help Hub, Torch, and the Hong Kong activities. The Earley Help Hub has become the Torch Earley Help Hub and has its own bank account, while the Hong Kong activities now use the Trinity bank account and are included in the Trinity accounts.

Observation

As part of the process of integrating the HK activities into the combined Trinity Church, we expect the church to consider whether the combined relevant³ income should become the basis for the 10% Mission Giving policy.

¹ These include some activities of other organisations which the church has been supporting.

² See Reference 2 for an official interpretation of this statement.

³ Relevant income excludes some items such as grants and insurance claims

Examination Method

The method is described in Ref.1. In line with common practice to examine at least one aspect in more depth, an examination was made of the Hong Kong expenses. Although this topic was included last year, the HK activities have now become a major new part of Trinity's activities, accounting for about 35% of the total income.

Findings

Independent Examination Requirements

The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the church's accounting year 2022/23 since the annual turnover (gross income) was less than £1M but that an independent examination by an unqualified person is no longer adequate, on the grounds that the church's turnover exceeded £250,000. This level of turnover now requires accrual accounts instead of the 'receipts and payments' accounts used in previous years. We confirm that the church's turnover of £354K is in the range requiring a qualified Independent Examiner but not an audit.

Treasurer's Summary of Accounts

This is a fair summary for the financial year. The accounts have been prepared using accruals, as is appropriate to the church's turnover. In practice, there was little difference between the accruals accounts and those that would have arisen from receipts and payments.

Payments

All expenditure was properly incurred in the church's activities (including associated activities – see below) or as donations to charities. In addition, money collected directly for charities was passed on without deductions and, in many cases, supplemented from the church's 'Mission Giving' fund.

The principal expenses of the Hong Kong activities, for which this is the first full year within the Trinity system, have been paid from the church's bank account, following appropriate authorisation of those who can incur or initiate such expenses.

Receipts

Inspection of the income records showed that all income had been transferred to the appropriate accounts and 'restricted' where donors specified this. Also, funds labelled 'designated' though not strictly limited, were generally used for the designated purpose..

Over 60% of the Trinity Church (excluding HK) income from church members now comes through regular standing orders or the equivalent Parish Giving Scheme. Both enable the church to recover an additional 25% tax rebate on donations from standard rate taxpayers. In addition, some donations arrive through individuals' charity accounts in which tax rebates are included before the donations are made.

Receipts of £23K from room and Manse rentals have fully recovered from the Covid restrictions.

Many of the receipts for the HK activities of the church were also regular bank payments. The gift aid supplement was smaller, at £5K, than for the traditional church giving. There may be scope for increasing the proportion of gifts qualifying for gift aid.

The major transition to a combined UK/HK church has been supported by grants amounting to £32K in 2022/23. These will be reduced in future years once the transition is completed.

Accruals

This was the first year of accruals accounting, following previous years of 'receipts and payments' accounts. Accruals were therefore applied only at the end of the year. In practice so much of the

church's annual income and expenditure is split into monthly amounts that the effect of accruals is very small. The only significant accrual was a pension contribution DD payment on 1 Sept (first day of 2023/24), accrued into the 2022/23 year.

Solar Panels

All repayments of interest-free loans were completed last year, so this was the first year of solar income (£5K) without costs associated with the initial capital.

Mission Giving and other Charitable Donations

The long standing policy of giving 10% of the church's 'voluntary income' has been maintained with regard to the original Trinity (non-HK) income. The donations are entirely voluntary and do not create any legal obligations to make future donations.

Some special collections were made and passed on directly to charities, sometimes with supplements from the general Mission Giving funds.

Observation: As part of the process of integrating the HK activities into the combined Trinity Church, we expect the church to consider whether the combined relevant⁴ income should become the basis for the 10% Mission Giving policy.

Manse Finances

Normal operation of the manse was restored before the start of 2021/22. The manse is managed by the Methodist church as equal partner and the costs deducted from the annual rental income are reasonable and fully documented. The Trinity half share of net income was £8.4 K and this level can reasonably be expected to continue.

Hong Kong Activities

2022/23 was the first full year of HK activities, which were financially just over a third of the total. The HK activities use the Trinity bank account and they are included in these 2022/23 accounts under HK headings. The HK income was about £47K more than the direct costs of room hire and HK staff costs.

Associated Activities

For many years the church has had minor associated activities, reported in previous independent examination reports under the title (Financially) Minor Activities, amounting to less than 5% of the total church finances. In 2021/22 the HK activities were listed in the accounts as 'associated' but in 2022/23 they are treated as part of Trinity Church.

Income and Expenditure

The church's income rose from £178K (+£20K HK income) in 2021/22 to £227K (+£127K HK income) in 2022/23, a total income of £354K. Of this income £32K was attributable to grants to support the new Associate Minister and the HK amalgamation. This grant income will expire after another year.

The expansion to incorporate the HK activities has involved a further major increase in staff costs⁵, but there has been an even larger increase in income, resulting in a substantial excess of income over expenditure. About £24K of this increase was attributable to a grant towards the HK incorporation and

⁴ Relevant income excludes some items such as grants and insurance claims

⁵ Now including payments to those providing the HK ministry and pastoral activities.

this will expire after a further year. However, even discounting all the grants (£32K), the resultant income of £322K remained well above the expenditure of £293K.

Financial Reserves

The end of year position for 2022/23 is:	(£) {with last year's figures for comparison}	
	31 August 2023	31 August 2022
Bank accounts	166,702	110,504
Balance attributable to 'associates' ⁶	(2,269)	(19,354)
	-----	-----
Net balance attributable to Trinity	164,433	91,150

The Trinity net balance was 56% of the annual expenditure (£293K). This is an increase from the 48% on 31 August 2022 even though the expenditure has increased by 40%.

The working reserve is well above the recommended minimum of 25% and also above the recommended 'norm' of 50% which is usually regarded as fully sufficient for all reasonable contingencies. Given that the last four years have included the pandemic and then the HK amalgamation, both of which might have been financially challenging, this level of reserve is very satisfactory.

Matters of Material Significance Reportable to UK Charity Regulators

In the course of independent examination we have found no matter of material significance reportable to UK charity regulators. {See Reference 2 Section 5 for the relevant criteria}.

References

- 1 Trinity Church, Independent Examination of Accounts, FY September 2022 to August 2023. Examination Method. [Nigel Holloway, January 2024.]
- 2 Independent Examination of Charity Accounts: Directions and Guidance for Examiners. Charity Commission document CC32 (as amended).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FORMAL STATEMENT

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

- 1 proper accounting records were not kept or,
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Mandy Lau (Independent Examiner)

Nigel Holloway (Assistant)



25/02/2024



25/02/2024

⁶ This refers only to a Torch residue. HK activities and Earley Help Hub are no longer 'associated activities'.

TRINITY CHURCH LOWER EARLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1147501

Accounts

WELCOME...

It's been an exciting year of re-imagining. We've sought to follow Jesus by putting our vision statement into practice and embraced energetically the change and unexpected growth and development that followed.

Vision Statement....

...Living life to the full by showing and sharing Jesus to transform our neighbourhood.

活出豐盛生命，傳揚耶穌，讓福音改變社區

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

• Worship:

Sundays –

- 9.30am and 11am worship gatherings gained momentum and began developing their own characters and family feel, with refreshments in-between.
- Really committed teams organising, shaping and leading both.
- Numerical growth by the end of the year (at 11am several young families and Hong Kongers).
- Building sense of openness to the Holy Spirit and sharing with one another.

Mid-week –

- Wednesday Worship quickly established as a quiet reflective time for worship, prayer and discussion.
- Mini-Messy Church for pre-schoolers and parents/carers continued to take root.

• Teaching:

○ Included:

- God making something new in the wasteland (Isaiah 43:18-19) and re-imagining.
- Series on Isaiah and early Church re-imagining itself after Jesus' ascension.

• HongKongers Ministry:

神愛滔滔，無盡感恩

- On Easter Sunday, a new, exciting and significant relationship started with 250-300 newly arrived HK migrants and their 100+ children/youth. Big thanks to The Salvation Army for extra space provided.
- Hosted a UKHK Welcome course for about 30 newly arrived HKers.
- On 16th October, 1 youth and 8 adults were baptised.
- About 10+ people accepted Jesus at our evangelistic outreach on 12th November.

• Team:

- New operations team (Anna/Lisa), and new lay Associate Pastor with responsibility for youth and young adults (Sam) contributed to developing a strong sense of team.
- Added to during the year by the senior Hong Kong Pastor (Siew Yin) and Pastor Petrus and the recruitment of a Hong Kong Administrator (Shirley)
- The Hong Kongers worked hard to develop a team for their large congregation.
- Leadership Team, Church Council and trustees reflect a strong sense of team and unity where love, care for each other and fun underpin a determination to follow God and His Spirit as closely as possible with wisdom and courage.

• A welcoming and busy building:

- Continued our commitment to be open as much as we can (usually Mon-Fri and alternate Sat am) and provide a warm welcome to anyone coming in.
- In Autumn, with a grant from The Oxford Diocese we took part in the national Warm Spaces project.
- We completed refurbishing the 'lounge' and 'rainbow room', the chapel, a work counter in the corridor by the kitchen.
- Following pigeon damage the solar panels were repaired and pigeon-proofed.

• Earley Help Hub(EHH)/Torch Earley Hub(TEH):

- EHH became part of a new greater Reading-wide network of help hubs in 2022, and Trinity continued to play a very active part in forging its gradual development.

• Refresh Café and Community lunch:

- We continued to run a weekly well-being café derived from the EHH/TEH project. We started running monthly community lunches before the first café of the month – attracting 50+ guests.

• International Café (ICAF):

- Following the Welcome Course, we began a weekly (term-time) ICAF for internationals wanting to practice English in an informal fun way. This has remained popular.

• Toddlers:

- A weekly toddler term-time group continues to be popular, with over 40 children each time.

