

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1165151

Details

Other names	FRANCIS ROAD EVANGELICAL CHURCH, THE ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-01-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Ashford Community Church
Gospel Hall
Francis Road
Ashford
Kent
TN23 7UR

Phone 07547226670

Email info@ashfordcommunitychurch.com

Website www.ashfordcommunitychurch.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO IN ASHFORD AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 AND SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008

Activities: Services of Christian worship and instruction, Bible study groups, Ladies Fellowship, Coffee and chat for vulnerable people,

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£80,057	£60,457	-	-
2023-12-31	£74,564	£71,814	-	-
2022-12-31	£58,720	£54,618	-	-
2021-12-31	£49,040	£46,977	-	-
2020-12-31	£85,039	£54,034	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BRIAN HENRY CARTER	Chair	2023-06-13
Barry James Andrews		2025-10-14
Christopher Mark Hill		2022-07-05
Geoffrey Stephen Gould		2026-01-04
MAUREEN HULBERT B.A.HONS		2015-12-13
Miriam Moucher		2023-06-13
Oleksandr Trokhymenko		2024-02-26

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1165151

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1st	Jan	2024		31st	Dec	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) **1165151**

Charity's principal address **Francis Road**
ASHFORD
Kent
TN23 7UR

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	Gill Adsett			
2	Ernest Bate			
3	Brian Carter	Chair		
4	Owen Darling		Deceased 20/08/24	
5	Chris Hill			
6	Maureen Hulbert			
7	Priya Moucher			
8	Susan Trokhymenko	Treasurer		
9	Afonorunsho Fatola		From 22/03/24	
10	Oleksandr Trokhymenko		From 25/03/24	

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
None	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	Roger Hughes	Wayside, Forge Hill, ALDINGTON, Kent TN25 7DT
Solicitor	Hallett & Co	11 Bank Street, ASHFORD, Kent TN23 1DA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

We are: members of the Evangelical Alliance

registered with the Information Commissioner's Office
(reg. no. ZA400221) <https://ico.org.uk>

members of Partnership UK <https://partnershipuk.org>

subscribers to Stewardship Consultancy Helpline
<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/about-us/about-us-1>

Our Pastor is a member of the Ashford Pastors' Fellowship which forms the leadership core of Churches Together in Ashford.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Our object is to advance the Christian Faith for the public benefit in accordance with our statement of beliefs (see Section F of this report).

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have been conscious of the need to carry out our purposes for the public benefit and have had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

We believe that the Christian Faith provides guidelines for living that are good for the individual and for society in general. A Living Faith in Jesus Christ provides the strength and peace of mind to follow these guidelines and to live a useful life. ('His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...' 2 Peter 1 v 3a).

The numbers of those attending our Sunday morning service have

continually been increasing. We are particularly pleased to welcome families from many different ethnicities and allowing us to provide Christian teaching to a thriving group of children.

With an updated audio visual system we reach a wider audience through broadcasting our Sunday service livestream on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@AshfordCommunityChurchUK/streams>) and other meetings via Microsoft Teams, allowing more people to “attend”.

We are a church family who care for each other and for those around us in the community. We reach out to bring the Christian message of loving and caring to our neighbours and more widely in the town of Ashford. We proudly proclaim a large ‘Try Praying’ banner on the front of our building and distribute free booklets from this national initiative.

Members of our church serve as Street Pastors in Ashford Town Centre and as Chaplains at the Outlet Centre.

We provide the only Men’s Clothing Bank in Ashford and regularly take members donations to the Ashford Food Bank. We have a clothing recycling container outside the church and also a wall-mounted defibrillator for public use.

We support Missionary and Relief Organisations financially and give loans or one-off gifts to individuals in need.

The church buildings are widely used during the week for a wide range of church activities and by other organisations. Details of the year’s activities are recorded in Section D.

During 2024 the work on the new mezzanine floor in the church was completed with replacement lower front windows and the construction of a wall and door to the storage area. New shades have been provided for the lighting in the main hall,

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

Most of the activities held in our church use volunteers.
Ashford Borough Council employees use the premises for national and local elections.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The regular meetings that are held in our church buildings are listed below:

- **SUNDAY:**
 - Between 60 and 70 people each week meeting in the Main Hall, or joining us on YouTube and TEAMS. We continue to broadcast our Sunday Services on our YouTube channel. This gives the opportunity for those to watch “live” or “after the event” who have been unable to attend the meeting in person. We know for a fact that people from around the country and abroad take delight in regularly watching our services.
 - **WORSHIP** – Praying, singing, preaching and teaching. All these are aspects of our worship on a Sunday. Our Worship Team now as a Music Leader and has been strengthened with new singers and players. Our Prayer team members are available to meet with people at the end of the service in our new Prayer Room.
 - **TEACHING SERIES** – The focus of teaching this year has been two “Visions for 2024”. The first was a call for ALL to “Step up to the mark” to embrace a calling to serve the church in any way they can – from preaching and leading to clearing up and making coffee. This was a preparation for our pastor going away for a three-month Sabbatical. The second theme was “The New Wave” – a call to return to the simplicity and purity of how the church was always meant to be – a call to follow Jesus as His disciples and to become “fishers of men”. Side by side with this theme has been the “Spiritual Disciplines” and a Christmas series entitled “Trust and Obey”.

- Although our pastor led most of the teaching, we have been blessed by many internal and outside guest speakers this year as well – allowing the church to continue to grow during the Sabbatical months.
- SUNDAY CLUB AND CHILDREN'S WORK – It has been wonderful to see the Sunday Club growing further this year. We have a rota of willing and able helpers to teach and guide our increasing band of children both in the middle and the larger rear hall. The year ended with their wonderful Nativity Presentation.
- MONDAY:
 - U3A – have been using the church for play reading once a month.
- TUESDAY:
 - OPEN ARMS – this organisation has grown almost weekly in their outreach to the homeless and vulnerable this year – we are privileged to work alongside them in the church. From the last quarter of the year they have closed down their work as they prepare for a new season of service – we hope again to be in our church building.
 - For most of 2024 the Music Team rehearsed in the building on a Tuesday. This has now been transferred to a Sunday morning – far more effective in preparing for the service.
- WEDNESDAY:
 - WEIGHT-WATCHERS – continue to use our building on a Wednesday morning.
 - SUPACOOKS – In co-operation with Ashford Together and Pneuma Church, we set up a basic cooking course for the needy in the community. Courses, running for 6 weeks at a time, were supported using the church premises until July.
 - U3A have been using the main hall for “Modern Jive” dancing every week in six week blocks.
 - HOUSEGROUPS AND MONTHLY SUPERGROUP – We now have 3 groups – known as “Early Birds”, “Night Owls” and “Ardent Doves” that meet in person and online. The last Wednesday of each month has been set aside for our “Supergroup” in the church building studying the “Grace Course” from Freedom in Christ.
- THURSDAY:
 - BIBLE STUDY – A committed group meet fortnightly face-to-face and have enjoyed a number of studies as well as social time together.
 - The “Ukrainian Singers” have used the church on a Thursday to rehearse their wonderful music. This has now changed to a Wednesday in the rear hall.
 - East Kent Chorus practice in our building on a Thursday. Small sections of the EKC have been using the building to rehearse on a Wednesday as well.

Section D

Achievements and performance

- FRIDAY:
 - REVIVAL PRAYER - Our belief in the power of prayer to bring revival to this area. Driven by “Prayer Points” we meet both in person (in the church) and on TEAMS.
 - U3A – sing their hearts out on a Friday
 - LADIES’ FELLOWSHIP – meet fortnightly for a time of great joy and challenge for our ladies.
 - PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS – The young adults in our church meet together at Church House on alternate Fridays. They completed the “Disciple” course this year and have moved on to looking at Hot Topics, talking openly together while enjoying pizza.
 - MASH – A joint meeting of teenagers of ACC and Pneuma church exploring their faith
 - Increasingly the Ukrainian community have been using our church building for socials on a Friday evening.
- SATURDAY:
 - KHARIS CHURCH – We are delighted to now have Kharis Church – a national movement – meeting in our rear hall on a weekly basis. They work hard to bring the Gospel to the unchurched through their street evangelism.

The church has also sponsored events held in the church for various charities:

- Coffee morning for Pro-Life movement
- Coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care
- Big Quiz night for Tearfund
- Christmas Shoeboxes for Samaritans’ Purse

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

Our policy is to retain sufficient reserves:

- To ensure that the Church has sufficient funds to meet its financial commitments;
- To ensure that the Church is able to manage future unforeseen financial difficulties;
- To ensure that excessive funds are not held without an identifiable reason or purpose.
- We hold a reserve of £25,000 to cover six months wages and salaries and major unexpected items up to £10,000.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

Most of our funds come from members’ donations. We received two grants towards specific projects aimed at helping the local community. Our regular income has been increasing throughout the year. The large

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

legacy, earmarked for projects the church family feel would be in line with the donors' wishes, has now been spent on them. We are actively planning to use our finances to improve the church's facilities, including upgrading the carpark.

Section F Other optional information

As part of our church's constitution, we affirm the Evangelical Alliance statement of faith:

- 1 The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- 2 The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
- 3 The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
- 4 The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
- 5 The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the Virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
- 6 The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
- 7 The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first-fruits of our resurrection; His ascension to the Father, and His reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
- 8 The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God and faith in Jesus Christ.
- 9 The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
- 10 The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
- 11 The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfill the purposes of God who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and a new earth.

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Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
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Full name(s)		
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
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Date	
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ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

ROGER A HUGHES LTD
TAXATION CONSULTANTS
ALDINGTON
ASHFORD KENT
TN25 7DT

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
Church and Buildings	478,135	478,135	478,135	478,135
<u>Tangible assets</u>				
Plant and Equipment				
Brought forward	13,180		13,180	
Additions	<u>0</u>			
	13,180			
Depreciation brought forward	13,180		11,862	
Depreciation charged in the year			1,318	
Carried forward	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0
<u>Fixtures and fittings</u>				
Brought forward	10,288			
Additions	<u>0</u>			
	10,288		21,424	
<u>Less</u>				
Depreciation brought forward				
Depreciation charged in the year	<u>5,661</u>			
Carried forward	<u>4,627</u>	<u>4,627</u>	<u>10,288</u>	<u>10,288</u>
		482,762		488,423
<u>Current assets</u>				
Business Reserve Account	1,020		1005	
Current account - Closed in the year	584		26,414	
Current account - Opened in the year	18,705		14263	
	40,971		0	
Pastor Emergency Imprest	200		200	
Restricted funds	(356)		(356)	
	<u>61,124</u>	<u>61,124</u>	<u>41,526</u>	<u>41,526</u>
		<u>543,886</u>		<u>40,521</u>
		<u>543,886</u>		<u>529,949</u>
<u>Represented by</u>				
Balance brought forward		531,094		531,094
Less special fund		<u>1,145</u>		
		529,949		
<u>Add excess of income over expenditure(Loss)</u>		<u>13,939</u>		<u>-1,145</u>
<u>Balance carried forward</u>		<u>543,888</u>		<u>529,949</u>

Ashford Community Church

Statement of income and expenditure year ended 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
<u>Receipts</u>		
Tithes	60881	59909
Gift aid	10485	11747
Rent	6778	2504
Other income	925	396
Interest	<u>988</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>80057</u>	<u>74565</u>
<u>Less Expenditure</u>		
Salaries	30332	29267
Ministerial expenses	797	1450
Accountancy/Professional fees	1105	480
Utilities	5411	5158
PPS	37	54
Insurance	826	1450
Licence fees	1282	1274
Activities	1159	880
Telephone	422	461
Overseas Mission	1454	5567
Home Mission	1730	2878
Church family	760	500
Speakers gifts	100	89
Church Maintenance	8991	10531
"Other expenditure"	3380	3725
Subscriptions	<u>289</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u>58075</u>	<u>63914</u>
	21982	10651
<u>Church House Costs</u>		
Maintenance	300	96
Utilities including rates	1832	1741
Insurance	250	252
	2382	<u>2089</u>
	<u>2382</u>	<u>2089</u>
<u>Excess of income over expenditure</u>	19600	8562
Less		
Depreciation of assets	<u>5661</u>	<u>7902</u>
<u>Balance carried forward</u>	<u>13939</u>	<u>660</u>

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT.

