

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1166588

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-04-18

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Hastings Unitarian Church
South Terrace
Hastings
TN34 1SA

Phone 07918110926

Email hastings.unitarians@gmail.com

Website www.hastingsunitarianchurch.org

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF RELIGION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

Activities: The objects of the CIO is the promotion of religion in accordance with the principals of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. We provide a place of worship to serve the local community of Hastings and Rother districts of East Sussex through the use of its building and its members time for the promotion of educational, spiritual and charitable activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- East Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£53,853	£51,400	-	-
2024-09-30	£23,923	£20,318	-	-
2023-09-30	£30,897	£28,898	-	-
2022-09-30	£19,038	£89,409	-	-
2021-09-30	£79,420	£13,743	-	-
2020-09-30	£34,195	£80,484	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Charles Wood	Chair	2024-04-20
Dr NORMAN WILLIAMSON		2015-02-03
Frances Williamson		2016-06-29
Francis Nicholas Clark-Lowes		2023-02-22
JOANNA LEMON		2019-03-03
Lesley Kaye Larcombe		2022-10-01
PETER CHARLES SANDERS		2015-02-05
Safar Wisby		2019-03-03

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1166588

Accounts

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH
CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
REPORT TO CHARITY COMMISSION COVERING THE PERIOD 1
OCTOBER 2024 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2025
SUMMARY OF MAIN EVENTS

Introduction

The Unitarian Church continues to offer a place to meet and worship in freedom of conscience. The Unitarian movement dates back to the mid-sixteenth century. It has no dogmas or creeds to adhere to and freedom of thought and spiritual inquiry is encouraged with complete tolerance and respect for other faiths or none. Membership is free and open to all who wish to join. Services are held every Sunday morning and subsidiary meetings may be held during the week for meditation, prayer, and discussion.

Other community groups and societies hire the church for their meetings e.g. Narcotics Anonymous, the Interfaith Forum and the circle dancing group. Much of the church's work is undertaken voluntarily by trustees and members of the congregation who receive no remuneration except for legitimate expenses. The church strives to develop and deepen a spiritual path in community with each other; sharing our experiences and drawing inspiration from nature, art, literature, science, and other faith traditions.

Events and achievements

As the church now has no permanent Minister, Sunday services are taken by members of the congregation and ministers or lay preachers from other Unitarian churches. Their services provide a wide range of experience, knowledge and insight. We are fortunate in being able to call upon them.

The church supports a number of registered charities including the Hastings Food Bank, Médecins Sans Frontières and 'Send a Child to Hucklow' (a Unitarian Charity offering holidays for disadvantaged children). The church has also 'adopted' the local charity 'Sussex Prisoners' Families' and has successfully raised funds for them to provide days out for the children of these families.

The church is trying to make itself more widely known in the Hastings & Rother area. A number of initiatives are being planned, including working collaboratively with other Kent & Sussex Unitarian churches and the LDPA (London District & Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches). Members of the congregation are involved in supporting community-based bodies, e.g. St Michael's Hospice, Police chaplaincy and the East Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

The church is a member of the Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum which promotes community cohesion through dialogue and co-operation between people of different faiths.

The church is fortunate in having among its congregation people who are willing to take on essential roles and duties, e.g., lettings and treasury, without remuneration, to further its aims.

Alison Forsyth, our paid Administrator and Clerk, has proved an invaluable asset not only in terms of internal organisation but also engaging with outside bodies in furtherance of the church and Trustees' aims. Michael Stewart continues to advise the church on investments and also acts as bookkeeper, giving his expertise and time without charge, and the church is very grateful to him.

Pete Sanders stepped down from his rôle as Chairman at the 2024 AGM, but continues to be a Trustee. The church would like to express our thanks to him for the many years he has carried out his duties with

calmness, efficiency and wit. He has been replaced by Dr. David Wood, who is also Secretary & Trustee at the Old Meeting House [Tenterden Unitarian Church].

The church would like to record its thanks to Pat Hitchman and Simon Edson for all their good work in maintaining the building in good condition.

The following documents, which form part of this report, are attached as annexes:

Lettings Report

Pulpit Secretary Report

Receipts & Payments

Assets & Liabilities

Independent Examiner's report

PULPIT REPORT 2024 / 2025

Since September 2024, we have been fortunate in welcoming a wide variety of service leaders to our church and have been able to offer a service every Sunday morning at 11.00 am. As we have no minister or lay pastor of our own, our service leaders are drawn from other Unitarian churches in the southeast of England, notably from Tenterden, Brighton, Lewes, and Horsham as well as London. We also invite the District Minister for the Southeast region to come and give a couple of services each year. In addition, we have been blessed in that many members of our own congregation have given excellent services. We have found that the congregation enjoys the variety of styles of delivery and content offered by a different service leader each week.

Occasionally, we have a congregational service during which everyone is invited to contribute a story, thoughts, a poem, a piece of music or even a work of art around a given theme.

We have continued to make our services available via Zoom and most weeks find that three or four people join the service online. However, following feedback from members of the congregation expressing a preference for live services, we have ceased inviting service leaders to give a service remotely via Zoom.

The congregation were kindly offered a piano of which we took delivery in June. We have an organist who plays the organ and / or the piano for the services on the second and fourth Sundays

of each month, and the live music is much appreciated by all. For all other services, we rely on playing the hymns from CDs recorded by the Unitarian Musical Society, and service leaders are requested to bring with them incidental music on CD or on their phones connected to a speaker.

Alison Forsyth

Administrator

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH LETTINGS REPORT OCT.24 TO SEPT 30TH.

This past church year has run relatively smoothly, and free from the impact of external events, such as local floods etc.

The general ambiance and exceptional acoustics of the church continue to be the preferred venue for four choirs at present :

Harmony One who met once a week on Monday evenings -

The Class choir who meet once a week on Wednesday evenings:

The Bach Choir who meet once a week on Friday evenings:

The Krishna Group meet twice a month on Thursday evenings:

The NFOP (National Federation of Post office Pensioners met once a month -

In the afternoons on the third Thursday, however we lost them before

December 2024 due to falling numbers and disabilities among the group.

Our Saturday Group (Narcotics Anonymous) meets every Saturday morning.

That completes the list of the groups and organisations who regularly hire our Premises, at a cost of £30 a session, (morning, afternoon or evening),

With the exception of the Saturday group who pay a discounted fee of £25.

In addition there are events run largely by congregation members, and supported By donation.

Circle Dancing is a social meeting open to all, they meet every Thursday morning to dance, and they pay a £3 donation.

Our more spiritual event Heart and Soul is held on the last Tuesday afternoon

In the month, also supported by donation.

In January 2025 a new group joined us, Bhagavad Gita, they met on the alternate Thursday evenings to the Krishna group, and followed a similar path.

They left us at the end of June 2025 due to falling attendance.

In addition to our regular hirings and events, we have also hosted one off events.

In March 2025 we held a charitable concert in aid of, Sussex Prisoners' Families, Organised by the church,with our own organist, at no cost - all donations made

On entry going in full to the charity.

On Saturday the 6th of September our church was hired for a Wedding.

This concludes the report.

Frances Williamson, (lettings secretary).

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO
Assets and Liabilities as at 30th September 2025

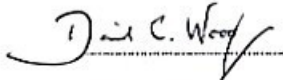
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	2024
Cash funds:					
Bank Current account	14,273		-	14,273	11,698
Cash in Hand	129		-	129	250
Total cash funds	<u>14,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,402</u>	<u>11,948</u>
Investment assets:					
M&G general fund	137,889			137,889	129,091
TAM AH legacy fund (February 2020) for Ministerial Support		28,458		28,458	26,247
TAM MB legacy fund (March 2022)	60,937			60,937	57,541
Total investment funds	<u>198,826</u>	<u>28,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>227,284</u>	<u>212,879</u>
Assets retained for the charity's own use:					
Church building	1,638,336	-	-	1,638,336	1,545,600
Pipe organ	319,357	-	-	319,357	301,280
	<u>1,957,693</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,957,693</u>	<u>1,846,880</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	2,170,921	28,458	-	2,199,379	2,071,707

Notes:

Investment assets are shown at valuations as at 30 September.

The Church building and Organ are shown at insurance valuations as at 29 September.
The Church building was revalued in the 4th quarter 2024.