- **Who Let the Dads Out:**
 - Continued monthly on first Saturday morning.
- **Youth:**
 - Key activities: alternate Sunday morning and evenings at Trinity.
 - Love Thursday at Brookside – approx. 70 mainly unchurched youth.
 - Fridays in Maiden Erlegh School.
 - Youth provision post-Covid is a universal challenge.
- **Young Adults (25-40 ish):**
 - Began to see some young adults coming to 11am and committing. Potential for development.
- **ECO-Church:**
 - Awarded Bronze and want to work for Silver.
 - Work underway developing a wildlife garden on the bank (ASDA end).
- **Mission Support:**
 - We gave away £16,137.60 (10% of our tithable income) to a variety of charities and appeals, including:– Christian Aid, Water Aid and the DEC Ukraine; nationally - A, The Children's Society; and locally, CIRDIC, TORCH and REinspired.

MANAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP

- Church Council and Trustees met as required and worked well together.
- Sought to focus increasingly on our mission with effective and efficient management/leadership supporting this rather than dominating.
- Joint Church Meetings/worship continued - model developing.
- Congregational teams worked hard. Need to develop sustainable leadership given signs of growth.
- Safeguarding managed effectively, including many HK volunteer DBSs.
- Denominational links maintained – challenge is to provide enough reps.
- Jon and others involved in leadership of TEH/Torch and Transform Reading.

FINANCE

2022 was challenging, but exciting...

- Total income (not including any HK income): **£177,896**
- **72%** of this came from donations – we have generous people, and we need to celebrate them, even though donations had dropped from the previous year.
- Total expenditure (again without any HK expenses):
- **£190,306**
- **67%** of this went on parent church assessments and staffing costs.
- **HOWEVER** – we'd budgeted for a deficit of £24k in the year to August 2022, but ended with this only being £12.4k (despite some unexpected expenses).
- Lots of uncertainties, but we believe God is leading us and will provide for our needs.
- Let's encourage and celebrate our generous givers and go forward in faith!
- Key verses:
 - Isaiah 7:4 - Be careful, keep calm and don't lose heart....
 - James 1:2-3 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.
 - 2 Cor 9:6-8 - Whoever sows generously will also reap generously... God loves a cheerful giver.
 - Malachi 3:10 - Bring the whole tithe in.... Test me in this, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.
 - Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you!

NEXT YEAR...2023

- **Continue:**
 - re-imagining on all fronts – trusting in God's timing and in His way.
 - listening and obeying.
 - keeping our vision statement central to have impact.
 - balancing wise management and leadership with stepping out courageously in faith.
 - pursuing partnership with local neighbourhood churches – seeking 'one' church.
 - Exploring LICC frontlines and 'whole life discipleship.'
 - Developing integration with HKers.
 - Nurturing 'family'.
 - Remembering to do a few things well!
 - NURTURING LOVE, GRACE, PEACE, FUN.

www.trinityyearley.org.uk

0118 931 3124

This document was presented to and accepted by the church AGM held on 14th May 2023

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Red Eades', written over a horizontal line.

Red Eades. Chair Church Council and Trustees



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trinity Church Lower Earley

1147501

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/09/21

To

31/08/22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings and associated Gift Aid	141,491	11,958	-	153,449	156,362
Interest and investment income	361	-	-	361	111
Lettings	23,171	-	-	23,171	4,883
Other receipts	23,300	15,052	-	38,352	32,489
An additional £3,029.00 was raised	-	-	-	-	-
for specific charities and passed through the church bank account	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	188,322	27,011	-	215,332	193,845
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	180
Sub total	-	-	-	-	180
Total receipts	188,322	27,011	-	215,332	194,025
A3 Payments					
Parent church assessments	66,102	-	-	66,102	67,498
Mission giving	16,138	-	-	16,138	17,092
Repairs and maintenance	26,183	-	-	26,183	12,718
Utilities including building insurance	6,103	-	-	6,103	4,891
Other payments inc salaries	70,638	22,463	-	93,101	59,935
An additional £3,029,000 was paid to	-	-	-	-	-
specific charities having passed through the church bank account	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	185,164	22,463	-	207,627	162,135
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	2,664	-	-	2,664	13,016
Sub total	2,664	-	-	2,664	13,016
Total payments	187,828	22,463	-	210,291	175,150
Net of receipts/(payments)	493	4,548	-	5,041	18,874
A5 Transfers between funds	- 8,900	8,900	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	88,177	17,287	-	105,464	86,590
Cash funds this year end	79,770	30,735	-	110,505	105,464

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	14,012	8,735	-
	Deposit account	65,758	22,000	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	79,770	30,735	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	R. EADES	16/10/2022

TRINITY CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Accounts for Church Financial Year September 2021 to August 2022

Summary

The church's accounts are in good order. Scrutiny of the payments showed that all were appropriate to the activities of the church¹. Almost all the payments are now done and recorded online, and incoming paper invoices are also recorded in the computer files.

The church's income fell from £190K in 2020/21 to £178K in 2021/22, but this was mainly due to exceptionally high one-off donations in 2020/21.

Expansion of the church's activities involved an increase in employment and correspondingly increased costs, resulting in a modest excess of expenditure over income. This used up some of the extra reserve accumulated during the Covid pandemic. The deficit of £12K was less than the £25K planned in the budget for 2021/22.

The final accounts are a fair view for the church's accounting year 2021/22 (all funds). I have found no reportable matter of material significance².

Recommendation

Earley Help Hub and Torch, and the Hong Kong activities if not amalgamated with Trinity, should make arrangements to have their own financial accounts and bank accounts, and to be responsible for their own payments. This need not stop Trinity accepting donations in support of these activities into its own account and passing them on, as it has done for many charity collections and fundraising events.

Observation

The organisation and labelling of invoice and payment files have been improved and they are now much easier to identify, pair up and examine. {No response required}

Nigel Holloway
34, Radstock Lane
Earley
Reading
RG6 5QL
20 January 2023

N/Holloway 20/1/23

¹ These include some activities of other organisations which the church has been supporting.

² See Reference 2 for an official interpretation of this statement.

Examination Method

The method is described in Ref.1. In line with common practice to examine at least one aspect in more depth, an examination was made of the newly associated activities of 'Torch' and the Hong Kong church.

Findings

Independent Examination Requirements

The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the church's accounting year 2021/22 and that an independent examination by an unqualified person is adequate, on the grounds that the church's gross income was less than £250,000. I confirm that the church's gross income (turnover) of £218K³ is in that range.

Treasurer's Summary of Accounts

This is a fair summary for the financial year. The accounts have been prepared using payments and receipts, as is appropriate to the church's turnover. The use of more complex accrual accounting would not alter my view on the accounts. Although the finances of the associated activities are included in the turnover stated above, the accounts clearly identify them under separate headings.

Payments

All expenditure was properly incurred in the church's activities (including associated activities – see below) or as donations to charities. In addition, money collected directly for charities was passed on without deductions and, in many cases, supplemented from the church's 'Mission Giving' fund.

The organisation and labelling of invoice and payment files has been improved and they are now much easier to identify, pair up and examine. {Observation – no response required.}

Receipts

Inspection of the income records showed that all income had been transferred to the appropriate accounts and 'restricted' where donors specified this. The former youth worker was re-employed as an associate pastor and the restricted 'youth worker' funding has been re-allocated to that role with the consent of the donors. The new role largely includes the previous youth worker role.

Most of the income from church members now comes through regular standing orders or through the new Parish Giving Scheme. Both enable the church to recover an additional 25% tax rebate on donations from standard rate taxpayers. Over the whole year, 55% of the regular donations were made through the PGS.

Receipts from room rentals and the Manse rental have fully recovered from the Covid stoppages.

Solar Panels

This was the eighth year of operation of the solar panels. All repayments of interest-free loans were completed in this year. Solar income (feed-in tariff and export sales) at £4.8K slightly exceeded the final annual repayments (£4.45K) and will in future become an effective additional income for the church. However, it should be noted that the first major expenditure (£1.8K) on maintenance was required and that £5.3K was needed for pigeon proofing⁴.

³ This figure is the turnover and differs from the church income because £40K of income is also handled by the church for the Hong Kong church activities, Torch, the Earley Help Hub and earmarked donations.

⁴ Prevention of pigeons nesting under the panels.

Mission Giving and other Charitable Donations

The long standing policy of giving 10% of the church's 'voluntary income' has been maintained. The donations are entirely voluntary and do not create any legal obligations to make future donations.

Some special collections were made and passed on directly to charities, sometimes with supplements from the general Mission Giving funds.

The Effects of the SARS-Cov-2 ('Coronavirus') Pandemic

The finances for the previous two years were strongly affected by the pandemic although the net result was an increase in balances caused by the large reduction in activity and expenditure while the members' donations were largely maintained. In 2021/22 the residual pandemic effects were minimal and the church's activities have expanded relative to the pre-pandemic levels.

Manse Finances

Normal operation of the manse was restored before the start of 2021/22. The manse is managed by the Methodist church as equal partner and the costs deducted from the annual rental income are reasonable and fully documented. The Trinity half share of net income was £8.4 K and this level can reasonably be expected to continue.

Associated Activities

For many years the church has had minor associated activities, reported in previous independent examination reports under the title (Financially) Minor Activities, amounting to less than 5% of the total church finances. These activities were run by individual church members with their own mini-accounts (including some bank accounts) but reported annually to the church treasurer and occasionally donated surpluses to the church funds. Two of these minor activities, Chalfont Club and Thursday Toddlers closed in this year and transferred residual balances to the church funds. Ladies Club and Monday Toddlers remain active.

However, several new activities have been added and the scale of the associated activities is no longer financially minor. The activities at the end of 2021/22, with approximate turnovers (£K), were:

Hong Kong Ministry and Fellowship	30 (for a part year: May to August)
Torch	6
Earley Help Hub	2
Previous activities	4 (including the two recently closed)

The first three organisations are not run solely by Trinity church, although the incorporation of the Hong Kong activities with Trinity is being considered. However, the nature of Earley Help Hub and Torch is such that they will continue to be responsible to several organisations. Use of the Trinity bank account for these purpose is not sensible in the long term as Trinity payments should be under its control. Therefore it is recommended that:

Earley Help Hub and Torch, and the Hong Kong activities, if not amalgamated with Trinity, should make arrangements to have their own financial accounts and bank accounts, and to be responsible for their own payments. This need not interfere with Trinity accepting designated donations to its own account and passing them on, as it has done for many charity collections and fundraising events.