I report on the accounts of the Trustees of Ashford Community Church for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on attached pages.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER.

As the Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of sections 43(7)(b) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state based on procedures specified in the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT.

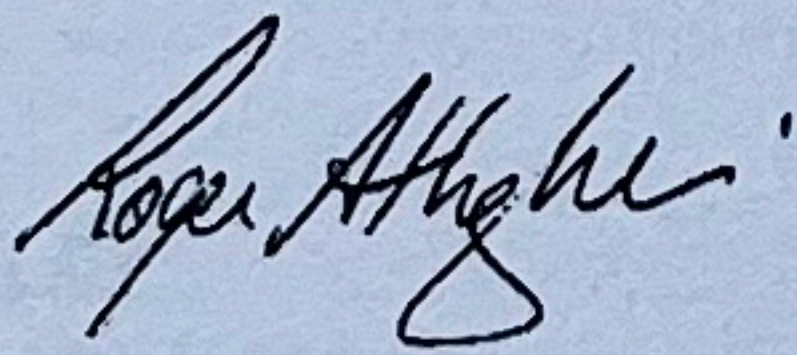
My examination was conducted in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioner. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the account and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 41 of the Act, and to prepare accounts, which accord with the accounting records, and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met.
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Roger A. Hughes



14th May 2025

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

ROGER A HUGHES LTD
TAXATION CONSULTANTS
ALDINGTON
ASHFORD KENT
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ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

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BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT.

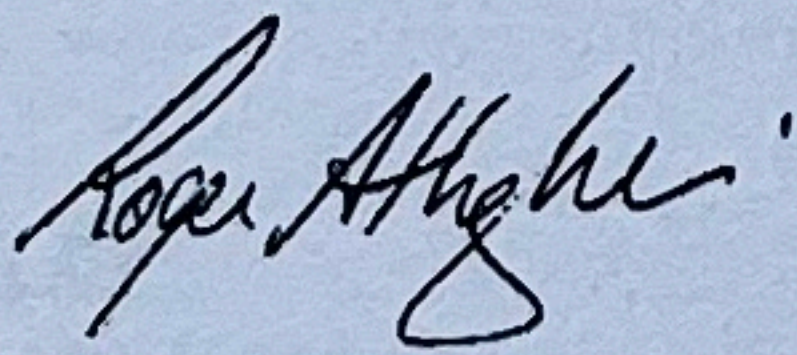
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT.

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Roger A. Hughes



14th May 2025

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1165151

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period					
From	Period start date		To	Period end date	
1 st	January	2023	31 st	December	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1165151

Charity's principal address

Francis Road

ASHFORD

Kent

Postcode TN23 7UR

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	Gill Adsett			
2	Ernest Bate			
3	Owen Darling	Chair		
4	Chris Hill			
6	Maureen Hulbert	Treasurer		
7	Susanne Trokhymenko		From 13 June 2023 to present	
8	Priya Mouncher		From 13 June 2023 to present	
9	Brian Carter		From 13 June 2023 to present	

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	Roger Hughes	Wayside, Forge Hill, ALDINGTON, Kent TN25 7DT
Solicitor		Hallett & Co, 11 Bank Street, ASHFORD, Kent TN23 1DA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution.

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by existing Trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

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- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
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We are: members of the Evangelical Alliance

registered with the Information Commissioner's Office
(reg. no. ZA400221) <https://ico.org.uk>

members of Partnership UK <https://partnershipuk.org>

subscribers to Stewardship Consultancy Helpline
<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/about-us/about-us-1>

Our Pastor is a member of the Ashford Pastors' Fellowship which forms the leadership core of Churches Together in Ashford.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Our object is to advance the Christian Faith for the public benefit in accordance with our statement of beliefs (see section F of this report).

The Trustees have been conscious of the need to carry out our purposes for the public benefit and have had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

We believe that the Christian Faith provides guidelines for living that are good for the individual and for society in general. A Living Faith in Jesus Christ provides the strength and peace of mind to follow these guidelines and to live a useful life. ('His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...' 2 Peter 1 v 3a).

The numbers of those attending our Sunday morning service have continually been increasing since all Covid restrictions were lifted. We are particularly pleased to welcome families from many different ethnicities and allowing us to provide Christian teaching to a thriving group of children.

With an updated audio visual system we reach a wider audience through broadcasting our Sunday service livestream on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@AshfordCommunityChurchUK/streams>) and other meetings via Microsoft Teams, allowing more people to "attend".

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

We are a church family who care for each other and for those around us in the community. We reach out to bring the Christian message of loving and caring to our neighbours and more widely in the town of Ashford. We proudly proclaim a large 'Try Praying' banner on the front of our building and distribute free booklets from this national initiative.

We provide the only Men's Clothing Bank in Ashford and regularly take members donations to the Ashford Food Bank.

We support Missionary and Relief Organisations financially and give loans or one-off gifts to individuals in need.

The church buildings are widely used during the week for a wide range of church activities and by other organisations. Details of the year's activities are recorded in Section D.

During 2023 the mezzanine floor in the church housing the sound/video desk and the Prayer Room have been completed from the benefit of bequests left to the church. We have also purchased a new set of chairs for the church and main hall. The chairs replaced have been gifted to a new church set up in the town.

We have this year purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which is mounted on the front of the church building for public access through the emergency services.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant-making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Most of the activities held in our church use volunteers. Ashford Borough Council employees use the premises for national and local elections.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The regular meetings that are held in our church buildings are listed below:

- SUNDAY:
 - Between 50 and 60 people each week meeting in the Main Hall, watching in the Middle Hall (for those who wish or need to remain socially distanced and "masked"), or joining us on YouTube and TEAMS. We continue to broadcast our Sunday Services on our YouTube channel. This gives the opportunity for those to watch "live" or "after the event" who have been unable to attend the meeting in person. We know for a fact that people from around the country and abroad take delight in regularly watching our services.
 - WORSHIP – Praying, singing, preaching and teaching. All these are aspects of our worship on a Sunday. Our beautiful Prayer Room is now fully functional – with a powerful Prayer Team who are available to meet with people at the end of the service. Our Worship Team has seen has been strengthened by two new singers.
 - TEACHING SERIES – The focus of teaching this year, as already seen, has been to face up to "Tough Questions" on what we believe so that we can "stand firm" against the tide of societal change which is demanding that we accept things that we do not believe in. This naturally developed, after September, into a series on Jesus' "Manifesto of Kingdom Living" as expounded in the Sermon on the Mount. The year ended with a month-long series on "Christmas on Trial – where is the Hope of the Nations?"

- SUNDAY CLUB AND CHILDREN'S WORK – It has been wonderful to see the Sunday Club growing this year. We have a rota of willing and able helpers to teach and guide our increasing band of children in the rear hall.
- MONDAY:
 - U3A – have been using the church for play reading.
- TUESDAY:
 - OPEN ARMS – this organisation has grown almost weekly in their outreach to the homeless and vulnerable this year – we are privileged to work alongside them in the church.
 - WARM SPACES – With a grant from Ashford Borough Council the church was able to provide a “warm space” to the community on a Tuesday afternoon between 1 and 5 pm and offered soup and rolls, games and fellowship, as well as warmth. A good number of people made use of the facility continued up to Easter.
 - CONNECT – takes place on alternate Tuesday evenings – providing a social venue for those in the community, aged 16+, who have learning difficulties. Although it has been slow in uptake, this is an outreach to the community that we believe is going to go from strength to strength.
- WEDNESDAY:
 - WEIGHT-WATCHERS – continue to use our building on a Wednesday morning.
 - SUPACOOKS – In co-operation with Ashford Together and Pneuma Church, we have set up a basic cooking course for the needy in the community. Courses, running for 6 weeks at a time, have been supported throughout the year.
 - HOUSEGROUPS AND MONTHLY SUPERGROUP – We now have 2 groups – known as “Early Birds” and “Night Owls” that meet in person and online. The last Wednesday of each month has been set aside for our “Supergroup” in the church building.
- THURSDAY:
 - BIBLE STUDY – A committed group meet fortnightly face-to-face and have enjoyed a number of studies as well as social time together.
 - The “Ukrainian Singers” have begun to use the church on a Thursday to rehearse their wonderful music.
 - East Kent Chorus practice in our building on a Thursday. Small sections of the EKC have been using the building to rehearse on

a Wednesday as well.

- WORSHIP PRACTICE – this remains open to not only the Worship Team but all who would like to come along and sing.

- FRIDAY:

- REVIVAL PRAYER - Our belief in the power of prayer to bring revival to this area. Driven by "Prayer Points" we meet both in person (in the church) and on TEAMS.
- U3A – sing their hearts out on a Friday
- LADIES' FELLOWSHIP – meet fortnightly for a time of great joy and challenge for our ladies.
- PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS – The young adults in our church meet together at Church House on alternate Fridays. Completed the "Disciple" course this year and have moved on to looking at Hot Topics, talking openly together while enjoying pizza.
- Increasingly the Ukrainian community have been using our church building for socials on a Friday evening.
- STREET PASTORS – Three of our number are full-committed to this challenging outreach of care to the community during often very-cold Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

- SATURDAY:

- KHARIS CHURCH – We are delighted to be now have Kharis Church – a national movement – meeting in our rear hall on a weekly basis. They work hard to bring the Gospel to the unchurched through their street evangelism.