Approved by the Trustees on the 26 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Chair and Trustee



Trustee

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 30th September 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2023-24
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Collections	6,004			6,004	5,909
Gift Aid	4,396			4,396	1,847
Grants and other (inc BFUA)	773			773	1,491
Use of Premises - Lettings	7,235			7,235	6,855
Investment Interest - M&G	7,905			7,905	7,352
Donations and collections for local charities	709			709	469
Insurance claim	0			-	0
Sub total (gross income)	27,021	-	-	27,021	23,923
Asset and Investment Sales:					
Withdrawals M&G - AH Legacy Fund		26,832		26,832	-
Total Receipts	27,021	26,832	0	53,853	23,923
Payments					
Lay Pastor and other Pulpit Fees	3,209			3,209	2,845
Organist's fees and Organ Repairs	995			995	1,651
Church administration	6,100			6,100	4,163
Caretaking and cleaning	1,909			1,909	1,451
Insurances	1,826			1,826	1,604
Lighting - Heating - Water	4,387			4,387	4,619
Repairs and Renewals	1,498			1,498	877
Presentation Equipment	576			576	-
Circle Dancing organiser's fee / music licence	60			60	10

Magazines and Newsletters	37			37	37
Legal Fees	175			0	660
Bank safe custody (& bank fees)	45			45	45
General Assembly Quota	420			420	420
Charitable donations	955			955	270
Donations to local charities	450			450	360
Church Internet	465			465	423
Music and marriage venue licences	200			200	319
Misc expenditure	1,093			1,093	544
Sub-total payments	24,400	-	-	24,400	20,318
Asset and Investment Purchases:					
Purchases TAM Ethical - AH Legacy Fund	168	26,832	-	27,000	-
Total payments	24,568	26,832	0	51,400	20,318
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,454	0	0	2,454	3,605
Bank balance last period end	11,698	0	0	11,698	8,093
Add: petty cash expenditure not yet reimbursed	121	0	0	121	
Bank balance this year end	14,273	0	0	14,273	11,698

David C. Wood
 Chair & Trustee
 26 April, 2026

Peter Sanders
 Trustee
 26 April 2026



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Hastings Unitarian Church CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

30th September 2025
Charity no (if any) 1166588

Set out on pages

2 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 30/09/2025 DD / MM / YYYY.

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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member.

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: A. A Suggitt

Date: 10/11/2025

Name: Alison Suggitt

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

AAT

Address: 25 Castleham Business Centre East

Stirling Rd St Leonards on Sea

East Sussex TN38 9NP

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.

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1166588

Accounts

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH
CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
REPORT TO CHARITY COMMISSION COVERING THE PERIOD 1
OCTOBER 2023 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2024
SUMMARY OF MAIN EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Introduction

The Unitarian Church offers a place to meet and worship in an atmosphere of freedom. Our Unitarian movement has a long and proud history dating back to the mid-sixteenth century. The church has no dogmas or creeds to adhere to and freedom of thought and spiritual inquiry is encouraged with complete tolerance and respect for other faiths or none. Membership is free and open to all who wish to join. Services are held every Sunday morning and subsidiary meetings may be held during the week for meditation, prayer, and discussion. Other community groups and societies also hire the church e.g. circle dancing Narcotics Anonymous, Interfaith Forum etc for their meetings.

Much of the church's work is undertaken on a voluntary basis by trustees and members of the congregation who receive no remuneration except for legitimate expenses.

The church continues to develop and deepen a spiritual path in community with each other; sharing our experiences and drawing inspiration from nature, art, literature, science, and other faith traditions from around the world.

Events and achievements

Our Lay Pastor, Jennifer Sanders left in February 2023 to become Minister at Brighton Unitarian Church. Consequently, the church now has no permanent Minister or Pastor. However, Sunday services are frequently taken by members of the congregation or visiting lay preachers from other Unitarian churches in the area. Their services offer a wide range of experience, knowledge and insight. We are fortunate in being able to call upon them.

The church supports a number of registered charities:

- i. Hastings Food Bank
- ii. Médecins Sans Frontières
- iii. 'Send a Child to Hucklow' (a Unitarian Charity offering holidays for disadvantaged children).

The church is keen to make itself more widely known in the Hastings & Rother area. A number of initiatives are being planned, e.g, more focussed publicity, organ recital in aid of a local charity, working collaboratively with other Unitarian churches and the LDPA (London District & Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches). A number of the congregation are involved in supporting community-based bodies, eg, St Michael's Hospice, Police chaplaincy, East Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

The church has recently been given permission to conduct same-sex marriages.

The church is a member of the Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum which promotes community cohesion through dialogue and co-operation between people of different faiths. A number of the congregation are involved in supporting community based

The church is very fortunate in having among its congregation people who are willing to take on essential roles and duties, eg, lettings and treasury, without remuneration, requiring much time and who work together in furtherance of the aims of the Church.

Coinciding with the departure of Jennifer Sanders the church agreed to advertise for a paid Administrator and Clerk. The successful applicant, Alison Forsyth, has been very effective in the role not only in terms of internal organisation but also engaging with outside bodies in furtherance of the Church and Trustees' aims.

The Church is very grateful to Michael Stewart who advises the church on investments and also acts as the Church's bookkeeper. He gives his expertise and time without charge.

The Church would like to record its thanks to Pat Hitchman and Simon Edson for their good offices in maintaining the church.

The following documents, which form part of this report, are attached as annexes:

Lettings Report

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Assets & Liabilities

Independent Examiner's report

Lettings Report

South Terrace and the surrounding area have twice suffered extensive flooding, requiring the Church to close, and necessitating refurbishment, such as new flooring and new carpets throughout. During this time the church was unable to offer its space for letting. The church now has some portable flood defence barriers which can be installed quickly.

In contrast this year has run quite smoothly.

Last year the Post Office Pensioners group stopped coming, due to the frailty of some of its members.

However, the acoustics of the building are popular with the choirs using the church on a regular basis -

Harmony One – (Monday evenings)

The Class Choir – (Wednesday evenings) and

The Bach Choir (Friday evenings).

Compared to larger venues our church is blessed with an overall feeling of intimacy and peaceful ambiance. This makes it popular with more spiritual groups such as the Krishna group and the Bhagavad-Gita group who meet alternate Thursdays.

The church has for some time been the venue for Circle Dancing run by members of the congregation and others who meet regularly on Thursday mornings. Dancers each pay £3.00 to the Church.

Narcotics Anonymous meet every Saturday morning. Given its aims the church is pleased to offer them a discount on its standard letting fee.

All other groups hiring the church pay £30 per session (morning, afternoon or evening).

The church is also used for 'Heart and Soul' meetings, held monthly on Tuesday afternoons.

PULPIT REPORT 2023 / 2024

Since September 2023, we have been fortunate in welcoming a wide variety of service leaders to our church and have been able to offer a service every Sunday morning at 11.00 am. As we have no minister or lay pastor of our own, our service leaders come from other Unitarian churches in the southeast of England, notably from Tenterden, Brighton, Lewes, and Horsham as well as London. We also invite the district minister for the Southeast region to come and give a couple of services each year. In addition, we have been blessed in that many members of our own congregation have given excellent services. We have found that the congregation enjoys the variety of styles of delivery and content offered by a different service leader each week.

Occasionally, we have a congregational service during which everyone is invited to contribute a story, thoughts, a poem, a piece of music or even a work of art around a given theme.

We have continued to make our services available via Zoom and most weeks find that three or four people join the service online. However, following feedback from members of the congregation expressing a preference for live services, we have ceased inviting service leaders to give a service remotely via Zoom.

We have an organist who plays for the services on the second Sunday of each month, and the live music is much appreciated by all. For all other services, we rely on playing the hymns from CDs recorded by the Unitarian Musical Society, and service leaders are requested to bring music on CD to play before and after the service.

Hastings Unitarian Church

Finance report section for the Chairman's annual report for the year 23-24

The trustees are pleased to report a surplus of £3,605 for the year, based on income from regular sources of £23,923 less expenditure of £20,318. This surplus increased the bank balance to £11,698 at the year-end 30 September 2024.

Professional valuations of the church building and pipe organ were undertaken during the year and totalled £1,846,880. The Church holds general and restricted investment funds of £212,879 (22-23 £198,522). Total Assets increased to £2,071,707 (22-23 £1,855,865).

The trustees believe that the overall financial position will remain strong in the foreseeable future and there is no significant outstanding or anticipated expenditure at the time of this report.

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO

Assets and Liabilities as at 30th September 2024

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
Cash funds:				
Bank Current account	11,698			-
Cash in Hand	250			-
Total cash funds	11,948		-	-
Investment assets:				
M&G general fund	129,091			
M&G AH legacy fund (February 2020) for Ministerial Support			26,247	
TAM MB legacy fund (March 2022)	57,541			
Total investment funds	186,632		26,247	-
Assets retained for the charity's own use:				
Church building	1,545,600		-	-
Pipe organ	301,280		-	-
	1,846,880		-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	2,045,460		26,247	-
Notes:				
<i>The Church building and Organ are shown at insurance valuations; they were revalued in the 4th quarter. Investment assets are shown at valuations as at 30 September.</i>				
Approved by the Trustees on the..... and signed on their behalf by				
.....			
Chair and Trustee			Trustee	

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1166588

Accounts

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH
SUMMARY OF MAIN EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
OVER THE YEAR (1 OCT. 2022 - 30 SEPT. 2023)

Introduction

The Unitarian Church offers a place to meet and worship in an atmosphere of freedom. Our Unitarian movement has a long and proud history dating back to the mid-sixteenth century. The church has no dogmas or creeds to adhere to and freedom of thought and spiritual inquiry is encouraged with complete tolerance and respect for other faiths or none. Membership is free and open to all who wish to join. Services are held every Sunday morning and subsidiary meetings may be held during the week for meditation, prayer, and discussion.

Other community groups and societies also hire the church e.g. circle dancing and Narcotics Anonymous, for their meetings.

Much of the work of the church is undertaken on a voluntary basis by trustees and members of the congregation who receive no remuneration except for legitimate expenses.

The church continues to develop and deepen a spiritual path in community with each other; sharing our experiences and drawing inspiration from nature, art, literature, science, and other faith traditions from around the world.

