



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1.1.2023

To 31.12.2023

**Charity name: Southam Road Evangelical Church**

**Charity registration number: 1163217**

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The Object of the CIO is, for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Banbury, Oxfordshire and such other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the charity trustees may from time to time decide.</p> <p>The Church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance, Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, Stewardship and thirtyone:eight.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Activities undertaken during the year include;</p> <p>Public meetings in the Church Building for Christian worship and preaching the Bible.</p> <p>Meetings on Zoom for prayer and business discussion</p> <p>Practical, emotional, financial and spiritual support of members and attenders, and of contacts in the wider community.</p> <p>Support of local charities, financially and by volunteer assistance, including Green Pastures Nursing Home.</p> <p>Practical and financial support for the Womens' Refuge in Banbury, and the Food Bank run by the Salvation Army</p> <p>Support of overseas charitable work, including small rural churches in Romania, famine relief work in Moldova and India, and work with vulnerable young women in New Zealand.</p> <p>Individuals in the church are involved with social goods such as work with Guide Dogs for the Blind, local Community Radio, support for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal and links to Street Pastors. These individual efforts are reported back to the church, and are supported financially and prayerfully by the church</p>

		<p>at large.</p> <p>Renovation and repair work was undertaken to the building in accordance with the 5 year plan agreed following a survey undertaken by a professional adviser from the Church Growth Trust</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

#### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Grants to other charities and to individuals are made at the discretion of the Elders and the Trustees, with reference to available funds and to the Reserves policy.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Apart from part time paid work by the Pastor, the church operates entirely by the volunteer services and financial contributions of members and attenders.
Other		<b>The church has a current Safeguarding policy in place, and is committed to safe working especially with children and vulnerable adults. Mr David Shepherd is the designated Safeguarding Lead.</b>

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The above activities have enabled the church to beneficially impact on the lives of a number of people, locally and further afield. Those attending and linked to the church are supported and helped through the joys and crises of everyday life, and given help to deepen their spiritual lives and understanding of the Bible.</p> <p>We have linked into the wider community by means of events for non-members.</p> <p>Practical and emotional support has been given to members in financial emotional and physical need. We have also reached out to non-members with similar support, particularly to the ladies in the Womens' refuge in the town.</p> <p>Overseas contacts have shared in the ways that our support has helped many in vulnerable situations, and the impact this has had on their lives.</p>

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	See attached accounts validated by the independent examiner.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The building is held freehold, and is a substantial asset.</p> <p>The Trustees have adopted a policy of holding a minimum of 3 months giving as a cash reserve – currently £11,000. Currently larger reserves held to hedge against the proposed employment of a Full Time Pastor in 2024</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£55,591
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	<b>N/A</b>
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<b>N/A</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Funds are raised by donations from members, and are spent at the discretion of the Church Leadership in discussion with the members and the Trustees. <b>The Trustees are enormously grateful for the sustained financial support of the church members during 2023, despite the difficult economic situation.</b> Small sums are given as voluntary donations for the use of the building by other churches and charitable groups. During the year grants were obtained from the Benefact Trust and the Rank Foundation towards the cost of replacement of damaged Velux windows.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Risk of many members leaving and the organisation becoming unviable – the Trustees then have the option of closing the charity and selling the building. Risk of catastrophic damage to the building – covered by insurance. Risk of reputational damage due to allegations of moral or financial misconduct. Safeguarding policy upheld and reviewed, financial oversight by Trustees.
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document ( <a href="#">trust deed</a> , <a href="#">royal charter</a> )	Para 1.25	<b>Trust Deed</b>
How is the charity constituted? ( <a href="#">e.g unincorporated association</a> , <a href="#">CIO</a> )	Para 1.25	<b>CIO</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<b>Selected by existing Trustees</b>

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Provided with a copy of the Trust Deed, and links to information on the Charities Commission. Invited to an initial Trustees meeting as an induction. Encouraged to familiarise with information online and through e.g. Stewardship
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Independent church governed by Elders, with one of the Elders currently appointed as Pastor (retired from this role at the end of 2023). The Trustees care for the legal and statutory duties of the Charity. Member of organisations such as Evangelical Alliance Stewardship Thirtyone:eight Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
<b>Remarks about 2023</b>		2023 was a year of change, as Mr David Shepherd retired as Pastor at the end of the year. Steps have been taken by the leadership to recruit and appoint a new Pastor, on a full-time basis, and a substantial financial reserve has been built up to enable this to happen. The appointment has not yet been made (as of May 2024) and the church continues to be run by the elders, using the gifts and skills of the members, with help from other friendly similar churches. Attendance at the main service on Sunday continues to be stable, and a number of new people were welcomed into the congregation. Three house groups meet during the week, and there are prayer meetings weekly on Zoom, and monthly in person in the church building. Ongoing maintenance and repair of the building was attended to, in particular the replacement of seven rotting Velux windows in the upstairs room. Mr Nic Oliver resigned as Trustee, having moved away from the area.