The church has also sponsored events held in the church for various charities:

- Coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care
- Big Quiz night for Tearfund
- Christmas Shoeboxes for Samaritans' Purse

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our policy is to retain sufficient reserves:

- To ensure that the Church has sufficient funds to meet its financial commitments;
- To ensure that the Church is able to manage future unforeseen financial difficulties;

- To ensure that excessive funds are not held without an identifiable reason or purpose.
- We hold a reserve of £24,000 to cover six months wages and salaries and major unexpected items up to £10,000.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Most of our funds come from members' donations. We received two grants towards specific projects aimed at helping the local community. Our regular income has been increasing throughout the year. The large legacy, earmarked for projects the church family feel would be in line with the donors' wishes, has now been spent on them. Our bank balance is slowly increasing. This will allow the leadership some freedom to decide which areas of activity to develop next.

Section F Other optional information

What we believe in:

- 1 The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- 2 The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
- 3 The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
- 4 The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine judgement.
- 5 The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the Virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
- 6 The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin

and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.

7 The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first-fruits of our resurrection; His ascension to the Father, and His reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.

8 The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God and faith in Jesus Christ.

9 The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.

10 The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.

11 The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfill the purposes of God who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and a new earth.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	E. M. Bate	OUSDvking
Full name(s)	ERNEST M. BATE	OWEN HENRY DARLING
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR OF MEETING	Trustee
Date	7th APRIL 2024.	

Ashford Community Church
 Profit And Loss Account
 For the year ended 31 December 2023

		2023 £	2022 £
Income	Designated Clothing Bank	100	-
	Designated Shoebox	95	30
	Gift Aid from HMRC	11,747	9,566
	Interest receivable	9	1
	Offerings - Bank Gift aid	37,663	-
	Offerings - Bank not Gift aid	9,102	35,336
	Offerings - Cash - Gift Aid	4,952	-
	Offerings - Cash - not Gift Aid	4,387	7,315
	Offerings - Special	1,965	3,117
	Other charity income	1,870	60
	People in need	200	-
Rent of church facilities	2,504	3,030	
		<u>74,565</u>	<u>58,455</u>
Expenses	Accountancy fees	(480)	(1,237)
	Advertising and PR	(1,544)	(1,430)
	Church Activities - refreshments	(880)	(630)
	Church Family in need	(500)	(2,997)
	Church utilities, water, light, heat	(5,158)	(14)
	Connect	-	(4,461)
	Depreciation	(7,993)	-
	Designated Clothing Bank	(62)	-
	Information and publications	(166)	(1,269)
	Insurance	(1,450)	-
	Licence fees	(1,274)	(4,215)
	Missions - Home	(2,878)	(4,819)
	Missions - Overseas	(5,567)	(1,378)
	Pastor expenses	(1,450)	(38)
	Postage	(48)	(2,119)
	Prayer Room	(1,317)	(5,824)
	Repairs and maintenance	(10,531)	(332)
	Safeguarding (thirtyone eight) s	(542)	(404)
	Small equipment	-	(206)
	Speakers expenses and gifts	(88)	-
	Stationery and printing	(6)	(1,523)
Subscriptions	(150)	-	
Telephone and internet	(461)	-	
Wages and salaries	(29,267)	(24,619)	
		<u>(71,815)</u>	<u>(57,314)</u>
Church House	Church House insurance	(252)	(225)
	Church House maintenance	(96)	-
	Church House Rates	(1,426)	-
	Church House utilities	(315)	(1,987)
		<u>(2,089)</u>	<u>(2,211)</u>
Net profit/(loss)		<u>660</u>	<u>(1,070)</u>

Approved by Trustees
 26 Feb 2024 E.M. Pate

Ashford Community Church
 Balance Sheet
 As at 31 December 2023

		2023		2022
		£		£
FA - land and buildings	Cost - b/fwd	478,135		478,135
		<u>478,135</u>		<u>478,135</u>
FA - plant and machin	Cost - b/fwd	13,180		13,180
	Depn - b/fwd	(11,862)		(11,862)
	Depn - charge	(1,318)		-
		<u>-</u>		<u>1,318</u>
FA - equipment, fixture	Cost - b/fwd	13,383		-
	Cost - additions	8,041		13,383
	Depn - b/fwd	(4,481)		-
	Depn - charge	(6,675)		(4,481)
		<u>10,288</u>		<u>8,922</u>
Bank	Business Reserve Account	1,005		-
	Current account - Old FREC	26,414		43,340
	Current acc't NEW ACC 56963	14,263		-
	Deposit account	-		506
	Pastor Emergency Imprest	200		-
	Restricted funds	(358)		(392)
		<u>41,526</u>		<u>43,454</u>
		529,949		531,829
Net assets		<u>529,949</u>		<u>531,829</u>
		£		£
Trustees funds	Church funds	531,094		531,094
	Special fund	-		2,541
		531,094		533,634
Profit and loss account	Brought forward	(1,805)		(735)
	Net profit/(loss)	660		(1,070)
		(1,145)		(1,805)
Total funds		<u>529,949</u>		<u>531,829</u>

Approved by Trustees

26 Feb 2024

E.M. Bate

Ashford Community Church
Profit And Loss Account
For the year ended 31 December 2023

09.30 29/1/2024

		2023 £		2022 £
Income	Designated Clothing Bank	100		-
	Designated Shoebox	95		30
	Gift Aid from HMRC	11,747		9,566
	Interest receivable	9		1
	Offerings - Bank Gift aid	36,728		-
	Offerings - Bank not Gift aid	10,037		35,336
	Offerings - Cash - Gift Aid	4,952		-
	Offerings - Cash - not Gift Aid	4,367		7,315
	Offerings - Special	1,955		3,117
	Other charity income	1,870		60
	People in need	200		-
	Rent of church facilities	2,504		3,030
			74,565	
Expenses	Accountancy fees	(480)		-
	Advertising and PR	(1,544)		(1,237)
	Church Activities - refreshment	(880)		(1,430)
	Church Family in need	(500)		(630)
	Church utilities, water, light, he Connect	(5,158)		(2,997)
	Depreciation	(7,993)		(4,461)
	Designated Clothing Bank	(62)		-
	Information and publications	(57)		-
	Insurance	(1,450)		(1,269)
	Licence fees	(185)		-
	Missions - Home	(2,878)		(4,215)
	Missions - Overseas	(5,567)		(4,619)
	Pastor expenses	(1,450)		(1,378)
	Postage	(48)		(38)
	Prayer Room	(1,317)		(2,119)
	Repairs and maintenance	(10,531)		(5,824)
	Safegurading (thirtyone eight),	(542)		(332)
	Small equipment	-		(404)
	Speakers expenses and gifts	(89)		(206)
	Stationery and printing	(6)		-
	Stewardship	(60)		-
	Subscriptions	(1,634)		(1,523)
	Telephone and internet	(115)		-
Wages and salaries	(29,363)		(24,619)	
		(71,911)		(57,314)
Church House	Church House insurance	(252)		(225)
	Church House Rates	(106)		-
	Church House utilities	(1,635)		(1,987)
		(1,993)		(2,211)
Net profit/(loss)		660		(1,070)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31ST DECEMBER 2023 **Charity no
(if any)** **1165151**

Set out on pages

1 - 2
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31ST DECEMBER 2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Roger Ashley Hughes

Date: 23 MARCH 2024

Name:

ROGER ASHLEY HUGHES

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICPA

Address:

WAYSIDE

FORGE HILL ALDINGTON
ASHFORD KENT

TN25 7DT

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1165151

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period					
From	Period start date		To	Period end date	
1 st	January	2022	31 st	December	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1165151

Charity's principal address

Francis Road

ASHFORD

Kent

Postcode TN23 7UR

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	Gill Adsett			
2	Ernest Bate			
3	Owen Darling	Chair		
4	Geoff Gould		1 st January 2022 to 8 th November 2022	
5	Chris Hill		From 5 th July 2022 to present time.	
6	Maureen Hulbert	Treasurer		

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	Roger Hughes	Wayside, Forge Hill, ALDINGTON, Kent TN25 7DT
Solicitor		Hallett & Co, 11 Bank Street, ASHFORD, Kent TN23 1DA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing Trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

We are: members of the Evangelical Alliance

registered with the Information Commissioner's Office
(reg. no. ZA400221) <https://ico.org.uk>

members of Partnership UK <https://partnershipuk.org>

subscribers to Stewardship Consultancy Helpline
<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/about-us/about-us-1>

Our Pastor is a member of the Ashford Pastors' Fellowship which forms the leadership core of Churches Together in Ashford.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Our object is to advance the Christian Faith for the public benefit in accordance with our statement of beliefs (see section F of this report).

The Trustees have been conscious of the need to carry out our purposes for the public benefit and have had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

We believe that the Christian Faith provides guidelines for living that are good for the individual and for society in general. A Living Faith in Jesus Christ provides the strength and peace of mind to follow these guidelines and to live a useful life. ('His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...' 2 Peter ch 1 v 3a).

As Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed our activities have been able to return to a more normal pattern. Public confidence in meeting in groups has increased, and people are coming to services in increasing numbers. Attendance at our Sunday service had almost reached pre-Covid numbers by the end of 2022. Community groups have returned too, and there has been increased interest in using our property for community activities. Increasing fuel costs have prompted us to apply for a council welfare grant to fund a 'Warm Space' which began in December and will run throughout the winter months until March 2023. A grant from Ashford Together has allowed us to prepare and equip the building for cooking classes to be run in conjunction with another church, beginning in 2023.

'Connect', a fortnightly group for those in the community aged 16+ with learning difficulties, began in May 2022.

Some of the changes resulting from Covid may never be dropped - for example, hand sanitisers and masks at both entrances and disinfecting materials and instructions in the toilets. There is still a 'Covid Conscious' room in which those who are shielding can follow and join in worship via a TV screen.

Our Audio Visual equipment has become even more sophisticated and a dedicated team broadcast our Sunday service via YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@AshfordCommunityChurchUK/streams>) and other meetings via Microsoft Teams, allowing more people to "attend". For example, through this use of technology, we have fellowship with one lady who, although living close to the church, has severe medical problems and has never been able to get to the building. She considers herself a regular attender. 'Teams' allows members who are on holiday or working abroad to participate in the weekly prayer meeting. We pray for international needs, those of our nation and local community, as well as individual needs.

We support Missionary and Relief Organisations financially and give loans or one-off gifts to individuals in need.

Details of the year's activities are recorded in Section D.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant-making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Most of the activities held in our church use volunteers. The exceptions are the leader of the WW group, and the Ashford Borough Council employees who run national and local elections.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The main achievement of our charity in 2022 was, with God's help, to have further expanded our activities to the community and to our members, as the threat of Covid-19 has receded.

The church family has been kept together, encouraged, and 'fed' spiritually with the use of online technology.

We have also used this technology to reach out into the community.