Income and Expenditure

The church's income fell from £190K in 2020/21 to £178K in 2021/22, but this was mainly due to exceptionally high one-off donations in 2020/21. Recently, though, there have been several large 'one-

off' items in both income and expenditure, so the income and expenditure for the year 2021/22 should not be presumed accurate predictors for next year.

Expansion of the church's activities involved an increase in employment and correspondingly increased costs, resulting in a modest excess of expenditure over income. This used up some of the extra reserve accumulated during the Covid pandemic. The deficit of £12K was less than the £25K planned in the budget for 2021/22. Although planning for a deficit is not normally to be recommended, the substantial increase in the reserves during the pandemic meant that the planned deficit was a reasonable way to promote the expansion in activities.

Financial Reserves

The end of year position for 2021/22 is:	(£) {with last year's figures for comparison}	
	31 August 2022	31 August 2021
Bank accounts	110,504	105,463
Solar project loans (owed)	(0)	(4,450)
Balance attributable to 'associates' ⁵	(19,354)	N/A
Net balance attributable to Trinity	91,150	101,013

The Trinity net balance was 48% of the annual expenditure (£190K). This is reduced from the 57% on 31 August 2021. The working reserve is the same, now that the fixed term solar loans have been repaid. The working reserve is still well above the recommended minimum of 25% and very close to the recommended 'norm' of 50% which is usually regarded as fully sufficient for all reasonable contingencies. Given that the pandemic related uncertainties have reduced in the last year, this level of reserve is very satisfactory.

Matters of Material Significance Reportable to UK Charity Regulators

In the course of my independent examination I have found no matter of material significance reportable to UK charity regulators. {See Reference 2 Section 5 for the relevant criteria}.

References

- 1 Trinity Church, Independent Examination of Accounts, FY September 2021 to August 2022. Examination Method. [Nigel Holloway, December 2021.]
- 2 Independent Examination of Charity Accounts: Directions and Guidance for Examiners. Charity Commission document CC32 (as amended).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FORMAL STATEMENT

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

- 1 proper accounting records were not kept or,
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Date: 20/01/2023

Nigel John Holloway MMath (Cantab)

⁵ Hong Kong Ministry (£10,005), Hong Kong Fellowship (£2,763), Torch (£5,081), Earley Help Hub (£1,505).

TRINITY CHURCH LOWER EARLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1147501

Accounts

Annual Impact Report 2021

(aims to fit as closely as possible to our Financial Year September 2020-August 2021)

Introduction and Summary:

The reporting period was impacted by the continuation of the COVID19 pandemic and the three national periods of lockdown. Throughout the pandemic we had a sense we had a God-given opportunity to re-imagine the way forward as restrictions eased, with Isaiah 43:18-19 ("Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.") repeatedly coming to our attention. This provided encouragement to discern fresh impetus and try new ideas and to pop them on the 'hamster wheel' of church as it slowly began to turn once more.

Plenty took place during the pandemic, notably providing an online presence and seeking to provide pastoral support to the extent that was possible. Involvement in The Earley Help Hub (EHH) was also significant. This was a partnership between the churches in Earley and Lower Earley providing practical support to those needing help in our neighbourhood. The EHH continued throughout the pandemic and plans to align it with other similarly inspired help hubs across Reading began emerging by the end of the reporting period. It has been really encouraging how Trinity embraced the potential for this to become a main feature of Trinity's vision and mission, and not as an additional bolt-on. The big vision relating to the EHH is that God might just be wanting the different churches in Earley and Lower Earley to become much more 'one church'; not uniformly one, but one rooted in relational trust and unity, standing together to maximise impact for God where the neighbourhood becomes increasingly aware of one church rather than several. There is much to learn about this moving forward, as the local churches are at different stages and considerable effort required to press on with this. By the end of the reporting period Trinity and Brookside churches had developed the strongest commitment to this.

This annual report is being called our Annual Impact Report to place emphasis on our impact for God. This ups the stakes over what we do and why we do it. Trinity's leadership believes anything we do, whether picking up with toddler groups again or starting something in partnership with other churches must be initiated on the basis that it stands a chance of producing spiritual fruit, and not only practical and or social support. Many thousands remained un-reached in our neighbourhood so approaching our mission in new ways seems vital! How Jesus is shared and shown, as our vision statement says, is the critical question we need to address!

Although the pandemic has been hard, there is huge opportunity for Trinity. Looking forward it's so exciting to both sense the opportunities and a willingness and desire at Trinity to press on into what Jesus has for us. We don't really know what this looks like, or what the timing might be for different things which can feel hard but another important point of discernment during this time, that will hopefully characterise us in the years ahead, is that not understanding is okay. We don't need to know everything. It's better to practice trusting God and His timing, and as we do, loving each other with grace, trust, forgiveness and fun. These are so life-giving and attractive to those we are called to reach out to, and are likely to generate impact for God.

A huge thank you goes to everyone at Trinity who's played a part in steering this church through another incredible year. Your faith, generosity, patience, creativity and willingness to serve is awesome.

Vision:

The pandemic has helped us focus more on what is a meaningful practical response to our vision. This has been a thought-provoking and reflective time and the summary above highlights the gist of what the Church Council and Leadership Team sense God has been saying to us. Our Chair of Church Council/Trustees has encouraged us to put our vision (including our vision statement) very much at the heart of our business meetings which has been really helpful in creating a much more appropriate balance to what these meetings focus on.

Worship:

We continued to meet in-person from 20 September 2020 with three worship gatherings in Trinity (11am, 4pm, 6pm) in addition to the outdoor gathering which carried on as it had been. These stopped at the beginning of November in line with the second and then third national lockdowns which meant we didn't meet again in person for worship until 23 May 2021 (Pentecost).

Throughout this time, we carried on producing a weekly pre-recorded service using You Tube. Giles continued to faithfully process this for us which was amazing, and numerous people provided the content which was such a blessing. In November 2020, we also began a weekly Zoom time on Sunday mornings. These included a reflection on the pre-recorded sermon, some recorded music, prayer and chat in breakout rooms. We averaged approximately 30 people each week, and feedback was positive. The breakout rooms provided a better opportunity to get to know people than had been the case in the building on Sundays!

Christmas 2020 and Easter (for the second time) in 2021 were celebrated virtually! Whilst definitely not the same as meeting in person, and we weren't able to readily open our doors to welcome those who often only come to Christmas and Easter activities, a good time was had by those attending our Zoom times.

Worship in person re-started on Pentecost (23 May 2021) with two Sunday gatherings, 9.30am and 11am. These gatherings continued to comply with COVID19 restrictions. Two teams came together to organise and deliver these, so this pattern, the planning and leadership looked very different to the pre-pandemic pattern. Over the weeks, both established their own modus operandi and worship style.

The 9.30am was more traditional with hymns, and the 11am was more contemporary and informal. The 11am included an all-age service on the first Sunday each month and set up some children's work. Holy Communion took place on the third Sunday each month. The 11am gathering took longer to feel sustainable. This pattern created new dedicated space for those favouring more traditional and more contemporary worship.

The aim was to monitor how this worked whilst being very conscious of the desire and importance to hold the whole family at Trinity together. The intention, when it became possible, was to experiment with periodic joint worship celebrations, having joint times between the gatherings for refreshments as well as meals together.

We continued with pre-recorded weekly services until August. The aim was to take a break and then explore the potential for live-streaming.

The outdoor gathering continued with providing amazing craft-based resources to assist the individuals and families who took part. Huge thanks go to Sarah and Cathy for continuing with this form so long.

Preaching topics during the year included series on Mark's Gospel and Colossians, Kingdom building, re-imagining church post-pandemic, seeking freedom in Christ, abundance and cost, spiritual muscle, our relationship with Jesus and being faithful disciples, and climate care.

We re-gathered cautiously with young and old coming back and staying at home. There was a great desire to worship together in person and it felt hard to do so with the restrictions.

Prayer:

A weekly Zoom prayer meeting was set up on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Numbers reached about 20, but reduced over time to a faithful 4-6 people. We stopped the prayer meeting in the Autumn 2021.

EHH set up a daily 10 minute prayer meeting in February 2021 on Zoom in response to the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York call to the nation to pray about the pandemic. Trinity took part in this, though over time numbers levelled off at approximately 4-6 each time from 2-4 churches. It varied. What it provided in addition to daily prayer was a sense of shared ministry and relationship between those who met, despite not necessarily having ever met in person. This prayer meeting then continued weekly.

Pastoral Care:

We have a tiny group of dedicated pastoral visitors and we really do need to build on this, particularly with the issues of isolation caused by Covid. Many Trinity members have continued to quietly and appropriately call in, shop, and provide for those in need. Huge appreciation to these people.

We have tried to maintain regular contact with as many people as possible throughout lockdown/ Covid pandemic through telephone calls and home/doorstep visits where appropriate. Several of our small group continued operating virtually, and then in person as restrictions allowed.

As restrictions allowed the church was open as much as possible during the day, for prayer and quiet space with a small team hosting and available for a chat. Although not overwhelmed with visitors many have said how helpful this has been.

The pandemic meant we were unable to re-establish any community chaplaincy in either ASDA or the leisure centre.

Three activities are planned:

- i) weekly Refresh Café - a new drop-in café to support mental well-being and the lonely. This is an initiative under the Earley Help Hub with similar cafes to be started at Brookside and St Nicolas churches.
- ii) Wednesday Worship and
- iii) Monthly Community Lunches (timed to lead into the Refresh Café)

We would also like to explore, under the EHH, the potential for working with Street Pastors instead of re-establishing our old community chaplaincy team. Street Pastors are starting to expand their operations into non-town centre locations, because of opportunities from the pandemic.

Families:

Mini Messy Church – Formally Nursery Service

Unable to operate due to Covid restrictions. Kept in touch via Facebook and Easter, Summer and Christmas activity packs. Re-opened face to face in Early Sept 2021....small group of regular attendees – mostly child minders. Seasonal lunches to be re-established.

