

Charity Registration No: 1159101

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## **Colchester Gospel Hall Trust**

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**Report of the trustees and  
unaudited financial statements  
for the year ended 5th April 2024**

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**Colchester Gospel Hall Trust**  
**Reference and administrative details**  
**for the year ended 5th April 2024**

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**Charity name:** Colchester Gospel Hall Trust

**Registered charity number:** 1159101

**Trustees:**

Mr Ross Bradshaw

Mr Stephen Bradshaw (Chair)

Mr Donovan Hopkins

Mr Bruce Miller

Mr Oliver Pittman

**Treasurer:** Mr Jared Doouss

**Principal address:**

Grayswood  
9 Welshwood Park Road  
Colchester  
CO4 3JB

**Independent examiner:**

Sandra Thurgood FCCA  
Eastway Enterprise Centre  
7 Paynes Park  
Hitchin  
Herts.  
SG5 1EH

**Accountants:**

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 2024**

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The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 5th April 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 10 and 11 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 2024 (2023: £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 similar charities with a view to pooling experience considered useful in pursuing the objects of the Charity.

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 2024**

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#### **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.

#### **Main activities and achievements**

The Trust provides and maintains three 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](http://www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org) and in the schedules to the Trust Deed.

During the period ending 5th April 2024, 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.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The Trust plans to continue all the current activities.

Despite the increased cost of energy, the trustees feel that these increased costs are not significantly impacting on the ability of the charity 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 2024**

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#### **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 two years ago 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 2024 the Trust had a surplus of incoming resources over resources expended. Total voluntary income received this year was £275,659 compared to £186,440 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. The trustees have agreed that the Trust should aim to develop and maintain unrestricted reserves at a minimum level which equates to 6 months' operating costs. This would enable the trust to continue its activities in the event of a sudden loss of funding. However, the members of the Congregation have always recognised their responsibility to fund the running costs of the places of worship which they regularly attend. Therefore the trustees do not ever expect a shortfall in funding to be other than temporary. Free reserves accumulated in excess of the minimum can be used at the discretion of the trustees for the strategic development of the Trust. The trustees will review the minimum level of reserves every three months.

Free reserves at the year end were £ 88,453 (2023 £ 48,770).

**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:

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Mr Stephen Bradshaw

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Date

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**Report to the trustees of the Colchester Gospel Hall Trust on the financial statements for the year ended 5th April 2024 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:**

21st January 2025

**Name:** Sandra Thurgood FCCA

Eastway Enterprise Centre, 7 Paynes Park, Hitchin, Herts., SG5 1EH



**Colchester Gospel Hall Trust**  
**Statement of financial activities**  
**(including income and expenditure account)**  
**for the year ended 5th April 2024**

	NOTES	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Incoming and endowments from:</b>						
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>						
Collections		-	-	-	-	-
Contributions from the congregation		31,561	5,639	-	37,200	40,600
Non Gift Aid donations		173,232	-	-	173,232	106,465
Gift Aid donations		51,768	-	-	51,768	31,500
Income tax recoverable		12,942	-	-	12,942	7,875
Donated services	4.	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll giving		517	-	-	517	-
Grants received		-	-	-	-	-
Legacies received		-	-	-	-	-
Other income		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Investment income and interest</b>						
Interest		24	-	-	24	4
<b>Total</b>		270,044	5,639	-	275,683	186,444
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
Running of meeting halls	6.	74,207	-	-	74,207	66,030
Wider community outreach		1,305	-	-	1,305	307
Congregation support		-	5,639	-	5,639	12,320
Cost of donated services	4.	38,514	-	-	38,514	7,251
Loan interest		-	-	-	-	-
Grants made	5.	115,000	-	-	115,000	130,000
Other costs		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Governance and support costs</b>						
Legal & professional costs		2,558	-	-	2,558	3,887
Training		1,608	-	-	1,608	-
Printing and stationery		-	-	-	-	-
Computer costs		1,193	-	-	1,193	503
Independent Examiner's fee		1,260	-	-	1,260	1,290
Bank charges		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		235,645	5,639	-	241,284	221,588
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		34,399	-	-	34,399	- 35,144
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		34,399	-	-	34,399	- 35,144
Funds at 6th April 2023		2,612,685	-	-	2,612,685	2,647,829
<b>Total funds at 5th April 2024</b>	8.	2,647,084	-	-	2,647,084	2,612,685