Here are extracts from a review of the year given by Peter Hobbs, our Pastor, on Sunday 8th January 2023:

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2022

We believe that the promises of God are true (this was our Christmas message). And so, we believe the promise of God made in Jeremiah 29 and verse 11:

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'

We review the year to give thanks to God for all that He has led us into. Some things have been very hard. Some things have been very encouraging. But, in all things we believe that God works for the good of all those who love Him and who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8: 28).

We believe it is good and right to look back at what has happened – in like manner the Hebrews were told to place 12 stones on the bank of the Jordan as a lasting memorial to God's goodness and blessing in bringing them into the Promised Land (Joshua 4: 1-8). When future generations saw these stones, they would ask what they meant and would learn of the love of God for His people. In this same way, we review what has happened this past year to remind ourselves of the love that God has for us.

THE CHURCH FAMILY – MEETING AND CARING

We begin by thanking God that we have a church building – that we want to be used more and more and more for His glory. Yet, this year has shown us, as never before, that WE are the church and we have continued to be together as church whether in the building or online.

And we thank God that we are a church family who care for each other and for those around us in the community. Oh, we are not perfect, and we regret with great sorrow that there are some who have lacked care during the year. However, through our Housegroups, through

hospitality that so many of you have shown, through a structure that has continued to make sure that the most vulnerable are contacted and looked after, we have ensured that our church really is part of the family of God – that we love one another as He has loved us. This has been a year of change in the Eldership and management of the church. After a period of prayer and seeking God's will, Jim, Chris, and Peter were commissioned as the Elders of the church. Shortly after this, elections were held which returned Gill, Brian R, Linda, and Ernest as Deacons. Together, this group forms the Leadership Team of the church. Regular meetings (once a month formally for Elders, plus lunchtime meetings too, and monthly Deacon breakfasts) have meant that work to ensure that the church is well-managed and directed has been very effective this year.

We thank God for the regular meetings that are held amongst us and remember them now.

- SUNDAY:

- I have been part of this church family for 5 1/3 years now. We thank God for our Sunday services – our “showcase” of God's love and presence within the community. Numbers of attendees have been affected by Coronavirus and since returning to services in the church building we have seen between 40 and 50 people each week meeting in the Main Hall, watching in the Rear Hall (for those who wish or need to remain socially distanced and “masked”), or joining us on YouTube and TEAMS. This reduction in numbers from pre-pandemic levels is reflected in most, if not all, of the Ashford churches. We thank God for the technology that has allowed us to maintain our worship so effectively on a Sunday. At the end of the year our numbers of those actually meeting in the church returned to pre-pandemic figures.
- WORSHIP – it has been wonderful to have our first full year of Celebration services in the church since 2019.
- TEACHING SERIES – The focus of teaching this year has been on the state of the church within society and the challenge to “Risk, Resist, and Rebuild”. This naturally developed, after June, into series on the need of the Holy Spirit to empower us and equip us, “Heroes of the Faith” to inspire us during these dark times, and “Life on the Frontline” as a practical application of our vision for 2022. The year ended with a month-long series on “The Promises of God”.
- Although Peter led most of this teaching, we have been blessed by many internal and outside guest speakers this year as well. Dudley spoke to us in February, April, and September, Jim spoke powerfully through personal experiences in March and again in October, Brian C spoke on the work of “Open Doors” in May and then on Nehemiah in November, Oba brought a message for the first time in that month – followed by his second in July – the month when Tristan challenged us for the first time, Chris continued his “Kingdom of God” series in September, and Ernest brought us an early “Hard Questions” message in October. We entertained external speakers on two occasions: Mark Bingham from Maidstone, evangelist for Counties, spoke in January, and James Tredgett challenged us through his work for London City Mission in October. We thank God for the central place that teaching plays in the life of the church.
- SUNDAY CLUB AND CHILDREN'S WORK – after a period of abeyance during the pandemic, it has been wonderful to see the Sunday Club revived this year.

Led by Linda and Diana H, a rota of willing and able helpers have begun again to teach and guide our small band of children – firstly in the middle hall but latterly in a move back into the larger rear hall.

- **MONDAY:**

- U3A – have been using the church for play reading.
- Dave Workman holds English classes for Nepalese people.

- **TUESDAY:**

- OPEN ARMS – this organisation has grown almost weekly in their outreach to the homeless and vulnerable this year – we are privileged to work alongside them in the church.
- WARM SPACES – With the crisis in energy prices in the second half of this year, it was mooted that we could set up our building as a “Warm Space”. Anna was asked to progress with this idea and quickly applied for a grant from Ashford Borough Council – which was successful. She worked hard on a practical plan to make this work and was able to begin this service to the community in December of 2022. The church is a “Warm Space” on a Tuesday afternoon between 1 and 5 pm and offers soup and rolls, games and fellowship, as well as warmth. Already a good number of people have made use of the facility and thanks go to Anna and the team of volunteers who help. This work shall continue into 2023.
- CONNECT - began on the 3rd May on Tuesday evenings – set up, after a lot of preparation, by Helen B and Gill, with support from volunteers, to provide a social venue for those in the community aged 16+ who have learning difficulties. Although it has been slow in uptake, this is an outreach to the community that we believe is going to go from strength to strength.

- **WEDNESDAY:**

- WEIGHT WATCHERS – continue to use our building on a Wednesday morning.
- SUPACOOKS – In co-operation with Ashford Together and Pneuma Church, we have set up and trialled a basic cooking course for the needy in the community. This has necessitated an investment in a new electrical circuit in the middle hall, and the purchase of high tables suitable for food preparation and electric hobs for cooking. In the New Year these courses shall “go live” with 4-week courses catering for between 4 and 6 candidates at a time.
- HOUSEGROUPS AND MONTHLY SUPERGROUP – a major restructuring of our housegroups took place this year. The outcome is that we now have 2 groups, known as “Early Birds” and “Night Owls,” that meet in person and online. The last Wednesday of each month has been set aside for our “Supergroup” in the church building where we have been studying the 10 Commandments using

the excellent J John videos.

- **THURSDAY:**

- **BIBLE STUDY** – A committed group meet fortnightly face-to-face and have enjoyed a number of studies as well as social time together.
- **EKC** – What a blessing it is to continue having this wonderful choir practising in our building on a Thursday! Small sections of the EKC have been using the building to rehearse on a Wednesday as well.
- **WORSHIP PRACTICE** – this remains open to all who would like to come along and sing, not only the Worship Team.

- **FRIDAY:**

- **REVIVAL PRAYER** - I remain in awe of the tremendous turnout week after week to this prayer meeting – proof of our belief in the power of prayer to bring revival to this area. Now driven by “Prayer Points” we meet both in person (in the church) and on TEAMS.
- **USA** – sing their hearts out on a Friday.
- **LADIES’ FELLOWSHIP** - well...I can’t say too much about this...as I am not allowed to attend! But I understand that it continues to be a time of great joy and challenge.
- **PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS** – The young adults in our church meet together at Church House on alternate Fridays. We completed the “Disciple” course this year and have moved on to looking at Hot Topics. We continue to talk openly together while enjoying pizza.
- **STREET PASTORS** – Three of our number are fully committed to this good outreach of care to the community during often very cold Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

- **SOUND AND VISION:** After so many years and wonderful bequests, the new “all-singing, all-dancing” sound and vision system was finally finished this year! So many thanks go to Chris and Ernest for their hard work on this – getting quotes, designing systems, setting up programmes. We now have a system that is “fit for purpose” and “future proofed” for many years to come. “Gremlins” still need to be eliminated...but all the hard work means that our outreach through YouTube and TEAMS, and our in-reach within the church building – main, mid, and rear halls – are second-to-none in the whole of Ashford.
- **OUTREACH:** It’s always wonderful to be able to share the Good News, as a church, with those around us – sometimes this is overtly through preaching; at other times it is through caring that we show the love of Jesus. This year we saw the delivery of

more than 1500 Easter and Christmas cards. In May we finally established the "Try Praying" initiative as part of our normal church life. Despite the projected rain we joined the "Big Church Jubilee Lunch" in Victoria Park with our own stall. Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 8th October was a great success. "Supacooks" began its trial in November, ready to provide basic cookery skills to the community in 2023. Linda and Ernest then pioneered the "Operation Christmas Child" with our church being used as a collection hub in November. Tied in with this was a successful Tearfund "Big Quiz" in the church on the 19th November. Anna pioneered and started "Warm Spaces" in our church beginning on the 13th December. On the 15th December the EKC and U3A blessed us with a concert in the church of singing and play reading, in order to thank us for our support of them and to raise money for the church. Carol Singing around "Victoria Quarter" on the 21st December was the first without rain! And our Christmas services – "Carols by Candlelight" on the 18th, our "Midnight Service" on the 24th, and the "Christmas Day" service – all brought in people from the community, maybe not in vast numbers, but reach out we did!

- **BAPTISING AND WELCOMING:** What a joy it was, after a time of preparation, to celebrate the baptisms of Abby and Catherine on the 6th November – two lovely people with a great love for Jesus, proclaiming through this act of dedication their commitment to living for Jesus forever. And what a joy it was for us to welcome Pat and Brian, and Priya and Tristan, into full church family life at a special service on the 20th November...there are a good number of others waiting to follow in their footsteps!
- **HELLOS AND GOODBYES:** On the 27th June we welcomed Joel C P into the world and dedicated him to the Lord on 21st August. With sadness we joined the rest of the nation in mourning the death of our Christian Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September. We were also sad to say "goodbye" to Helen T who went to Heaven early in the year and whose funeral some of us attended on the 25th February. Although a member of another church she drew very close to us in her final months. In the same way we were sad to lose Ian M and many of us supported his wife, and friend of the church, Linda, at the memorial service on the 19th August.