Events and achievements

Regrettably, our Lay Pastor, Jennifer Sanders, left the church in February 2023 to become Lay Pastor at Brighton Unitarian Church. She was committed to the Unitarian principles of inclusivity, free religious inquiry, and social justice. Her kindness and humour are much missed. She saw the need for the church to have a dedicated paid administrator who would take on the role of Clerk to the Church and its Secretary covering such things as pulpit rota, taking forward actions arising from Trustees' and Church Committee meetings. Currently the church has no dedicated Pastor or Minister and relies on guest Ministers, and speakers from

other Unitarian churches and members of its own congregation to lead services.

In January (2023) the church together with all property - both residential and business along South Terrace, Hastings, and the Priory Meadow Shopping Centre - was very badly affected by flooding due to heavy rainfall, an overflowing manhole and a partially-blocked sewer. It was some months before the church was dry enough for the carpets to be replaced and other damage repaired. The church is

Very conscious that as disruptive and costly the flood was to us in many parts of the world loss of life and livelihood are often the result.

The Church is most fortunate in having among its congregation people who are willing to take on essential roles and duties, eg, lettings and treasury, without remuneration, requiring much time and who work together in furtherance of the aims of the Church. The Church is very grateful to Michael Stewart who advises the church on investments and also acts as the Church's bookkeeper. He gives his expertise and time without charge.

The Church would like to record its thanks to Pat Hitchman and Simon Edson for their good offices in maintaining the church.

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Peter Sanders

Chair

Lettings Secretary's Report

Having looked at the report from February 2023, in considering what to write for this year, I have to say that not much has changed. We did have a second flood but fortunately the impact was considerably less, and we now have our own flood defence barrier.

So, to recap - **The Saturday Group** still meets every Saturday morning without fail, and they still receive a weekly discount paying £25 rather than £30. They have a new treasurer, Alan Lambourne.

The Krishna Group - who confirm their dates for the entire year, by the start of the year still meets twice a month on Thursday evenings, usually every other week.

The Class Choir still meets once a week on Wednesday evenings, excluding half terms and seasonal breaks throughout the year, and the occasional ill health of their musical director John Cornford.

The NFOP (Post Office Pensioners) meet once a month every third Thursday in the afternoon. In previous years, they would divide their meetings between us and Bexhill, but since the pandemic they have held almost all their meetings in Hastings with us.

One of our new regular groups is **The Bach Choir** who meet once a week on Friday evenings. Although they have missed a few sessions lately, also due to illness with their musical director, John Langridge, and an issue with their main keyboard, although I haven't heard any more about that. They also asked if they could hold a small concert in aid of the Rotary Club charity, to be held in either April or May. I said that anything involving the public would need to be considered by the trustees so I would pass that on. As yet, I haven't heard any more or received a definite date.

Karen who held **Gong Bath** sessions meeting every Friday morning is still with us, however she will be booking single sessions in future, with a possible afternoon and evening workshop, looking at an April date yet to be booked.

Harmony One were meeting every Monday evening, however their musical director Debbie Warren has also been unwell, so until I hear more, I'm not sure what is happening with them.

Everyone uses the bank transfer method, except The Class and NFOP who pay by cheque.

This year our main booking system has become considerably more efficient, thanks to a new 'online calendar' set up by our Administrator, Alison Forsyth.

A couple of our groups have mentioned that the church has been rather chilly at times, but I think they basically accept that large spaces like churches are costly to heat.

Frances Williamson

Lettings Secretary

Pulpit Report

Since September 2022, we have been fortunate in welcoming a wide selection of service leaders to our church. Initially, these 'visiting' service leaders complemented our resident lay pastor, Jennifer Sanders. When she left in February 2023, to take up a position as minister elect at Brighton Unitarian Church, we did not seek to replace her. Instead, we have continued with a mix of services led by visiting ministers and service leaders from other Unitarian churches in the southeast, notably Tenterden, Brighton, Maidstone, and London. In addition, we have been fortunate in that many members of our own congregation have given excellent services. We have found that the congregation enjoys the variety of styles and content offered by a different service leader each week.

Occasionally, we have a congregational service during which members of the congregation are invited to contribute a story, thoughts, a poem and so forth around a given theme.

We have continued to make our services available via Zoom, and most weeks we find that at least one person joins the service online. We have also had some very good services led by ministers remotely via Zoom notably from Wales. However, we have sometimes experienced problems with the technology, and for this reason, we have moved towards holding 'live' services wherever possible as the consensus among the congregation is that they prefer live services.

Alison Forsyth

Administrator

Hastings Unitar
Receipts and Pa
for the year ended 3

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
	£	£
Receipts		
Collections	6,107	
Gift Aid	-	
Grants and other (inc BFUA)	1,620	
Use of Premises - Lettings	6,282	
Investment Distributions M&G	7,182	
Building Fund	-	
Legacy	-	
Donations for local charities	271	
Insurance claim	6,435	
Sub total (gross income)	27,897	-
 Asset and Investment Sales:		
Withdrawals	3,000	
 Total Receipts	30,897	-
 Payments		
Lay Pastor and other Pulpit Fees	6,357	
Organist's fees and Organ Repairs	730	
Church administration	2,001	
Caretaking and cleaning	1,864	
Insurances	1,370	
Lighting - Heating - Water	6,506	
Repairs and Renewals inc flood repairs	6,891	
Presentation Equipment	-	
Circle Dancing organiser's fee	60	
Magazines and Newsletters	74	
Legal Fees	-	
Bank safe custody (& bank fees)	45	
General Assembly Quota	420	
Charitable donations	155	
Donations for local charities	205	
Church Internet	539	
Music licences	185	
Misc expenditure	1,495	
Increase Petty Cash fund	-	
Sub-total payments	28,898	-
 Assets and Investments		
Purchases	-	
 Total payments	28,898	-

Net of receipts/(payments)	1,999	0
Cash funds last period end	6,094	0
Cash funds this year end	<u>8,093</u>	<u>0</u>

Hastings Unitarian Church
Assets and Liabilities as at 30th Sep

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>
Cash funds:		
Bank Current account	8,093	-
Cash in Hand	250	-
Total cash funds	<u>8,343</u>	<u>-</u>
Investment assets:		
M&G general fund	121,635	
M&G AH legacy fund (February 2020) for Ministerial Support		23,294
TAM MB legacy fund (March)	53,593	
Total investment funds	<u>175,228</u>	<u>23,294</u>
Assets retained for the charity's own use:		
Church building	1,380,000	-
Pipe organ	269,000	-
Total assets retained	<u>1,999,456</u>	<u>46,588</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>2,007,799</u></u>	<u><u>46,588</u></u>

Notes:

The Church building and Organ are shown at insurance valuations; the Investment assets are shown at valuations as at 30 September.

ian Church CIO
 yments Account
 0th September 2023

Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2022
£	£	£
	6,107	7,030
	-	-
	1,620	1,308
	6,282	3,986
	7,182	6,715
	-	-
	-	-
	271	-
	6,435	-
	27,897	19,038
-		
	3,000	-
-	30,897	19,038
	6,357	9,991
	730	598
	2,001	-
	1,864	1,379
	1,370	-
	6,506	2,120
	6,891	7,827
	-	5,241
	60	-
	74	66
	-	105
	45	66
	420	420
	155	110
	205	-
	539	317
	185	172
	1,495	1,010
	-	40
	28,898	29,461
-		
	-	60,000
-	28,898	89,461

0	1,999	(70,423)
0	6,094	76,517
<u>0</u>	<u>8,093</u>	<u>6,094</u>

1 CIO

September 2023

Endowment Funds	Total	2022
-	8,093	6,094
-	250	250
<u>-</u>	<u>8,343</u>	<u>6,344</u>
	121,635	116,610
	23,294	21,075
	53,593	55,308
<u>-</u>	<u>198,522</u>	<u>192,993</u>
-	1,380,000	845,488
-	269,000	319,216
<u>-</u>	<u>1,649,000</u>	<u>1,164,704</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>1,855,865</u>	<u>1,364,041</u>

They have been revalued in the 4th quarter 2023.



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: Hasings Unitarian Church CIO

On accounts for the year ended

30th September 2023 Charity no (if any) 1166588

Set out on pages

2 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 .

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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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:

AS Suggitt

Date:

23/03/2024

Name:

Alison Suggitt

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

AAT

(if any):

--

Address:

25 Castleham Business Centre East

Stirling Rd St Leonards on Sea

East Sussex TN38 9NP

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.

--

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1166588

Accounts

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH
CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER 2021 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Reference and Administrative detail

Charity name and address:

Hastings Unitarian Church
South Terrace
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1SA

Registered charity number: 1166588

Names of Charity's Trustees:

1. Peter Sanders (Chair)
2. Francis Clark Loewes
3. Lesley Larcombe
4. Joanne Lemon
5. Campbell Purton
6. Ida Ward
7. Norman Williamson
8. Frances Williamson
9. Safar Wisby

The Trustees were appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

Names and addresses of advisers:

1. The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, Essex Hall, 1 - 6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY
2. London District & South Eastern Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, Essex Hall, 1 - 6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the Charity's Trusts

Governing document: Constitution (Revised addition adopted 3 June 2018).

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO). Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of office of three years. By staggering the dates of office three trustees will resign each year but are eligible for re-election.

Following the formation of the CIO in April 2016 the first financial year was extended from April 2016 to September 2017 to fit with the Church's normal financial year of 1 October to 30 September. The first AGM was held in June 2018 however since then all further AGMs have usually taken place in March.

