



TRUSTEES REPORT

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH, ADMASTON

Period: 2022/23

Aim and Vision

The aim of the church is to bring glory to God through being a caring Christian community, discipling people in the way of Christ, and witnessing to the wider community.

Our vision is to see Christ build his church as many come to trust him as real disciples, know their sins forgiven, and are led and empowered by His Spirit; and to see other similar churches planted in the Telford area.

The above is in accordance with our Statement of Faith and our Values.

Objectives

The Objectives of Hope Community Church Admaston remain as set out in the Constitution dated 2nd July 2013:

“The objects of the CIO is to advance the Christian Faith, in accordance with the statements of belief appearing in the schedule “Statements of Faith”, for the benefit of the public in the North Telford area, in particular but not exclusively, through the provision of opportunity for prayer, worship, teaching, fellowship, communion, the public celebration of Christian festivals and evangelism to enlighten others about the Christian Faith, and the provision of pastoral care to the community.”

Achievements and Performance

This is our tenth Annual Report and covers the period 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

Establishing a Church

The average attendance on a Sunday over the 12 month period was 35.7 persons (2021/2 = 35.7). This remains below the last year before covid (2019/20) which was at 38.

The age profile of the church post-covid is significantly older. The average age on a Sunday is about 50 (43 in 2019/20). Younger persons have either not returned or are less frequently present, and those who have joined us post-covid have tended to be older. For the long-term good of the church and community it is vital that we reach the younger age groups.

Discipleship.

This is always hard to measure, but we have maintained the previous year's expansion to three small groups.

The “Microgroups” were re-launched in the year and there are now two of these meeting regularly on-line.

Prayer

We have offered opportunities to pray together monthly on a Monday night, weekly on a Sunday morning, and weekly on a Wednesday morning. The Wednesday morning has remained on Zoom, but the Monday evening has moved to in person.

In the summer, we relaunched having ad-hoc prayer days. These have occurred broadly each half term since then. The participation in these and the feedback has been very positive.

Worship, Teaching and Communion

Each Sunday and at some other events opportunity for public worship has been offered to all who wish to participate. Tony Finch has continued to write new songs which has contributed to our worship. We continue to have a monthly rota between 3 worship leaders with a pool of about 7 participants for the band. Others also occasionally lead.

During the year we have had series covering the following themes: Issues facing Christians today; The Messages of Paul’s letters to the churches; Prayer; 2nd Coming and Christian GROWTH+.

We continued the monthly lunches during the period, though we put breakfasts on hold. The attendance for lunch has reduced a little over the year.

Celebration of Christian festivals

We have had special events for Christmas and Easter. These have been fantastic events and well attended. There has been a lot of organisation and preparation for these with a huge input from volunteers for which we are most grateful.

Evangelism

People from the church have continued to work evangelistically with St Christopher’s Trust. This has included the “Fun Week” as well as regular mothers and toddlers activities, the café and groups for men and women. IN particular, our members ran a “Warm Welcome Space” which helped several people and resulted in one person coming to church regularly and another occasionally coming. We have continued distribution of the Hope Magazine to about 4000 homes which is reliant on volunteers.

Pastoral Care

We have coordinated pastoral care for needy members and sought to ensure that people are contacted regularly.

As a church, we have also given regularly to the local Foodbanks and contributed to the “Warm Welcome Space”.

Ecumenical

The church has retained and developed close ties with other churches in the North Telford area. This is aided through the St Christopher's Trust work. This has all been through both online and in person prayer regularly and occasional special events such as the Good Friday service.

Regional Newfrontiers participation

The local Christ Central Shropshire region has been an important encouragement to the church leaders. There are regular leaders' gatherings. There have also been in person and online events at a national/international level which have been of great encouragement.

Beyond Telford

During the period, we have strongly supported churches conducting humanitarian aid and evangelism in Ukraine and Zambia through the charity BREADTrust. We have encouraged our congregation to sponsor children through the Compassion programme and in disaster response appeals. We have also continued to support The Children's Mission in Uganda with financial contributions towards them building a school.

