

Charity Registration No: 1159101

Colchester Gospel Hall Trust

**Report of the trustees and
unaudited financial statements
for the year ended 5th April 2022**

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Colchester Gospel Hall Trust
Reference and administrative details
for the year ended 5th April 2022

Charity name: Colchester Gospel Hall Trust

Registered charity number: 1159101

Trustees:

Mr Ross Bradshaw

Mr Stephen Bradshaw (Chair) (appointed 1st January 2022)

Mr Donovan Hopkins

Mr Bruce Miller

Mr Neil Naphthine (resigned 1st January 2022)

Mr Oliver Pittman

Treasurer: Mr Jared Doouss

Principal address:

Grayswood
9 Welshwood Park Road
Colchester
CO4 3JB

Independent examiner:

Julian Remmington
4cast
Heritage House
Woodside Lane
Bell Bar, Herts.
AL9 6DE

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank
High Street
Colchester

Colchester Gospel Hall Trust

Report of the trustees for the year ended 5th April 2022

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 5th April 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 9 and 10 and comply with the Trust Deed and applicable law.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Colchester Gospel Hall Trust is an unincorporated trust constituted by Deed of Trust dated 15th November 1982, most recently amended by Deed of Variation dated 12th August 2014. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 6th November 2014 under Charity Registration Number: 1159101.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The names of the Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1. None of the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, received any remuneration or expenses from the Charity in the year ended 5 April 2022 (2021: £nil).

The Trust operates three Gospel halls and Trustees are chosen from among the regular congregation of the halls. New Trustees are nominated by the existing Trustees or by the congregation and must be appointed by unanimous resolution of the congregation. They are selected according to their skills and experience and are expected to use both in furthering the objects of the Charity. Checks are made to ensure the Trustees' eligibility to act and incoming Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities by the existing Trustees, who ensure that new Trustees read the Trust Deed and relevant Charity Commission guidance.

Wider network

The Trustees maintain informal links with Trustees of similar Trusts with a view to pooling experience considered useful in pursuing the objects of the Trust.

The charity also maintains particular links with Tendring Gospel Hall Trust with which it shares members of its congregation.

Risk management

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that they have established systems or procedures to manage and mitigate those risks. Approval of a major decision may be sought from the congregation.

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

The charitable purposes of the Charity are the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit, including by the carrying on of the service of God in accordance with the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible as followed by those Christians forming part of the world-wide fellowship known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (the "Brethren") and any other charitable purposes connected with Brethren. The core doctrine of the Brethren and proper practices in furtherance of certain aspects of doctrine are summarised in two schedules to the Trust Deed.

Colchester Gospel Hall Trust

Report of the trustees for the year ended 5th April 2022

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance to charities on public benefit and a summary of this activity is shown in our 2021/22 Public Benefit Report document.

Main activities and achievements

The Trust provides and maintains Gospel halls where religious meetings are held by the local Brethren community. Details of the origins, teachings and way of life of the Brethren can be found on the website - www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org and in the schedules to the Trust Deed.

During the period ending 5th April 2022, members of the congregation were actively involved in distributing Food Boxes and Care Packs through a separate charity; The RRT. This involved following up local schools, food banks, homeless charities and domestic abuse charities. We received several pallets of food boxes which were distributed to the various charities by our volunteers, which were used to support families experiencing hardship due to the Covid pandemic.

The trustees have also operated an Emergency Needs fund for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic and any resultant economic downturn. This is providing limited financial assistance by the way of grocery vouchers to households, who have experienced a recent and significant decrease in income due to the pandemic, such that it is likely to impact on the health and/or welfare of members of the household. The trust has appointed a Local Welfare Panel to manage the application process and to administer the vouchers to qualifying applicants.

Plans for future periods

The Trust plans to continue all the current activities.

With the commencement of lockdown restrictions in the UK the trust ceased using the gospel halls it operates. During the financial year, restrictions were eased sufficiently to allow the congregation to use the gospel halls for the Lord's Supper (Communion). The use of the rooms was conducted in a manner which always complied with the government guidance, and the trust intends to continue using the rooms when it is safe to do so. The trustees do not consider that the Covid-19 pandemic will have any effect on the ability of the trust to continue as a going concern.

Meetings

Meetings held at the Gospel halls include the Lord's Supper (Communion), Gospel preachings, Bible readings and Bible addresses. There is a structured weekly schedule of meetings and, depending on the particular meeting, between 50 and 400 people normally attend these occasions.