Summary of the main activities for the public benefit.

The Unitarian Church offers a place to meet and worship in an atmosphere of freedom. Our Unitarian movement has a long and proud history dating back to the mid-sixteenth century, however there are no dogmas or creeds to adhere to and freedom of thought and spiritual inquiry is encouraged with complete tolerance and respect for other faiths or none.

Membership is free and open to all who wish to join. Services are held every Sunday morning and subsidiary meetings may be held during the week for meditation, prayer and discussion. Other community groups and societies also hire the church eg, circle dancing and Narcotics Anonymous, for their meetings.

Much of the work of the church is undertaken on a voluntary basis by trustees and members of the congregation who receive no remuneration except for legitimate expenses.

SUMMARY OF MAIN EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE YEAR

The church continues to develop and deepen a spiritual path in community with each other; sharing our experiences and drawing inspiration from nature, art, literature, science and other faith traditions from around the world.

Towards the end of the year the church lost one of its key members. Alan Larcombe was a man whose energy and commitment helped the church enormously. Under his guidance the church embraced 'zoom' technology enabling members to see services remotely - including one from Thailand. Alan was a most popular service leader and supported many charities. He enhanced the Unitarian presence in Kent and Sussex. His loss is deeply felt.

The congregation has increased a little over the year with some younger members.

Maintenance work on the church included refurbishment of the kitchen and upper gallery, carpet cleaning. The church benefitted from a new stained glass window in memory of Mary Burbage, a much loved past member.

The church now has its own website thanks to the help of Unitarians in London & the South-East.

The church is fortunate in having as its Lay Pastor, Jennifer Sanders. She has made a significant

contribution to the Church and we are pleased that she continues her training for the ministry.

The Church is very fortunate in having among its congregation people who are willing to take on essential roles and duties, eg, lettings and treasury, without remuneration requiring much time and who work together in furtherance of the aims of the Church.

The Church is very grateful to Michael Stewart who advises the church on investments and also acts as the Church's bookkeeper. He gives his expertise and time without charge.

The Church would like to record its thanks to Pat Hitchman and Simon Edson for their good offices in maintaining the church.

The following documents, which form part of this report, are attached as annexes:

Lay Pastor's Report Annex 1

Lettings Report Annex 2

Pulpit Secretary Report Annex 3

Receipts & Payments - filed separately

Assets and Liabilities - filed separately

Independent Examiner's report -

<file:///C:/Users/Pete/Downloads/IER%20Report%20signed%20Sept%202022-1.pdf>

LAY PASTOR'S REPORT ANNEX 1

I am so incredibly blessed to have spent the last 2 ½ years leading the congregation at Hastings and there have been a few tears, especially on Sunday as I drove away. Sunday was a very special day to be

with you and I wanted to thank you so much for the flowers and the generous cheque. I will let you know in due course what I choose to spend it on.

So much has happened during this time, Covid, changing worship, hybrid services, a new website, an opening up of the gallery space, and maintenance to the building.

And through it all I have been fortunate to build relationships with you all and be part of the growth, tenacity and love between you all. You are a unique congregation, spiritually rich and have witnessed much change in the church over the years which is why I feel hopeful and confident that you will come through this next phase of the church to embrace a new chapter.

With financial security, my hope is that you will take these next few months to reassess where you are as a congregation and look at options to invest in an expanded ministry to help to grow the church.

There will always be challenges, both individually with health and family, work and relationships as well as continuing concern over the decaying beauty of our dear planet and yet this congregation is bound together by a deep spiritual love and through a commitment to continue to explore share and support each other It will remain part of the landscape on the Unitarian movement.

Change is always around the corner and the death of Alan Larcombe, Chair of the Congregational committee in August was a huge shock to all of us having welcomed him back only days before after post-op recovery.

Both the service at Hastings Crematorium and the memorial service at our church were packed, reflecting his wide variety of friendships and the respect and love we all had for him. In many ways, the church is still coming to terms with his death and the huge loss he leaves both in terms of personality and also service.

The chair of trustees is carrying a heavy load, yet the congregation is pulling together to try to fill the gaps where possible.

One may say that 2022 has been a year of 2 halves a gentle settling from the ravages of Covid and enjoyment of participatory worship to a time of loss, reflection and gratitude and with 2023 offering the potential for new ministry for Hastings Unitarian Church.

Jennifer Sanders
LETTINGS REPORT

ANNEX 2

Our church seems to be blessed with its own resilience, however that may have been achieved, it

is something we can all be grateful for, we lose members and soon after their departure new members join us. This can also be said regarding the number of people who are willing and happy to share this spiritual space with us.

Since the full impact of the pandemic seems to have passed our hirings have returned to a more normal routine, along with a few new members.

The first group to return were Narcotics Anonymous who meet every Saturday morning.

The Krishna group, who meet twice a month on Thursday evenings have also resumed their bookings.

The Class Choir have also returned on Wednesday evening.

Another regular group who appreciate our venue is the NFOP (post office pensioners), who meet most months on Thursday afternoons.

We are pleased to welcome the Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum who rejoin us since the pandemic, on Tuesday evenings. We will also welcome Father Barry Carter for the first time on Thursday the 16th of March, he is the first hirer who has requested the use of our Zoom facilities. We have yet to fully discuss how that might be facilitated.

We have had to say goodbye to one group, the Townswomen's Guilds, who met once a month as they can no longer sustain their membership. They were the only group who required tables and chairs to be put out by our Caretaker, a service for which we didn't actually charge.

PULPIT SECRETARY'S REPORT

3

ANNEX

During the last year we have had some interesting new service leaders, both live and on Zoom. Zoom has been both a benefit and a challenge, but those who have risen to the challenge have done really well coping with the technical issues Zoom brings. There have been a few hiccups but no disasters. We now have the challenge of managing without our part-time Lay Pastor, Jennifer Sanders, who did an excellent job filling the pulpit diary, bringing many new faces to our church. Unfortunately we have lost a few too.

The pulpit rota is, with one or two exceptions, full for this year. I will endeavour to follow in her footsteps and fill as many of the gaps as possible. We may have more congregational services than before but I am hoping this will lead to more members of the congregation wanting to be involved. We will be continuing with Zoom but I hope to attract pulpit leaders who will take the service live here in the church.

Alison, our new Administrator, is a real asset to all of us, especially me, sending reminder e-mails etc and I am personally very grateful to her. This is a learning curve for all of us but working together we can make zoom and the pulpit rota work.

Lesley Larcombe
DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved

The Trustees' report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signatures: Peter Sanders

Full name: PETER CHARLES SANDERS

POSITION HELD: Chairman of Trustees

NORMAN WILLIAMSON

POSITION HELD: Trustee

Date: 16 JULY 2023

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 30th September 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Collections	7,030			7,030	5,556
Gift Aid	-			-	-
Grants and other (LDPA & B&F-HF)	1,308			1,308	1,445
Use of Premises - Lettings	3,986			3,986	25
Investment Interest (M&G)	6,715			6,715	5,780
Building Fund	-			-	52
Legacy	-			-	66,477
Coffee donations for local charities	-			-	85
<i>Sub total (gross income)</i>	<u>19,038</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,038</u>	<u>79,420</u>
Asset and Investment Sales:					
Unit Trusts	-			-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Receipts	<u>19,038</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,038</u>	<u>79,420</u>
Payments					
Lay Pastor and other Pulpit Fees	9,991			9,991	8,177
Organist's fees and Organ Repairs	598			598	146
Caretaking and cleaning	1,379			1,379	753
Insurances	-			-	1,091
Lighting - Heating - Water	2,120			2,120	2,105
Repairs and Renewals	7,775	52		7,827	174
Presentation Equipment	5,241			5,241	-
Magazines and Newsletters	66			66	60
Legal Fees	105			105	-
Bank safe custody & bank fees	66			66	45
General Assembly Quota	420			420	420
Charitable donations	110			110	-
Coffee donations for local charities	-			-	182
Church Internet	317			317	286
Subscriptions	-			-	-
Music licences	172			172	165
Misc expenditure	1,010			1,010	139
Increase Petty Cash fund	40			40	-
<i>Sub-total payments</i>	<u>29,409</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,461</u>	<u>13,743</u>
Asset and Investment Purchases:					
TAM MB legacy fund (March 2022)	60,000			60,000	-
Total payments	<u>89,409</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>89,461</u>	<u>13,743</u>
Net of receipts/(payments)	(70,371)	(52)	0	(70,423)	65,677
Cash funds last period end	9,988	66,529	0	76,517	10,840
Reclassification per legacy	66,477	(66,477)			
Cash funds this year end	<u>6,094</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,094</u>	<u>76,517</u>

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO
Assets and Liabilities as at 30th September 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	2021
Cash funds:					
Bank current account	6,094	-	-	6,094	76,517
Cash in hand	250	-	-	250	210
Total cash funds	6,344	-	-	6,344	76,727
Investment assets:					
M&G general fund	116,610			116,610	130,684
M&G AH legacy fund (February 2020) - Ministerial Support	55,308	21,075		21,075	22,444
TAM MB legacy fund (March 2022) Total investment funds	171,918	21,075	-	192,993	153,128
Assets retained for the charity's own use:					
Church building	845,488	-	-	845,488	845,488
Pipe organ	319,216	-	-	319,216	319,216
Total assets retained	1,164,704	-	-	1,164,704	1,164,704
TOTAL ASSETS	1,342,966	21,075	-	1,364,041	1,394,559

Notes:

*The Church building and Organ are shown at insurance valuation.
Investment assets are shown at valuations received.*

Approved by the Trustees on the 16/7/2023 and signed on their behalf by




Chair and Trustee

Trustee

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1166588

Accounts

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

**For the period 1 October 2020 - to 30
September 2021**

Reference and Administrative Detail

Charity name: Hastings Unitarian Church
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered charity number: 1166588

Charity's address: Hastings Unitarian Church
South Terrace
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1SA

Names of Charity's Trustees:

1. Peter Sanders (Chairman)
2. Daniel Costley
3. Alan Larcombe
4. Joanna Lemon
5. Ida Ward
6. Frances Williamson
7. Norman Williamson
8. Safar Wisby

The Trustees were appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

Names and addresses of advisers

1. The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, Essex Hall, 1 – 6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY
2. London District & South Eastern Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, Essex Hall, 1 – 6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the Charity's Trusts

Governing document: Constitution (Revised addition adopted 3 June 2018).