Parent & Toddler Groups

Unable to operate due to Covid restrictions. Re-opened face to face in Early Sept 21 on Monday mornings with social distancing and limited numbers. Extremely well attended (needed to turn some away due to reaching safe numbers limit) New interactive team: Cecilia, Ann, Anna, Mandy Dawkins, Joan Parr. Much better model for relationship building and more links with Trinity Church activities.

Lower Earley Day Nursery – Nativity Service (Formerly Yellow Brick Nursery)

Unable to operate due to Covid restrictions.

Messy Church/Messy Fun Club/Messy Christingle

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold Messy Church Holiday Fun Club in August this year due to Covid and our Easter Messy Church, and Messy Christingle sadly had to be cancelled too, but activity packs - including oranges - were sent out at Easter and Christmas and they were very well received. Face to face resumed Christmas 2021.

Chalfont Club

Unable to operate due to Covid restrictions. Rosemary has now retired.

Ladies Group

The Ladies group has continued to offer friendship and support during the difficult times of covid. It has plans to resume seasonal gatherings this year, hopeful that it can reach out to more ladies in the church and community.

Who Let the Dad's Out

This group didn't run during the reporting period but plans to begin later in the Autumn on a monthly basis once again.

Children:

Our children's ministry is at the heart of our work and service in Trinity

For much of 2020 and some of 2021 we had to keep in touch with the children connected to our church through virtual means, and at Christmas and Easter in particular, were able to send activities to engage them at home.

Since the opening of the church as restrictions allowed, we have a rather 'new look' children's church at the 11 am gathering. A small number of children with a wide age range sharing a special time together with Anna, Lisa and Mark leading the sessions. We are always keen for the children to have an active and authentic role in the services

Youth:

Youthwork is in part about consistency and momentum, and we lost momentum and the sense of building something through COVID. Consistency fluctuated with restrictions that forced us more than once into 'challenging-for-everyone' online groups and then allowed restriction-filled face-to-face opportunities.

Despite Sam leaving in April 2021 Bethan, Mike and others did an admirable job in ensuring that the possibility of continuing relationships remained intact throughout.

It's upon this faithfulness that we are now building momentum and new provision, groups and relationship points.

Our youth work focuses on Trinity's youth but within the wider context of youth work across Lower Earley. Partnerships with the other local churches is very much on our agenda. A close working relationship especially with Brookside Church has been very helpful.

Eco-Church:

We formally recognised the climate emergency in April and committed ourselves to examine our own lifestyles and to encourage action on it both locally and nationally. Aided by the "Creation Care" engagement of twenty church families, we achieved a Bronze Eco Church award in 2021. We are now looking at steps we can take, particularly regarding our Community and Global Engagement weak spot, towards earning a Silver award.

We have replaced the ecologically barren shrubbery outside the hall windows by paving, public seating and a large planter.

Following permission from ASDA, who own it, we have taken over management of the SW-facing bank and are developing it for wildlife. The hedge and grass are being replaced by a wildflower mini-meadow, with a stumpery and compost heap adding to the habitats available!

Management:

Church Council/Trustees/Church Meetings

Church meetings took place in October 2020 and then in 2021 in January, March, April and July. Due to the COVID restrictions all meetings were via Zoom. Attendance at the April meeting fell just short of making the meeting quorate which was disappointing but a probable reflection of Zoom-fatigue, the meeting continued informally, and any decisions were followed up subsequently. The March meeting was an extraordinary meeting called specifically to discuss and agree the church redecoration and upgrading the sanctuary chairs.

The table below lists the members who serve on the Church Council, Trustees and Leadership Team at the end of the year.

Council	Trustees	Leadership
Ann Baker	Sarah Brayshaw	Ann Baker
Megan Cann	Mark Cann	Laura Eades
Jenny Cavubati	Richard Cocks	Rod Eades
Richard Cocks (Property)	Rod Eades (chair)	Bethan Jones
Laura Eades	Veronica Elleson	Jo Salmon
Rod Eades (Chair)	Jo Salmon	Jon Salmon
Veronica Elleson (Finance)	Jon Salmon	Kate Robinson

Bethan Jones (Warden) Jon Salmon (Minister) Annelise Thornton Lisa Waite		
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Note the Church Secretary role is currently vacant. This is an action that is being addressed but the tasks are being fulfilled by existing CC members. There is a very good sense of team and unity within both the Church Council and Trustees. We praise God for his graciousness to us with this and pray that we will become increasingly united as a church into the future.

Staffing

Our Youth Worker, Sam, had intended to leave in mid-2020 to travel overseas. The pandemic delayed this until April 2021. He'd made a very valuable contribution to life at Trinity and the church was sad to bid him and Hannah farewell. Prior to him leaving Trinity agreed to develop a new role of lay Associate Pastor with responsibility for youth and young adults. This was a very positive development made possible by having Sam with us. The new role acknowledged the continued importance for Trinity with supporting youth work, but also the strategic value for the future of Trinity of investing in those in their 20s-30s. This post would also provide some general leadership to create scope for our minister to invest time in the EHH. Recruitment would begin early in the new reporting year.

Trinity also began exploring the potential benefits of developing an operations co-ordinator role to oversee the many welcoming and operational tasks Trinity, like any church, has to undertake, and which have always been done by various volunteers. Trinity agreed to proceed and was working on this as the reporting period came to an end.

The ministry and operational contexts of churches are in a constant state of change and the pandemic has intensified this. It's important that churches are agile and flexible in their response to opportunities and requirements placed upon them, and both these new roles intend to support Trinity in these regards.

Our Denominations

Each of our denominations have been very supportive during the pandemic. They have been flexible with reporting requirements, concerned that we've been able to manage financially, and have made available online worship resources if needed.

Property

The benefits of a freshly decorated sanctuary were not felt initially because the building had to be shut because of the pandemic. As we re-opened reaction was positive. Since then, further attention improving how we organise and manage our space throughout the building has been on-going which has been very beneficial. The following headlines are relevant:

- We replaced our sanctuary chairs with new, modern metal-framed chairs. They are much easier to move with trolleys to stack them on. The space saved when they are stacked is very useful and keeps the sanctuary much tidier.
- The central skylight was damaged by a storm in December 2020 and it took almost 12 months to find and install a replacement, but this has been done.

- Pigeons have become an increasing nuisance. We have installed netting and spikes to exclude them from the corners of the church and window frames but they now simply sit on the roof. They have damaged the wiring of our solar panels, reducing capacity by 20% - costing £800/year if not repaired. The problem is exacerbated because they are encouraged by a local resident who feeds them.
- The last of our seven annual repayments of loans for the solar panels will be made in May 2022, allowing our circa £4,000 annual benefit from them to be put to other use in future years. Meanwhile skyrocketing gas prices have suddenly added to the climate / stewardship imperative to make further improvements to our insulation.

Finance:

In common with churches everywhere, Trinity Church has continued to deal with the very uncertain circumstances of the pandemic. We have been in partial or total lockdown for most of the time, but despite this, have ended the year in a good financial position. Looking to the future, much remains uncertain, but we are starting the next phase of re-opening in a stronger position than might have been expected.,

Looking at the major items for the year to 31st August 2021:

Income

- There are currently 66 regular donors to Trinity, either via PGS (Parish Giving Scheme), standing orders or CAF (Charities Aid Foundation). This has dropped slightly from 70 last year, but includes some people who have had to reduce or cease donations owing to changes in financial circumstances which are inevitable given the nature of the issues raised by the pandemic. Some people however, have felt able to start new regular donations during the year.
- We received £10,000.00 specifically for completing the redecoration of the church, including purchasing new chairs, and for the landscaping project, and £15,000 in two lump sum donations which were not specifically earmarked
- In addition, £7,000.00 has been given to Trinity in numerous one-off donations from several different people, including some who generously waived payment of their solar loan repayments
- We have continued to claim furlough money from the government's Job Retention Scheme, throughout the year. This enabled us to continue to pay our employees in full whilst they have been fully or partially furloughed, and has been second only to donation income in helping the church through this extraordinary time.
- For the third year in succession the church received a much larger than expected parish share rebate.
- The manse is now tenanted again, and we have received a total of just over £2,300.00 from this source which includes having paid off a deficit owing at the end of last year.
- We also received just under £1,000.00 from room rentals when we were able to open briefly last Autumn, in addition to the £720.00 which Trinity Concert Band pay us to use our storage facilities for instruments.
- A limited amount of cash collection income has been received during the year, mostly from anonymous donors who have visited the church whilst it has been open during the week for private prayer.
- We have recently obtained a contactless card reader, with the aim of encouraging gifts from occasional visitors who may now be unlikely to be carrying cash as they would have been in the past.

This is very new, and it remains to be seen how much use will be made of it. We pay a small premium on donations of 1.33% per transaction, but the donation monies are treated as being paid in full, with the cost being covered by the church.

- There are now no donors via the envelope scheme, with the few that remained at the end of last year having transferred their donations either to direct bank giving or by signing up to PGS.
- There have been some small contributions towards the cost of things like photocopying and refreshments, as well as a totally unexpected donation from the Thursday Toddlers group.
- We also received a small amount of income via "Give As You Live" having been signed up with the scheme since last year. Just over £150 has been received during the year, made up of one lump sum donation of £100, and a large number of much smaller amounts raised via online shopping. Only 7 Trinity members are currently using the scheme when they shop online and it is to be hoped that more people will consider doing so, since it costs nothing to the person concerned.
- Following the launch of Trinity's new website at Christmas, the Giving page has been updated to enable online one-off donations direct to Trinity, as well as those available through Give as You Live. It is also now possible to sign up online for PGS, and the Giving page has been further updated to include the relevant links which should make it easier for any interested members to sign up.