The meetings are attended by the regular congregation and most are open to other properly disposed visitors. The notice board outside the Hall welcomes visitors and displays the times of Gospel preachings, along with a telephone number for those seeking further information or help. Gospel tracts, which are distributed by street preachers, also display this information.

Bibles and an extensive range of other Christian reading material are on display at the halls and visitors are free to help themselves.

Colchester Gospel Hall Trust

Report of the trustees for the year ended 5th April 2022

Objectives and activities

Spreading the Gospel message and the life of a Christian

The Gospel halls are a base from which the regular congregation and others who attend the meetings are encouraged to spread the Christian Gospel, in word and deed.

In addition to street preaching, the trust also keeps in contact with prison chaplains to provide gospel tracts and bibles as required. The Trust also operates a programme of providing regular packs of nutritious food and gospel literature to homeless and needy persons through local charities or homeless societies. In addition members of the congregation volunteered to participate in events organised by the Rapid Relief Team; Charity no. 1161586.

In carrying out this work, the congregation considers itself to be living out its faith in practice, as particularly exemplified in the following extract from the schedule to the Trust Deed on living a Christian life:

1. We seek and are encouraged to live exemplary lives in all our relationships with others in the wider community (including former Brethren), in accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture (1 Tim 2:2)
2. We regularly go out from our homes to preach on the streets, to distribute Christian literature and engage with the wider community (including former Brethren) in order to present eternal salvation, available to all men by faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Tim 4:2).
3. We seek as members of the public to lead Christian lives as husbands and wives, parents, children, employers, employees and neighbours. (Col 3:22-25, Col 4:1).
4. The preservation and protection of the family unit is fundamental and children are prized as a blessing from God. (Psalm 127:3-5). The elderly are valued members of the community, for whom both their family and the wider community are expected to care.
5. Holy Scripture commands us to be good neighbours to others, and deal with all other people (including former Brethren) openly, honestly and fairly and consistent with these principles, we should give our time, talents and money to assist those in need in the wider community, in so far as reasonable given our abilities and our available resources. (Matt 7:12, Matt 22:39, Eph 4:28).

Funding

Funding is sought through gifts from the congregation and Gift Aid is claimed on eligible donations. Funding is sometimes received from other charitable trusts with complementary objectives.

Loans were obtained in the year to in turn facilitate a loan to Tendring Gospel Hall Trust who are an affiliated trust. The loans received and advanced are on a five year term and are all interest free.

Financial review

Financial position

In the year ended 5 April 2022 the Trust had a surplus of incoming resources over resources expended. Total voluntary income received this year was £171,365 compared to £78,682 in the previous year.

All funds held were unrestricted funds.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs, based on its size and the level of its financial commitments. The Trust has no employees and its regular outgoings are minimal. Accordingly, the Trustees have decided to adopt a policy of maintaining no significant reserves. The congregation is kept regularly informed as to particular needs for funds, and other relevant matters and the Trustees aim to ensure that the Charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure, by raising a funds appeal to the congregation.

Free reserves at the year end were £ 32,429

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. All transactions have been reviewed and approved by two trustees.

On behalf of the board:

Mr Stephen Bradshaw

Date

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Report to the trustees of the Colchester Gospel Hall Trust on the financial statements for the year ended 5th April 2022 set out on pages 7 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees 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.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's 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; or
3. The accounts do 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.

Signed:

Date:

Name: Julian Remmington

4cast, Heritage House, Woodside Lane, Bell Bar, Herts., AL9 6DE

Colchester Gospel Hall Trust
Statement of financial activities
(including income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 5th April 2022

