



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): <ul style="list-style-type: none">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; andf) 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	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Our toddlers group supports young children, parents and carers, and our "Who let the Dads out?" group helps fathers who</p>

		<p>may have little contact with their school-age children during the week, have some quality time to reconnect their relationship</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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	<p>The principal source of income for the church is donations from its members along with associated Gift Aid where applicable.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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			"
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9				
10				
11				
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13				
14				
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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

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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	Restricted				Prior year funds
		Unrestricted funds	income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ 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
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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)****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**

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and on hand	166,703	110,505
Other		-
Total	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'.