

Swindon CIO Return 2020 - 2021

Activities

The Trustees, the elders of the Church of God in Swindon, with the church members, aim to achieve the objects through a variety of activities requiring personal, social and spiritual skills. Our aim is to reach out, engage with and support those who live in the community. We do this by offering to the community, services that manifest our Christian faith, together with a variety of innovative activities and events. As we share with the local community, we also provide financial support to those in need by working together with local charities.

As we entered this year it was clear that our draft programme would be affected by COVID-19 and the UK government restrictions. However, we planned in hope but realised that we would have to be adaptable and make some hard decisions. Although it was evident that COVID-19 could affect our personal and church lives we drew up plans as we would normally do.

We would welcome the local community to join our countryside church activities at **Easter** and **Christmas**, and our **Silver Sunday**, a community social event aimed at the over 60s, as well as the **Craft Fayre** and **Bonfire night**, and **Quiz Nights** and **BBQs** through the year. Our youth work – at our Sunday Morning Services (**SMS**), which follows our Church Communion service, and Kids Club on Thursdays – would run as normal, and we would look ahead to our SE district Youth Camps (**SEYC**) in August. These annual camps on the South Downs, Sussex, run for 2 weeks and are an opportunity for our younger youth club members, and then older teens, to enjoy a week together. Many trustees and church members are DBS checked camp workers. It is one of the best examples of combining our two Objects.

We look forward to continuing last year's initiatives include **Church in the Park (CITP)**, the **Summer Carnival** and the **Christmas Lights** in Royal Wootton Bassett.

Visitors of all ages are welcome to SMS as they are to the **Wednesday Prayer & Teaching** time. The **Thursday** evening **Youth Club** invites young people to join in sports, crafts, games and a Christian discussion. It enables friendships to develop - between young people and between youth workers and young people - in a safe and secure environment. Opportunities are still available for older students at our SE Young Christian meetings (**YCs**).

During March 2020, when much consideration was given to the use of technology during a time of government restrictions, giant steps were made. Following a review of our church-based activities, we looked at whether we could adapt them and if so how. With the benefit of church members who understood the use of on-line platforms, including Google Meet, YouTube and Zoom, and with the guidance our health & safety team, we were able to draft a programme to gain the most from technology as well as keeping our members, friends and contacts safe. COVID-19 brought organisational challenges in every aspect of our lives. Church leaders endeavoured to strike the right balance as did all other responsible groups. It seemed likely that our Communion service would not be able to take place as normal and this provided one of our most difficult discussions.

Reaching out to local people in need was still an important aspect of our role in the community and we wanted to build on what we already do. We would seek out organisations that may be helpful in this respect.

Despite all, we have continued our plans for growth and have determined to purchase the building and surrounding land that we currently use for many of the activities. This has been enabled by a grant of funds from the Central Gifts Committee of The Churches of God and should be completed in the next few months.

Achievements

Although this year has been one of varying government guidance, we are very thankful that many of our plans could take place. Immediately we were able to produce our SMS services on-line, now titled **SVS** (Sunday Virtual Service). Pre-recorded on YouTube, they were able to be viewed at our regular time on Sunday and selected at any other time. After a slow start the number of views topped 300. Their attendance time is unknown, but this is considerably more than our SMS audience of about 30. Our band and tech team gave time and energy and were a significant reason for this take-up. Church members and the children also played important roles in SVS, providing engaging activities, and the speakers adapted to talking to a screen rather than an audience.

Our **Wednesday Prayer & Teaching** went on-line. This also gave more people the opportunity to be fully engaged – those caring for children or housebound adults and those unable to travel.

We had already been using individual cups and broke bread safely for each person. As restrictions tightened we could not take part in the **Remembrance**, our communion service. To compensate we offered a **Thanksgiving** time, using Zoom, on Sunday evening. Individual prayers were offered, similar to those in the Remembrance and the social time was valued. By July we were able to break bread once more, adopting recommended safety measures. Over time, those choosing to or not able to attend could observe on-line.

We continued our Sunday evening slot as it had proved beneficial for many people. Renamed **Honeycomb**, we broadened the prayer focus and included a 10 minute talk.

Our monthly **Bible Studies** remained on-line and we adopted Zoom to enable breakout groups successfully. We will continue this, and our **Thursday morning prayer** time, on-line.

Lockdown and isolation could have negative effects. Care for everyone was essential and we were all alerted to look out for each other, and to maintain regular contact, especially when we could not meet physically.

Some other indoor events were cancelled, including the Craft Fayre, Quiz Nights, Light Lunches, Carols by Candlelight, as well as the 2nd CIP initiative.

We still plan to run the new youth club, with a nucleus of a dozen children, when it is safe to do so.

One of our two **SE Youth Camps - CAMP** for younger one, restricted by COVID - did not take place. Relocation of equipment to Flaxlands enabled **ELEVATE**, for older ones, to take place.

We have a few searching visitors at our weekly Remembrance Service, often drawn by information on the **church website** and the sale of Bibles increased noticeably.

We maintained the local community contacts but progress was difficult. Some of our members provided personal, valuable help for individual people and we will return to this. Helpful conversations with Royal Wootton Bassett's community link officer. We will establish a greater involvement with Julia's House, a local Christian Hospice, as well as Operation Christmas Child. Looking inwards the wellbeing of our members and families must remain a concern for us.