	NOTES	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Incoming and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies:						
Collections		49,000	-	-	49,000	18,000
Contributions from the congregation		-	-	-	-	8,273
Non Gift Aid donations		106,790	-	-	106,790	43,878
Gift Aid donations		12,460	-	-	12,460	6,825
Income tax recoverable		3,115	-	-	3,115	1,706
Donated services	4.	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll giving		-	-	-	-	-
Grants received	5.	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies received		-	-	-	-	-
Other income		-	-	-	-	-
Investment income and interest						
Interest		3	-	-	3	-
Total		171,368	-	-	171,368	78,682
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
Running of meeting halls	6.	58,432	-	-	58,432	30,666
Wider community outreach		17	-	-	17	-
Congregation support		-	1,500	-	1,500	2,400
Cost of donated services	4.	12,312	-	-	12,312	5,059
Loan interest		-	-	-	-	-
Grants made		-	-	-	-	-
Other costs		-	-	-	-	-
Governance and support costs						
Legal & professional costs		5,828	-	-	5,828	2,596
Printing and stationery		-	-	-	-	-
Computer costs		745	-	-	745	419
Independent Examiner's fee		1,050	-	-	1,050	1,176
Bank charges		-	-	-	-	150
Total		78,384	1,500	-	79,884	42,166
Net income/(expenditure)		92,984	- 1,500	-	91,484	36,516
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		92,984	- 1,500	-	91,484	36,516
Funds at 6th April 2021		2,550,472	5,873	-	2,556,345	2,519,829
Total funds at 5th April 2022	8.	2,643,456	4,373	-	2,647,829	2,556,345

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements. All of the above activities are classed as continuing and there are no gains and losses other than those included above.

Colchester Gospel Hall Trust
Balance sheet
As at 5th April 2022

	NOTES	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	7.		2,521,900		2,526,884
			<u>2,521,900</u>		<u>2,526,884</u>
Current assets					
Debtors:					
Prepayments & accrued income		6,725		3,462	
Cash at bank and in hand		34,041		29,703	
Loan to affiliated trust		-		-	
		<u>40,766</u>		<u>33,165</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:					
Other creditors		-		-	
Accruals and deferred income		8,337		3,704	
		<u>8,337</u>		<u>3,704</u>	
Net current assets			32,429		29,461
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>2,554,329</u>		<u>2,556,345</u>
Assets: Loans due after more than one year			313,000		-
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			- 219,500		-
Net assets		£	<u><u>2,647,829</u></u>	£	<u><u>2,556,345</u></u>
Funds					
Unrestricted income fund			2,647,829		2,556,345
Restricted funds			-		-
Total Funds	9.	£	<u><u>2,647,829</u></u>	£	<u><u>2,556,345</u></u>

The unaudited financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustee of Colchester Gospel Hall Trust on / / and signed on their behalf by

Mr Stephen Bradshaw
Trustee

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance 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 incorporating update bulletins 1 and 2, and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The functional currency of the charity is sterling (£).

The Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Income

Donations are recognised in the year in which there is entitlement and probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future year. Gift aid is added to the value of the donation to which it relates.

Donated services are recognised as income and expenditure in the financial statements when organisations or individuals offer their services and support pro bono. The value of these donated services to Colchester Gospel Hall Trust is considered to be equal to market value which would be paid were the service formally procured. This includes services paid for by other trusts.

Investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Charitable activities comprise those costs directly attributable to the fulfilment of the charitable objects.

1.4 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and costs related to statutory requirements. As there are no staff or offices the Trustees have agreed to allocate all such costs to Governance costs.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets (costing more than £150) are stated at cost less depreciation. Freehold land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold property	Not depreciated
Equipment	20%- Reducing balance method
Fixtures and fittings	20%- Reducing balance method

1.6 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income or corporation tax on charitable activities, provided income falls within the charitable exemptions and is spent on charitable purposes.

1.7 Funds

The general unrestricted fund is free for the Trustees to use for any purposes in furtherance of the trust's charitable objects.

Restricted funds arise from donations to the trust which are made for a specific purpose. Restricted funds can only be used for the purpose for which funds were given.

1.8 Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The Charity does not have a trading subsidiary and there is no requirement to prepare consolidated accounts

1.9 Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1. Accounting policies contd.

1.10 Significant estimates and judgements

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. The trustees do not consider that the Covid-19 pandemic will have any effect on the ability of the trust to continue as a going concern.

2. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits from an employment with the charity and no Trustees were reimbursed for expenses (2021: None).

3. Wages and salaries

There are no employees (2021: none).

