

Charity registration number: 1159755

Swindon Gospel Trust

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 5 April 2024

Swindon Gospel Trust

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Swindon Gospel Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman	Mr Jack Whiteside
Trustees	Mr Tim Painter, ceased on 1st June 2024 Mr Peter Preston ceased 2nd of March 2024 Mr Jerry Whiteside ceased 6th of April 2024 Mr Doug Pomeroy commenced 1st of June 2024 Mr Jack Whiteside commenced 2nd of March 2024 Mr Thomas Pittock commenced 6th of April 2024 Mr Robin Painter Mr Matthew Preston
Treasurer	Mr Thomas Pittock
Charity Registration Number	1159755
Solicitors	Bevirs 141 High Street Wootton Bassett SN4 7AZ
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC Leicester LE87 2BB HSBC Swindon Unit 6 The Lock Canal Walk Swindon SN1 1LD
Principal Office	46 Draycott Road Chiseldon Swindon SN4 0LS
Independent Examiner	Hinton Abbott Accountants 2 Kingsdown Orchard Swindon SN27RR

Swindon Gospel Trust

Trustees Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

The Swindon Gospel Hall Trust is constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 16th February 1979, amended by various Deeds and most recently by Deed of Variation dated 8 August 2014. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 2nd January 2015 under Charity Registration Number:1159755.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out as mentioned above on Page1. 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 two 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.

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 or mitigate those risks.

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 The Goddard Avenue Trust, with which it shares members of its congregation. The value of donated services to The Goddard Avenue Trust were £2,438.

Objectives and activities

Objects 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.

Swindon Gospel Trust

Trustees Report (continued)

Public benefit

One of the Trust's principal activities that furthers its objects is providing a facility for the coordination of "outreach" work into the wider community. Members of the congregation, acting under the directions of the trustees and with their full active encouragement, have continued with "outreach" work which they have carried out for many years. The trustees of Swindon Gospel Trust 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.

Members of the congregation have continued to hand out tracts to neighbours and people in need when they have met them. Other church leaders and ministers from time-to-time request some of the early printed ministry by the leaders which is made available from the website listed below.

Any enquiries received by the trustees or made to central office have been followed up fully, and where applicable people have been directed to the following website where literature can be purchased or downloaded for reading in multiple languages <https://christiandocctrineandgospelpublishing.org/>

Members of the congregation have been actively involved for many years in proactive volunteer roles for the RRT - Rapid Relief Team - who are a registered charity that provide practical support for emergency services during difficult times.

On 1st October 2022 the congregation in Swindon supported the RRT at an event at Brize Norton airfield. The event involved multiple emergency crews in a simulated nuclear incident training exercise. The RRT, staffed by volunteer congregation members of the Swindon Gospel Trust attended the event to provide hot meals and drinks. Over the course of the day, the RRT supplied, cooked, and served over 600 x meals to the emergency services who attended the site.

As the cost-of-living crisis started to hit the UK, many members of the public who were homeless began to struggle to afford food, even more than they were already. To help ease this suffering, Swindon Gospel Trust partnered with a local charity - Swindon Night Shelter (Charity number: 1187554). Swindon Night Shelter are a Christian charity who operate a centre that offers shelter and food to those in need. They also offer moral support to anyone who requires it and are a key partner in advancing Christian religion for the public benefit. During the year 6th April 2022 - 5th April 2023 Swindon Gospel Trust spent £1,544.90 on food which was donated to Swindon Night Shelter. This was then used to provide meals for anyone attending Swindon Night Shelter.

Main activities and achievements

The Trust provides and maintains a Gospel hall 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.

The Trust's main achievements this year have been improving hall facilities, supporting local village communities in landscaping works, regularly supplying food for a local homeless charity and continuing to open the hall to the congregation and visitors and encouraging good works by them which benefit the wider community, as described below.

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.

Swindon Gospel Trust

Trustees Report (continued)

Spreading the Gospel Message and the life of a Christian

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

Members of the congregation participate in a programme of street preaching and Gospel tracts are provided free of charge by the Charity to such preachers to be handed out to interested members of the public.

In addition to street preaching, members of the congregation have been supporting local village communities in landscaping works, regularly supporting the RRT charity (Rapid Relief Team) and continuing to open the hall to the congregation and visitors.

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:

- 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).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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.
- 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).

Plans for future periods

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 would normally 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 40 and 500 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 hall[s] and visitors are free to help themselves.

Swindon Gospel Trust

Trustees Report (continued)

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.

Financial review

In the year ended 5 April 2024, the Trust had a surplus of £130,043 of incoming resources over resources expended. Total voluntary income received this year was £197,161 compared to £155,314 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 Trustees aim to hold sufficient funds in a current account to cover day to day expenditure, plus an allowance for any urgent repairs and capital expenses that may arise. 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 £242,070.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 06/11/24 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Jack Whiteside
Chairman

Swindon Gospel Trust

Statement of 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).