Expenses

- Apart from the major expenses of our parent church contributions and our employment costs, our greatest expense during the year has been the completion of the strategic buildings work, including purchasing the new chairs, completing the redecoration in the hall and smaller rooms, and carrying out the landscaping of our limited outdoor space. This was possible despite the strange circumstances, owing to the very generous donations mentioned above, and these (together with monies earmarked from the previous year) meant that we felt it appropriate to carry out the work during the time the building was closed. The carpet was cleaned during the Christmas break period. A small amount remains to be done.
- The new website was paid for and went live earlier in the year.
- We were able to make all the solar panel loan repayments due for the year, and some people generously donated their monies back to the church. This means that there is only £4,450.00 now outstanding to be paid off in full next May.
- Costs of most utilities have been reduced as a result of the church not being used.

Other points

- We have continued to offer the use of the church bank account to the Earley Help Hub, which has been providing support, encouragement and opportunities to local people in need throughout the pandemic. It is anticipated that during the coming year, EHH will be registered as an independent charity and will obtain its own bank account, at which point the balance held in the Trinity account will be transferred.

Internal Organisations y/e 31/08/2021

During the year to 31st August 2021 there were 3 internal organisations which were part of Trinity Church, but maintained their own accounts. Due to the pandemic, there was little or no activity in any of these organisations, but in line with the recommendation from the Independent Examiner last year, the accounts were reported to the Treasurer as follows:

Monday Toddlers Club

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Balance b/f			£320.00
	£0.00	£146.76*	£173.24
Balance c/f			£173.24

* Spent on activity materials for children Sept 20 – July 21

Thursday Toddlers Club

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Balance b/f			
	£0.00	£750.00*	£799.30
Owed to Trinity for 20/21 year		£500.00**	£299.30
Balance c/f			£299.30

* Donation to Trinity owing from previous 2 years

** To be paid over during 2021/2022 year

Chalfont Club

	Income	Expenses	
Balance b/f			£1323.10
	£0.00	£0.00	£1323.10
Balance c/f			£1323.10

In addition, £105.00 was raised from members of the ladies' group to pay for an online art session which did not in the end take place. £18.00 was refunded to members and the remaining £87.00 is held in the Trinity bank account pending further activity in the coming year.

It remains to be seen which activities will re-start during the 2021/2022 year as the situation continues to evolve.

Mission Giving y/e 31/08/2021

During the year to 31st August 2021 Trinity Church supported the following charities directly via mission funds:

	£
A Rocha UK	1,000.00

CIRDIC (Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre)	1,000.00
Children's Society	300.00
Christian Aid (Afghanistan appeal)	1,585.00
Earley Help Hub	500.00
Engage (a project of the Mustard Tree Foundation)	1,000.00
Friends of Kagando	3,000.00
Hillside Community Allotment	100.00
Home for Good	1,008.00
Hope for Justice	1,008.00
Little Princess Trust	100.00
Oxfam (Yemen appeal)	1,000.00
Rahab (a project of the Mustard Tree Foundation)	1,000.00
Reading Refugee Support Group	500.00
RE Inspired (via Churches Together)	1,800.00
Save the Children (Haiti appeal)	1,000.00
Traidcraft Exchange	667.00
Transform Reading	500.00
United Christian Broadcasters	24.00
TOTAL MISSION DONATIONS*	£17,092.00

*This was only 0.2% short of our target 10% or £17,132 of agreed tithable income of £171,322.00

Points to note:

- **In addition** to the mission giving above the following was raised directly for charities, passing the funds raised through the Trinity bank account:
- £300.00 each was raised for the Children's Society and Christian Aid through our Christmas collections – this was only £31 each short of last year's amount, despite there being no Christmas services
- Trinity members provided a range of food for CIRDIC (Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre) through our Harvest Collection, and in addition £10 was donated and paid to CIRDIC at the same time.

Overall, Trinity Church has continued to benefit from the generosity and commitment both of its congregation and of the wider church community, who have continued to support us all through the year. As a result of this and the other factors outlined above, we have reached the year end in a far better financial position than we anticipated at the start of the year. We see considerable challenges going forward but we intend to proceed cautiously but prayerfully, seeking God's will and moving forward under His guidance.

This document was presented to and accepted by the Church AGM held on 24/4/2022.

Signed



Rod Eades. Chair Church Council and Trustees.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trinity Church Lower Earley

1147501

Receipts and payments accounts

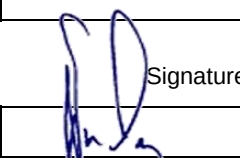
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For the period from	01/09/20	To	31/08/21
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings and associated Gift Aid	134,130	22,232	-	156,362	158,907
Interest and investment income	111	-	-	111	574
Lettings	4,883	-	-	4,883	10,152
Other receipts	28,442	4,047	-	32,489	18,076
An additional £610.00 was raised	-	-	-	-	-
for specific charities and passed through	-	-	-	-	-
the church bank account	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	167,566	26,279	-	193,845	187,708
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	180	-	-	180	40
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	180	-	-	180	40
Total receipts	167,746	26,279	-	194,025	187,748
A3 Payments					
Parent church assessments	67,498	-	-	67,498	69,861
Mission giving	17,092	-	-	17,092	16,715
Repairs and maintenance	12,718	-	-	12,718	13,209
Utilities including building insurance	4,891	-	-	4,891	6,551
Other payments inc salaries	38,809	21,126	-	59,935	66,129
An additional £610.00 was paid to	-	-	-	-	-
specific charities having passed through	-	-	-	-	-
the church bank account	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	141,008	21,126	-	162,135	172,465
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	13,016	-	-	13,016	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	13,016	-	-	13,016	-
Total payments	154,024	21,126	-	175,150	172,465
Net of receipts/(payments)	13,722	5,152	-	18,874	15,283
A5 Transfers between funds	- 9,100	9,100	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	83,555	3,035	-	86,590	71,307
Cash funds this year end	88,177	17,287	-	105,464	86,590

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	3,329	12,085	-
	Deposit account	84,847	5,202	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	88,177	17,287	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Loans for solar panels repayable to church members (interest free)		4,450	Repayable in full during 2021/2022 year
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		ROD EADES	26/02/2022	

Financial Reserves

The end of year position for 2020/21 is: (£) {with last year's figures for comparison}

	31 August 2021	31 Aug 2020
Bank accounts	105,463	86,590
Solar project loans (owed)	(4,450)	(9,000)
Net balance	101,013	77,590

The net balance now stands at 57% of the annual expenditure (£176K). This is a further improvement on the situation at 31 Aug 2020. The working reserve⁶ (£105.4 K) is 60% of the expenditure. This is an improvement on the corresponding figure of 49% last year. The working reserve is now well above the recommended minimum of 25% and the recommended 'norm' of 50% which is usually regarded as fully sufficient for all reasonable contingencies. Given that there are still pandemic related uncertainties affecting 2021/22, this increased level of reserve is very satisfactory.

Matters of Material Significance Reportable to UK Charity Regulators

In the course of my independent examination I have found no matter of material significance reportable to UK charity regulators. {See Reference 2 Section 5 for the relevant criteria}.

References

- 1 Trinity Church, Independent Examination of Accounts, FY September 2020 to August 2021. Examination Method. [Nigel Holloway, December 2021.]
- 2 Independent Examination of Charity Accounts: Directions and Guidance for Examiners. Charity Commission document CC32 (as amended).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FORMAL STATEMENT

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

- 1 proper accounting records were not kept or,
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Date:

8 Dec 2021

Nigel John Holloway MMath (Cantab).

⁶ The working reserve is the amount immediately available to meet unexpected expenditure. This is not reduced by the solar project debt because the loans are not immediately repayable.

TRINITY CHURCH LOWER EARLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1147501

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT (August 2019-September 2020): TRINITY CHURCH, LOWER EARLEY.

(Approved by Church Meeting, 27 October 2020)

This report is divided into two halves reflecting the extraordinary year everyone has experienced in the face of the COVID 19 pandemic. *(Our Annual Report covers our financial year from September 2019 to August 2020, but extends to include September 2020).*

What used to be our regular activities week by week continued until we were locked down by Government on 16 March, and a summary of the highlights up to then is provided in the second part of this report. This meant Mother's Day, Easter and Pentecost could not be celebrated in our building, and all other activities in pursuit of our vision to show and share Jesus that we normally run and take part in from that date were fully halted until July when we were permitted to open the building for personal prayer. During the intervening period Trinity was far from 'closed' just like the church across Reading and the World!!

We sought ways to care for one another, reach out to neighbours and friends and worship together virtually. How we continue to do this, showing and sharing Jesus as we do, is an expedition into the unknown which is both daunting and exciting. Trinity, along with the wider church has a unique opportunity in the face of all the challenges, to explore and find out how God wants His church to adjust its worship and prayer life, its sowing and reaping, and how to step out in faith and trust more than ever to increase its impact for God.

This report begins with a summary of the lockdown and immediate post lockdown periods as we began to re-open and re-gather from mid-September, and then provides a summary of activities pre-lockdown as well as a financial report for the whole reporting period.

SINCE LOCK DOWN (MARCH 2020)

Worship:

Worship quickly focussed on a weekly pre-recorded online service streamed through You Tube. Over the weeks a mix of Trinity folk took part, in leading, praying and reading and our musicians put in a huge amount of time and effort recording themselves singing and playing including some recording of individual parts that were edited together to create a 'virtual' music group. Some original music was also recorded. Our All Age team did an amazing job, creatively providing online worship that helped us feel, very much, a family. It's been a learning experience both in front of and behind the camera, and we opted not to invest in additional recording equipment. Huge thanks go to all involved, and a special vote of thanks to Giles Murphy for all his editing and processing.

During lockdown we undertook a series on spiritual formation, aiming to encourage individuals in the journey of faith, and then, to help us prepare for meeting again and shaping a new norm we concentrated on Acts 2:42-47 and how the church then explored being a learning, loving, worshipping and evangelistic church in the very new context it faced.

The number of viewings for the online service were encouraging ranging between 100-200 each week until we began re-gathering (see below). Even then it is clear the online service is proving a valuable resource with requests made to keep it going and viewings have been between 50-75. We have appreciated that having an online presence is important and we want to explore going forwards how we might ordinarily continue and develop this.