4. Donated services

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income		
	-	-
	-	-
Expenditure	2022	2021
	£	£
Tendring Gospel Hall Trust	12,312	5,059
	12,312	5,059

5. Grants received

	2022	2021
	£	£
	-	-
	-	-

6. Running of meeting halls

	Meeting rooms	Other charitable activities	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Repairs and maintenance of plant, buildings & grounds	17,086	-	17,086	8,778
Audio and amplification	-	-	-	-
Light and heat	21,238	-	21,238	9,612
Water rates	103	-	103	220
Telephone & broadband at hall(s)	715	-	715	792
Conference costs	-	-	-	-
Insurance- Public liability	2,874	-	2,874	2,086
Cleaning	689	-	689	-
Health and safety	9,401	-	9,401	-
Legal and professional	1,342	-	1,342	2,951
Sundry	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and revaluation- Freehold property	-	-	-	-
Depreciation- Plant, equipment & furnishings	4,984	-	4,984	6,227
	58,432	-	58,432	30,666

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property* £	Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 6th April 2021	2,501,961	6,524	40,953	2,549,438
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 5th April 2022	2,501,961	6,524	40,953	2,549,438
Depreciation				
At 6th April 2021	-	4,023	18,531	22,554
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	499	4,485	4,984
At 5th April 2022	-	4,522	23,016	27,538
Net Book Value				
At 5th April 2022	2,501,961	2,002	17,937	2,521,900
At 6th April 2021	2,501,961	2,501	22,422	2,526,884

* Land Registry title numbers are; EX572085, EX498760, EX587947 and EX569027

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

8.1 Current year

	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	2,521,900	-	-	2,521,900
Currents assets	36,393	4,373	-	40,766
Current liabilities	8,337	-	-	8,337
Long term assets	313,000	-	-	313,000
Long term liabilities	219,500	-	-	219,500
Total funds	2,643,456	4,373	-	2,647,829

8.2 Prior year

	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	2,526,884	-	-	2,526,884
Currents assets	27,292	5,873	-	33,165
Current liabilities	3,704	-	-	3,704
Long term assets	-	-	-	-
Long term liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total funds	2,550,472	5,873	-	2,556,345

9. Movement in funds

9.1 Current year

	Balance at 6 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Realised/ unrealised gain and losses £	Balance at 5 April 2021 £
Restricted funds					
Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	5,873	-	1,500	-	4,373
Unrestricted funds	2,550,472	171,368	78,384	-	2,643,456
Total funds	2,556,345	171,368	79,884	-	2,647,829

9. Movement in funds contd.

9.2 Prior year

	Balance at 6 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Realised/ unrealised gain and losses £	Balance at 5 April 2020 £
Restricted funds					
Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	-	8,273	2,400	-	5,873
Unrestricted funds	2,519,829	70,409	39,766	-	2,550,472
Total funds	2,519,829	78,682	42,166	-	2,556,345

10. Transactions with related parties

The Trust purchased goods and services from UBT (EU) Ltd and UBT Protect, for £4,431.48, a company of which Neil Naphthine is a director (2021 £6,121.97). The Trust purchased vouchers from Larchcroft Trading Ltd for £1,500 of which Chris Naphthine, brother of Neil Naphthine, Trustee, is a director and Ivan Hopkins, brother of Donovan Hopkins, Trustee is also a director (2021 £2,400.00). Donations received from connected parties totalled £57,400 (2021 £40,788). Loans were obtained in the year from; Wilsons for £50,000 (2021 £0) of which is run by close family connections of Donovan Hopkins, Trustee, ATE (UK) Limited for £25,000 (2021 £0) of which Ross and Stephen Bradshaw, Trustees, are owners of, Greenmill for £40,000 (2021 £0) of which is run by close family connections of Bruce Miller, Trustee, Aspen House for £20,000 (2021 £0) of which Neil Naphthine, Trustee, is an owner of and from Edgar and Janet Miller totalling £25,000 (2021 £0) who are close family connections of Bruce Miller, Trustee.

11. Volunteers

Colchester Gospel Hall Trust relies entirely on volunteers to carry out the management, administration and general maintenance work. The Trust has no paid staff or paid Trustees.

13 Full comparison of Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Incoming and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies:				
Collections	18,000	-	-	18,000
Contributions from the congregation	-	8,273	-	8,273
Non Gift Aid donations	43,878	-	-	43,878
Gift Aid donations	6,825	-	-	6,825
Income tax refundable	1,706	-	-	1,706
Donated services	-	-	-	-
Payroll giving	-	-	-	-
Grants received	-	-	-	-
Legacies received	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	-
Investment income and interest				
Interest	-	-	-	-
Total	70,409	8,273	-	78,682
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Running of meeting halls	30,666	-	-	30,666
Wider community outreach	-	-	-	-
Congregation support	-	2,400	-	2,400
Cost of donated services	5,059	-	-	5,059
Loan interest	-	-	-	-
Grants made	-	-	-	-
Other costs	-	-	-	-
Governance				
Legal & professional costs	2,596	-	-	2,596
Printing and stationery	-	-	-	-
Computer costs	419	-	-	419
Independent Examiner's fee	1,176	-	-	1,176
Bank charges	- 150	-	-	- 150
Total	39,766	2,400	-	42,166
Net income/(expenditure)	30,643	5,873	-	36,516
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	30,643	5,873	-	36,516
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	2,519,829	-	-	2,519,829
Total funds carried forward	2,550,472	5,873	-	2,556,345

