



Spring Mount Christian Fellowship

Report and Accounts

For the year ended

31 December 2022

Spring Mount Christian Fellowship

Year Ended 31 December 2022

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Trustees' Report for the year 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022



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1. Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Spring Mount Christian Fellowship (SMCF)

Registered Charity Number: 1163628

Principal Address: Salthouse Pavilion,
Roose Road
Barrow-in-Furness,
Cumbria LA13 9RQ

Online: Website: www.springmount.church

Facebook: facebook.com/springmount.church

Twitter: twitter.com/springmountch

Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity (known as the Church Leadership Team):

- Tim Baalham — Communications, Housegroups.
- Alan Docker —Walney
- Paul Hardingham — Finance
- Jonny Harrison — Pastor, Worship, Teaching, Youthwork
- Shirley Waters — Secretary, Sunday School

2. Executive Summary

2022 was another very busy year in the life of Spring Mount Church which has grown both numerically and spiritually. We are encouraged at the number of new people who have joined us not only on a Sunday morning but also wanting to get involved in the wider life of the church. The last year has seen the number of people in connect groups increase as demand for meeting and learning together has grown. We are excited that this shows that people are hungry to meet and learn about God's Word and support each other whilst being supported.

The appointment of Wes Tudor as Youth Leader was a particular highlight towards to end of the year. He will work alongside the young people to develop the youth work in the church and wider community. We believe it is important to engage with young people both inside and outside the church as they are the future. Having a dedicated person focussed on the needs of young people will hopefully increase this ministry in future years.

During the pandemic we had supported the local community around us and partnered with Walney Community Trust (ref: 9.1) and the Local Authority to deliver emergency food packages within Barrow. 2022 saw this emergency work scaled down, but we were excited that it evolved into a permanent ministry amongst the most vulnerable people. Shirley Waters was appointed to distribute emergency goods and support across the whole area from a Barrow Borough Council grant. It was a real privilege that Spring Mount was chosen to administer this large grant on behalf of the council in recognition of the work we have done over many previous years.

The work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP) (ref: 9.2) continued to provide support for people struggling with debt and financial difficulties. The Green Pastures house (ref: 9.3) which was set up in 2020 gave stability and a home for men who may otherwise have been homeless. We developed this vision of providing safe, affordable housing further by partnering with two congregation members to use their properties for this ministry.

A particular encouragement is the increase in ethnic diversity as new people join us from different countries and cultures. As Christians we believe that all nationalities are equal under God and this diversity is an exciting expression of God's Kingdom. SMCF continues to welcome people from whatever background into the church family.

The establishment of a dedicated prayer team on a Sunday morning helped to provide a safe space for people to receive prayer ministry during the Sunday services. More people have benefited from receiving prayer support and we have seen spiritual growth as a result.

3. Structure, Governance and Management

SMCF is an active church organisation which was founded in the early 20th century. The church was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2015. Church trustees are appointed by the church Leadership Team. Trustee term of service is 3 years.

SMCF is staffed by volunteers from within its membership. The trustees retain overall management of all Trust affairs but delegate day to day administration to volunteer workers for areas of specific responsibility. Jonny Harrison has been employed full time as the church pastor since 2018. In addition, Donna Docker is employed part time to lead and co-ordinate the work of Christians Against Poverty and Samantha Taylor is part time church administrator. Wes Tudor has been employed part time as a youth worker since November 2022. Shirley Waters' employment to administer emergency goods from a Barrow Borough Council grant continued into 2022.

The Leadership Team meet formally at least once a month for business and prayer. The leaders continue to recognise a need for more prayer and therefore a significant proportion of Leadership Team business meetings have been devoted to prayer.

The Leadership Team is actively seeking ways to improve the efficiency of decision making by separating some of the day-to-day decision making from the long-term strategic planning to reflect the growth of the church. During 2022 separate groups of key workers met to discuss decisions and pastoral issues.

The Leadership Team outlines current plans, activities and concerns during Sunday services and encourages feedback, especially via the Connect Groups and the Sunday evening prayer times. The Leadership prayer times are occasionally open to the wider church as a way of seeking and sharing vision collectively. A special service was held in May in which the vision was shared with the wider church.

Property title is held by the CIO.

4. Objectives and Activities

SMCF objectives are summarised in the SMCF CIO constitution as follows:

1. The advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the SMCF Statement of Identity (attached to the Constitution as Schedule 1 "Statement of Identity")
2. Such other purposes as are exclusively charitable in accordance with the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.

The Constitution Schedule 1 "Statement of Identity" sets out SMCF's concerns, principles, beliefs, practices and membership. Associated appendices include the SMCF Mission Statement, Statement of Doctrine and an accompanying statement of Privileges and Responsibilities of being Part of a Local Church, all broadly as published in past Trustees Reports.