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of office of three years. By staggering the dates of office three trustees will resign each year but are eligible for re-election.

Following the formation of the CIO in April 2016 the first financial year was extended from April 2016 to

September 2017 to fit with the Church's normal financial year of 1 October to 30 September. The first AGM was then held in the following June (2018) however since then all further AGMs have taken place in March with the exception of the AGM in 2021 which was held in May of that year due to Covid restrictions.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the CIO is the promotion of religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

Summary of the main activities for the public benefit

The Unitarian Church offers a place to meet and worship in an atmosphere of freedom. Our Unitarian movement has a long and proud history dating back to the mid-sixteenth century, however there are no dogmas or creeds to adhere to and freedom of thought and spiritual inquiry is encouraged with complete tolerance and respect for other faiths or none.

Membership is free and open to all who wish to join. Services are held every Sunday morning and subsidiary meetings may be held during the week for meditation, prayer and discussion. Other community groups and societies also hire the church eg, circle dancing and Narcotics Anonymous, for their meetings.

Except for the Lay Pastor, who is currently training for the Ministry, all trustees and officers of the Church are volunteers and receive no remuneration except for legitimate expenses.

SUMMARY OF MAIN EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE YEAR

Given the challenges arising from the Covid 19 pandemic and its variants the church has weathered the storm very well. The church, of necessity, had to lock-down following Government guidance and strictures and, when allowed to open its doors again observed social distancing and other safeguarding measures. The church is fortunate in having an immunologist as a member (and past chairman) who was able to offer advice regarding Government guidelines.

The introduction of new technology and on-line software packages meant that even when we were in lock-down we could share our services to church members via zoom.

The purchase of additional equipment, ie, professional camera, large flat screen TV, sound system, etc. enabled our services to be broadcast more widely. This technology also means that service leaders were able to take services remotely. Ways to improve the service by, eg, additional training for volunteers or getting outside help is being considered.

A generous bequest from a former member of the congregation enabled the church to purchase and

install the kit after careful deliberation by the Trustees and Congregational Committee.

Following the resignation of the Church's lay pastor, Stephen Crowther, in September 2020, we were fortunate in securing the services of Jennifer Sanders as our new Lay Pastor. She has made a significant contribution to the Church and we are pleased that she is now training for the ministry.

Regrettably, Norman Williamson, who has been chair of the Church since it became a CIO, felt that it was time to step down as Chairman but continues as a Trustee. The Church owes a debt of gratitude to him especially in leading the Church to its status as a CIO. His contribution to the church has been immense.

Peter Sanders has replaced him as Chairman. The church wishes him luck.

Church attendance remains steady and we have been pleased that some existing and new members have joined us through zoom.

Due to the sad loss of Tom McLelland-Young last year the church has been without a regular organist and has relied on prepared CDs and streamed music. The church has now engaged a professional organist, Stephen Page, once a month. We are grateful to him.

Thanks to a generous bequest the Church's is in a good financial position. Following a motion from the

General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches regarding fossil fuels together with a requirement to periodically review church investments a decision has been taken to transfer some funds to an ethically based fund manager which is expected to give the church a higher yield. The Church is very grateful to Michael Stewart who advises the church on investments and also acts as the Church's bookkeeper. He gives his expertise and time without charge.

The Church is very fortunate in having among its congregation people who are willing to take on roles and duties without remuneration requiring much time and who work together in furtherance of the aims of the Church.

The Church would like to record its thanks to Pat Hitchman and Simon Edson for their good offices in maintaining the church.

The following documents, which form part of this report, are attached as annexes:

Lay Pastor's Report	Annex 1
Congregational Chairman's Report	
Annex 2	
Lettings Report	Annex 3
Receipts and Payment Account	
Independent examiner's report on	Filed
as	
the accounts	PDF
docs.	
Trustees' Declaration	

ANNEX 1 LAY PASTOR'S REPORT

It seems almost incomprehensible that two years have passed since Covid touched our shores and the way that we worship changed forever. A year ago my report was written with only 5 months of leadership at Hastings and during a further lockdown. Since that time we have returned to live services with the addition of hybrid Zoom services for those not able to return or prefer to worship from home. This has proved invaluable as we traversed the unstable landscape of Omicron where more of the congregation chose to attend via the tech link

We didn't waste our time in Lockdown in the early part of last year - far from it. We provided weekly online services to all those who could connect from care homes to overseas visitors as well as telephone connection or written services for those not connected to the internet.

Although not perhaps our first choice of how to be together it brought a sense of community and many remarked on the intimacy that zoom offered giving way to a deeper level of sharing.

Four of the congregation attended the leading change in the congregation course online. This provided an invaluable starting point to review, discuss and plan changes in the church

We felt that Hastings needed a metaphorical facelift in terms of its welcome and thanks to the LDPA who have gifted a new website which although slow to construct is well on its way and we hope to have this up and running in the next few months. We hope that this will improve our visibility in Hastings and give virtual visitors a taste of what we do, who we are and what we can offer.

Seeking Exploring Sharing A welcoming spiritual community

The above is Hastings Unitarian Church's new, welcoming statement something that took time in our meeting together to agree but simply reflects what we do as a community.

We have a mix of live services, led by our Lay pastor and now student minister, congregational members - some of whom have taken the leap for the first time and visiting leaders from the district and beyond. Approx every 6 weeks we have been able to offer an online projected service linking us up to service leaders further afield which has brought a rich and eclectic mix to the congregation.

Services have evolved into a more relaxed approach with a semi circular set up. We noted that zoom had provided us with the opportunity to look at each other during worship and this now continues live and creates a greater intimacy.

Other changes to the church have included a decorative facelift in the kitchen and lavatories. The upstairs is undergoing new flooring and dismantling of a disused room to make way for a new light open space for informal meetings and pastoral care.

Much of this work has been made possible by a legacy from a former long standing member of the church. We are very grateful to Mary Burbage for her generous donation and a new stained glass oval window depicting her is in progress .We look forward to displaying this in due course..

The committee took the decision to upgrade and install equipment to assist in the changing way we deliver our services. This took place recently and we are slowly finding our way with new technology. It's important to put out a consistent and high quality service via zoom and to that end we have simplified our services whilst some congregational members get used to the technology

Along with the loss of Tom McClelland Young, our beloved organist, we also said good bye to Phil, who although hadn't been in touch during the pandemic had been a regular to the church with his late wife. A memorial will take place for him later this year

We were contacted last year by a local family asking for support for their brother in Thailand who had been a life long Unitarian and was terminally ill . Through zoom he joined the congregation for several months last year.

His memorial service was held at the church a few months ago linking those in the church with family members in this country and in Thailand . Technology for all its shortcomings has played such an important part of the church this past year.

Some groups have returned to using the church again and we are exploring ways in which the space can be used in connection with local food banks under the umbrella of the Trussell Trust.

There is always so much to do and so little time and as for many with small congregations we have found it difficult to fill certain roles and are looking at other ways we can find administrative support. However all of the congregation are involved in some way in the upkeep of the church giving generously of their time and skills, love, prayers and connection and we are grateful to all of them for keeping this precious sacred space alive and welcoming in the heart of Hastings .

It has been a busy year and one in which we are back together worshiping together supporting each other and of course having that all important cup of tea and a biscuit together !

With recent atrocities in Ukraine we are grateful for all that we have.

Jennifer Sanders - Lay Pastor, Hastings Unitarian Church

March 2022

**ANNEX 2
REPORT**

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN'S

Hopefully, this new year will see an end to the uncertainty of the past two years, and we can now return to the “new normal” whatever that is. We have managed to soldier on despite the difficulties more or less intact. Our congregation has held up fairly well, ably guided by our lay preacher Jennifer, to whom we are grateful.

The fabric of the church is fairly sound, but we still have not had some of the essential work done and are struggling to find a company that wish to undertake the work. An elderly building such as ours will always need maintaining and we have to make provision in our budget to keep the building up to standard.

The new tech has proved tiresome, but as far as the equipment is concerned, we are almost there; using the equipment to best advantage is on-going and we could seek additional advice in that direction.

We hope to involve all of the congregation in how the Unitarian Church can play a more important part in the well being of the Hastings community and open our doors, not just for a short time on Sundays, but offer our facilities for those organizations that could benefit from its use.