Welcome to the public benefit report for Colchester Gospel Hall Trust for the year ending 5 April 2022. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance to charities on public benefit.



Spreading the Gospel message and the life of a Christian

The Gospel halls are a base from which the regular congregation and others who attend the meetings are encouraged to spread the Christian Gospel, in word and deed. Bibles and an extensive range of other Christian reading material are on display at the halls and visitors are free to help themselves.

In carrying out this work, the congregation considers itself to be living out its faith in practice, as particularly exemplified in the following extract from the schedule to the Trust Deed on living a Christian life:

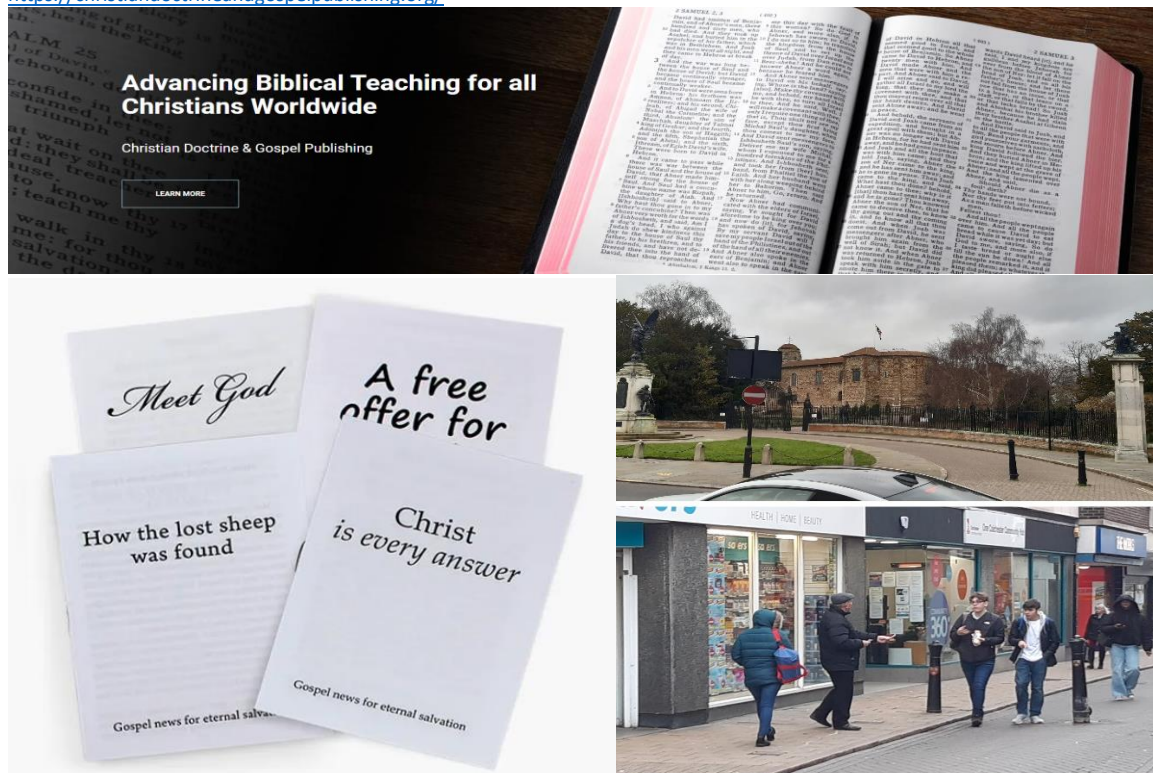
1. We seek and are encouraged to live exemplary lives in all our relationships with others in the wider community (including former Brethren), in accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture (1 Tim 2:2)
2. We regularly go out from our homes to preach on the streets, to distribute Christian literature and engage with the wider community (including former Brethren) in order to present eternal salvation, available to all men by faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Tim 4:2).
3. We seek as members of the public to lead Christian lives as husbands and wives, parents, children, employers, employees and neighbours. (Col 3:22-25, Col 4:1).
4. The preservation and protection of the family unit is fundamental and children are prized as a blessing from God. (Psalm 127:3-5). The elderly are valued members of the community, for whom both their family and the wider community are expected to care.
5. Holy Scripture commands us to be good neighbours to others, and deal with all other people (including former Brethren) openly, honestly and fairly and consistent with these principles, we should give our time, talents and money to assist those in need in the wider community, in so far as reasonable given our abilities and our available resources. (Matt7:12, Matt 22:39, Eph 4:28).