The notes on pages 10 to 14 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 2024

	NOTES	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	7.		2,515,631		2,517,915
			<u>2,515,631</u>		<u>2,517,915</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors:					
Prepayments & accrued income		6,278		10,203	
Cash at bank and in hand		95,066		42,460	
Loan to affiliated trust		-		-	
		<u>101,344</u>		<u>52,663</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:					
Other creditors		-		-	
Accruals and deferred income		12,891		3,893	
		<u>12,891</u>		<u>3,893</u>	
Net current assets			88,453		48,770
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>2,604,084</u>		<u>2,566,685</u>
Assets: Loans due after more than one year			83,000		183,000
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			- 40,000		- 137,000
<b>Net assets</b>		£	<u>2,647,084</u>	£	<u>2,612,685</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted income fund			2,647,084		2,612,685
Restricted funds			-		-
<b>Total Funds</b>	9.	£	<u>2,647,084</u>	£	<u>2,612,685</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

Colchester Gospel Hall Trust  
Detailed statement of financial activities  
Cashflow Statement  
for the year ended 5th April 2024

NOTES	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>					
<b>Net income/(-) expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	34,399	-	-	34,399	- 35,144
<b>Adjustments for:</b>					
Depreciation charges	3,418	-	-	3,418	3,985
(-) Gains/losses on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-	-	-	-	-
Loss/(-) profit on sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
(-) Increase/decrease in stocks	-	-	-	-	-
(-) Increase/decrease in debtors	103,925	-	-	103,925	126,522
Increase/(-) decrease in creditors	8,998	-	-	8,998	- 4,444
<b>Net cash provided by (-) used in operating activities</b>	<b>150,740</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>150,740</b>	<b>90,919</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	1,134	-	-	1,134	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by (-) used in investing activities</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>					
Repayments of borrowing	- 97,000	-	-	- 97,000	- 82,500
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-	-	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by (-) used in financing activities</b>	<b>- 97,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 97,000</b>	<b>- 82,500</b>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	52,606	-	-	52,606	8,419
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>	<b>42,460</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,460</b>	<b>34,041</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>95,066</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>95,066</b>	<b>42,460</b>

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these financial statements

## 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.

**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 (2023: None).

**3. Wages and salaries**

There are no employees (2023: none).

**4. Donated services**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Income</b>		
	-	-
	-	-
<b>Expenditure</b>	2024 £	2023 £
Tendring Gospel Hall Trust	38,514	7,251
	38,514	7,251

**5. Grants made**

	2024 £	2023 £
Tendring Gospel Hall Trust	115,000	130,000
	115,000	130,000

**6. Running of meeting halls**

	Meeting rooms £	Other charitable activities £	2024 £	2023 £
Repairs and maintenance of plant, buildings & grounds	26,566	-	26,566	26,946
Audio and amplification	32	-	32	30
Light and heat	22,351	-	22,351	17,905
Water rates	475	-	475	141
Telephone & broadband at hall(s)	-	-	-	997
Conference costs	-	-	-	591
Insurance- Public liability	3,926	-	3,926	3,303
Cleaning	5,307	-	5,307	2,018
Health and safety	5,018	-	5,018	8,914
Legal and professional	7,114	-	7,114	1,200
Sundry	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and revaluation- Freehold property	-	-	-	-
Depreciation- Plant, equipment & furnishings	3,418	-	3,418	3,985
	74,207	-	74,207	66,030

## 7. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property* £	Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 6th April 2023	2,501,961	6,524	40,953	2,549,438
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	1,134	-	1,134
At 5th April 2024	2,501,961	7,658	40,953	2,550,572
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 6th April 2023	-	4,920	26,603	31,523
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	548	2,870	3,418
At 5th April 2024	-	5,468	29,473	34,941
Net Book Value				
At 5th April 2024	2,501,961	2,190	11,480	2,515,631
At 6th April 2023	2,501,961	1,604	14,350	2,517,915