My thanks to all officers, helpers, leaders, and our congregation for their moral and financial contribution.

Alan Larcombe

March 2022

ANNEX 3 LETTINGS' SECRETARY REPORT

In my report to the AGM in May 2021 I described the year as completely unprecedented, and pointed out the lack of activity in the church as a result of the pandemic lockdown, something we all endured as a nation and not just as a community.

Since then it's very gratifying to see how we are moving forward despite initial hesitations and concerns regarding Covid, though I know that for many of us those concerns still linger on in the back of our minds, especially when reports of high numbers of infection stubbornly persist.

It would appear that this virus is just another challenge we will have to learn to live with, and it is rewarding to see how we have come together, embraced new technology and adapted. Conscious that our church is first and foremost a place of worship, we started with hybrid Sunday services, both in person and on Zoom, and complemented that worship with our Heart and Soul meetings.

Members of the congregation were also very pleased that our friends in the wider community were able to join us when we began Circle Dancing again.

Our Unitarian church is still a member of the Interfaith Forum for Hastings and Rother; before Covid they held at least four meetings a year in our church, however they still prefer to make use of technology and keep their monthly Tuesday evening meetings on Zoom; it's hoped that some day soon they will also feel able to return and join together in person.

It has been very encouraging to see how many of our loyal clients are determined to adapt to the 'new normal' and continue with the social activities that they have previously enjoyed.

The Saturday group from Narcotics Anonymous were the first to return in June of 2021.

The Krishna's returned in August and they meet twice a month on Thursday evenings.

The Townswomen's Guild Returned in September and they meet monthly on Friday afternoons.

The NFOP (post office pensioners) returned in January 2022; they meet monthly on Thursday afternoons, and this year they will hold a total of eleven meetings with us.

The Class Choir also returned in January meeting every Wednesday evening.

The most important thing is that our clients are all very happy to be back with us.

Frances Williamson

March 2022

DECLARATION*

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signatures: Peter Sanders

Norman Williamson

Full name: PETER SANDERS

NORMAN WILLIAMSON

Position held: CHAIRMAN,

TRUSTEE

Date: 24 JULY 2022

24 JULY 2022

* Original document held with Hastings CIO.

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 30th September 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Collections	5,556			5,556	6,065
Gift Aid	-			-	394
Grants and other	1,445			1,445	20,698
Use of Premises - Lettings	25			25	2,551
Donations at events	-			-	4
Investment Interest - Unit Trusts	5,780			5,780	4,207
Bank Interest	-			-	-
Building Fund		53		53	85
Legacy		66,477		66,477	-
Coffee donations for local charities		85		85	191
Insurance claim	-			-	-
Books and magazines	-			-	-
Reserves	-			-	-
Sub total (gross income)	12,805	66,614	-	79,420	34,195
Asset and Investment Sales:					
Unit Trusts	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	12,805	66,614	-	79,420	34,195
Payments					
Lay Pastor and other Pulpit Fees	8,177			8,177	6,960
Organist's fees and Organ Repairs	146			146	1,005
Caretaking and cleaning	753			753	1,615
Covid protection	0			-	94
Insurances	1,091			1,091	1,093
Lighting - Heating - Water	2,105			2,105	2,293
Repairs and Renewals	174			174	2,202
Audio Equipment	0			-	-
Circle Dancing organiser's fee	0			-	260
Postage, Stationery and Refreshments	0			-	-
Magazines and Newsletters	60			60	70
Legal Fees	0			-	-
Accountancy fees - Book Keeping	0			-	90
Bank safe custody	45			45	45
Architecture fees	0			-	-
General Assembly Quota	420			420	420
Charitable donations	0			-	50
Coffee donations for local charities		182		182	-
Church Internet	286			286	-
Subscriptions	0			-	120
Music licences	165			165	161
Misc expenditure	139			139	175
History Book	0			-	432
LDPA refund re Northiam Church	0			-	1399
Sub-total payments	13,561	182	-	13,743	18,484
Asset and Investment Purchases:					
Unit Trusts	0		-	-	62,000
Total payments	13,561	182	-	13,743	80,484
Net of receipts/(payments)	(756)	66,432	0	65,676	(46,289)
Cash funds last period end	10,743	97	0	10,840	57,129
Cash funds this year end	9,987	66,529	0	76,516	10,840

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO
Assets and Liabilities as at 30th September 2021

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Endowment Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash funds:					
Bank Current account	9,987	66,529	-	76,516	10,840
Cash in Hand	<u>210</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>-</u>
Total cash funds	<u>10,197</u>	<u>66,529</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,726</u>	<u>10,840</u>
Investment assets:					
Unit Trusts	130,684	22,444		153,128	119,058
Assets retained for the charity's own use:					
Church building	845,488	-	-	845,488	845,488
Pipe organ	<u>319,216</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>319,216</u>	<u>319,216</u>
	<u>1,295,388</u>	<u>22,444</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,317,832</u>	<u>1,283,762</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,305,585</u></u>	<u><u>88,973</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,394,558</u></u>	<u><u>1,294,602</u></u>

Notes:

Organ and Church building are shown at insurance valuation.

Approved by the Trustees on the 27 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Chair and Trustee



Trustee



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
Hastings Unitarian Church

On accounts for the year ended

September 2021

Charity no (if any)

1166588

Set out on pages

2 Pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended ~~£D / NM / YYYY~~.

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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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:

Alison Suggitt

Date:

05/05/22

Name:

Alison Suggitt

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

AAT

(if any):

--

Address:

33 Cambridge Gardens
Hastings
East Sussex

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.

<p>McMath Accountancy Services 33 Cambridge Road Hastings East Sussex TN34 1EN 01424 458077</p>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: Hastings Unitarian Church

On accounts for the year ended

September 2021

Charity no (if any)

1166588

Set out on pages

2 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 DD / MM / YYYY.

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

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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:

[Handwritten signature]

Date:

05/05/22

Name:

Alison Suggitt

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

AAT

(if any):

--

Address:

33 Cambridge Gardens

Hastings

East Sussex

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.

McMath Accountancy Services
33 Cambridge Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1EN
01424 458077

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1166588

Accounts

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period from 1st October 2019 to 30th September 2020

Reference and Administration Detail

Charity Name:- Hastings Unitarian Church Charitable Incorporated Organization

Registered charity number:- 1166588

Charity's address:- Hastings Unitarian Church
South Terrace
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1SA

Names of Charity's Trustees

1. Norman Williamson Chairman
2. Daniel Costley
3. Alan Larcombe
4. Joanna Lemon
5. Peter Sanders
6. Ida Ward
7. Frances Williamson
8. Safar Wisby

The Trustees were appointed at the annual general meeting

Names and addresses of advisers

1. The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches,
Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3HY
2. London District and South Eastern Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free
Christian Churches, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3HY.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the Charity's Trusts.

Governing Document: Constitution. (Revised addition adopted 3rd June 2018)

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of office of three years. By staggering the dates of office, three trustees will resign each year, but are eligible for re-election.

Following the formation of the CIO in April 2016 the first financial year was extended from April 2016 to September 2017 to fit with the Church's normal financial year of 1st October to 30th September. The first AGM was then held in the following June (2018), however the following two years it was moved to March and this was the intended Month for all further AGMs. Because of the CoViD 19 lockdown we have been forced to extend this year's AGM to May 2021 but we shall return to March next year. Because of the delay from the end of the financial year in September 2020 to the AGM in May 2021 some of the reports will cover a period from October 2019 to April 2021.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the CIO is the promotion of religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

Summary of the main activities for the public benefit.

The Unitarian Church offers a place to meet and worship in an atmosphere of freedom. Our Unitarian Movement has a long and proud history dating back to the mid sixteenth century, however, there are no dogmas or creeds to adhere to and freedom of thought is encouraged with complete tolerance and respect to other religions. Membership is free and open to all who wish to join. Services are held every Sunday morning and subsidiary meetings may be held during the week for meditation, prayer and discussions. There are other groups such as circle dancing, poetry and knitting. It may also be used for weddings (including same sex), funerals and child naming. Other community groups and societies also hire the property for their meetings.

Except for the Lay Pastor, all trustees and officers of the Church are volunteers and receive no remuneration except for legitimate expenses.

Summary of Main Achievements of the Charity during the year.

In October 2019 the Church was showing signs of moving forward with a gradual increase in attendance and introduction of new features. Things looked bright as we moved towards Christmas and some members were busy as members of local choirs rehearsing and singing Christmas music. Just before Christmas several members of the choirs became very ill and this spread amongst the congregation into the early New Year. This resulted in a marked reduction of attendance to services and events over the Festive Season. The illness was labelled as a “Flu” like illness even though most had been given the Influenza vaccine and the symptoms were not typical. For some it was a slow recovery with considerable fatigue, and problems with lungs and muscles. A possible cause of the illness, although we have no positive proof, became clearer in February 2020 with the recognition of cases infected with Sars CoVi-2 virus and the development of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Things gradually returned to normal in the early New Year and we prepared for our annual general meeting which was held as scheduled on 1st March 2020, however we had some concerns with the increasing number of cases of Covid-19 in the local community and a decision was taken to suspend our Services. By the end of March an official lockdown was imposed and we prepared for the future, that at this stage seemed very unsure, especially as Stephen Crowther our Lay Pastor was also due to retire in April, just after Easter. We had started looking for a replacement Pastor but during a lockdown it was not possible to continue at that stage.