The Constitution Schedule 1 summarises SMCF's primary concern as follows:

'For children, young people, men and women of all ages that they may know that salvation through Christ can transform lives wherever they are lived out including home, school, work and leisure. To that end, SMCF's ultimate aims are that they will come to faith in Christ by whatever means and will continually grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, whether or not they remain with Spring Mount'

SMCF's Mission Statement (why SMCF exists) is presented in the Constitution Schedule 1 as follows:

Our Mission: "To reach, teach, grow and send"

- Reach others for Christ
- Teach others about Christ
- Grow in Christ
- Send for Christ

SMCF's vision (what will SMCF look like) is currently as follows:

- For three worshipping communities, all benefiting from mutual support under the SMCF umbrella.
- For discipleship (individual and corporate) for SMCF members to grow in faith and service, developing people's gifts.

SMCF's strategy (how SMCF will get there) is currently as follows:

- "Don't just come to church, be the church"
To encourage all regular SMCF worshippers to participate in different activities and to serve the needs of the church and wider community. To find and then fulfil their role in the Body of Christ (the church).
- Mentoring and Support
Encourage all regular SMCF worshippers to be within a partnership of two or three people to pray and mentor each other or be a member of a small group or Connect Group.

- **Develop Salthouse Pavilion**
Continue the refurbishment of the Salthouse Pavilion to maximise the potential use. To expand the work of SMCF into this community in Barrow, such that more people may experience the love of God and be helped into a faith in Christ.
- **Develop Work on Walney**
Develop the worshipping community on Walney, in conjunction with other aspects of church life already happening in the Walney building, to "strengthen the stakes".
- **Explore Options for Abbey Road**
Regular activities have moved from Abbey Road to Salthouse Pavilion and the building is currently leased to a funeral director company whilst the SMCF maintains ultimate ownership in the medium term.
- **"People, People, People"**
The priority remains a concern for all people which has helped keep the church's focus on its core objectives to help and serve people in the church and wider community. In particular, the church feels that it should concentrate its work amongst people experiencing greatest need and hardship thus following the example of Jesus.

SMCF's vision and strategy are live items which are expected to develop over time.

Activities undertaken to support SMCF's objectives are described in the following section.

5. Achievements and Performance

The following sections give a more detailed report of the activities of Spring Mount Church and a brief summary of how these link to the general mission objectives are **highlighted in red text**.

5.1 General Activities

Most activities were based at SMCF's Salthouse Pavilion building. Certain activities are centred on Walney Island within the Walney Community Trust (WCT) (ref: 9.1) building on Amphitrite Street (known as Spring Mount on Walney).

After the restrictions of the past few years, 2022 saw activities return to normal, including in-person meetings. Throughout the pandemic Spring Mount Church had developed some new ways of operating some of which will continued.

5.1.1 Weekly Sunday Services

The principal expressions of the church's community are the weekly services of worship.

The mornings cater for all ages, including Sunday School groups and a crèche for children. The morning services were a mixture of sung worship, communion and a sermon which usually formed part of a larger sermon series. Tea and coffee were served after the service. Teams of individuals served in various capacities to ensure the smooth running of the service and its activities.

The evening service is a less formal setting with an emphasis on corporate prayer.

Spring Mount Church believes in the importance of regular services both for the worship of God and the benefit of the individual. We were delighted to return to normality and a full church throughout 2022.

5.1.2 Prayer Meetings

In addition to the Sunday evening prayer focus, there was a weekly Tuesday night prayer meeting. Helen Pearson continued to promote the importance of corporate prayer in her capacity as Prayer Co-ordinator.

Sandra Faulds-Mariscal took on responsibility for the coordination of a new “Prayer Team” who met prior to the morning service and then ministered to those wishing to receive prayer support during and after the service. This Team was carefully chosen, vetted, and trained in how to pray for people sensitively and sympathetically, always in pairs.

The administration of the Prayer Network allowed prayer requests to be circulated rapidly to those who have committed to pray for issues and situations as they arise. This was carried out confidentially to ensure all GDPR and confidentiality requirements were fully met.

5.1.3 House (Connect) and Other Small Groups

The Leadership Team continued to encourage participation in a Connect Group as a means of support, prayer and Bible study. They were held on different days and at different times to cater for as many people as possible. One of these groups was aimed to appeal to people in their 20s and 30s and one was held during the day for ladies and another group was established for young parents. Each group is encouraged to follow on from the Sunday morning sermon to provide continuity and an opportunity to discuss the points raised in a safe, small group setting. It is also a forum for sharing and discussing the vision and opportunities in the church. It is the Leadership Team's desire to see as many people from within the fellowship as possible linked to a Connect Group.