\* 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	2,515,631	-	-	2,515,631
Currents assets	101,344	-	-	101,344
Current liabilities	12,891	-	-	12,891
Long term assets	83,000	-	-	83,000
Long term liabilities	40,000	-	-	40,000
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>2,647,084</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,647,084</b>

### 8.2 Prior year

	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	2,517,915	-	-	2,517,915
Currents assets	52,663	-	-	52,663
Current liabilities	3,893	-	-	3,893
Long term assets	183,000	-	-	183,000
Long term liabilities	137,000	-	-	137,000
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>2,612,685</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,612,685</b>

## 9. Movement in funds

### 9.1 Current year

	Balance at 6 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Realised/ unrealised gain and losses £	Balance at 5 April 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	-	5,639	5,639	-	-
Unrestricted funds	2,612,685	270,044	235,645	-	2,647,084
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>2,612,685</b>	<b>275,683</b>	<b>241,284</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,647,084</b>

**9. Movement in funds contd.**

9.2 *Prior year*

	Balance at 6 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Realised/ unrealised gain and losses £	Balance at 5 April 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	4,373	7,947	12,320	-	-
Unrestricted funds	2,643,456	178,497	209,268	-	2,612,685
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>2,647,829</b>	<b>186,444</b>	<b>221,588</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,612,685</b>

**10. Transactions with related parties**

Donations received from connected parties totalled £86,450 (2023 £79,940). The Trust purchased goods from ATE (UK) Limited a company of which Ross and Stephen Bradshaw, Trustees are directors of; for £271.19 (2023 £591.90).

**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 2023 £
<b>Incoming and endowments from:</b>				
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>				
Collections	-	-	-	-
Contributions from the congregation	32,653	7,947	-	40,600
Non Gift Aid donations	106,465	-	-	106,465
Gift Aid donations	31,500	-	-	31,500
Income tax refundable	7,875	-	-	7,875
Donated services	-	-	-	-
Payroll giving	-	-	-	-
Grants received	-	-	-	-
Legacies received	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	-
<b>Investment income and interest</b>				
Interest	4	-	-	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>178,497</b>	<b>7,947</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>186,444</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Running of meeting halls	66,030	-	-	66,030
Wider community outreach	307	-	-	307
Congregation support	-	12,320	-	12,320
Cost of donated services	7,251	-	-	7,251
Loan interest	-	-	-	-
Grants made	130,000	-	-	130,000
Other costs	-	-	-	-
<b>Governance</b>				
Legal & professional costs	3,887	-	-	3,887
Printing and stationery	-	-	-	-
Computer costs	503	-	-	503
Independent Examiner's fee	1,290	-	-	1,290
Bank charges	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>209,268</b>	<b>12,320</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>221,588</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>- 30,771</b>	<b>- 4,373</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 35,144</b>
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>- 30,771</b>	<b>- 4,373</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 35,144</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward	2,643,456	4,373	-	2,647,829
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>2,612,685</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,612,685</b>



# Colchester Gospel Hall Trust Public Benefit Report

The purpose of this factual report is to show how the Colchester Gospel Hall Trust community engage in many acts of public benefit and interact with the wider community in so many ways.

The Plymouth Brethren were established in 1828 when John Nelson Darby broke with the established Church in Dublin. Darby and others formed a fellowship based on the strict observance of Christian teachings as set out in the Holy Scriptures. Darby came to Plymouth in the early 1830s and the congregation grew rapidly. Early publications were produced in Plymouth, and distributed to other congregations of followers throughout the globe.



## Introduction

There are over 18,000 Plymouth Brethren members in the UK, spread across 87 locations. These locations can be found on the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (PBCC) UK Site.



There have been Brethren Gospel, or meeting halls in the Colchester and Tendring areas of Essex areas for over 140 years.

The Colchester Gospel Hall Trust was formed on 15 November 1982 to acquire buildings to be used for the advancement of the Christian religion by carrying on the service of God, including the celebration of the Lord's Supper, Gospel Preachings, Bible Readings and addresses on the Word of God and other meetings of a Christian religious character according to the injunctions contained in the Holy Scriptures and the tenets and practices of those Christians forming a worldwide fellowship known as Plymouth Brethren.