Following our closure of the Church in March Stephen suggested we open up on Sunday, just for individuals to enter for private prayer but this was abandoned after one week because of the need to sanitise the Church before and after opening and we were still not sure about the risk of infection. Two weeks later a full lockdown was imposed which meant all Churches closed. To keep the congregation together, Stephen decided to send out, by email or post, a written service every week, and then we would read this at home on Sunday morning at 11am. For those fortunate enough to be in a so-called bubble, they could share out the reading and some of us joined with others on the phone. Each week we would take it in turns to lead and decide who would read which part of the service, and this made us feel much more involved. As we proceeded, we added recorded music at the beginning and the end of the service. Then we found recordings of some hymns and we selected those we thought were appropriate for each service. For many of us and especially those who were shielding this became the highlight of our week and although we missed the fellowship of the congregation it had the advantage of not needing to dress up and travel in the wind

and rain.

As we moved closer to Easter the prospect of a period without a lay pastor was causing the trustees and Church committee some concern, however Stephen understood our worries and he agreed, without too much arm twisting to stay on until the pandemic eased and we were able to work towards finding a replacement. During this extended period Stephen continued to send out his weekly services. Our congregation were of an age group where much of the internet and its uses were a complete mystery, but we found ourselves suddenly faced with a new array of terms such as Zoom, Teams, Webinars, Streaming, YouTube and many others, and it became obvious that we had to explore these areas if we were to progress in the future.

During the Summer of 2020 the infection rate decreased and we were able to move forward with the selection of a new part-time Lay Pastor, and in September Stephen retired. In October 2020 the start of the next financial year we were able to appoint, Jennifer Sanders as our new Lay Pastor and as cases of Covid-19 had fallen we were able to reopen the Church for our Sunday services and this allowed Jennifer to get to know the Church. November showed a steady increase in the number of Covid-19 cases, followed by a rapid acceleration towards the end of the month as the new variant spread from Kent into Sussex. We decided to close the Church and it has remained closed up to May 2021. During this period we have held services every Sunday using Zoom. Other Zoom meetings such as "Heart and Soul" and committee meetings have also taken place. We have joined other groups virtually using Zoom or Microsoft teams including the local inter-faith society, the Festival for Unitarians South East (FUSE) and the General Assembly for Unitarians and Free Christian Churches annual general meeting.

During this period of closure we have maintained close contact with our congregation either by phone, email or Zoom and we have maintained our numbers. Unfortunately we did lose our organist, Tom McLelland-Young to Covid. Tom was an eminent musician, both as a performer and a composer and we shall miss him deeply. He now leaves a large void to be filled when we again open the Church. Having the Church closed for a long period does present some problems. We have to maintain some heating to protect the fabric of the building and also for our organ which Tom had played so beautifully. There are of course essential expenses which still have to be paid and yet our income has fallen as we are not earning from letting out the Church and donations are smaller. However, I think we are coming out of the pandemic in reasonable shape and we look forward to a brighter future.

Norman Williamson, Chairman of Trustees, April 2021

Lay Pastors Report:- Hastings October 2020-April 2021

This last year has seen so many challenges and changes with the Covid Pandemic not least at Hastings. It has been a year like no other and in time I'm sure we will be able to look back, digest and really take stock of the effects of a year of lockdowns.

As I write this report I can hardly believe 6 months have gone past since I walked through the doors of Hastings Unitarian Church as your Lay Leader. Stephen's hard work has brought stability and consistency to Hastings and for that I feel very grateful.

The warm welcome you gave me back in October has stayed with me during these months of isolation and I would also like to express my thanks for your support and help in those early weeks of getting to know the church and its layout. It's never easy making the transition from one leader to another, made all the more tricky with the pandemic and I have been greatly reassured by your warmth and thanks and willingness to try new things.

The church was only open a few weeks over September and October before rising infection rates in Hastings led us to take the step to close our doors and protect our congregation.

Services moved online in November. We have made huge efforts to ensure that all that wish to join, whether that be via phone link, care home internet access, or zoom have been able. A few of our members prefer to read the service at home and a weekly email or postings have ensured, for the most part, this has happened. Zoom is not ideal, it has its good and bad points and yet it has enabled us to see each other, worship together and for some has created a different type of intimacy and sharing that may not have happened in the church.

Our task now is to set out a gentle and considered return to live services that we can sustain, that can be inclusive and continue to embrace technology. It is as I see it, a new chapter in the life of Hastings Congregation. Nothing stays the same, with nearly a year away from the church and the original desire to have everything back as it was, can now be an opportunity to review, pause and look at what works well and what not so well. But above all it is a time to reconnect, to be with each other again, to pray together, to be still together, to be open to the new and mourn the old.

Heart and Soul meetings also started online on the last Tuesday of the month in December and continue with the wonderful support of Safar. Thank you Safar it is a joy to work with you. Heart and soul will continue and at some point return to a live gathering or combined with online.

One of the advantages of online services is the ability to welcome service leaders from further afield, for example:- Jef Jones, Duncan Voice, Ashley Hills, Susie Courthauld, Stephanie Bishby, as well as our members, Safar, Alan, Peter and myself. Joining forces on occasion with Brighton and Ditchling has brought that connection with other congregations that live services don't. We will be working with the Unitarian Digital Resources network to explore further ways to provide hybrid services.

As a congregation we have kept mainly well from Covid but were all saddened at the recent death of Tom McLelland-Young, a member for many years who composed and played organ music regularly at the Hastings services. His recent funeral reminded me of what an incredible tenacious and talented man he was and there will be an empty space at the organ where Tom once was. A memorial service will be planned for him later in the year.

Behind the scenes, well mainly at home in front of the computer! There has been progress. I am delighted to report that the LDPA will be funding a new website for Hastings. It will be along the same lines as the <https://www.ldpaunitarians.org>

Simple and easy to navigate and one that we can also put our own stamp on. This, I see as an exciting and positive move forward. This last year has seen an increase in people searching for spiritual nourishment and using online sources as a way of connection. With our time left attending online services it is hoped we can record some of these to use on our website when it goes live.

Four of us have been attending a bi-weekly course run online by Rev Andy Pakula, of New Unity, and Rory Castle Jones, Unitarian student minister, entitled 'Leading Change in the Congregation.' It has been a lively learning space and given us food for thought especially at this time. Peter, Safar, Alan and myself have been meeting online in between each session which has brought an opportunity to discuss ideas, think and laugh together. My hope is that we share some of this with you in a group setting as we return to church and look at how we are as a congregation and how we want to be going forward.

I have enjoyed getting to know you all a little more during these past seven months and look forward to planning some credo walks with you now that we can mix again. Inclusion is an important part of my ministry and there will be further regular opportunities for Congregational members to share at services.

But for now I want to say thank you to you all for your kindness and welcome, support, laughter and sharing. My commitment to lead and serve you to the best of my ability in the light of spirit, grows with each passing day.

Blessings

Jennifer Sanders - Lay Pastor, The Hastings Congregation
April 2021

Report of the Chairman of the Congregation

Hopefully, we will soon come out of the lockdown and get back to our regular Sunday services. How I've missed you all. Zoom has been a useful substitute, and I guess has moved the church on in using technology, but I'm sure that we are all looking forward to our face-to-face meetings again.

Sadly, we will have to do without the beautiful organ playing of Tom who passed away earlier this year.

Our Chair of Trustees, Norman, is retiring from the post, and the church owes an enormous debt of gratitude to him for setting up our trustees and steering us in the right direction.

Thanks to all our serving officers for their work throughout the year and thank you all for your help and assistance to me during this difficult year.

Best wishes to you all Alan Larcombe. 2nd May 2021

HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH CIO A.G.M. 2ND MAY 2021
LETTINGS REPORT FROM FRANCES WILLIAMSON.

In my last report my opening line stated that 'It had been an eventful year', well this year has been completely unprecedented and totally unforeseen for most of us, although there are doubtless many eminent scientists around the world who may beg to differ. This report will differ as well in many respects compared to previous ones owing to the complete lack of activity in the church, none of our previous clients, either regular or who have joined us more recently have been able to attend during the periods of 'lockdown'.

I refer first to our long established groups whose hirings were as follows:

Circle Dancers who met Mondays and Thursdays mornings.

The Class Choir who met every Wednesday evening.

Townswomen's Guild who met every fourth Friday.

Post Office Pensioners who met on the third Thursday (on alternate months).

We were also able to assist several less regular groups and one off bookings.

The Samaritans, Music in Churches, The U3A (Universe of the third age),

The Heart of Hastings (i.e. social housing) and the local Buddhists.

And our own Heart and Soul met in the evening on the last Thursday of the month, and we also held workshops on Saturday afternoons.

The Reiki sessions held monthly on Thursday afternoons were also well received.

Our more recent clients from 2019 till March 2020 were namely :

Narcotics Anonymous who joined us in June 2019 and met every Saturday morning.

The Hastings and Rother Intergroup with Addiction who had several Tuesday evening meetings throughout the year.

The Interfaith Forum for Hastings and Rother have held several meetings on Tuesday evenings with us, and the Unitarian Church subsequently joined their organisation in 2019. They met for their AGM in November 2019 and in January 2020.