A group of men met regularly for Bible study and prayer support weekly within the Green Pastures house.

The Book Club continued to meet online on a Friday afternoon to review a Christian book.

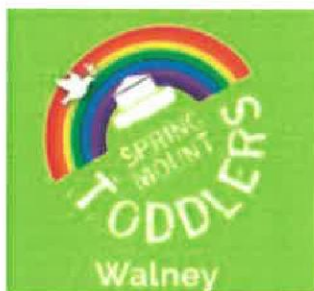
A course called “Old to New” which was set up pre-pandemic had re-started in September 2021. It was run on a Thursday evening by Geoff Chad to give a brief run through and background to each of the books of the Old Testament. This was to give a better understanding of the way the Bible fits together historically and contextually. It concluded in early 2022.

In October a Freedom in Christ course was started, led by Donna Docker. It is a 10 week discipleship course designed to help Christians understand what a difference Christ makes in their life.

Four Freedom in Christ Marriage Courses were run with the aim of helping people to understand their Christian faith within the context of a marriage. Participants attended this with their spouses via zoom.

5.1.4 Children's Work

A toddler group met every Wednesday led by Shirley Waters and volunteers. A different toddler group also met on Tuesday and Thursdays at Walney led by Ros Harrison. Both groups attract a large number of parents, carers, and children from diverse backgrounds across the community. The groups provide safe environments for parents and small children to chat and play.



Sunday School met every Sunday during the main morning service in which children from the age of three to eleven were taught about stories from the Bible in a fun and interesting way. It was encouraging to see new people stepping into the roles of teaching the children. Due to the increase in the numbers of children this was reorganised into different classes for different ages. They performed a very successful Nativity service in December.

5.1.5 Youth Work

The Leadership Team had been exploring how best to expand the youth work and provide for the young people of church and the wider community. Corey Love had been working with the youth funded partially by Streetgames (ref:9.4), however, Corey moved out of the area in 2022 in order to pursue an alternative career. In November SMCF appointed Wes Tudor as a Youth Worker. He is employed to work with the youth and coordinate the work with the help of volunteers. It will be exciting to see how this will develop into 2023.



Other volunteers from within SMCF also helped with running various youth clubs throughout 2022. These included regular youth clubs and weekly football at a local floodlit all weather pitch. Both of which allowed non-church youngsters to engage with church youth.

Every Tuesday evening a small group of boys met for various activities and chat.

The Youth band continued in which young people within the church who can play a musical instrument practiced worship songs. They led several Sunday morning services throughout 2022.

5.1.6 Seniors



A monthly meeting for more senior folk known as SMILE restarted. It provided a tea, entertainment, and devotional time. It attracted people from the church and the wider community and helped to build relationships with senior folk and tackle the problem of loneliness and isolation within this age group. They provided a summer excursion to the Lake District in July. This was run by volunteers headed by Sue Durham.

5.1.7 Café Connect

A “Café Connect” group met monthly on Walney and provided support for those who are lonely and isolated.

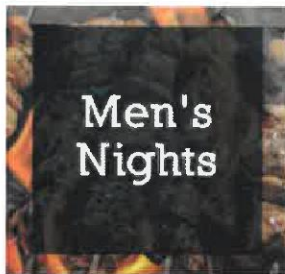
5.2 Other Regular Events

5.2.1 Filipino Church Community

In recent years Spring Mount Church has been blessed with an increasingly culturally diverse group of people including those from The Philippines. During the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns Gerald Ybosa and his wife, Caroline started a ministry to support people from within their Filipino community, especially those new to the country. Gerald was a pastor in The Philippines before moving to Barrow. This community met on a Sunday afternoon for a simple service in the upstairs rooms of the Pavilion as well as a midweek prayer meeting. They worship God and have a service in their own language.



5.2.2 Men's Ministry



A regular men's social meeting continued to provide a social setting for the men of the church and to bring friends. It provided different cuisine themed from different parts of the world as well as a Christmas meal.

In November a large group of men attended the Excel Men's conference at Life Church in Bradford.

5.2.3 Ladies' Ministry

In March Spring Mount held its annual Ladies “Flourish” conference after several years enforced break due to Covid-19. It was led by Claire Harrison. Approximately 100 ladies from across the area and further afield met together across a whole day of teaching, worship, prayer and ministry.



A new series of regular bring and share meals was started as a social event exclusively for ladies in a similar vein to the men's meals.

A ladies' Bible Study continued every fortnight for women to pray and read the Bible together.