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Southam Road Evangelical Church
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1163217
Charity's principal address	1 Cope Road Banbury Oxon OX16 2EJ

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mr David Shepherd	Chairman	Re-appointed 5.12.2021	
2	Mr John Gardner		Re-appointed 23.7.2019	
3	Mr Ian Fleming		Appointed 12.3.2019	
4	Mr Kevin Dale		Appointed 5.12.2021	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

## Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)			
Type of adviser	Signature	Name	Full name Address
			David Shepherd
Independent Examiner		Mr Andrew J Geary	Geary Partnership
			159a Chase Side Enfield EN2 0PW
			John Gardner Ian Fleming
Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)			
N/A			Kevin Dale

## Other optional information

Mr David Shepherd continued to be paid as Pastor to the church on a part time self-employed basis (retired 31.12.2023). The Trustees have reviewed this arrangement in accordance with the Trust Deeds and advice from the Charity Commission and Stewardship, and have concluded that he may continue to act as a Trustee provided he absent himself from any discussions about his service and remuneration.

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Date

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**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**Accounts  
for the year ended  
31 December 2023**

1 Cope Road  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX16 2EJ

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered Charity no. 1163217



**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
for the year ended  
31 December 2023**

The Trustees present their report with the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Charitable status**

The church was granted the status of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 20 August 2015. Its registered charity number is 1163217.

**Charitable objects**

The object of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is, for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Banbury, Oxfordshire, and such other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the charity trustees may from time to time decide.

**Trustees**

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Mr David Shepherd  
Mr Kevin Lawrence Dale  
Mr Nicholas James Oliver (resigned 8 October 2023)  
Mr John Gardner  
Mr Ian Fleming

**Review of the year**

Throughout the year the church has experienced God's goodness in the continuing pursuit of its charitable objects as stated above. The monies which have been given towards those objects and the manner in which the monies have been expended are shown in the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities on pages 3 to 5. The building from which the church operates and its bank balance constitute its main assets as shown on page 5.

**Public benefit**

When planning the activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees would draw particular attention to the monies expended on local ministries support as shown on page 4.

**Basis of preparation of accounts**

The trustees have made use of the exemptions available to Charitable Incorporated Organisations with income of less than £250,000 per annum and have prepared a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on:

and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee:

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**to the Elders of**  
**SOUTHAM ROAD**  
**EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of Southam Road Evangelical Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on the following pages 3 to 5.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**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 church 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 explanations from the 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 statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....  
**Andrew J Geary**  
**Chartered Accountant**

Geary Partnership  
159a Chase Side  
Enfield  
EN2 0PW

Date: .....

**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Year ended 31 Dec 2023 £</b>	<b>Year ended 31 Dec 2022 £</b>
Offerings and gifts received		45,651	29,590
Gift Aid tax recovered		13,508	6,051
Grants received		3,400	-
Other income		1,589	1,069
		-----	-----
<b>Total income</b>		<b>64,148</b>	<b>36,710</b>
		-----	-----
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Missionary expenditure</b>	1	5,975	11,400
		-----	-----
<b>Relief expenditure</b>	2	-	4,100
		-----	-----
<b>Local ministries support</b>	3	1,392	4,988
		-----	-----
<b>Building works</b>			
Velux windows		9,622	-
		-----	-----
<b>Running expenses</b>			
Regular maintenance and cleaning		2,844	1,329
Website, computer and IT		852	1,116
Light and heat and water		3,957	2,291
Insurance		1,273	1,398
Subscriptions and licences (FIEC, CS, EA)		1,918	315
Administration and other		1,086	830
		-----	-----
		11,930	7,279
		-----	-----
<b>Other expenses</b>			
Pastor		6,970	6,302
Gifts to speakers		470	620
Children and youth activities		40	212
Prayer Breakfasts		326	137
Pastoral		304	539
Accountancy		432	432
		-----	-----
		8,542	8,242
		-----	-----
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>37,461</b>	<b>36,009</b>
		-----	-----
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>26,687</b>	<b>701</b>
		-----	-----
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Fund brought forward		28,904	28,203
Net surplus for the year		26,687	701
		-----	-----
Fund carried forward		<b>55,591</b>	<b>28,904</b>
		-----	-----