The purchase of the Piggery and surrounding land by the church was completed and an established Phase 2 Working Group began pursuing the provision of an additional building.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN SWINDON

On accounts for the year
ended

5th April 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1156833

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

AB Scott

Date:

20-10-2021

Name:

ALISTAIR BRIAN SCOTT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

BA(Hons) Accounting & Adv. Dip. MA

(if any):

--

Address:

39 JAMNORTH, ALBANY PARK
BRACKWELL RG12 0TU

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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THE CHURCH OF GOD IN SWINDON

Charity Registration No 1156833

**Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the period 6 April 2020 to 5 April 2021**

Section A Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
A1 Receipts					
General expenses	5,118	-	-	5,118	7,874
Lord's servants	-	19,653	-	19,653	18,172
Youth work	-	1,010	-	1,010	1,720
Local outreach	-	1,401	-	1,401	530
Property costs	-	5,634	-	5,634	2,555
District funds	-	902	-	902	2,002
Fellowship funds	-	2,778	-	2,778	1,358
Care fund	-	-	-	-	-
Faith Welfare Trust	-	1,165	-	1,165	905
Local Charity	-	170	-	170	-
S.E.England District	-	15,570	-	15,570	-
	5,118	48,283	-	53,401	35,116
Gift received from Central Gifts fund of Churches of God	200,000	-	-	200,000	-
	205,118	48,283	-	253,401	35,116
A2 Asset and investment Sales					
Sale of minibus	6,200	-	-	6,200	-
Total receipts	211,318	48,283	-	259,601	35,116
A3 Payments					
General expenses	7,585	-	-	7,585	7,165
Lord's servants	-	18,500	-	18,500	18,400
Youth work	-	630	-	630	796
Local outreach	-	546	-	546	112
Property costs	-	8,262	-	8,262	3,747
District funds	-	1,192	-	1,192	1,712
Fellowship funds	-	2,818	-	2,818	1,822
Care fund	-	-	-	-	-
Faith Welfare Trust	-	-	-	-	905
Local Charity	-	170	-	170	-
S.E.England District	-	1,620	-	1,620	-
	7,585	33,738	-	41,323	34,659

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
A4 Asset and Investment purchases	£	£	£	£	£
Acquisition of 'Flaxlands' property	200,000	-	-	200,000	-
					
Total payments	207,585	33,738	-	241,323	34,659
					
Net of receipts (payments)	3,733	14,545	-	18,278	457
A5 Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,459	19,143	-	24,602	24,145
					
Cash funds this year end	9,192	33,688	-	42,880	24,602
					

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £
B1 Cash funds			
Cash at bank and in hand	9,192	33,688	-
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			
'Flaxlands' property	200,000	-	-
B5 Liabilities	-	-	-

Signed by :

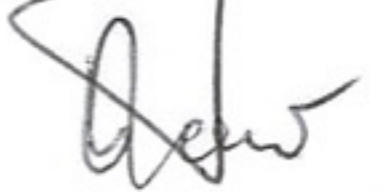
Print name

Date

 Trustee

COLIN JARVIS

29/10/2021

 Trustee

ROBERT IAN SHAW

29/10/2021

 Independent
Examiner

ALISTAIR BRIAN
SCOTT

20.10.2021

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN SWINDON

Receipts & Payments Account for year to 5 April 2021

	General Expenses £	Lord's Servants £	Youth Work £	Local Outreach £	Property Costs £	District Funds £	Fellowship Funds £	Care Fund £	FWT £	Local Charity £	Sub- Total £	SEED £	TOTAL £
Brought forward	5459	211	3695	418	13929	350	40	500	-	-	24602	-	24602
Collections	853	2200	50	500	500	-	100	-	240	170	4613	5350	9963
Gift Aid	4235	17453	960	901	5134	902	2678	-	925	-	33188	-	33188
	10547	19864	4705	1819	19563	1252	2818	500	1165	170	62403	5350	67753
Expenditure	7585	18500	630	546	11912	1192	2818	-	-	170	43353	1620	44973
	2962	1364	4075	1273	7651	60	-	500	1165	-	19053	3730	22780
Bank interest	30												30
Sale of minibuses	6200												6200
Transfer of SEED												10220	10220
Contribution from													
Central Gifts Fund to													
legal costs re property													
acquisition	9192	1364	4075	1273	11301	60	-	500	1165	-	28983	13950	42880
													
2020													
Collections	7874	18172	1720	530	2555	2002	1358	-	905	-	35116	-	35116
Expenses	7165	18400	796	112	3747	1712	1435	-	905	-	34272	-	34272

Bank balances :

SANTANDER -
Current account
Savings account

£
30,383
12,497
.....
42,880

NOTE: The acquisition of the property at Flaxlands, costing £200,000, was financed by funds from

Central Gifts Fund and is not shown in these internal accounts.

The above account statement for the period to 5th April 2021 has been prepared in accordance with the bank statements and records and has been audited and found to be in accordance therewith.

Independent Examiner: Alberto Astier 20th October 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

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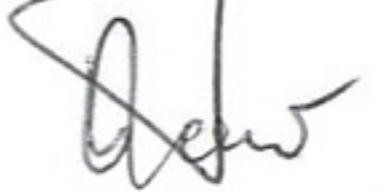
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