5.2.4 Spring Mount in Stitches

The sewing group called “Spring Mount in Stitches” met throughout 2022 allowing ladies to be creative and socialise on a Wednesday night.



5.2.5 Ad Hoc Events

During 2022 there were two Baptism services including on Easter Sunday. In total eight people were baptised.

SMCF also celebrated four weddings and held three funeral services.

In May 2022 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee SMCF held a Jubilee party in the Pavilion for the community. The church was open with bouncy castles, children's entertainment and food served in celebration. Approximately 700 people came in during the day which was deemed a great success.

In November we held the first "picnic at the Pavilion" where the congregation was encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and to stay behind after the service to eat, chat and get to know each other better.

The Pavilion was also hired to external groups including a group of recovering addicts for regular meetings. It was also used as a polling station.

All the regular and ad hoc events described in 5.2 and 5.3 succeeded in teaching people about Christ and helped many within the church to grow in their faith and serve their community.

5.3 Community Involvement

5.3.1. Emergency Support

In the winter months, Spring Mount provided daily warm spaces as part of a national initiative to help the most vulnerable people with the "cost of living crisis". Both Salthouse Pavilion and the Walney buildings were open for several hours per day allowing those who wanted to come in and take advantage of the warmth as well as a warm welcome.



Following on from the successful partnership between SMCF, Walney Community Trust and the local council during the Covid Pandemic, Barrow Borough Council asked Shirley Waters to head up the distribution of a special hardship grant. This allowed for the purchase and distribution of emergency items such as white goods and furniture for people in need across the Barrow area. The people were referred by Social Services, the council and local schools. 310 different households were helped. They were also given vouchers for the Barrow Foodbank and a one-off top up for their electricity or gas meters as appropriate. This council initiative was to help some of the most vulnerable with the cost-of-living crisis. It was also an opportunity to come alongside people and offer longer term help and advice by signposting them to our life skills and money courses.

This practical show of Christian love in local community's time of need was a key element of Spring Mount's vision to share God's love to everyone, especially the most disadvantaged and in need. The connections made with people and the links made to agencies and bodies within the town are a good base from which to build further practical ministries in the future. We are privileged to have been recognised by Barrow Borough Council as a partner organisation to distribute their hardship funds.

5.3.2 Walney Worshipping Community

Walney Community Trust (WCT) (ref: 9.1) creates connections and relationships across Walney Island. This work, run over many years, forms a backbone to the local community on Walney and partnership with WCT is a key part of the SMCF strategy to show the love of God to the people of the area. SMCF is grateful to WCT for the use of WCT's building on Walney Island for SMCF activities, and is pleased to support WCT via SMCF volunteers for WCT activities.



Weekly community meals on Monday evenings provide a safe place for children and carers to enjoy an after-school time over a meal with activities and space for homework for children and teenagers.

A popular toddler group meets twice a week. It gives carers and children a safe environment in which to meet, play and support one another.

A program of weekly events was held on Saturday nights for the community. "Saturday Night on Walney" (SNOW) provides such diverse entertainments as crafts, football on the big screen, films and open mic nights. The aim is to provide a safe, family friendly social environment for the community on Walney.



A Craft Café ran in the school holidays during which children and parents were invited to meet and participate in crafts and activities followed by a lunch. Approximately 100 children came each day with their parents or carers.

Free Craft Cafés

New parenting courses, CAP Fresh Start, CAP Life Skills and CAP Money courses (section 5.3.3) were all run through the Walney building positively impacting the lives of many people who participated. In addition, a six-week cooking skills course was run over the summer where people were taught to cook two simple meals and then given the ingredients to take home and try without supervision.

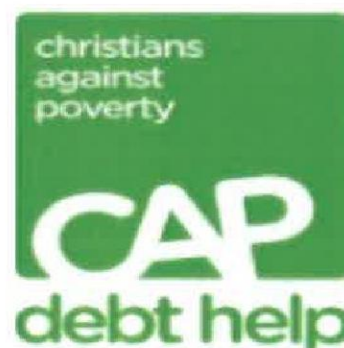
5.3.3 Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

CAP Debt Centre

Spring Mount ran a local debt centre (established in November 2016) for CAP (ref: 9.2) with Donna Docker employed as the centre manager.

Throughout 2022, CAP saw new clients in addition to working with existing clients. A slightly different approach was adopted due to the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19.

The usual CAP client events in which clients were served with a meal



by volunteers within the church were unable to happen during the Covid-19 pandemic however Christmas hampers and gifts were still provided to past and present clients. The usual practice of face-to-face appointments with a “befriender” to help support was reduced and so the bulk of this support fell to Donna as the Debt Centre Manager. However, as normality returned, more support was again possible.