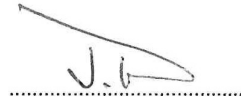
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust Deed require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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 Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 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 the transactions of the trust have been reviewed by at least two trustees.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 06/11/24 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Jack Whiteside
Chairman

Swindon Gospel Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Swindon Gospel Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Swindon Gospel Trust for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Swindon Gospel Trust 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 Swindon Gospel 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 report

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 Swindon Gospel 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 accounting 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.



Chris Pittock - Senior Partner
Hinton Abbott Accountants
2 Kingsdown Orchard
Swindon
SN27RR

Date: 08/10/24

Swindon Gospel Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 5 April 2024

Note	Unrestricted funds		Total
	Designated £	General £	2024 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	-	197,161	197,161
Total income	-	197,161	197,161
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	-	(64,234)	(64,234)
Other expenditure	3	(2,883)	(2,883)
Total expenditure	-	(67,117)	(67,117)
Net income	-	130,044	130,044
Gross transfers between funds	(2,965)	2,965	-
Net movement in funds	(2,965)	133,009	130,044
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	2,965	1,304,888	1,307,853
Total funds carried forward	8	1,437,897	1,437,897

Note	Unrestricted funds		Total
	Designated £	General £	2023 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	-	155,314	155,314
Total income	-	155,314	155,314
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	-	(52,224)	(52,224)
Other expenditure	3	(4,037)	(4,037)
Total expenditure	-	(56,261)	(56,261)
Net income	-	99,053	99,053
Net movement in funds	-	99,053	99,053
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	2,965	1,205,835	1,208,800
Total funds carried forward	8	1,304,888	1,307,853

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 and 2023 are shown in note 8.

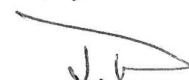
Swindon Gospel Trust

(Registration number: 1159755)

Balance Sheet as at 5 April 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	1,195,827	1,177,761
Current assets			
Debtors		25,139	21,897
Cash at bank and in hand		218,432	109,696
		243,571	131,593
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		(1,501)	(1,501)
Net current assets		242,070	130,092
Net assets		1,437,897	1,307,853
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		1,437,897	1,307,853
Total funds	8	1,437,897	1,307,853

The financial statements on pages 8 to 15 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 06/11/24 and signed on their behalf by:



 Mr Jack Whiteside
 Chairman

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Swindon Gospel Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2024

1 Accounting policies

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).

Incoming Resources

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 Swindon 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.

Resources expended

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.

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. Governance and support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of capacity used.

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.

Swindon Gospel Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2024 (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets (costing more than £100.00) 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:

Fixtures and Fittings 20% on Written down Value

Fund structure

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.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

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.

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).

Wages and salaries

There are no employees (2023: None).

Donated Services

The Value of Donated Services to Goddard Avenue Trust was £3,080.17 for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Swindon Gospel Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2024 (continued)

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;		
Donations - Gift Aidable	100,305	100,305
Donation - No Gift aid	71,780	71,780
Gift aid reclaimed	25,076	25,076
Total for 2024	<u>197,161</u>	<u>197,161</u>
Total for 2023	<u>155,314</u>	<u>155,314</u>

3 Governance Cost

Accountancy Fees includes £600 towards Independent Examinations fees.

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Legal fees	1,443	1,443
Accountancy fees	1,440	1,440
Total for 2024	<u>2,883</u>	<u>2,883</u>
Total for 2023	<u>4,037</u>	<u>4,037</u>

Swindon Gospel Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2024 (continued)

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 6 April 2023	1,174,155	34,138	1,208,293
Additions	<u>18,787</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,787</u>
At 5 April 2024	<u>1,192,942</u>	<u>34,138</u>	<u>1,227,080</u>
Depreciation			
At 6 April 2023	-	30,532	30,532
Charge for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>721</u>	<u>721</u>
At 5 April 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>31,253</u>	<u>31,253</u>
Net book value			
At 5 April 2024	<u>1,192,942</u>	<u>2,885</u>	<u>1,195,827</u>
At 5 April 2023	<u>1,174,155</u>	<u>3,606</u>	<u>1,177,761</u>

Property Details:

Land registry titles of the above property held are WT309370 , WT96393, WT93368 and WT242527.

7 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 5 April 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,177,761	1,177,761
Current assets	131,593	131,593
Current liabilities	<u>(1,500)</u>	<u>(1,500)</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,307,854</u>	<u>1,307,854</u>

Swindon Gospel Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2024 (continued)

8 Funds

	Balance at 6 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 5 April 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	1,304,888	197,161	(67,117)	2,965	1,437,897
Designated	<u>2,965</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,965)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1,307,853</u>	<u>197,161</u>	<u>(67,117)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,437,897</u>

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 6 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 5 April 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	1,205,835	155,314	(56,261)	-	1,304,888
Unrestricted designated funds					
Designated funds	<u>2,965</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,965)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1,208,800</u>	<u>155,314</u>	<u>(56,261)</u>	<u>(2,965)</u>	<u>1,304,888</u>

9 Related party transactions

During the year, donations received from related parties were £95,040.