2022 – A TIME OF MANY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Now let us go through the year chronologically to remember all the tremendous things that have taken place

04/01/22:	THE 1 ST FULL LEADERSHIP MEETING
11/01/22:	A WHEELCHAIR FOR DIANA A REVOLUTIONISED HER LIFE THIS YEAR!
23/01/22:	JOINING WITH CTA PRAISE AND PRAYER EVENING AT BRIGHT CITY CHURCH
26/01/22:	SUPERGROUP BEGINS A YEAR-LONG STUDY OF "THE 10 COMMANDMENTS"
JAN – MAR:	ELDRSHIP NOMINATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH 4 CHURCH ADVISORS
FEB 22:	HOUSEGROUP SURVEY BEGINS – DISCUSSIONS ON OVERHAUL OF STRUCTURE
19/02/22:	GAMES SOCIAL IN CHURCH
25/02/22:	FUNERAL OF HELEN T AT CHARING CREMATORIUM AND BRIGHT CITY CHURCH
27/02/22:	FIRST FAMILY FORUM HELD (TIMETABLED IN FOR 2023 ON A REGULAR

BASIS)	
MAR 22:	DEACON ELECTION NOMINATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND VOTING
25/03/22:	DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR THE "REBUILD" SECTION OF THE
VISION '22	
APR 22:	DELIVERY OF 1500 EASTER CARDS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
10/04/22:	COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR THE ELDERS AND DEACONS OF OUR
CHURCH	
15/04/22:	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
17/04/22:	EASTER DAY SERVICE
18-22/04/22:	SPRING HARVEST – MINEHEAD
03/05/22:	"CONNECT" BEGINS IN THE CHURCH ON A TUESDAY
MAY 22:	"TRY PRAYING" INITIATIVE ESTABLISHED
13/05/22:	"FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT" COURSE RUN IN THE CHURCH FOR THE
COMMUNITY	
05/06/22:	"BIG CHURCH JUBILEE LUNCH" WITH STALL IN VICTORIA PARK FOR
JUBILEE	
27/06/22:	BIRTH OF JOEL C P
29/06/22:	PRO-LIFE MEETING HELD IN OUR CHURCH BY CBR UK
23/07/22:	"PROGRESSIVE SUPPER" SOCIAL – GREAT SUCCESS!
AUG 22:	"SUMMER CONVERSATION" SOCIALS HELD IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
WEEKLY	
AUG 22:	DEACON BUSINESS BREAKFASTS ESTABLISHED – TO BE MONTHLY IN
2023	
19/08/22:	SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR IAN M AT KINGSNORTH CofE
CHURCH	
21/08/22:	DEDICATION OF JOEL C P
22/08/22:	PETER BEGINS 9 MONTHS OF ONLINE TRAINING CALLED "TRANSFORM
22"	
27/08/22:	WORKPARTY TO CLEAR THE AREA AROUND THE CHURCH BUILDING
07/09/22:	RESTRUCTURED HOUSEGROUPS – "EARLY BIRDS" AND "NIGHT OWLS"
BEGIN	
08/09/22:	DEATH OF THE QUEEN
19/09/22:	STATE FUNERAL OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II
08/10/22:	MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
19/10/22:	ELDERS' AWAYDAY TO DISCUSS WAY FORWARD FOR 2023
02/11/22:	"SUPACOOKS" BEGINS TRIALLING BASIC COOKERY CLASSES
06/11/22:	BAPTISM OF ABBY AND CATHERINE
14-21/11/22:	"OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD" WITH CHURCH AS COLLECTION HUB
19/11/22:	TEARFUND "BIG QUIZ"
20/11/22:	BRINGING OF PAT AND BRIAN, PRIYA AND TRISTAN, INTO THE
CHURCH FAMILY	
DEC 22:	DELIVERY OF MORE THAN 1500 CHRISTMAS CARDS
13/12/22:	"WARM SPACES" BEGINS IN THE CHURCH
15/12/22:	EAST KENT CHORUS AND U3A CONCERT OF MUSIC AND PLAY
READING	
18/12/22:	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
21/12/22:	CAROL SINGING AROUND VICTORIA QUARTER, FOLLOWED BY
MULLED WINE	
22/12/22:	INFORMAL MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JOHN S
24/12/22:	MIDNIGHT SERVICE
25/12/22:	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
NOV-DEC 22:	BUILDING OF PRAYER ROOM

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our policy is to retain sufficient reserves:

- To ensure that the Church has sufficient funds to meet its financial commitments;
- To ensure that the Church is able to manage future unforeseen financial difficulties;
- To ensure that excessive funds are not held without an identifiable reason or purpose.
- We hold a reserve of £24,000. This would cover six months salary for Peter Hobbs and major unexpected items up to £10,000.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Most of our funds come from members' donations. We received two grants towards specific projects aimed at helping the local community. Our regular income has been increasing throughout the year. The large legacy, earmarked for projects the church family feel would be in line with the donors' wishes, has now been spent on them. Our bank balance is slowly increasing. This will allow the leadership some freedom to decide which areas of activity to develop next.

Section F Other optional information

What we believe in:

- 1 The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- 2 The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
- 3 The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
- 4 The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet

corrupted by sin, which incurs divine judgement.

5 The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the Virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.

6 The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.

7 The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first-fruits of our resurrection; His ascension to the Father, and His reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.

8 The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God and faith in Jesus Christ.

9 The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.

10 The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.

11 The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfill the purposes of God who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and a new earth.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>OHS Darling</i>	<i>G. D. Adsett</i>
Full name(s)	<i>OWEN HENRY SHILINGTON DARLING</i>	<i>GILL ADSETT</i>
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	<i>CHAIR</i>	<i>TRUSTEE</i>

Date *12-03-23*

Ashford Community Church

Statement of income and expenditure year ended 31st December 2

	2022			2021
<u>Receipts</u>				
Tithes	45836			37248
Gift aid	9566			7589
Rent	3030			1191
Donations	30			2972
Sundries	60			40
Youth Worker Fund	197			
Interest	<u>1</u>	<u>58720</u>	<u>58720</u>	<u>1</u>
				<u>49041</u>
<u>Less Expenditure</u>				
Salaries	24619			26965
Ministers expenses	1378			
PPS	38			17
Advertising	1237			
Insurance	1269			1162
Licence fees				240
Activities	1432			3333
"Connect"	14			
Overseas Mission	4619			4060
Home Mission	3680			3750
Church family	630			
Speakers gifts	206			683
Church Maintenance	5909			5314
Prayer Room	2119			
DBS	332			
Small equipment	404			
Subscriptions	1523			
Utilities	2997	<u>52406</u>	<u>52406</u>	1455
			6314	46979
				2062
<u>Church House Costs</u>				
Maintenance				715
Utilities	1987			1784
Insurance	225			216
Sundries				963
Professional fees				1640
		<u>2212</u>	<u>2212</u>	<u>5318</u>
				<u>5318</u>
<u>Excess of income over expenditure</u>				-3256
Less				
Depreciation of assets		<u>4461</u>		<u>0</u>
<u>Balance carried forward</u>		<u>-359</u>		3256

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2022

Fixtures and fittings

Balance as at 1st January 2022	0
Additions at cost	13383
Less Depreciation	<u>4461</u>
	<u>8922</u> 8922

Current assets

NatWest current account	44875
NatWest reserve account	505
Restricted fund	<u>-3020</u> <u>42360</u>
	<u>51282</u>

Represented by

Opening balance as at 1st January 2022

NatWest bank account	51136
NatWest bank reserve account	<u>506</u>
	51641
<u>Less excess of expenditure over income</u>	<u>359</u> <u>51282</u>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST DECEMBER 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1165151

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 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.

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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

11TH September
2023

Name:

ROGER ASHLEY HUGHES

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACCOUNTANT AND TAXATION CONSULTANT
ICP

Address:

WAYSIDE

ALDINGTON ASHFORD KENT

TN25 7DT

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

[Empty box for disclosure details]

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1165151

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period					
From	Period start date		To	Period end date	
1 st	January	2021	31 st	December	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

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	Gill Adsett			
2	Ernest Bate			
3	Owen Darling	Chair		
4	Geoff Gould			
5	Alasdair Hope		1 st January 2021 to 15 th March 2021	
6	Maureen Hulbert	Treasurer		

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	Roger Hughes	Wayside, Forge Hill, ALDINGTON, Kent TN25 7DT
Solicitor		Hallett & Co, 11 Bank Street, ASHFORD, Kent TN23 1DA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing Trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

	<p>We are: members of the Evangelical Alliance</p> <p>registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (reg. no. ZA400221) https://ico.org.uk</p> <p>members of Partnership UK https://partnershipuk.org</p> <p>subscribers to Stewardship Consultancy Helpline https://www.stewardship.org.uk/about-us/about-us-1</p> <p>Our Pastor is a member of the Ashford Pastors' Fellowship which forms the leadership core of Churches Together in Ashford.</p>

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Our object is to advance the Christian Faith for the public benefit in accordance with our statement of beliefs (see section F of this report).

The Trustees have been conscious of the need to carry out our purposes for the public benefit.

We believe that the Christian Faith provides guidelines for living that are good for the individual and for society in general. A living Faith in Jesus Christ provides the strength and peace of mind to follow these guidelines and to live a useful life. ('His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...' 2 Peter ch 1 v 3a).

So, although the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly limited our activities within the church buildings, we have been able to use technology to broadcast via YouTube the Good News of Jesus Christ's love - this we believe to be so essential for people in this life and also for eternity. These broadcasts are easily accessible to all, and, on several occasions, over the year, we have delivered cards to houses in the neighbouring streets advertising our services.

Our Leadership Group has ensured that government guidelines have been publicised and adhered to throughout the year. As guidelines have relaxed we have gradually begun to return to meeting in the church buildings and people's homes while still maintaining the online ministry. In September we were able to hold a Saturday afternoon of celebration in the church for people from the locality, and on the Sunday a service of remembrance for those who had suffered in the pandemic, and thanks for those who had cared for them.

We have made our buildings safe for community groups from the locality, and they are beginning to use our premises once again.

We support Missionary and Relief Organisations financially and give one-off gifts to individuals in need.

Details of the year's activities are recorded in Section D.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant-making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Most of the activities held in our church use volunteers. The exceptions are the leader of the WW group, and the Ashford Borough Council employees who run national and local elections.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The main achievement of our charity in 2021 is, with God's help, to have survived another year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The church family has been kept together, encouraged, and 'fed' spiritually with the use of online technology.

We have also used this technology to reach out into the community.

Here are extracts from a review of the year given by Peter Hobbs, our Pastor, on Sunday 2nd January 2022.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING (ECCLESIASTES 3:1)

Who could have foreseen that, after nearly two years, our lives, our society, and our church would still be so dominated by the spectre of Coronavirus?

It has therefore been a tough time for our church (and all churches), yet it has also been a time of preparation for rebuilding. This was seen from the very start of the year in our continuing vision which was that of a "New Beginning" for our church and for our whole society and for our individual lives.

Like last year:

"Due to this pandemic, we have entered an unprecedented time where we:

- Have had periods when we have not been able to meet together in our church building
- Have not been allowed to sing together
- Have not been allowed to hug each other
- Have not been allowed to eat together or even to talk together"

Yet we have seen, again like last year:

"This has been a year where we have:

- Seen more clearly than ever that we, and not the building, are the church
- Set up TEAMS so that we can continue to meet together and worship together
- Established LiveStream that has reached out way-beyond our local community
- Been reminded that we all have testimonies and answers to prayer that we can share
- Established structures within the church that will stand us in good stead for the future"

Unlike last year we have been able to celebrate Easter and Christmas together in our church building. Yes, there have been restrictions, but most of us have been able to enjoy face-to-face contact with one another again.

I believe that our church family is now in a good position to go forward and grow numerically and spiritually as we go together into the New Year of 2022.