Social Media

Over the last few years, Tony Finch has been leading our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube. A large element of this has been producing his own songs for wider access. During the year, the YouTube channel has grown from 3000 to 3500 subscribers, with views in excess of 1.2 million and there is a high level of viewing from many countries which are high on the Open Doors persecution index.

Financial Review

Our income during the year was £35902 (2021/22: £30952).

Our expenditure during the year was £33697 (2021/22: £30689). Giving a surplus for the year of £2205 (2021/22 £263).

Most giving is through standing orders but there has been a noticeable increase in cash giving across the year.

The four major areas of financial actual expenditure were

Staff Costs £17033 (51%) - increased due to the full year employment of an Administrator and an increase in Roland West's hours (see below).

Giving £4082 (12%) - this has increased from last year due to our financial position.

Rent £2680 (8%) - for (mainly) Sunday use of the main hall at Admaston House and a dedicated small office.

Magazine and other printing costs £2407 (7%) - mostly for magazine printing for hand delivery to circa 4000 houses in the area

The church continues to benefit from the Government Gift Aid scheme receiving a total of £4998.

Financial Policies

The Trustees have a reserves policy which requires that the church holds a balance equivalent to 3 months of expected operating expenditure.

Structure, Governance and Management

During the year, Roland West, Tony Finch, and Kevin Croker have continued as Trustees, and Helen King was appointed as Trustee. The trustees met once during the year, but had other regular contact to resolve any arising issues.


In line with the Charity Commission guidelines, the Trustees intend to appoint an Independent Examiner for the Financial Accounts.

During the year, the leadership team has continued with Roland West, Susan West, and Tony Finch. The leaders have continued to meet fortnightly to review all matters of church life and development.

Hope Community Church is strongly reliant on volunteers who play an essential role in the life of the church in many ways. There are rotas for a variety of specific jobs. A good level of pastoral care has been noted. Our thanks go to all participants.

During the 2022/23 year Roland West (senior church leader) has been paid £12800 for 2.1 days per week (2021/22: £12000 for 2.1 days per week). This is done on a contracted basis and includes all ongoing expenses. Only purchases on behalf of the church are separately recovered. Roland is absent for all Trustee discussions with regards to this matter. The other Trustees have agreed to extend the contract from April 2023 for a further 12 months with an inflationary adjustment to monies paid.

This report is approved by the Trustees on the 10th May 2023 and signed on their behalf by Roland West (Chairman).

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



Charity Name	No (if any)
Hope Community Church, Admaston	1152758

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/22		31/03/23

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					
Cash Giving	2500			2500	692
Gift aided Giving	17522	2400		19922	20815
Income from Gift Aid	4398	600		4998	5425
Other Gifts and Income	3579	4904		8483	4020
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	27999	7904		35903	30952
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total					
Total receipts	27999	7904		35903	30952
A3 Payments					
Giving	4082			4082	5930
Staff costs	17034			17034	16296
Rent	2680			2680	2753
Children's work		26		26	108
Food		676		676	358
Advertising		2407		2407	2275
Outreach		374		374	777
Insurance		391		391	381
Miscellaneous	1063	4964		6028	1811
Sub total	24859	8838		33697	30689
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total					
Total payments	24859	8838		33697	30689
Net of receipts/(payments)	3140	-934		2206	263
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	19931			19931	19668
Cash funds this year end	23071	-934		22137	19931

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	Cash at Bank and in hand	22120		
	Cash in hand	17		
	Total cash funds	22137		
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
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)
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Roland West	16/05/2023	

11/12/23

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HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH ADMASTON
Charity 1152758

Financial Statements

For the year to 31st March 2023

I have conducted a review of the accounts and the records supporting them. The records examined are well structure, complete and ordered and no deficiencies were apparent. The management processes in place appear to be fully adequate.

I have not conducted a full audit and have relied upon explanations provided by the church in reaching my conclusion.

I am happy to recommend these accounts as fully representative of the financial transactions of Hope Community Church Admaston during 2022/23

Ian Newcombe

Ian Newcombe
16th June 2023