Below are some details of the work involved by congregation members for the benefit of the public:

Street Preaching and Tract Distribution

With the days of lockdown now over, the congregation have rallied round to ensure a daily roster is maintained for attending the street preaching to spread the glad tidings and to distribute gospel tracts. This takes place Monday to Friday in Colchester Town, not far from the iconic Colchester castle. We have had some very positive interactions with the public, and we also have bibles available FOC on request. We are contacting the padre at the local Military Correction unit and the hospital chaplains to offer free literature to support their hard work.

<https://christiandocctrineandgospelpublishing.org/>



Support for local Parish Councils

We have made sure that a member of the congregation keeps in regular contact with the Parish Councils in the areas we live to offer help and support. This varies from litter picks, footpath clearing to transporting the elderly to the chemist and medical appointments. One particular situation was a busy junction in Wix, and the road signs were completely covered by overgrown trees and hedges. 7 members of the congregation spent 2 hours clearing it back to make the junction safe. The councillors expressed their deep gratitude in the subsequent Parish Meeting for help in making the junction safer.



Nursing Homes

Two elderly members of our congregation are living in local nursing homes. They are well cared for, and following a successful choir previously at Silver Springs in Thorrington, we are preparing for providing more music events to help the patients and staff at these nursing homes.



Supporting other charities

The trust see that the work carried out by its members as Volunteers of the Rapid Relief Team (RRT) is of the utmost importance in the community and has been pleased to allow the use of warehouse space at one of the Gospel Halls to be used for packing and distributing the Early Bird Learning boxes. Over 250 boxes were distributed from Colchester, around the UK in 2021/22 to help schools support disadvantaged youths –

<https://rrtglobal.org/gb/operations-appeals/early-bird-learning/>



About Early Bird Learning

Early Bird Learning is aimed to assist a flying start for primary school-aged children in difficult circumstances and challenging household conditions. The Rapid Relief Team (RRT) have made Early Bird Learning activity packs and an educational video available to all schools operating a breakfast club.

As a discerning kind of bird Cookie champions four key OFSTED principles. He is a keen proponent of healthy eating and physical wellbeing. He likes to build up resilience and confidence – making the 'thumbs up' choices required. For a bird, he's got great mindfulness and believes in overcoming friendship issues. How can he do that?

How Early Bird Learning can support your school

- Supports Ofsted Personal Development Framework Section 28, Personal Development
- Occupy students during Breakfast Club, helping support teachers during busy times
- Individual stationery packs for each student, ensuring COVID safe practices
- Interactive and engaging a mix of visual and kinaesthetic learning to suit most learning types
- Easy to order – just click here to order your activity packs

Cookie is ready to work with schools, play schemes and children's charities supporting those that are the most in need. He encapsulates the RRT values of Compassion, Community and Support.



Of Global significance was the financial support from the congregation for Operation 322 in providing food and essentials for the people of Ukraine - <https://rrtglobal.org/gb/operations-appeals/operation-322/> but at a local level, through our members actively getting involved with RRT we have achieved:

100 Food boxes distributed to local schools and charities

250 Early Bird Learning Boxes distributed around the UK

6 Charities supported, including:

- ✓ Open Door
- ✓ Food Cycle – Clacton
- ✓ Next Chapter
- ✓ St Helena Hospice
- ✓ Refugee Action
- ✓ Inspire- Ipswich



Conclusion

The trustees are committed to continuing the spread of Christian Gospel in word and deed in line with the charitable purpose of our trust, and we would like to thank the members of our congregation who have used their time, talents and money to support the Colchester Gospel Hall Trust in fulfilling its purpose.