THE CHURCH FAMILY – MEETING AND CARING

We begin by thanking God that we have a church building – that we want to be used more and more and more for His Glory. Yet, this year has shown us, as never before, that WE are the church and we have continued to be together as church whether in the building or online. And we thank God that we are a church family who care for each other and for those around us in the community. Oh, we are not perfect, and we regret with great sorrow that there are some who have lacked care during the year. However, through our Housegroups, through hospitality that so many of you have shown, through a structure that has continued to make sure that the most vulnerable are contacted and looked after, we have ensured that our church really is part of the family of God – that we love one another as He has loved us. This has been a year of change in the Eldership and management of the church. After a lot of heart-searching and internal struggles Alasdair and Steve both stepped down from Eldership after many years of faithful and hard-working service. At the start of December Jim began a 4 month rest from his Eldership duties. In the meantime, Trustees, Elders and Alistair Hornal worked on a strategy for a new Leadership Team made up of Elders and Deacons who can ensure the day-to-day management of the church. New Eldership recognition and Deacon elections are planned for the New Year.

We thank God for the regular meetings that are held amongst us and remember them now:

- **SUNDAY:**

- I have been part of this church family for 4 ¼ years now. We thank God for our Sunday services – our “showcase” of God’s love and presence within the community. Numbers of attendees have been affected by Coronavirus and since returning to services in the church building we have seen between 40 and 50 people each week meeting in the Main Hall, watching in the Rear Hall (for those who wish or need to remain socially distanced and “masked”), or joining us on YouTube and TEAMS. This reduction in numbers from pre-pandemic levels is reflected in most, if not all, of the Ashford churches. We thank God for the technology that has allowed us to maintain our worship so effectively on a Sunday.
- **WORSHIP** – For the first three months of the year we were unable to meet in our church building – but Chris and Peter broadcast via TEAMS from an often very cold church building to the congregation. Thanks go to STAG church and Elizabeth and Matt for enabling us to record video songs that allowed us to use music that was not limited by copyright. Once back in the church building from April we had to wear masks and sit socially distanced with doors and windows open for much of the year – with only the Worship Team allowed to sing out loud. Thank God we have been able to move on from this since September! And thank God that our worship has been able to continue throughout!
- **TEACHING SERIES** – January focused on “New Beginnings” as we looked forward to life after Lockdown. In February we studied the power and mercy of “God the Good Judge”. In March we were challenged to be ready for service with “Here am I, send me”. In April we learnt many lessons of God’s unlimited love for us in our study of “Ruth”. June saw us focusing on the call to “Worship” whatever the situation in our lives. In August we began a major new series looking at “Daughters of Eve” and the lessons to be learnt from women in the Bible. Our Advent series called us to be the new “Star of Bethlehem” to the world.
- Although Peter led most of this teaching, we have been blessed by many internal and outside guest speakers this year as well. Brian C has twice encouraged us to remember the “Persecuted Church”; Ernest challenged our beliefs with his look at the “Exodus”; Jim spoke to us powerfully on two occasions on his life story and the

question of "What gets you through?"; Street Pastors so moved us in May that 3 of our number – Zandra, Brian C and Peter – have joined up, been trained, and now serve on patrol with this wonderful group; Dudley inspired us on two occasions in June and October; Alistair Hornal, so helpful to our church during difficult times, spoke to us in June; Chris spoke to us three times on the subject of the "Kingdom of God"; Tim Dieppe moved us with stories from "Christian Concern" in July; Dave W spoke passionately about his work in home mission in August; Brian R made his speaking debut in September; Paul Dunning enlightened us on the work of MAF in November; and Geoff Gould spoke to us twice in that month as well. We thank God for the central place that teaching plays in the life of the church.

- SUNDAY CLUB AND CHILDREN'S WORK – In line with most churches in Ashford, the pandemic has been a time of collapse in children's work. Sunday Club has been in abeyance; "Friday Youth Night" has not re-opened. However, there are some hopeful signs. Children are being born into our fellowship. Youngsters are beginning to appear. The Middle Hall has been set up as a creche with loudspeakers allowing the service to be heard. Singing and storytelling has been taking place here too.

Resources are being given out to the children in the church to work on during the services.

- MONDAY:
 - U3A – have been using the church for play reading in October and November.
- TUESDAY:
 - OPEN ARMS – we have been really blessed to have this organisation return to us this year. Rather than a full-blown meal, their new vision has been for a more relaxed social time for those who are homeless or vulnerable.
- WEDNESDAY:
 - WEIGHT-WATCHERS – have used our building whenever lifting of restrictions has allowed.
 - HOUSEGROUPS AND MONTHLY SUPERGROUP – for much of the first half of the year these were solely online. But we have been blessed in the second half of the year in being able to hold these both on TEAMS and face-to-face in homes or in the church building.
- THURSDAY:
 - BIBLE STUDY – A committed group meet fortnightly (weekly in December) – initially online, it was a joy to get back into face-to-face discussion in people's houses.
 - EKC – What a blessing it is to continue having this wonderful choir practising in our building on a Thursday! It has been tough for them since the Lockdown but they have remained committed to using our church building – returning to us in September.
 - WORSHIP PRACTICE – now on a new night – this remains open to not only the Worship Team but all who would like to come along and sing.
- FRIDAY:
 - REVIVAL PRAYER - I remain in awe of the tremendous turnout week-after-week to this prayer meeting – proof of our belief in the power of prayer to bring revival to this area. Now driven by "Prayer Points" we meet both in person (in the church or in Church House) and on TEAMS.
 - U3A – have returned to our church building for singing from September
 - LADIES' FELLOWSHIP - well...I can't say too much about this...as I am not allowed to attend! But I understand that it continues to be a time of great joy and challenge for our ladies – and has also seamlessly moved to an online platform.
 - PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS – It was good from the summertime (with BBQs!) to move back to face-to-face meetings. From September we have been joined by new people and are currently following the "Freedom in Christ" course called "Disciple". On

alternate Fridays we have been joining with young adults from Vineyard Church for social gatherings

- **SATURDAY:**

- It would be good here to mention that our Street Pastors have been following an intensive online and in-person training course on Saturday mornings for most of the second half of this year.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

- **BIRTHS AND DEDICATIONS:** Peter became a granddad again at the end of February while Poppy was born to Fiona and Ricky in early April. Back in the church building we were able to dedicate Joshua on the 30th May and then Poppy on the 3rd October.
- Easter cards and Christmas cards were delivered to 1500 houses around our church – a witness in themselves.
- Zandra, Brian C and Peter signed up to become Street Pastors – beginning their training in June and going on their first patrols in the latter part of the year. They were formally commissioned on the 19th November.
- We were delighted by the wedding of Sarah and Matthew on the 31st July in Cambridge – Linda and Ernest could be justly proud.
- On the 4th September, after much work and preparation and delivery of 1500 invitations, the church hosted a Celebration and Remembrance afternoon to give thanks for the lifting of Lockdown restrictions and to remember those who had died and to honour those who were grieving. Bouncy castle, cream teas, many games and crafts with writing messages of remembrance and thanks on hearts filled the afternoon which was well attended.
- Once again Linda led us in our annual Macmillan Cancer Care coffee afternoon – held in the church after the morning service on the 26th September – and then the “Shoebox Appeal” in October and November.
- On the 15th December – at a time when “Plan B” restrictions had come into force, we were able to take carol singing around Victoria Quarter – an outreach that we know touched the hearts of many.

2021 – A TIME OF MANY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Now let us go through the year chronologically to remember all the tremendous things that have taken place

- 01/01/21: ONLINE “HAPPY NEW YEAR” PRAYER AND GAMES (LED ABLY BY ELIZABETH AND SARAH)
- 03/01/21: “NEW BEGINNINGS” TEACHING SERIES BEGINS
- 05/01/21: NATIONAL LOCKDOWN LEADS TO OUR CLOSING THE CHURCH BUILDING – BUT WORSHIP CONTINUES THROUGH THE USE OF TEAMS AND THEN YOUTUBE
- 02/02/21: ELDERS’ ONLINE AWAYDAY
- 19,21/02/21: ALASDAIR AND STEVE STEP DOWN FROM ELDERSHIP – AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF FAITHFUL AND HARD-WORKING SERVICE WE THANK THEM
- 27/02/21: BIRTH OF ELOISE – PETER IS A GRANDDAD AGAIN!
- 07/03/21: RESUMPTION OF LIVESTREAM SERVICES ON A SUNDAY
- 11/03/21: START OF “COFFEE AND CHAT” ONLINE SOCIAL MEETINGS
- 20/03/21: EASTER CARDS AND INVITATIONS BEGIN TO GO OUT
- 02/04/21: CHURCH BUILDING REOPENS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES ALLOWING US TO HOLD GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE BUILDING AS WELL AS ONLINE WITH LIVESTREAM AND TEAMS
- 04/04/21: ONLINE SPRING HARVEST ATTENDED BY A FEW FROM THE CHURCH FAMILY
- 07/04/21: BIRTH OF POPPY
- 22/04/21: RESUMPTION OF WORSHIP PRACTICE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING
- 02/05/21: STREET PASTOR SERVICE
- 30/05/21: DEDICATION OF JOSHUA

19/06/21:	STREET PASTOR TRAINING COMMENCES
26/06/21:	ALISTAIR HORNAL, TRUSTEES AND ELDERS DISCUSS WAY FORWARD OF CHURCH GOVERNANCE
19/07/21:	LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS ON CHURCH MEETINGS – ALL MEETINGS CAN NOW BE HELD IN PERSON
31/07/21:	WEDDING OF SARAH AND MATTHEW
03/08/21:	OPEN ARMS STARTS UP AGAIN
AUG 21:	SUMMER SOCIALS ON A WEDNESDAY
04/09/21:	"CELEBRATION SATURDAY" TO GIVE THANKS FOR COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN AND TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING. FUN AND GAMES IN THE CHURCH
05/09/21:	CELEBRATION SUNDAY TO FOLLOW ON FROM THIS
24/09/21:	"PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS" WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND BEGINS "DISCIPLE"
26/09/21:	MACMILLAN COFFEE APPEAL AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE
03/10/21:	DEDICATION OF POPPY
12/10/21:	"CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION" AT SANDOWN RACECOURSE
29/10/21:	JOINT YOUNG PERSONS' SOCIAL WITH VINEYARD BEGINS
02/11/21:	FIRST "LEADERSHIP TEAM" PLANNING MEETING
17/11/21:	ELDERS' AWAYDAY
19/11/21:	COMMISSIONING OF STREET PASTORS AT WILLESBOROUGH BAPTIST CHURCH
01/12/21:	JIM TAKES A 4 MONTH REST FROM ELDERSHIP DUTIES
02/12/21:	JULIE AND DIANA BEGIN CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATION
10/12/21:	DELIVERY OF CHRISTMAS CARDS BEGINS
12/12/21:	"PLAN B" BY GOVERNMENT MEANS RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF FACE COVERINGS
15/12/21:	CAROL SINGING IN VICTORIA QUARTER
19/12/21:	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
24/12/21:	MIDNIGHT "FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS" SERVICE
25/12/21:	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our policy is to retain sufficient reserves:

- To ensure that the Church has sufficient funds to meet its financial commitments;
- To ensure that the Church is able to manage future unforeseen financial difficulties;
- To ensure that excessive funds are not held without an identifiable reason or purpose.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Most of our funds come from members' donations. Gifts by bank transfer have increased. Restraints on the use of the buildings during the pandemic has meant that offerings made at church services and money from hiring the building to community groups have greatly reduced. Our regular income has been less than our regular outgoings this year by approximately £300 per month. At this rate we will be down to our reserve amount in three years. There are signs that this trend is reversing as the COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed and more people and organisations come into the building. (The large balance we have at the moment includes a legacy which has been earmarked for projects the church family feel would be in line with the donors' wishes).