CAP Fresh Start Courses

Jonny Harrison provided two CAP Fresh Start courses which helped people seeking to address life controlling habits and addictions.

CAP Life Skills Courses

Ros Harrison ran three CAP Life Skills Courses from the Walney building. The course helps people to gain some of the basic skills required for effective, practical living. Topics covered include how to cook from scratch and how to budget effectively.

A six-week cooking course was run over the summer in which participants were taught two simple recipes each week and then given the ingredients and encouraged to try them at home.

CAP Money Courses

CAP money courses restarted after the Pandemic and were run three times throughout 2022.

CAP Funding

SMCF successfully re-applied for a £10,000 grant from the Sir John Fisher Foundation following on from the previous grant awarded in 2021. The Cumbria Community Foundation also supplied the second instalment of three for £9,000.

The work of CAP formed a key part of the strategy to prioritise the needs of people, especially those experiencing greatest need and hardship. Several individuals have been helped practically by this work and through that have also found a spiritual home in SMCF and seen positive, transformational changes to their lives.

5.3.4 Housing Support

Spring Mount’s vision is to provide safe, affordable, quality housing for those most in need.

In 2020 SMCF acquired a two-bedroom property in partnership with Green Pastures (ref: 9.3) in the Salthouse area very close to the Pavilion. The running and maintenance of it is the responsibility of Spring Mount.

The house provides emergency and short-term housing for two residents who agree to access support available through the church. This includes volunteering under supervision and accessing a variety of activities. Jonny made regular visits three or four times a week to support them.

To consolidate and expand the church’s vision for housing, it took on a formal responsibility in 2022 to manage two additional properties. They are owned by two different members of the church who share the vision to provide for those in need of an affordable home. Spring Mount co-ordinates the tenants who are people the church is closely associated with. It takes a fair rent and provides a quality home. A formal agreement with the property owners outlining responsibility for maintenance and reimbursement has been agreed with each owner.



Samantha Taylor, the church administrator took responsibility for the management of the paperwork required for this ministry. This included submitting claims for housing benefits and other official documentation for Green Pastures and on behalf of the other privately owned properties.

It is anticipated these houses will allow people experiencing emergency need for housing to be housed and integrated into activities in the church to be supported and helped to put their lives back on track. They form a key part of the strategy to meet people's practical needs within the community. The Leadership Team continued to explore how to expand this ministry further in the future.

5.3.5 Anna Chaplaincy

SMCF volunteers continued to support the work of the Anna Chaplaincy (ref:9.5). This is an ministry organised by Churches Together in Barrow which works with older people with dementia. This included visiting people in hospital and care homes.

5.3.6 Street Angels

Members of SMCF continued their involvement with the "Street Angels" initiative until the work ceased to operate part way through 2022. (ref: 9.6).

5.3.7 Foodbank

SMCF continues to support the Barrow Foodbank (ref: 9.7).

5.4 Buildings

5.4.1 Salthouse Pavilion

In February 2015 Spring Mount purchased Salthouse Pavilion as a long-term solution to the lack of space in Abbey Road and as part of a strategy to grow the church including reaching into a new community. After four years of development the permanent move into the building took place in 2019.



Although the bulk of the renovation work has been completed to allow for church services and activities to take place there remain several areas of the building which still require development and improvement.

During 2022 a special financial appeal was made during a gift day in May to allow upgrade of the car park. The site was levelled and tarmacked including installation of new underground drainage, and the access was moved from Frederick Street to Salthouse Road. This makes the car parking area much safer and increases the capacity.

A small upstairs room was fitted with a simple kitchen to allow for independent basic refreshments to be served for the users of the first floor. This will stop the need for those using the first floor for Sunday School and other activities to have to use the downstairs kitchen and remove risks associated with carrying hot and cold drinks up and down the stairs. It will also allow for separate

activities to take place on the first floor with refreshment facilities whilst a different activity is taking place in the main hall.

Roof repairs and improvements were undertaken to rectify storm damage and reduce risk to the public from potentially insecure elements. A feasibility study was undertaken to investigate installation of a lift to the first floor, and structural options were investigated with a view to opening up the Annex ground floor.

5.4.2 Abbey Road

Since the permanent move from Abbey Road to the Salthouse Pavilion in 2019 the Leadership Team has been actively exploring options for the use of the Abbey Road building. It remains a valuable property asset. SMCF agreed a lease with a national firm of funeral directors. The lessors carried out improvements to the property with permission from SMCF which enhanced the building and allowed for use as a funeral business.



5.5 Media

The website www.springmount.church was developed and maintained by Naomi Chad. It provides sophisticated content to showcase and advertise the work of the church. All activities are listed and described together with links to newsletters, videos, and articles. All services and sermons are available to download or watch via podcast. Links are available to contact the church leadership team. There are links to the church Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. An email account is given to the leadership team and other key church workers to send and receive church related email.

