

Trustees' Annual Report for the period			
From	Period start date	To	Period end date
1 <sup>st</sup>	January 2023	31 <sup>st</sup>	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)

--

## 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 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".

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.

**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 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;

Details of any funds materially in deficit

- 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.

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	OUSDvling
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	9,565
	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	1,955	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	(481)	-
	Wages and salaries	(29,287)	(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)	<u>660</u>	<u>(1,070)</u>
		(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	58,455
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	(5,158)	(2,997)
	Connect	-	(14)
	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**

31<sup>ST</sup> 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 31<sup>ST</sup> 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:**

**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