Section F Other optional information

What we believe in:

- 1 The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- 2 The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
- 3 The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
- 4 The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine judgement.
- 5 The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the Virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
- 6 The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
- 7 The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first-fruits of our resurrection; His ascension to the Father, and His reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
- 8 The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God and faith in Jesus Christ.
- 9 The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with

Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.

10 The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.

11 The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfill the purposes of God who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and a new earth.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>E.M. Pate</i>	<i>OHS Dukes</i>
Full name(s)	<i>ERNEST MICHAEL PATE</i>	<i>OWEN HENRY SKILLINGTON DARLWICK</i>
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Chair Trustee</i>
Date	<i>29-03-2022</i>	

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31ST DECEMBER 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1165151

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021^{YYY}.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

25/10/2022

Name:

ROGER ASHLEY HUGHES

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICPA

Address:

WAYSIDE

ALDINGTON ASHFORD KENT

TN25 7DT

ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1165151

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
From		Period start date		To		Period end date	
1 st	January	2020		31 st	December	2020	

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Francis Road Evangelical Church

Other names charity is known by ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Registered charity number (if any) 1165151

Charity's principal address

Francis Road

ASHFORD

Kent

Postcode TN23 7UR

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	Gill Adsett			
2	Ernest Bate			
3	Owen Darling	Chair		
4	Geoff Gould			
5	Alasdair Hope			
6	Maureen Hulbert	Treasurer		
7	James Shaw-Cotterill		1 st January 2020 to March 10 th 2020	

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	Roger Hughes	Wayside, Forge Hill, ALDINGTON, Kent TN25 7DT
Solicitor		Hallett & Co, 11 Bank Street, ASHFORD, Kent TN23 1DA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

<p>We are: members of the Evangelical Alliance.</p> <p>registered with the Information Commissioners Office (reg. no. ZA400221) https://ico.org.uk</p> <p>Members of Partnership UK https://partnershipuk.org</p> <p>Subscribers to Stewardship Consultancy help line. https://www.stewardship.org.uk/about-us/about-us-1</p> <p>Our Pastor is a member of the Ashford Pastors' Fellowship which forms the leadership core of 'Churches Together in Ashford.'</p>

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Our object is to advance the Christian Faith for the public benefit in accordance with our statement of beliefs (see section F of this report).

The trustees have been conscious of the need to carry out our purposes for the public benefit.

The Christian faith provides guidelines for living that are good for the individual and for society in general. A living Faith in Jesus Christ provides the strength and peace of mind to follow these guidelines and live a useful life. ('His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...' 2 Peter ch. 1 v 3a).

So, before the Covid-19 pandemic we held weekly services in church, classes for children and small group discussions that aimed to inform **anyone** interested about God and Jesus Christ, explaining the relevance of the Bible and Christian Faith for everyday life and into eternity.

As we want to carry out Jesus' command to 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Matthew ch. 19 v 19b) we looked at the needs of our neighbourhood and tried to help address them by providing facilities for local community activities to meet, and a good kitchen for a lunch club for homeless and vulnerable people.

Since March most of the activities based in the buildings have had to stop. We have worked within the constraints imposed by the pandemic. We have remained open where possible and have developed and advertised an online ministry to provide Spiritual encouragement to any who wish to tune in.

We support Missionary and Relief Organisations financially and give one-off gifts to individuals in need.

Details of the year's activities are recorded in Section D.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant-making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Most of the activities held in our church use volunteers. The exceptions are the local and national polls that are run by Ashford Borough Council employees and the leader of the WW group.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

This year has been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In March a 'Coronavirus Management Strategy Group,' made up of trustees and others with specialist knowledge, was set up with the objectives of:

- a) Safeguarding all in the Fellowship
- b) Minimising the impact of the virus on the Church
- c) Maintaining as many of the activities as possible
- d) Ensuring good communication within the Church Family
- e) Facilitating a return to normal Church life as early as is safely possible.

A 'Delivery Team' of three met regularly online to respond rapidly to changing circumstances. A Covid Risk Assessment was carried out and regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with government guidelines and legislation.

Much time and considerable resources were put into developing an online 'church', making use of Microsoft Teams, which allowed individual members of the church family to see and talk to each other. Also, when possible, services have been put on our YouTube channel - either livestreamed as they occur, or as recordings.

We are grateful to God for providing us with one member who is skilled and trained in Crisis Management and another whom is an IT expert for an international Missionary Organisation. Their skills and hard work helped to ensure that our Church Family has stayed together throughout the pandemic.

The buildings have been kept in good repair. The mezzanine has been completed and is awaiting decoration. The toilets, corridor and minor hall have been decorated.

Our Pastor, Peter Hobbs, has worked hard through the year to encourage us with the great promises of God found in the Bible and to challenge us, with God's Spirit within us, to live useful and effective lives.

He has become expert in the use of online methods and resources, and we expect we will continue to use these once the pandemic is over.

Here are extracts from Peter's review of the year given on Sunday 27th December 2020:

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

A YEAR OF LOSS OR A YEAR OF GAIN?

Many of us – me included – have found this year a truly awful one on a personal level.

It has been a time of loss personally.

It also has been a time of loss for the church.

Due to this pandemic we have entered an unprecedented time where we:

- *Have had periods when we have not been able to meet together in our church building*
- *Have not been allowed to sing together*
- *Have not been allowed to hug each other*
- *Have not been allowed to eat together or even to talk together*
- *Have not been able to celebrate Easter, Harvest or Christmas together in our normal way*

BUT this has also been a year of unprecedented GAIN for the church and let us focus on this and not on the loss. For we have been promised that:

*“we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”
(Romans 8:28)*

This has been a year where we have:

- *Seen more clearly than ever that we, and not the building, are the church*
- *Set up TEAMS so that we can continue to meet together and worship together*
- *Established LiveStream that has reached out way beyond our local community*
- *Been reminded that we all have testimonies and answers to prayer that we can share*
- *Established structures within the church that will stand us in good stead for the future*

So, let us review a year that has been VERY different from those that have gone before.

Let us thank God for all His mercies and blessings on us this year.

Let us learn from God so that 2021 will be a better year than this one.

“PASSING THE BATON”

A YEAR OF VISION – “2020 VISION”

From the start of the year the Vision of the church was to equip others for ministry – to look for our successors in every area – to train them up and to release them – to “pass the baton”.

This is not just a vision for me and the other elders. This is a vision for us

all – who are you “training up” to first assist and then take over from you in the ministry you are fulfilling in the church?

This Vision 2020 is still very much on our hearts but has been very much affected by the most profound event of 2020...

2020 – A YEAR OF LOCKDOWN

Towards the end of 2019 reports began to come out of China of a new Coronavirus – soon designated COVID-19. It appeared in the UK in the first couple of months of 2020 and then overwhelmed us like a tidal wave in March.

On the 18th March the decision was made to shut the church building – prior to the Government ordering all church buildings to shut. The VERY NEXT DAY – the 19th March – Chris and Vince began to work on the technology needed to enable us to continue church services through LiveStreaming – first on Facebook Live, then on YouTube – and the setting up of the TEAMS networking of virtual meeting rooms.

We do not know whether this pandemic has its origin in man, in an attack of the devil or the judgement of God. But this we DO know that God will use ALL things for good. And technology and approaches to church that we had never even considered before have been developed and have become the norm.

The church has been seen, more than ever, to be a people and not a building. The church has been challenged to grow strong in the Lord. The technology has enabled us to reach out with the Good News WAY BEYOND Ashford – even to the Ukraine!

We thank God for blessing us with Chris and Vince and all the technology which has meant that this year – 2020 – has seen us launch into a new era of church work.

LOOKING BACK AND REMEMBERING

Every week, as a church family, we take Communion. When we eat the bread we remember that Jesus gave His body for us. When we take the “cup” we remember that Jesus shed His blood for us. We will never forget His substitutionary death because the symbols always remind us. Remembering is SO important.

In the Old Testament book of Joshua the true story is told that, after 40 years of wandering in the desert, the Israelites finally crossed over the River Jordan and into the “Promised Land” (Joshua 3). A miracle was wrought and as the priests stood in the middle of the Jordan River, bearing the Ark of the Covenant, the waters piled up and the people crossed over on the dried up river bed. When all had crossed over the waters flowed again. They were then told to take 12 stones from that river bed (one for each tribe of Israel) and to built a memorial from them

that all would see as they passed by from that time onwards – the need to remember and never forget was established (Joshua 4: 1-7).

THE CHURCH WEEK

We begin by thanking God that we have a church building – that we want to be used more and more and more for His glory. Yet, this year has shown us, as never before, that WE are the church and we have continued to be together as church whether in the building or online. And we thank God for the regular meetings that are held amongst us and remember them now -

- **SUNDAY:**

- *GROWING IN WORSHIP AND NUMBERS – I have been part of this church family for 3 ¼ years now. When I first came we regularly got about 25 people attending. This year we were often seeing 50 or more people on a Sunday. At the height of LiveStreaming in July we were getting up to 90 people “tuning in” to us – some as far away as the Ukraine and EVEN Scotland!!! We thank God for this. Numbers are not as important as spirituality – but they’re a good indicator of God’s blessing on our fellowship.*
- *TEACHING SERIES – this year God has led us on a clear journey in our teaching and learning that we must not forget. We focused first on “2020 Vision” and saw through the lives of Elijah and Elisha, Moses and Joshua, Aaron and Hur, the principle of “passing the baton” and of upholding one another in prayer. At the beginning of February we began our “All-In” series on the “10 Commandments”. And then we were hit by “Lockdown”. LiveStream focused initially on recognising that church could never be the same again – we needed to start to develop new “norms” of church life which are more about going OUT to the community around us rather than hoping that they will come in to us. During the month of August the focus was less on teaching series and more on family sharing and interaction – we had two separate services at this time – one in the building led by Dudley and one on TEAMS led by Owen and Ernest. In September these two services came back together again and our focus was on “The Journey of Life” – how God is with us through times of trouble and how He has plans for us to bless us. And so we have come to the Christmas period where our focus has been on “The God of Hope”.*
- *In the midst of this teaching, we have been blessed by guest speakers throughout the year. Vince and Chris*

launched their speaking ministry in the church. Dudley has shown us how gifted he is in speaking. And we have had visitors to talk to us – Geoff Gould on two occasions and Alistair Hornal on one.

