

Swindon CIO Return 2022 - 2023

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.

Planning for the year beginning April 2022 took place, knowing that UK government restrictions continued to be eased in the previous year. We reviewed our activities and learned how best to work within them. We also benefited from the regular use of technology to offer online events and activities. The combination of meeting in-person and online has broadened our programme. As previously we would produce a programme that could be adapted and improved as required. We would remain aware that broadening our provision must go hand in glove with our continuing responsibility to provide safe environments for everyone we engage with.

We were very pleased that so much had been restored in April 2021 to March 2022, however established events involving larger numbers - **Quiz Nights, Light Lunches, Carols by Candlelight, Christmas Charity Craft Fayre** and our **CAMP** for children – were cancelled. We aim to review and, where possible, to restore these activities & events this year. With additional freedom we aim to pursue our engagement, locally, with those who have particular needs. We would do this in partnership with local charities who have like ambitions.

With our Sunday Morning Services (**SMS**) restarting early in the previous year we look forward to welcoming everyone, especially families, to these popular events. Live streaming the weekly activities - the **Remembrance of Christ** and the **Wednesday Prayer & Teaching time** - is important to those who have still not been able to attend because of health issues or those who are distant from us.

Honeycomb continues each Sunday evening, providing a benefit for many people who are restricted. The short talk, broad prayer focus and social time has enabled friendships to grow between members of 3 churches. Our monthly **Bible Studies** and our **Thursday morning prayer** time also remained on-line.

Some of our members would continue to provide **personal, valued support** for individuals and families. We will develop our involvement with **Julia's House**, a local Christian Hospice, as well as **Operation Christmas Child** and will look for other local causes to engaged with.

We are aware that to some degree the effects of lockdown, and COVID itself, remain with us. The wellbeing of many will need continued care. Fresh air for those able to benefit from walks and good company, home visits to those unable to get out easily will both be priorities, and BBQs for all.

The church's Phase 2 Working Group continued their work on behalf of the church members. Resources from central church funds are being pursued in order to enhance and improve the provision for future growth in all areas of church activities.

Achievements

We have pressed forward this year to restore and revitalise our established activities. Having learned the need for care we have held true to our core objectives at the same time as developing common ground with new friends.

When restrictions were lifted we reviewed our practice and, guided by our safety officers, considered our circumstances before easing our ways of working. We have retained the careful arrangements for the Remembrance, our weekly communion (**Bread & Wine**) service – sprayed surfaces, use of hand cleanser, personal selection of bread, use of individual disposable cups, removal of items after the service – and have gladly reverted to the singing of hymns.

SMS (Sunday Morning Service) has returned with adult and children's groups, together with the Praise Band. Through the year new friends, most with children, have been regular attenders. Some searched us out via the church website, others met us through local contacts and personal friendships. This pleasing encouragement has been sustained through the year and continues for the vast majority. We are very thankful to our loving God.

The **Christmas Charity Craft Fayre** returned in November and was well attended. Our weekly **Wednesday Prayer & Teaching** time has been held in homes and in the Piggery at different seasons. As with the **Remembrance** - our communion service - we continue to live-stream both activities. They continued to give more people the opportunity to be part of the activity – those caring for children or housebound adults and those unable to travel.

Some events, shared online, have continued that way. Our Sunday evening **Honeycomb** draws people who live some way from each other, **Thursday's early morning prayer** time lend themselves, and the monthly **Bible Studies** is convenient for most.

Once more we have been increasingly aware of the effect on the lives of some who need regular support - financially, emotionally as well as spiritually. We recognise our lack of understanding and expertise in many areas but are glad that we work alongside and can learn from those with professional experience.

The SE **CAMP** committee chose to locate their week for younger ones at a purpose build centre, but **ELEVATE**, for teens and twenties, opted for the tents and continued at Flaxlands. Local young people, and camp workers from the church, attended and helped run these successful annual events.

We have established a continuing involvement with, among other groups, Julia's House, Operation Christmas Child and Boxes of Hope, and take part in local events in Royal Wootton Bassett.

The Phase 2 Working Group continued their work, as they pursue the best options for all concerned.

Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the period 6 April 2022 to 5 April 2023

SECTION A Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
General expenses	11,231	-	-	11,231	5,218
Lord's servants	-	19,892	-	19,892	16,058
Youth work	-	690	-	690	825
Local outreach	-	645	-	645	980
Property costs	-	8,179	-	8,179	14,626
District funds	-	1,235	-	1,235	1,032
Fellowship funds	-	4,134	-	4,134	2,380
Care fund	-	3,251	-	3,251	406
Faith Welfare Trust	-	984	-	984	2,330
Local charity	-	433	-	433	-
S.E.England District	-	5,321	-	5,321	6,632
	11,231	44,764	-	55,995	50,487

A2 Asset and Investment Sales

None	-	-	-	-	-
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A3 Payments

General expenses	9,434	-	-	9,434	7,515
Lord's servants.	-	20,009	-	20,009	17,000
Youth work	-	2,996	-	2,996	353
Local outreach	-	916	-	916	1,211
Property costs	-	2,525	-	2,525	2,634
District funds	-	1,185	-	1,185	1,092
Fellowship funds	-	3,809	-	3,809	2,300
Care fund	-	2,084	-	2,084	540
Faith Welfare Trust	-	1,834	-	1,834	2,645
Local charity	-	433	-	433	-
S.E.England District	-	6,426	-	6,426	3,068
	9,434	42,217	-	51,651	38,358

A4 Asset and Investment Purchases

None	-	-	-	-	-
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Net of receipts,
payments

	1,797	2,547	-	4,344	12,129
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Net of receipts,
payments

A5 Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,895	48,114	-	55,009	42,880
	8,692	50,661	-	59,353	55,009

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	8,692	50,661	-
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the Charity's own use	200,000	-	-
B5 Liabilities	-	-	-

Signed by :

Trustee

COLIN JARVIS

14/2/24

Print name

Date

Trustee

ROBERT SHAW

1/8/23

Independent
Examiner

AB SCOTT

22/7/23



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

Church of God in Swindon

On accounts for the year
ended

5th April 2023

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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:

22/7/23

Name:

ALISTAIR BRIAN SCOTT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

BA(Hons) Accounting, Adv Dip Management Accounting
(ACIMA)