The Colchester congregation has increased in number in recent years, with 212 members living in the Tendring and Colchester boroughs; however with residents from the Chelmsford area attending services up to three times a week, together with other visitors, numbers attending services regularly approach 470 persons, from young babies to nonagenarians.

## Our Network



To read more on the PBCC way of life, please visit the following website:

<https://www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/>



## Street Preaching and Tract Distribution

Street Preaching has been actively promoted by the Plymouth brethren for many years, at least from the 1920's, and today is enthusiastically supported by members of the Colchester Gospel Hall Trust congregation, as we seek to follow the example set out by our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke ch4 v17- 20)

The essential activity of publicly preaching the name of Jesus and God's wonderful Gospel indiscriminately, gives joy and encouragement to our daily lives; as having personally proved the tangible benefit and immense improvement believing in Jesus brings, we seek to highlight the availability of Jesus to all mankind.

The street preaching and distribution of gospel tracts takes place Monday to Friday in Colchester Town, not far from the historic Colchester castle. We have had some very positive interactions with the public, and we also have bibles available FOC on request.

*Romans 10v13; "For everyone whosoever, who shall call on the name of the Lord, shall be saved"*

**The aim of the street preaching is not to recruit additional members for the Plymouth Brethren but to present eternal salvation as available to all men by faith in Jesus Christ and His blood and His work of atonement.**

Members of the congregation have continued to hand out tracts to neighbours and people in need when they have met them.

Tracts are available for download on the below website:

<https://christiandctrineandgospelpublishing.org/>





## Outreach

In our outreach program, we have engaged with organisations that support the homeless, domestic abuse charities, local authorities, education centres and local parish councils.

At the heart of our Community is the commitment to care and compassion, as we recognise the rights of all humanity within society. Members of the Congregation dedicate their time volunteering through our charitable arm, Rapid Relief Team(RRT) and contribute financially to many causes. As Colchester Gospel Hall Trust, we actively seek opportunities to support our local community from cleaning road signs to donating to local charities. See below statistics from our outreach program, in 2024:

**38** members of the Colchester congregation are volunteers for Rapid Relief Team(RRT)

**79** Food boxes distributed to local schools and charities

**700+** Gospel Preachings

**1000+** Gospel Tracts

Charities and Organisations that have been supported by the Colchester congregation include:

- Open Door
- Food Cycle - Clacton
- Next Chapter
- St Helena Hospice
- Refugee Action (RAMA)
  - Headway Essex
- Alresford Primary School
- Mayflower Primary School
  - Ardleigh Parish
  - Cherry Tree Academy
  - Icen Academy
  - Templars Academy
- St Georges C of E Primary School
  - C of E Primary School

As a trust, we donate £100/month towards the food programme at Campus&Co, which donates food to Colchester foodbank.



## Rapid Relief Team

### Our Mission



To serve people with care & compassion in their time of need.

### Our Vision



For the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church to express Christian principles of care and compassion, by way of benevolent relief to people in need.

### Our Values



Global Team | Community Care  
| Compassion | Consistency

The trust actively encourages members to volunteer for the Rapid Relief Team (RRT). The following RRT products were donated by the Colchester team during 2023/24:

**2300** Smarrt Cookie Bars

**79** Food boxes distributed to local schools and charities

**900** Water Bottles

**8** Comfort Packs

**8** Blankets



#### RRT Food Box

Providing immediate relief when it is needed most. The RRT Food Box comes in two different sizes and contains a variety of non-perishable, long-life food.



#### Early Bird Learning Box

Created to provide immediate relief for teachers and children to help increase the child's quality of a bright future.



#### Smarrt Cookie Bar

Supporting the fight against hunger in primary school children, ensuring that no child's education is hindered by hunger, and unlocking their full potential to learn.



#### Care Kit

Essential Gift for Crisis Relief: Sanitation Kits for Displaced and At-Risk Individuals.



#### Frontline Snack Pack

Snack Pack: A boost for frontline services. RRT offers two editions: Frontline for emergency workers and Comfort for those in crisis.



#### Comfort Snack Pack

Snack Pack: A boost for frontline services. RRT offers two editions: Frontline for emergency workers and Comfort for those in crisis.



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