➤ *SUNDAY CLUB*

• *MONDAY:*

➤ *U3A – used the church for play reading in January and February.*

• *TUESDAY:*

➤ *OPEN ARMS – continued to serve the homeless and vulnerable from our church building till the Lockdown in late March. Since that time they have made the decision to focus on getting a town centre venue which they can use on a daily basis and it is with great sadness that we have therefore had to say “goodbye” to them.*

➤ *WORSHIP PRACTICE – this not only continues but has, this year, been opened up to any from the church (and beyond) who wish to come along on a Tuesday night and sing and worship.*

• *WEDNESDAY:*

➤ *WEIGHT WATCHERS – are now firmly established in our church building – which is a constant witness to them. For a while this was meeting on a Monday as well. There have been two changes of leadership this year but, as a group, they continue to value using our building.*

➤ *HOUSEGROUPS and monthly SUPERGROUP – these have continued throughout the year and remain a fundamental way in which we maintain care and teaching during the week – though since March they have been meeting via TEAMS.*

• *THURSDAY:*

➤ *EKC – What a blessing it is to continue having this wonderful choir practising in our building on a Thursday! It has been tough for them since the Lockdown but they have remained committed to using our church building.*

➤ *SIGNING GROUP – Alasdair was able to start yet another course.*

- **FRIDAY:**

- *REVIVAL PRAYER – I remain in awe of the tremendous turn out week-after-week to this prayer meeting – proof of our belief in the power of prayer to bring revival to this area. This has moved seamlessly to a weekly online prayer time.*
- *BIBLE STUDY – Until March this continued to meet in Church House. Then, from the end of March, it became a weekly online meeting. For a few weeks in September till the second Lockdown we were meeting at Maureen’s home but are now back on TEAMS again.*
- *U3A – have been singing in our church on a Friday afternoon until the pandemic caused them to cease.*
- *LADIES’ FELLOWSHIP – well...I can’t say too much about this...as I am not allowed to attend! But, I understand that it continues to be a time of great joy and challenge for our ladies – and has also seamlessly moved to an online platform.*
- *PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS – Since March this has moved to being online and every week. It is one of my highlights – and takes the regular form of sharing how we are all doing, taking part in a Bible quiz to learn more of the Word and looking at current issues.*
- *FYN – Sue Parker joined us and was beginning to establish her identity in the group but since March this group has stopped – and we have the opportunity to rethink the whole structure of the group before we restart it at the earliest opportunity.*

2020 – A TIME OF MANY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Now let us go through the year chronologically to remember all the tremendous things that have taken place:

- 01/01/20: NEW YEAR’S DAY WALK AND MEAL AT CLOKE FARM
31 PEOPLE ATTENDED!*
- 05/01/20: 2020 VISION REVEALED*
- 12/01/20: DEDICATION OF ASER CURT (MIRELA’S SON)*
- 12/01/20: SUNDAY CLUB PARTY*
- 17/01/20: PANTOMIME FOR “PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS”*
- 19/01/20: MANUELA JOINS THE LEADERSHIP OF SUNDAY CLUB*
- 19/01/20: VINCE PREACHES FOR THE FIRST TIME*
- 19/01/20: CHURCH SAYS “GOODBYE” TO ANN TUTT*
- 21/01/20: BAPTISM CLASS BEGINS (JULIE HORSFORD)*
- 24/01/20: SUE PARKER STARTS ATTENDING FYN*
- 31/01/20: “PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS” MOVE TO
AARON AND ADELE’S HOUSE*

02/02/20:	NEW ALL-IN SERIES BEGINS – “THE 10 COMMANDMENTS”
02/02/20:	FELLOWSHIP MEAL IN THE CHURCH
16/02/20:	CHRIS AND HELEN HILL BROUGHT INTO ACC FAMILY
16/02/20:	CHRIS HILL PREACHES HIS FIRST SERMON AT ACC
16/02/20:	“STREET-A-WEEK” INITIATIVE STARTS
22/02/20:	DUDLEY PREACHING AT CHURCH
26/02/20:	“THE SHACK” SHOWN FOR ACC FILM CLUB
27/02/20:	ADELE AND PETER ATTEND “FREEDOM IN CHRIST – DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE” CONFERENCE
08/03/20:	BAPTISM OF JULIE HORSFORD
15/03/20:	VINCE PREACHES FOR THE SECOND TIME
18/03/20:	DECISION MADE TO SUSPEND CHURCH MEETINGS FOR DURATION OF CORONAVIRUS
19/03/20:	DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH “LIVELINK” BEGINS (CHRIS AND VINCE)
22/03/20:	FIRST LIVESTREAM OF CHURCH SERVICE
25/03/20:	FIRST VIRTUAL HOUSEGROUP MEETING VIA “TEAMS”
29/03/20:	DAY OF PRAYER RE THE CORONAVIRUS
03/04/20:	FIRST VIRTUAL REVIVAL PRAYER MEETING
05/04/20:	FIRST USE OF VIDEO CLIP AND POWERPOINT IN LIVESTREAM
10/04/20:	LIVESTREAM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
12/04/20:	LIVESTREAM EASTER CELEBRATION
19/04/20:	FIRST LIVESTREAM ON YOUTUBE
24/04/20:	FIRST VIRTUAL “PIZZA AND HOT TOPICS”
28/04/20:	FIRST NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER VIA MAILCHIMP (AFTER 2 MONTHS OF ALMOST DAILY INFORMATION EMAILS)
29/04/20:	FIRST “SUPERGROUP WEDNESDAY” – JOINT HOUSEGROUP
14/05/20:	FIRST VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY (“FREEDOM”)
31/05/20:	THE “ASHFORD BLESSING” INCLUDES CHRIS AND BRIAN
23/06/20:	FIRST OPENING OF CHURCH FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER – 3 TIMES A WEEK
29/06/20:	INSTALLATION OF VIRGINMEDIA BROADBAND
05/07/20:	TEST LIVESTREAM BROADCAST FROM CHURCH BUILDING
12/07/20:	FIRST CELEBRATION SERVICE BACK IN THE CHURCH BUILDING – WITH LIVESTREAM!
02/08/20:	SUMMER BREAKING OF BREAD – IN CHURCH (DUDLEY), ON TEAMS (OWEN AND ERNEST)
00/08/20:	PAT AND BRIAN RE-TAKE-OVER BIBLE STUDY AT THEIR HOUSE
20/09/20:	FIRST JOINT TEAMS SUNDAY SERVICE (NOT YET RETURN TO LIVESTREAM)
28/09/20:	GOODBYE TO THE RUSSO FAMILY
27/10/20:	MACMILLAN COFFEE EVENTS WEEK
01/11/20:	GEOFF GOULD AS VISITING SPEAKER
05/11/20:	LOCKDOWN 2 BEGINS – CHURCH CLOSED FOR SERVICES +

	<i>ACTIVITIES</i>
<i>08/11/20:</i>	<i>SERVICE BROADCAST FROM CHURCH FOR SECOND LOCKDOWN</i>
<i>15/11/20:</i>	<i>RESUMPTION OF LIVESTREAMING – FROM CHURCH</i>
<i>29/11/20:</i>	<i>GEOFF GOULD VISITING SPEAKER</i>
<i>06/12/20:</i>	<i>ALISTAIR HORNAL VISITING SPEAKER</i>
<i>16/12/20:</i>	<i>CAROL SINGING IN VICTORIA QUARTER</i>
<i>19/12/20:</i>	<i>CHRISTMAS TABLEAU OUTSIDE THE CHURCH</i>
<i>20/12/20:</i>	<i>ADAPTED CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH BUILDING</i>
<i>24/12/20:</i>	<i>“MIDNIGHT FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS” SERVICE</i>
<i>25/12/20:</i>	<i>CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE – MEDITATING ON THE BIRTH OF CHRIST</i>
<i>25/12/20:</i>	<i>BIRTH OF JOSHUA ISAAC HILL</i>

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

Our policy is to retain sufficient reserves:

- To ensure that the Church has sufficient funds to meet its financial commitments;
- To ensure that the Church is able to manage future unforeseen financial difficulties;
- To ensure that excessive funds are not held without any identifiable reason or for any identifiable purpose.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Most of our funds come from members’ donations. Gifts by bank transfer have increased. Restraints on the use of the buildings during the pandemic has meant that offerings made at church services and money from hiring the building to community groups have greatly reduced. Our regular income has covered our regular outgoings this year. Our bank balance has increased substantially. Ashford Borough Council has paid the money granted to us for the toilet refurbishment (completed in 2019) and we received two legacies from people who worshipped with us for many years.

What we believe in:

- 1 The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- 2 The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
- 3 The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
- 4 The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine judgement.
- 5 The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ-born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
- 6 The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
- 7 The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first-fruits of our resurrection; His ascension to the Father, and His reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
- 8 The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God and faith in Jesus Christ.
- 9 The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
- 10 The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
- 11 The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfill the purposes of God who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>M. Hulbert</i>	<i>OHS Darling</i>
Full name(s)	<i>MAUREEN HULBERT</i>	<i>Owen Henry SULLINGTON DARLING</i>
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	<i>TREASURER</i>	<i>CHAIR</i>

Date *15/03/21*

Ashford Community Church
Statement of Income and Expenditure
Year ended 31st December 2020

<u>By income received</u>			<u>2019</u>
Tithes and offerings	38631		38630
Gift aid refund/Other income	7877		8758
Rent of church facilities	2297		4389
Donations to specific work	3210		4861
Grant	10000		
Sundries	<u>23223</u>	<u>85239</u>	<u>138</u>
		85239	56776
<u>Less expenditure</u>			
Salary and Expenses	26263		25712
Printing postage and stationery	72		28
Licence fees	344		687
Insurance	1079		1019
Church activities, refreshments and sundries	2334		3115
Overseas Mission	6364		4942
Home Mission	5300		3397
Speakers expenses and gifts	155		1224
Church maintenance	10192		24060
Heat and light	<u>1931</u>	<u>54034</u>	2073
		31205	
<u>Church House</u>			
Church house maintenance	1860	1441	
Church house utilities	1869	1845	
Church house insurance	209	299	3585
Sundries			119
Professional fees	1980		220
Depreciation	1418	<u>7335</u>	<u>1668</u>
<u>Excess of income over expenditure</u>		23869	-15073
<u>Other income</u> Interest received		<u>0</u>	1
		<u>23869</u>	<u>-15072</u>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

FRANCIS ROAD EVANGELICAL CHURCH

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31ST DECEMBER 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1165151

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

21/10/2021

Name:

ROGER ASHLEY HUGHES

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

WAYSIDE

FORGE HILL

ALDINGTON ASHFORD KENT TN25 7DT

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.