The pandemic led to a rapid shift towards new ways of connecting with church via online media. These continued to be offered after physical meeting became possible again. The Sunday morning services were broadcast live via YouTube, Facebook and then the recorded service could also be accessed via the church website afterwards. The recorded service was also distributed via CD to those who could not access the service via online formats. We have found that we have connected with people who would not have otherwise attended the church physically. There are now groups which meet exclusively online which gives people who cannot attend in person the option of still being a part of a group.

5.6 External Prayer and Financial Support

UGANDA - SMCF also continued to have strong links with Blessed Hill school and orphanage in Kampala, Uganda (Ref: 9.8). In June a group of six people from the church led by Alan and Hilly Docker visited and took provisions and met the orphans and teachers. The trip galvanised more support within the church for further fund-raising initiative such as buying bricks for £1 each to help finance a new building project at the school.

ROMANIA - through the "Boxes of Hope, Cumbria" charity (ref: 9.9). An appeal for shoeboxes (filled with gifts for children) in the run-up to Christmas saw approximately 150 given by members of SMCF. In December Shirley Waters and Alison Hardingham went to Romania to help with the distribution of the shoeboxes and to meet children and volunteers. They also met many Ukrainian refugees both inside Romania and on a trip across the border to Ukraine. They were able to distribute some shoeboxes to Ukrainian children.

PERSECUTED CHURCH - SMCF continued to support the persecuted church through the charity "Open Doors" (ref: 9.10).

LIFECENTRE SALFORD - SMCF continued regular financial support to Salford's Lifecentre Church's Youth Worker project. This is seen as a token of gratitude for Lifecentre's support to Spring Mount and a tangible demonstration of standing alongside a church with similar objectives to Spring Mount (Ref: 9.12).

OTHER - SMCF continued to support Capernwray (local Bible College) (Ref: 9.11) and Dan Randal working for HOPE Together (Ref: 9.13). Dan spent his teenage years at Spring Mount growing in the Christian faith.

SMCF members also contributed gifts towards relief work associated with the outbreak of war in Ukraine. The gifts were directed via Passion for Jesus who had existing links with churches in the area and who could use the gifts effectively to support people displaced by the Russian invasion.

6. Risk

6.1 Insurance

Insurance has been reviewed. Insurance includes public and employer's liability for all church activities including the housing project.

The Missing Document Insurance policy purchased during the acquisition of the Pavilion was for a one-off premium and remains in force with no need for renewal.

Landlord's property insurance has been taken out to cover risks associated with letting out the Abbey Road building.

The copyright licenses have been reviewed and renewed.

6.2 Policies

All policies are maintained and reviewed annually.

- The Child Protection Policy. Spring Mount is a member of Thirtyone-eight (formally Churches Child Protection Advisory Service). Membership of this enables access to consultancy, training, DBS checks and a 24-hour helpline.
- The Vulnerable Adults Policy was maintained.
- The Health and Safety Policy was maintained.

- Data Protection Policy to ensure all data held and shared followed General Data Protection Regulations.

6.3 Buildings (including Security)

The Health and Safety File compiled during the Salthouse Pavilion refurbishment works is maintained as a live file in compliance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

The asbestos survey undertaken in 2015 provides the basis for an on-going asbestos register to manage remaining asbestos. No alterations have been required to the asbestos register.

The Pavilion alarms (fire and intruder) are actively managed and maintained.

6.4 Planned Maintenance

Appliances and equipment (including fire extinguishers) have been serviced and maintained as appropriate.

Portable Electrical Appliance testing (PAT) has been undertaken by SMCF members who have been trained to undertake the testing.

6.5 Financial

See Section 7 Financial Review below for comment on loan liabilities.

7. Financial Review

7.1 Policy

All regular income is by way of voluntary gifts and donations.

The Trustees appreciate the government's Gift Aid scheme and encourages gifts to be made using this means. Gift Aid Claims to HMRC are made on an annual basis. The return to in-person meetings following the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions has resulted in an increase of cash gifts and this has in turn facilitated a gift top top-up using the government's Gift Aid on Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

The second £9,000 of a three-year grant (for £27,000) for the ongoing work of CAP was received and a further £10,000 grant was secured, all as described in section 5.3.3.

No new loans were taken out during 2022. Repayment of loans was as follows:

- Secured loan (Methodist Chapel Aid Ltd): Regular monthly repayments continued, all in accordance with the conditions of the loan.
- Interest free un-secured loans: £17,700 was repaid in 2022 which cleared the balance on all Interest free loans.