Opening For Personal Prayer:

A small group of volunteers (hosts) worked really hard to have the church open from June/July and to make it a welcoming place for individuals to come and spend time quietly with God. Time and again

positive comments were received endorsing how important and welcome this has been; that the church should be open, with the lights on and facilitating time for peace, reflection, and prayer. There has been an average of 2-3 visitors per session and many people from the community who are not normally known to the church have come in to enjoy the space and take time for personal prayer. Huge thanks need to go to the team.

Sunday Gatherings:

On 20 September 4 new “gatherings” began on Sundays as a way to begin meeting and worshipping together given the continuing restrictions as a consequence of Covid 19. The gatherings intended not to look back at what is no longer possible but rather to see an opportunity and look forward creatively, asking what God wants us to do to shape the new norm.

Social distancing meant numbers had to be carefully managed, singing wasn’t possible, facemasks had to be worn, and the intended duration was 45 minutes because guidelines indicated worship services should be as short as reasonably possible. Three met in the sanctuary at 11am, 4pm and 6pm, and one was an outdoor/walking gathering with craft resources to facilitate worship. Changes to the government guidelines meant the initial plan of walking together as a larger group didn’t happen, so individuals/families did their own walks and used WhatsApp to share experiences and pictures.

The intention was for people to sign up for and commit to one gathering and to make this their own. Each one has a leadership group and these groups have really committed themselves to making the gatherings happen. The online sermon was played at each gathering (an audio version was made available to the outdoor gathering along with a playlist) to foster a sense that each gathering is part of the whole Trinity family, and to ease preaching commitments. Other core elements included worship and Holy Communion, engagement with the Holy Spirit, prayer and looking outwards. How each gathering engages with these will develop. It is early days, and each is developing its own character. 11am is the largest and is near the current social distancing capacity possible. On average approximately 70 people have been taking part in the gatherings which should be seen alongside the online views as recorded above.

With both the online service and the gatherings we need to make sure we provide sufficient technical support and enable the sustainability of the online resources.

A huge thanks goes to everyone who has contributed to our online services and the gatherings.

Junior Church:

Junior Church continued to meet up until lockdown since when teachers have tried to keep in touch as best they can with the children and their parents through email and phone calls. One special way we have all enjoyed is through contributions from many of our children and youth in our online services - drama, readings, telling a joke and or performing an action song - and we praise God for technology that allows us to see each other and worship together on screen. Each child has received a book and some activity sheets, and over 30 children, connected to the church through Junior Church and Messy Fun club, have received an Activity Box with thought provoking and fun crafts and activities to do throughout the summer.

Pastoral Care And Small Groups:

We have a small group of dedicated pastoral visitors and we really do need more, particularly with the issues of isolation and restrictions that lockdown has produced for those who would appreciate a regular visit. Many Trinity members have continued to quietly and appropriately call in, shop, and provide for those in need. Huge appreciation to these people. We have tried to maintain regular contact with as many people as possible throughout the pandemic through telephone calls and home visits where appropriate.

Most of our 9 small groups have managed to continue to “meet” during lockdown using various virtual platforms and apps, and this has been really valuable pastorally. As lockdown has eased groups have started to meet face-to-face in COVID-safe ways either outdoors or in the church building. As our new gatherings

begin to establish themselves with an emphasis on relationships, it'll be interesting to see whether we begin to develop some new groups. Sarah Brayshaw has agreed to take a lead in our small group ministry.

Youth:

During Lockdown, but pre-furlough for Sam, the following activities took place with fluctuating attendance:

- Sunday afternoons
- Zoom calls
- Games, check-in and Bible study
- Boys small group – moved online
- Young Adults Small Group
 - Fridays
 - new group with Uni returners and Chloe, mostly checking in

There was an inevitable hiatus whilst Sam was furloughed full-time, but since Sam returned on a part-time basis, the following has been possible given his limited time and the government restrictions:

- Just Around the Corner (JAC)
 - back in school on Fridays
 - excluding after school Drop In
- Detached
 - Every Tuesday
 - 3-5pm
 - roaming the streets as a visible presence for youth

And the plan is to start:

- Boys Small Group
- Youth Night
 - hopefully after the 6pm Gatherings
 - possibly with St. Nicolas
 - maybe this side of half term

Families/children:

Nursery Service

Usually well attended and very much appreciated by a smallish group of mainly childminders and children in their care who come every week but Covid stopped play and we missed out on our Easter celebrations and our annual outdoor service/picnic and Bear Hunt, but we've stayed in touch with many of our families through Facebook. Activity boxes were also sent out to those households who wanted them, and we've been sent some fabulous photos of the children's crafty and culinary achievements. We plan to resume as soon as we possibly can.

Parent & Toddler Groups

Both our Monday and Thursday groups which were always very busy and well attended and proved popular right up to lockdown. Inevitably they had to stop, and Sarah Pugh has kept in contact with families via Facebook and we're beginning to receive lots of eager enquiries for when we are able to re-open.

Messy Church/Messy Fun Club

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold Messy Church Holiday Fun Club in August this year due to Covid 19 and our Easter Messy Church sadly had to be cancelled too. Anna, Ann, Lisa and Cecilia however, had great

fun planning, gathering and putting together boxes filled to the brim with activities for some of our regular HFC and MC attenders. Children and parents were able to make Ooblek – (a non-newtonian fluid which acts like a liquid when being poured, but like a solid when a force is acting on it), take a plaster cast of animal prints, paint, draw, use chalks, make bird feeders and butterfly feeders, bake, build, pray, give thanks, praise and create! As you can imagine, they were very well received.

Community focus:

- Lock down and the months since has meant we have not been able to continue with our regular community-facing activities, such as ***Open Saturdays*** and ***chaplaincy in ASDA and the leisure centre***. However, Trinity played a part in setting up and running ***The Earley Help Hub***. This was a joint initiative between 7 local churches and developed in response to local needs, such as collecting prescriptions and shopping, made necessary by so many self-isolating during lock down. The hub was initiated through the on-going relationships between local church pastors. It was approved by Wokingham Borough and Earley Town Councils and worked in collaboration with them. Trinity provided members of the co-ordinating group, volunteers and hosted the hub's finances – the hub was given a grant by a local Round Table and larger sum from ASDA. As lockdown has eased, the hub has aimed to continue by developing into a community support hub and could evolve into a model for the church working together much more as one church in the local area.
- ***Mission giving*** - although we could not engage directly with some charities in the way we have done in the past we did make gifts totalling £16,715.85 to 18 different charities, some local, some national and international, including some to whom we make annual contributions. See list at the end of the report.
- ***REinspired, Churches Together in Earley and East Reading (CTEER)*** - until lockdown Trinity volunteers continued to support the work of REinspired in schools and at Trinity. The sessions stopped during lockdown but Jon, as a trustee has continued to meet with the trustees to help steer the project during this challenging period. CTEER hasn't met either but Jon has continued as a member of CTEER's steering committee.

Our Denominations:

All three denominations have been supportive during lockdown providing summaries of government guidance and hosting virtual meetings to help develop understanding, especially relating to risk assessments.

Staff and Finances:

The Treasurer's report is at the end of the report but in brief lockdown meant we lost rental income and a reduced weekly offering and faced a monthly shortfall of approximately £2,300. This was less than it might have been had we not switched to using the Parish Giving Scheme (with much hard work in getting this going by Sandy as Treasurer) and was off-set too by taking advantage of the Job Retention Scheme as we furloughed our three staff members full-time for a short period and then brought them back part-time.

Our financial year (FY) has been so far removed from ordinary, yet God's goodness and provision has been very clearly evident. At the start of the FY, an anticipated shortfall equated to the cost of planned ministry and mission activities. On the premise Trinity would seek additional sources of income a deficit budget was approved. Very quickly generous donations were received and despite all uncertainty of this year we ended up with a surplus.

People and management:

During lock down Dianne Berry needed to step down as Chair of Church Council and Trustees to be able to attend to the increased commitments in her day job resulting from the pandemic. Dianne made a really valuable contribution to steering Trinity forward organisationally. Rod Eades stepped into both these roles

bringing previous experience of such roles to bear but has had to begin his time chairing virtual council and trustee meetings!

Sandy Catchick completed her 3 years as Treasurer during lockdown and opted to stand down but kindly continued through lockdown. Sandy worked tirelessly for Trinity in all aspects of our financial management with the result we have a much more effective and efficient understanding of our finances. Veronica Elleson, formerly our Assistant Treasurer, took on the role of Treasurer from September, the beginning of the new financial year and has quickly got to grips with the role. As a church we are extremely grateful for these exceptionally committed and servant-hearted volunteers.

Our Youth Worker Sam, originally was planning to leave mid-year once he and Hannah had married (at Trinity) so they could travel and seek God's purposes for them possibly overseas. In the event their wedding had to be delayed until July and Sam opted to stay until the end of the year, but the circumstances remain very unclear due to the pandemic. We are exploring the most appropriate way to progress this role moving forward given the extent to which the context has changed since the post was first established at the end of 2017. It had changed anyway prior to the pandemic. Deciding how best to move forward with this post is a major priority.

Church Council and **Church Meetings** took place as normal until March. Thereafter fewer Council meetings have taken place virtually and, as with most other churches, our AGM/Church meetings were postponed. Our AGM is scheduled for 27 October virtually. The trustees met, including four new non-Church Council trustees, during lock down.

Hiring out our building:

During lockdown we were not able to hire out any of the church building, which impacted our income and relationships with those who previously did hire the space. As lock down eased, we started hiring out the sanctuary only, requiring appropriate risk assessments.

PRE-LOCKDOWN

A snap-shot includes:

WORSHIP - continued much as it had been for a while, with each week the more traditional 8am service and 10am family service (including an All Age service on the first Sunday each month, and café church on the third Sunday) and once a month Homethrone took place at 6pm, our very informal worship space. In the Autumn we took part in a Transform Reading (formerly Reading Christian Network) preaching series: One Kingdom: let's seek it, One Gospel: let's proclaim it, One Church: let's build it. Our Junior Church continued to operate week by week with it's usual enthusiasm and commitment.

We conducted our regular pattern of occasional services including Remembrance, All Souls and all things related to Christmas.