And finally The International Society of Krishna Consciousness first joined us in February 2019, and met in the evening on the first and third Thursday in the month.

In accordance with Government guidelines all hirings of the church had ceased by April 2020. However thanks to the technology of Zoom several meetings have continued. Along with Sunday worship with the arrangement for a limited personal attendance. Heart and Soul were also able to continue monthly via Zoom on Tuesday afternoons.

The Interfaith Forum has also met online with several very interesting speakers and topics, the computer and the shared screen have been a useful alternative to having a speaker in person using slides projected onto a large screen in our church, and although that doesn't provide any lettings income for the church, there is no need put out up to fifty chairs and no refreshments or facilities are required.

On a more positive note as we emerge into what we hope will be some form of normality a number of groups have already announced their wish to return to our church.

The Townswomen's Guild plan to return on the 24th of June 2021. They have requested that tables and chairs are put out for them and they will let us know about the numbers and layout nearer the time.

Narcotics Anonymous also contacted me expressing their wish to return soon. I did ask them to confirm that they have their own designated cleaner who will sanitize where necessary, as yet I haven't heard back from them about that or the exact date they wish to return.

The Interfaith Forum will also return and they have two dates booked with us - Tuesday 13th of July and Tuesday 9th of November.

And finally The International Society Of Krishna Consciousness (or Iskcon for short) will return in July and they will meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday in the month.

Depending on how things develop in the future it is hoped that we can welcome other groups back such as The Class Choir, The Circle Dancers, and even possibly Reiki sessions, and groups like the Samaritans may be needed more than ever.

On a more somber note, having sadly lost our organist Tom who succumbed to CoVID no one has played the organ in the church since, however we hoped that will also change, as among others our previous organist Stephen Page has expressed an interest in playing our organ again if only to help maintain it.

Although we may not be through the tunnel yet, let us all hope and pray that we will finally see the light at the end of it.

This ends the lettings report.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signatures:	<u>N. Williamson</u>	<u>Mrs F M Williamson</u>
Full name:	<u>NORMAN WILLIAMSON</u>	<u>MRS FRANCES M WILLIAMSON</u>
Position held:	<u>Chair of Trustees</u>	<u>Trustee</u>
Date:	<u>2nd May 2021</u>	<u>2nd May 2021</u>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO

On accounts for the year ended

30th September 2020

Charity no (if any)

1166588

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

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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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:

John Stent

Date:

04 | 05 | 21

Name:

JOHN STENT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

—

(If any):

—

Address:

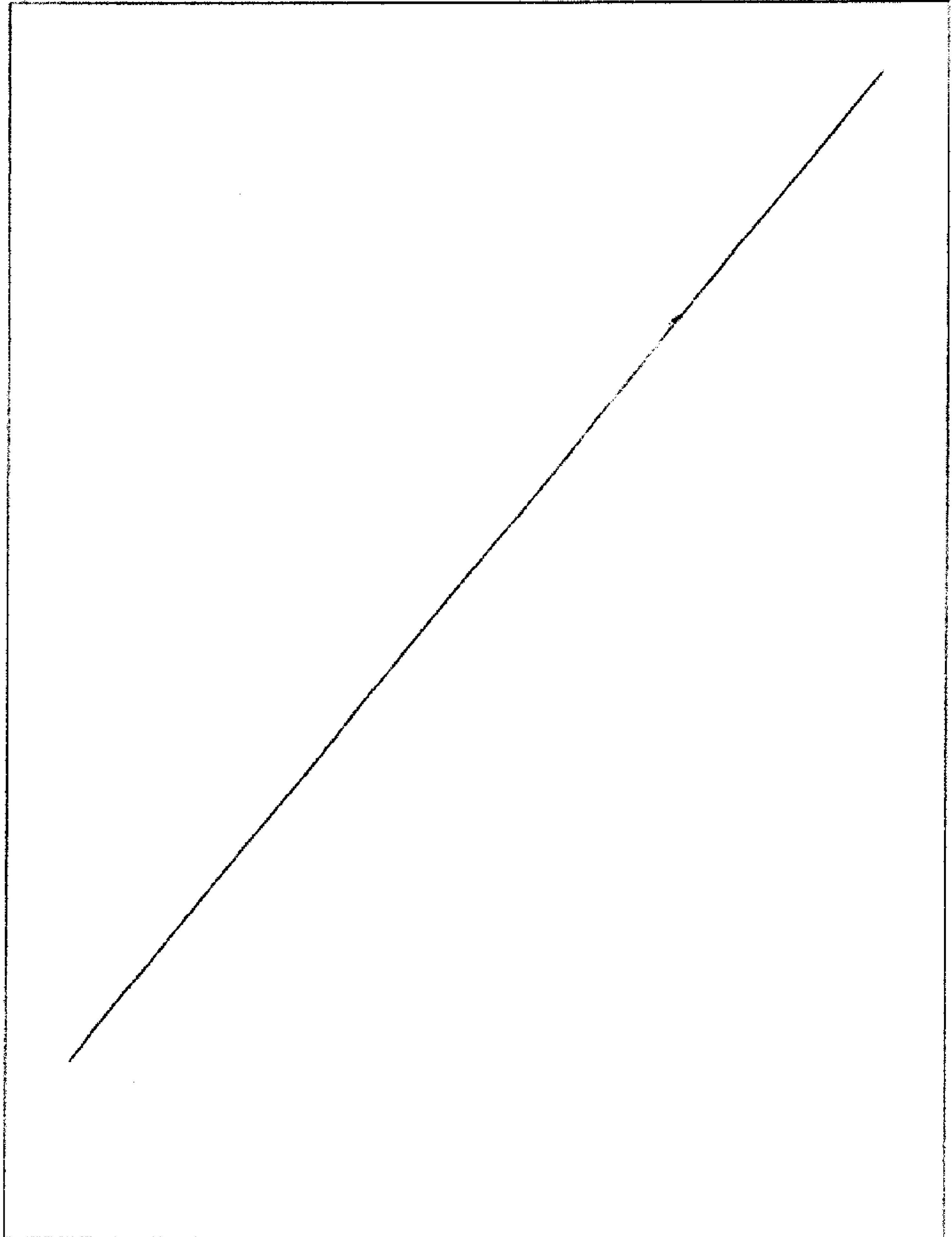
29 MONTSERRAT, WEST PARADE,
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
EAST SUSSEX, TN21 9AS

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.



**Hastings Unitarian Church CIO
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 30th September 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2,019
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Collections	6,065			6,065	4,552
Gift Aid	394			394	3,130
Grants and other	20,698			20,698	3,817
Use of Premises - Lettings	2,551			2,551	4,666
Donations at events	4			4	1,109
Investment Interest - Unit Trusts	4,207			4,207	4,259
Bank Interest	-			-	-
Building Fund	85			85	181
Legacy: Ann Holden	-			-	22,000
Coffee donations for local charities	191			191	375
Insurance claim	-			-	-
Books and magazines	-			-	-
Reserves	-			-	-
Sub total (gross income)	34,195	-	-	34,195	44,089
Asset and Investment Sales:					
Unit Trusts	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	34,195	-	-	34,195	44,089
Payments					
Lay Pastor and other Pulpit Fees	6,960			6,960	8,472
Organist's fees and Organ Repairs	1,005			1,005	1,875
Caretaking and cleaning	1,615			1,615	2,906
Covid protection	94			94	-
Insurances	1,093			1,093	1,092
Lighting - Heating - Water	2,293			2,293	2,509
Repairs and Renewals	2,202			2,202	3,214
Audio Equipment				-	-
Circle Dancing organiser's fee	260			260	270
Postage, Stationery and Refreshments				-	112
Magazines and Newsletters	70			70	105
Legal Fees				-	-
Accountancy fees - Book Keeping	90			90	90
Bank safe custody	45			45	-
Architecture fees				-	-
General Assembly Quota	420			420	350
Donation to Chatham Unitarian Church	50			50	-
Petty Cash imprest				-	160
Coffee donations for local charities				-	592
Subscriptions	120			120	240

Music licences	161			161	-
Misc Purchases	175			175	708
History Book	432			432	-
LDPA refund re Northiam Church	1399			1,399	-
Sub-total payments	18,484	-	-	18,484	22,693
Asset and Investment Purchases:					
Unit Trusts	40,000	22,000	-	62,000	-
Total payments	58,484	22,000	-	80,484	22,693
Net of receipts/(payments)	-24,289	-22,000	0	-46,289	21,396
Cash funds last period end	57,129	0	0	57,129	35,733
Cash funds this year end	32,840	-22,000	0	10,840	57,129

Hastings Unitarian Church CIO
Assets and Liabilities as at 30th September 2020

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Endowment Funds</u>	<u>2020 Total</u>
Cash funds:				
Bank Current account	10,840		-	10,840
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-
Total cash funds	<u>10,840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,840</u>
Investment assets:				
Unit Trusts	102,315	16,743		119,058
Assets retained for the charity's own use:				
Church building	845,488	-	-	845,488
Pipe organ	319,216	-	-	319,216
	<u>1,267,019</u>	<u>16,743</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,283,762</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	1,277,859	16,743	-	1,294,602

Notes:

Organ and Church building are shown at insurance valuation.

Approved by the Trustees on the 2nd May 2021 and signed on their behalf by

N. Williams

Chair and Trustee

M. J. Williams

Trustee