Grants from Keswick2Barrow Committee are appreciated. The May 2020 K2B and C2B walks were postponed to Sept 2021 due the Covid-19 pandemic and £693 was received in January 2022 following SMCF's participation in the Sept 2021 event. £1,571 was received in December as a result of Spring Mount participation in the May 2022 walks.

Income is used for general running expenses, the Salthouse Pavilion refurbishment project, and grants which are made to Christian UK organisations who work both locally and abroad, based on perceived need, in accordance with SMCF's objectives.

SMCF continues to meet all on-going financial commitments as a going concern.

7.2 Independent Examination

SMCF's accounts were subject to Independent Examination. Building on experience gained during previous examinations (which were first conducted for the year 2007 to 2008), a local firm of Chartered Accountants with experience in the charity sector (R F Miller & Co) undertook the Examination. The Examination was successfully concluded and found the accounts to be compliant with regulatory requirements.

7.3 Bankers

SMCF continues to use Barclays Bank PLC, 86-90 Dalton Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 1JH.

8. Declaration

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

Signed for on behalf of the SMCF Trustees:

Signature:

Full name: Tim Baalham

Position: Trustee

Date:

9. Appendix: Charities with Links to Spring Mount

9.1 The Walney Community Trust (WCT) has close ties to SMCF. It is led by Alan Docker (also a member of SMCF Leadership Team) with the vision of serving the community of Walney. Ros Harrison is employed to co-ordinate the work on Walney Island. It also employs community and youth workers to provide youth clubs, courses and community activities throughout the week. Whilst independent organisations, the WCT links with SMCF activities such that both charities can benefit from each other. Some of the trustees for the charity are also a part of Spring Mount Church.

9.2 Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a nationally recognised charity started in Bradford in the 1990s which seeks to help people in poverty by giving debt advice to clients referred to them. It seeks to address the root causes of poverty and provide practical financial advice and help to those in need. It provides help to all who request it irrespective of their faith, however, CAP is a Christian charity which seeks to ultimately assist with a holistic solution to a person's problems.

The debt manager sets up appointments to meet with potential clients and together with a "befriender" will seek to build a trusting relationship with the client. The details of the client's financial situation are then passed to experts at CAP central office in Bradford who will identify a strategy to assist the client to become debt free. On subsequent visits they will pass on that plan and, if the client accepts it, CAP will support the client in following that new path. The befriender is there as an on-going moral support for the client throughout the whole process to financial independence. This model has been successfully used for 20 years throughout the UK by CAP.

9.3 Green Pastures is a national Christian social enterprise that provides homes for the homeless and those in most need. The successful model adopted by Green Pastures is that they purchase a suitable property, in consultation with the partner church and provide the financial resources needed. The partner church then manages the day to day running and maintenance of the property, renting it exclusively to homeless people or those in real need of emergency accommodation. The church administers the rent collection and deals with the local authorities or other agencies. This pays the lease of the property to Green Pastures. The tenant is required to engage in activity through the church each week as part of their agreement. In the case of SMCF, this will be through taking CAP courses, volunteering and being mentored. This supervised activity allows the individual to get the help they need, turn their life around and find community within the wider church.

9.4 StreetGames is an organisation which uses the power of sport to create positive change in the lives of disadvantaged young people across the UK. It helps make young people and their communities healthier, safer and more successful.

9.5 Anna Chaplaincy is a way of supporting older people emotionally and spiritually. It seeks to particularly support those with dementia. It operates across the UK with churches and is run by the Christian charity BRF whose vision is to enable people of all ages to grow in faith and understanding of the Bible and to see more people equipped to exercise their gifts in leadership and ministry.

9.6 Street Angels is an initiative partnered through Cumbria Police in which volunteers help in the town centre on Saturday nights. The teams of volunteers comprising individuals from various Barrow churches give assistance and help to those who are exiting the pubs and clubs and are often in a vulnerable state due to alcohol consumption.

9.7 Barrow Foodbank is operated by the local churches to respond to and provide emergency food parcels to those in desperate need. It forms part of a national network of foodbanks linked to the Trussell Trust.

9.8 Blessed Hill Children's Centre is a Christian based organisation which runs an orphanage and school in Kampala, Uganda. Close ties have been built up and maintained between it and Spring Mount Church. Regular support is provided through a £6/month scheme (commenced in 2011) which provides enough money to feed all the children at Blessed Hill every day. The scheme has continued through the current year with regular gifts to support the school/orphanage. Fund raising events for the Uganda projects included a garden party at the home of Alan and Hilly Docker in Barrow.

9.9 Boxes of Hope Cumbria is an organisation which distributes seasonal aid to needy children around the world, including Romania. It also provides other support to dis-advantaged children.