PASTORALLY – our small groups continued meeting using a variety of resources and offering friendship and support. We also continued to visit monthly the one local care home that remained to hold a small Holy Communion Service and sang carols there as usual before Christmas.

The Community Chaplaincy Team expanded a little to include 2 additional members from another two churches, so the team included 6 members from 4 churches. We held sessions in ASDA on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings most weeks, and one session usually took place on Monday afternoons in Loddon Valley Leisure Centre. Relationships with ASDA and the Leisure Centre remained strong.

YOUTH – the following continued apace:

- Love Thursday
 - Thursdays at 7pm

- with Brookside Church Youth
- at St Nicolas and Brookside (plan was to rotate)
- community facing open group with 'intentional slot' often around identity.
- approximately 30 youth
- Small Group
 - Thursdays, 3pm
 - with Brookside Boys discussion group/drop In often around big questions
 - was just starting to form a consistent group of 8+
- JAC
 - Fridays support groups and one-on-ones in school
 - including after school drop-in
- Trinity Youth Night
 - 2nd/4th Sunday's, 6pm
 - with St Nicolas
 - chilled out and play games night with monthly Event and monthly intentional time often around introducing to faith
 - was just forming a consistent approximately 15 and was talking about going to every week
- Trinity Youth Am
 - alongside 2nd/4th 10am Sunday services
 - at the Vicarage
 - 8+ mixed small group often around fruits and gifts
- Drop In
 - Wednesdays, 3:30pm
 - had just started, very small number of youth, had just decided timings didn't work

FAMILY MINISTRY -

Nursery Service – was usually well attended and very much appreciated by a smallish group of mainly childminders and children in their care who come every week. This year we started off every service by all sharing things we were thankful for and included these in our prayers at the end. Lunches were held for Harvest and at Christmas and our Christmas meal was followed by our wonderful interactive Nativity service which is always such fun.

Parent & Toddler Groups - both the Monday and Thursday morning groups were always very busy and well attended and proved popular right up to lockdown. Children and parents enjoy a wide and varied range of activities and experiences - from ride on toys, slide, trampoline, dressing up and role play and more active activities in the open space of the sanctuary, to puzzles, building toys, play-do, themed craft activities and baby mats and toys in the hall. Snack, refreshments and interactive song time end the sessions. Santa's visit and the Christmas party were hits once again!

An average of 45-50 children + parents/carers attended on Thursdays, and around 25-30 children + on Mondays. Cecilia Hoddell continued to organise and run the Monday group with help from Ann Baker, Anna Meadows and Sarah Pugh. Sarah ran the Thursday group with help from Cecilia. Both of our Toddler groups both make a significant financial contribution every year to Trinity funds and to our community.

Lower Earley Day Nursery - Nativity Service (formerly Yellow Brick Nursery) - this has developed into a regular annual Christmas event enjoyed by the children and staff of the Lower Earley Day Nursery and the children's parents and grandparents from the local community. The children join in with familiar children's carols and interactive parts of the Christmas story and learn about the Advent wreath and candles. Parents and Grandparents sing along too. This year the children beautifully performed a short song in French called Le Petit Sapin – (The Little Tree) they had been rehearsing for the service.

Messy Church Christingle - took place with, in excess of 25 children plus parents and Grandparents joining us. Light themed crafts and festive decorations were made, and we shared together in our usual Christingle worship service where the Christingles made by the children were lit. In true Messy Church tradition, this was followed by a delicious festive tea for everyone, prepared by Cecilia, Joan O'Callaghan and Joan Parr. A fabulous team then miraculously transformed the 'Messy' sanctuary into a beautiful candle-lit worship area for our Carol Service, with several Trinity members and families contributing to the readings, music and carols. Sincere thanks to the many people who come together to make this wonderful afternoon of family worship and festive fun possible.

The Chalfont Group – continued to meet regularly with a mix of guest speakers and a harvest and Christmas service but had to stop with lock down and has been unable to meet subsequently. As soon as it is possible, this group will be given a fresh start.

Our Ladies Friendship Group continued to meet but the last meeting was in fact on January 25th. Margaret Cocks talked about ways in which we can alleviate stress. How helpful that proved to be in the present circumstances! The group made their own bread rolls and later enjoyed eating them with homemade soup. It was a lovely morning shared together.

The group hopes it can plan more meetings soon, but in the meantime, welcomes anyone getting in touch if you would like a chat, a walk and a prayer.

Who Let The Dads Out (WLTD0) – continued monthly with a similar number of dads (approx. 12) and children (approx. 15) each session. Relationships were developing and the dads certainly seemed to value the space and time together. There hasn't been much contact during lockdown although a few WhatsApp messages have been sent. It'll be interesting to see how well the group picks up once it can meet together again.

OPEN SATURDAYS continued until lock down. Many thanks to all the volunteers who supported Open Saturdays this year, without the great team who cook lunches, provide homemade cakes, set up / clear away, run the Bring & Buy and host the refreshments this event would not be the great success it is. The Lunches have raised awareness and funding for five charities this year (Hearing Dogs, At A Loss, A Bed for the night, Traidcraft Exchange, 1st Lower Earley Scouts), with a further three (Reading Refugee Support Group, Kidney Cancer Care UK, Christians Against Poverty) being postponed due to Covid-19. Two dates were unavailable due to weddings in the church.

£3,185.24 has been donated to the charities and this includes the matching made by Trinity.

We tried to maintain interest in Open Saturdays through lockdown by posting on Facebook, but this did not generate a big response (possibly because Trinity does not have an active presence on Facebook) and has lapsed.

Plans were underway to trial an Open Saturday Market Cafe on the third Saturday of May with business stalls, refreshments and any proceeds to Trinity Church, there was sufficient interest, but again this was stopped due to Covid-19.

Looking forward to next year there were already two charities assigned dates, and there was every indication that the Open Saturday Charity Lunches would continue on the first Saturdays of the month.

Depending on the success of the Open Saturday Market Cafe the plan was to run this on the third Saturday of the month up to three times a year, perhaps aligning with Easter and Harvest.

With the Covid-19 restrictions there are no plans to restart the Open Saturdays, either as Charity Lunch or Market Cafe, during the next financial year.

CHRISTMAS FAIR – this took place again due to an amazing team effort with lots of the praying, ideas, and hard practical work to make it happen taking on board lessons from last year. Huge thanks to all involved, especially Karen Eccles for coordinating everything.

Karen's view is that the fair is not just about the money, it's about the Trinity family working together, the community and what the money means we can do. This is spot on and we worked well together, related well to the community and raised a profit of £1,564.60!

Our **BUILDING** – benefited from a substantial rearrangement and improvement of rooms, prompted by the desire to provide a staff presence and welcome near the main entrance:

- The chapel has become the office, with space for all four staff and volunteers to work
- The vestry has become the chapel
- The office/resource room has become a meeting room "Bethlehem"
- The "creche" has remained a meeting room but named "Jerusalem"
- Storage cupboards have been built in the Sanctuary, Hall and Jerusalem

By lockdown all rooms except Jerusalem had been repainted by volunteers, and the chapel re-carpeted.

On a less positive note we had some damage done to the lead on the roof, more vandalism than theft. Fortunately, the lead was painted with SmartWater, to uniquely identify it, so our insurance paid for the replacement and repair.

Just in time, before lockdown, the sanctuary and entrance lobby were also re-decorated. Ironically, due to lockdown, the vast majority at Trinity didn't see the results for months. We have created a much more welcoming entrance hall and the sanctuary looks fresh and uncluttered. The library has been revamped too with some books in the welcome area and the remainder in the new chapel.

The work on the building was a major piece of work that, in the end was a lot less expensive than first anticipated, and benefitted too from some generous donations. Thanks are especially due to Rod and Lisa but many others also helped make it all happen.

Logo and Website – work continued during the year with both these. We have started using the logo and it is included in a new 'welcome' sail banner for use by the entrance. The website has taken time but is nearing completion. Significant thanks to Grainne Leyton-Smith for steering this work.

ANNUAL REPORT FINANCES Y/E 31.8.20

In common with churches everywhere, Trinity Church has had to cope with the lock-down of the church in March 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This has had a major impact on our income, and so we have taken a number of steps to help us through this difficult financial period.

As a result, despite some concerns early in the lock down, the church has ended the year in a good financial position, which should help it through the coming year, where projected income remains uncertain.

Looking at the major items for the year to 31st August 2020:

On the income side:

- The 36 households who have joined the Parish Giving Scheme plus the 34 households who continue to provide regular support through standing orders, Stewardship or the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) have provided a regular source of income for Trinity.
- The amount given per month varies from £1.00 to £875.00 per household.
- Over £17,000.00 was donated in one-off donations to help reduce the ambitious budget deficit set at the start of the year to enable the church to undertake planned mission.
- There were also some large one-off donations towards the strategic improvement and sanctuary work.
- The church fair raised £1,564.60 for Trinity with the previous year's format of combining the fair and Open Saturday proving successful. Unusually this year, this was income before expenses were paid out for things like food costs.