**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT, continued  
for the year ended  
31 December 2023**

	Year ended 31 Dec 2023 £	Year ended 31 Dec 2022 £
<b>1. Missionary expenditure</b>		
Steve & Anna Griffiths (OMF International) (Brazil)	1,800	3,600
Keith & Dorothy Ward (Scriptural Knowledge) (Retired)	2,160	2,160
EPIC and Romania	1,500	1,500
Saheb Borgall (Tribals Transformation India)	515	-
Steve Dunne (First Direct) (New Zealand)	-	2,640
Rachel Adams (Madagascar)	-	1,500
	----- 5,975	----- 11,400
<b>2. Relief expenditure</b>		
Moldova mission (Ukraine)	-	4,100
	-----	-----
<b>3. Local ministries support</b>		
Nicodemus Trust	-	1,800
Green Pastures	-	2,400
Restore Project	1,392	788
	----- 1,392	----- 4,988
	-----	-----

**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
as at 31 December 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
The freehold of Southam Road Evangelical Church, Southam Road, Banbury. The furniture, equipment and musical instruments in the church. No value is ascribed to these assets in the accounts of the church.		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank balances:		
Virgin Money bank account	55,591 -----	28,904 -----
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
None.		
<b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>FUNDS</b>		
General fund	55,591 -----	28,904 -----

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at 31 December 2023 the church did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the church.

We approve the attached receipts and payments account and above statement of assets and liabilities and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....  
Trustee:

.....  
Trustee:

Date: .....

Date: .....

**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**Accounts  
for the year ended  
31 December 2023**

1 Cope Road  
Banbury  
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Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered Charity no. 1163217

**SOUTHAM ROAD  
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
for the year ended  
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When planning the activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees would draw particular attention to the monies expended on local ministries support as shown on page 4.

**Basis of preparation of accounts**

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Approved by the Board of Trustees on:

and signed on their behalf by:

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**to the Elders of**  
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**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 church 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 explanations from the 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 statement below.

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**Andrew J Geary**  
**Chartered Accountant**

Geary Partnership  
159a Chase Side  
Enfield  
EN2 0PW

Date: .....



**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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<b>Missionary expenditure</b>	1	5,975	11,400
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<b>Relief expenditure</b>	2	-	4,100
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<b>Local ministries support</b>	3	1,392	4,988
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<b>Building works</b>			
Velux windows		9,622	-
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<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>26,687</b>	<b>701</b>
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<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Fund brought forward		28,904	28,203
Net surplus for the year		26,687	701
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Fund carried forward		<b>55,591</b>	<b>28,904</b>
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**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT, continued  
for the year ended  
31 December 2023**

	Year ended 31 Dec 2023 £	Year ended 31 Dec 2022 £
<b>1. Missionary expenditure</b>		
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EPIC and Romania	1,500	1,500
Saheb Borgall (Tribals Transformation India)	515	-
Steve Dunne (First Direct) (New Zealand)	-	2,640
Rachel Adams (Madagascar)	-	1,500
	----- 5,975	----- 11,400
<b>2. Relief expenditure</b>		
Moldova mission (Ukraine)	-	4,100
	-----	-----
<b>3. Local ministries support</b>		
Nicodemus Trust	-	1,800
Green Pastures	-	2,400
Restore Project	1,392	788
	----- 1,392	----- 4,988

**SOUTHAM ROAD  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
as at 31 December 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
The freehold of Southam Road Evangelical Church, Southam Road, Banbury. The furniture, equipment and musical instruments in the church. No value is ascribed to these assets in the accounts of the church.		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank balances:		
Virgin Money bank account	55,591 -----	28,904 -----
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
None.		
<b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>FUNDS</b>		
General fund	55,591 -----	28,904 -----

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at 31 December 2023 the church did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the church.

We approve the attached receipts and payments account and above statement of assets and liabilities and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....  
Trustee:

.....  
Trustee:

Date: .....

Date: .....