9.10 Open Doors International is an organisation serving and raising awareness of the persecuted church across the world. It seeks to help Christians on the ground in these countries as well as mobilising the UK church to support and pray for Christians under religious persecution. Spring Mount Church supported their regular initiatives and encouraged regular prayer meetings for them.

9.11 Capernwray is a bible college based near Carnforth. SMCF has benefited in previous years from college staff speaking at SMCF and from bible courses at the college.

9.12 Lifecentre, Salford is part of Langworthy community church, a small church plant on an estate with great social challenges. As a church they model a community-based approach and Spring Mount has benefitted greatly from their advice and example as we have tried to work in our similar communities.

9.13 HOPE Together seeks to empower the global church and local leaders to make Jesus known in word and action.

Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of
Spring Mount Christian Fellowship



I report on the accounts of Spring Mount Christian Fellowship for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 21 to 22.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this Period 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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 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 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 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 Acthave 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Newsham'.

Mr P Newsham
R F Miller & Co
Chartered Accountants
Bellevue
Ulverston
Cumbria LA12 7NB

Bellevue, Prince's Street, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7NB Tel 01229 582149
117 Duke Street, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 1XA Tel 01229 820003
email ulverston@rfm-more.co.uk | barrow@rfm-more.co.uk rfm-more.co.uk

Partners: Paul Newsham ACA, Alan Meikle BA (Hons) FCA

Spring Mount Christian Fellowship

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds 2022		Unrestricted Funds 2021	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Voluntary Income				
Grants and Donations	95,164		53,786	
Offerings	134,628		121,386	
Specified gifts	20,818		8,740	
Housing Project	10,797		18,967	
Auxiliaries	125		150	
Misc	1,939		286	
		263,470		203,315
Activities for generating funds				
Rentals	24,312		320	
Events	-		108.00	
		24,312		428
Investment Income				
Interest received		47	2	2
		287,829		203,745
Resources expended				
Governance costs				
Professional fees	1,234		3,277	
		1,234		3,277
Other resources expended				
Rates & water	2,790		2,340	
Heat & Light	6,351		4,946	
Telephone	396		278	
Insurance	2,206		1,919	
Speaker's expenses & gifts	1,170		470	
Sunday School	196		35	
Printing, Postage, Stationary & Website costs	843		748	
Training & Courses	345		575	
Catering	389		238	
Freedom in Christ	180		180	
Personnel related costs	73,694		64,793	
Support gifts	82,846		54,900	
Event Costs	62		19	
Bank Charges	363		169	
Consumables	525		35	
Miscellaneous	597		2,749	
Depreciation	17,106		-	
Housing Project Costs	12,025		13,778	
Pavillion costs	63,420		14,773	
Interest on loans	2,655		-	
Loan repayments (R&P last year)	-		48,164	
		268,160		211,108
		269,393		214,385
Excess of income over expenditure		18,436		(10,640)
Balance brought forward from previous year		50,327		60,967
Balance at end of year		68,763		50,327

Spring Mount Christian Fellowship

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Balance Sheet

at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds 2022		Unrestricted Funds 2021	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Property		1,581,060		1,581,060
Fixtures & Fittings		17,960		31,807
Appliances		1,574		2,098
Projectors		7,602		9,136
Computer Equipment		1,815		2,420
Audio Equipment		13,788		20,069
Total fixed assets		<u>1,623,798</u>		<u>1,646,589</u>
Current assets				
Debtors			-	
Prepayments		1,089	-	
VAT			-	
Other Assets				
Gift Aid	11,429		13,696	
Keswick to Barrow			693	
GASD3	808		-	
		<u>12,237</u>		<u>14,389</u>
Investments				
		-		-
Cash at bank				
Current account		35,477		38,101
Savings account		<u>19,837</u>		<u>12,226</u>
Total current assets		<u>68,639</u>		<u>64,716</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
Loans		79,966		112,174
Accruals		597		564
PAYE		1,283		995
Pension		359		
Creditors		-		-
Net assets		<u>1,610,233</u>		<u>1,597,572</u>
Represented by				
Funds of the charity				
Unrestricted funds				
As at 31 December 2022	1,597,572		60,967	
Add: Net assets (first completion of balance sheet)	(5,775)		1,547,245	
Add Excess of income over expenditure for the year	18,436		(10,640)	
Total funds as at 31 December 2022		<u>1,610,233</u>		<u>1,597,572</u>

I approve the financial information.

I acknowledge my responsibility for the financial information, including the appropriateness of the accounting basis as set out and for providing R F Miller & Co with all the information and explanations necessary for its completion.

The financial information was approved on

Signed _____