- Cash collection income dried up with the lock-down of the church in March 2020. However, people have been encouraged to give directly into the church bank account and a small number of people have started to do that on a regular basis.
- Envelope income has been reducing as people have been encouraged to move to the Parish Giving Scheme or standing orders or giving directly to the church bank account. The physical cost of purchasing printed envelopes means that these will no longer be viable in the coming year, so envelope giving will cease.
- We have received some small contributions towards the cost of things like photocopying and refreshments, as well as a number of generous contributions or donations from others e.g. the Chalfont Club, the Messy Fun Club, the Toddler groups and Trinity Youth.
- Our website has recently started to provide information on how to nominate Trinity Church via "Give As You Live" to raise money for Trinity at no cost to the individual when shopping online in any of around 4,000 shopping outlets for everything from clothes to insurance. No income has yet been received, but as shown on our website, around £15.00 has been raised from this new source of income. The website now also provides a link enabling anyone to make an online donation to Trinity Church, although we have not yet received any online donations. These are recent and exciting developments and we will need to see how they develop.
- For the second year in succession the church received a much larger than expected parish share rebate.
- No manse income was received in the whole year and we are cautious with respect to the expected amount of any manse income for the coming year.
- Room booking/rental income dried up almost entirely with the lock-down of the church in March 2020; the only continuing rental income being the small monthly fee for storage of musical instruments for Trinity Concert Band, who also kindly made a generous donation to the church to help us through this difficult financial time.
- All those scheduled to receive their May 2020 annual instalment of solar panel loans were asked if they would be willing to waive, postpone or donate-back their 2020 instalment. In total 20 of the 22 loan-holders responded positively with all but one promised donation having been received by 31st August 2020. This was an amazing and encouraging response to the solar panel appeal.
- As a result of a number of donors offering to waive their solar panel loans in full, only £9,000.00 remains outstanding on solar loans at June 2020 and all but one loan will still be paid off in full by May 2022; with a single loan repayment needing to be made in May 2023.
- With some regret, the church made a decision at the 28th May 2020 Trustee meeting to furlough all three of its employees from 8th June 2020 to the end of June 2020. The number of hours worked thereafter has been agreed by the minister on a monthly basis with each employee. The church hopes to continue to benefit from the Government's Job Retention Scheme (JRS) until 31st October 2020, when the scheme is scheduled to end. It is the most important new source of income that will enable the church to continue to pay its staff and meet its commitments to its parent churches in the longer term despite the impact of the lock down on rental and cash collection sources of income.

On the expenses side:

- Just over £4,000.00 was spent on the work done to re-decorate the sanctuary, although plans for further sanctuary work have had to be put on hold due to Covid-19's impact on church finances. Much of the income raised for this purpose has therefore not yet been spent.
- Almost £3,000.00 was spent on strategic improvements to the building which had been planned for and partly covered by donations in the current and previous year.
- Only around £700.00 of the marketing project expenses anticipated the previous year reached the accounts in the current year, so there will be further major marketing project expenses to meet in the coming year; in particular the cost of the new website which has yet to be invoiced.
- We had to add a streaming licence to our other CCLI licences to enable the church to continue with services via You Tube during the lock-down. We also subscribed to Zoom Pro in August 2020 to help us develop new ways of communicating online in the coming year.

- While we cut costs as far as possible due to the lock down e.g. on things like gas, electricity, water, refreshments and church activities, a number of expenses were on long-term contracts so that we continued to have to pay out for things like telephone and broadband, mobile phone SIMs and photocopying despite no or minimal usage.

There have been some important developments during the current year to 31st August 2020:

- We launched the Parish Giving Scheme in November 2019, as planned.
- We had to make a small insurance claim with respect to damage to the disabled toilet roof. Although we have received the income for this, the repair work will only be done in the coming accounting year.
- We offered the church bank account facilities to the Earley Help Hub, which provided help to a wide range of people during the Coronavirus pandemic. Income for the hub was received from a local rotary club and expenses were signed off by a church member involved in the hub before being paid against the relevant invoices. The balance of Earley Help Hub money in the church bank account at 31st August 2020 was £10.33.

Overall, Trinity Church has continued to benefit from the generosity and commitment of its congregation and the wider church community, who have continued to support us through this difficult year. As a result of this and the other measures taken, we have reached the year-end in a reasonable financial position. We must bear in mind that there is considerable intended expenditure that has been postponed or delayed into the coming or future years, for example the proposed continuing work on the sanctuary and church building, the roof repair and the website development. Also, the August pension payments have slipped into the coming accounting year.

This is Sandy's last report as church treasurer as she has stood down after 3.5 years in the role. In that time, we have moved from being a loss-making church to one that has been able to weather the financial storms associated with the recent pandemic. We have also become more efficient in submitting our various annual returns. Sandy thanks all those who have helped along the way. The list is too long to mention everyone, but she is very grateful for all the help she received and thanks everyone for their support. She has been so encouraged by people's response to need and to God's calling, especially since the start of the lock down. This has enabled us to come through some difficult times together. Sandy wishes her successor all the best in the role going forward. The church has some big mission and building plans and those will need to be financed in the coming years.

Annual Report Mission Giving y/e 31.8.20

During the year to 31st August 2020 Trinity Church supported the following charities directly via mission funds:

A Bed For The Night*	£458.34
At A Loss*	£336.97
Christian Aid	£2,331.64
Christian Community Action	£2000.00
Church of England's Children's Society, the	£331.64
First Lower Earley Scouts*	£9.44
DEC Coronavirus Appeal	£2,000.00
Friends of Kagando, including Nyabirongo Primary School	£3,680.00
Hearing Dogs for the Deaf	£375.71
Hillside Community Allotment	£100
Home for Good	£1,008.00
Hope for Justice	£1,008.00
RE Inspired (via Churches Together)	£1,800.00
Starting Point (a project of the Mustard Tree Foundation)	£120.00
Tearfund	£625.00
Traidcraft Exchange*	£338.81
United Christian Broadcasters	£16.00
Water Aid	£175.30

TOTAL MISSION DONATIONS**	£16,714.85
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* Open Saturday Matched Giving and/or Seeding the cost of food

**This was less than 1% or £107.57 short of our target 10% or £16,822.42 of agreed tithable income of £168,224.22.

Points to note:

- £1,665.97, net of the cost of food for lunches, was raised by members of Trinity Church through holding Open Saturdays for specific charities, as asterisked above. This includes £360.00 raised for the First Lower Earley Scouts which was not matched from mission funds. The total raised for charities through Open Saturdays was banked and paid through the church bank account directly to the charities concerned. This was **in addition** to our mission giving shown above.
- **In addition** to the mission giving and Open Saturdays the following was raised directly for charities, some using the church's bank account as a conduit and a small amount going directly to the charities concerned e.g. by cheque:
 - £331.00 was raised for Christian Aid through a special collection
 - £331.00 was raised for the Church of England's Children's Society through a special collection
 - £625.00 was raised for Tearfund through the organisation of a quiz evening
 - £350.00 was raised for Water Aid through a special collection
- Trinity members provided a range of food, mostly tinned, for ReadFood (Reading's Food Bank run through the Faith Christian Group) through its Harvest Collection.
- Trinity members sent a total of 66 boxes filled with toys and essentials for children for Christmas through Samaritan's Purse.

Signed on behalf of Trinity Church Trustees:

Rod Eades



Date:

27/10/2020



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trinity Church Lower Earley

1147501

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/09/19

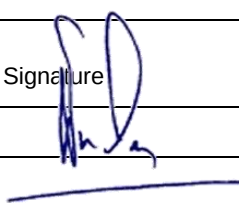
To

31/08/20

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings and associated Gift Aid	134,871	24,036	-	158,907	149,172
Interest and investment income	574	-	-	574	3,877
Lettings	10,152	-	-	10,152	16,459
Other receipts	16,896	1,181	-	18,076	13,629
An additional £2425.00 was raised	-	-	-	-	-
for specific charities and passed through	-	-	-	-	-
the church bank account	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	162,492	25,216	-	187,708	183,137
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	40	-	-	40	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	40	-	-	40	-
Total receipts	162,532	25,216	-	187,748	183,137
A3 Payments					
Parent church assessments	69,861	-	-	69,861	68,703
Mission giving	16,715	-	-	16,715	17,593
Repairs and maintenance	13,209	-	-	13,209	6,559
Utilities including building insurance	6,551	-	-	6,551	5,697
Other payments	37,725	28,404	-	66,129	67,114
An additional £2425.00 was paid to	-	-	-	-	-
specific charities having passed through	-	-	-	-	-
the church bank account	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	144,061	28,404	-	172,465	165,666
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	144,061	28,404	-	172,465	165,666
Net of receipts/(payments)	18,471	- 3,188	-	15,283	17,471
A5 Transfers between funds	- 9,100	9,100	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	74,184	- 2,877	-	71,307	53,836
Cash funds this year end	83,555	3,035	-	86,590	71,307

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	9,268	2,383	-
	Deposit account	74,287	652	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	83,555	3,035	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Loans for solar panels repayable to church members (interest free)		9,000	Repayable annually over next 2 years
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			ROD EADES	21/02/2022

TRINITY CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Accounts for Church Financial Year September 2019 to August 2020

Summary

The church's accounts are in good order. Scrutiny of the payments showed that all were appropriate to the activities of the church. Almost all the payments are now done and recorded online, although some of the incoming bills are still filed on paper as well.

The church's income increased from £183K to £187K, primarily because of an increase in members' donations, which more than offset a decrease in room letting and manse revenues. Just over a quarter of the donations were made through the new Parish Giving Scheme and this proportion is expected to rise substantially in 2020/2021. As a result of the increased giving, the end of year balance has increased to 44% of expenditure and the working reserve to 49%. Given the current pandemic related uncertainties about the next year, this increased level of reserve is very appropriate.

The final accounts are a fair view for the church's accounting year 2019/20 (all funds). I have found no reportable matter of material significance¹.

Recommendations

At the end of each church financial year (Aug 31), the three minor associated activities (Chalfont Club, Monday Mother and Toddler Group, Thursday Mother and Toddler Group) should report the following to the church treasurer:

Annual income (turnover)
Donations made (or pending) to Trinity Church
Balance on Aug.31

This will enable the Treasurer to report a more accurate picture of the church's annual turnover and assets.

Observations²

The church's reaction to the pandemic was appropriately cautious and, as a result, has minimised adverse consequences in both health and economics. It is now well placed to cope with the uncertainties of next year.

Nigel Holloway
34, Radstock Lane
Earley
Reading
RG6 5QL

7 November 2020.

¹ See Reference 2 for an official interpretation of this statement.
² Observations do not need any formal response.

Matters of Material Significance Reportable to UK Charity Regulators

In the course of my independent examination I have found no matter of material significance reportable to UK charity regulators. (See Reference 2 Section 5 for the relevant criteria).

References

- 1 Trinity Church, Independent Examination of Accounts, FY September 2019 to August 2020. Examination Method. [Nigel Holloway, October 2020.]
- 2 Independent Examination of Charity Accounts: Directions and Guidance for Examiners. Charity Commission document CC32 (as amended).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FORMAL STATEMENT

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Date: 7 Nov 2020

Nigel John Holloway MMath (Cantab).