



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 CHIURCH

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		

Full name(s)	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		

Date	<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr></table>	

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>21982</u>	<u>10651</u>
<u>Church House Costs</u>		
Maintenance	300	96
Utilities including rates	1832	1741
Insurance	250	252
	<u>2382</u>	<u>2089</u>
<u>Excess of income over expenditure</u>	<u>19600</u>	<u>8562</u>
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.

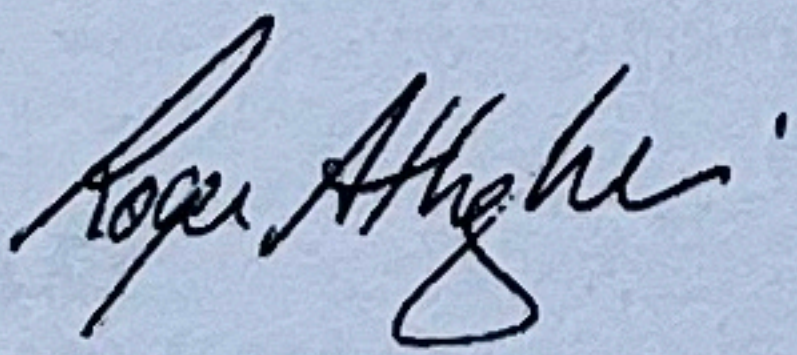
My examination was conducted in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioner. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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

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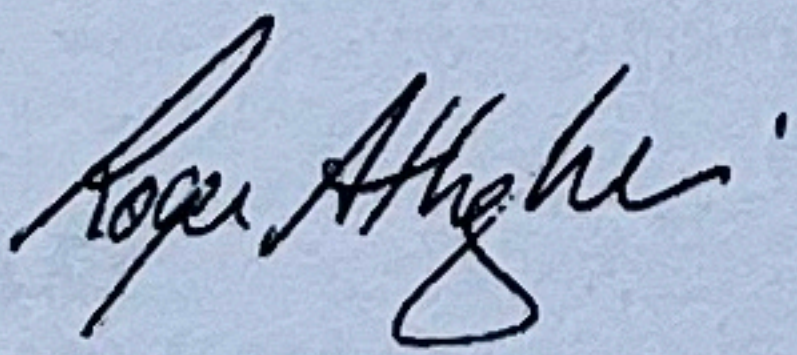
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