

# Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland

England & Wales · Charity number 1168051

## Details

---

Other names	SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK, SCUUK; SPORTS CHAPLAINCY SCOTLAND; SPORTS CHAPLAINCY WALES; SPORTS CHAPLAINCY IRELAND; SPORTS CHAPLAINCY ENGLAND
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-07-05
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

---

Address	Thorpe House 9 School Lane Dronfield Derbyshire S18 1RY
Phone	08001814051
Email	<a href="mailto:admin@sportschaplaincy.org.uk">admin@sportschaplaincy.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk">www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk</a>

## Activities

---

**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN PARTICULAR (BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY) THROUGH THE USE OF SPORT AND SPORTS CHAPLAINCY.

**Activities:** Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland operates across the United Kingdom and Ireland helping recruit, train, and support chaplains for sports clubs at elite, professional, semi-professional & amateur levels.

## Classification

---

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£497,933	£522,128	-	-
2023-12-31	£457,250	£456,987	-	-
2022-12-31	£376,833	£411,111	-	-
2021-12-31	£307,026	£313,172	-	-
2020-12-31	£301,302	£298,026	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANNE WAFULA STRIKE MBE		2018-11-15
BOB HAMER		2016-07-05
Daniel Caldwell		2023-06-10
David Courteen		2018-11-15
Dean Charlton Thorpe		2020-06-10
James Daniel Lusted		2021-07-21
Justine Barnes		2025-06-30
Rev Haydon Spenceley		2024-04-22
Robert Wilson		2019-06-12

**Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168051

---

# Accounts

---



## Annual "Activate" Report and Financial Statement 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024





## Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland: Year-End 2024 Year-End Summary & Activate 2024 Highlights

### Introduction

This document combines the financial overview from the Year-End 2024 report with key stories and highlights from the latest edition of our Activate UK and Ireland, as well as the impact chaplains and volunteers are having across sports in the UK and Ireland.

### Financial Overview – Year Ending 31 December 2024

- **Total Income: £497,933**
  - Primary sources include regular donations, grants, and individual giving.
- **Total Expenditure: £522,128**
  - Key spending areas: staff salaries, travel, training, administration, and events.
- **Deficit for Year: (£24,195)** While this reflects a shortfall, the Charity remains in a stable position, continuing to deliver on its mission.

### Highlights from Activate 2024

#### Chaplaincy Reach:

- Over 800 chaplains are now active across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with a growing presence in Women's, Disability, and All Ability sport.
- Supporting Developing Nations in Asia and Africa Chaplaincy
- New areas engaged include walking football, running clubs, bowls, golf, MMA, Boxing, and Motorsport chaplaincy launched.
- 300+ unique chaplaincy placements now recorded in the Island of Ireland.

#### Stories of Impact:

- A footballer in Wales testified to how his chaplains' presence changed his recovery journey after a serious injury.
- National Sports Sunday continues to grow with hundreds of churches engaging in prayer and outreach.
- Regional stories from Battle, Hinckley, illustrate the grassroots potential of sports chaplaincy.
- Message from our CEO: Chaplaincy is "God's mission, not ours." It thrives when we walk slowly through the crowd, be present, and serve faithfully.
- Trustee Haydon Spenceley shared his experience at Northampton Town and his new trustee role: "Service is at the heart of it all."

# ACTIVATE

SPORTS  
CHAPLAINCY UK

The official magazine of Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland · 2025 ISSUE



## Influencing the world of sport

800-plus chaplains  
impacting communities

- Launching into golf
- Reports from the Nations



# HELP US REACH THE BIGGEST MISSION FIELD ON EARTH

*ANY GIFT BIG OR SMALL  
MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE*



# **DONATE TODAY**

[www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk)

# Welcome

**CHAPLAINCY CAN BE** many things, I've learned. Getting stuck in the mud at training. Feeling a little bit in the eye of the storm as people who are part of the club you serve suffer sudden and shocking loss. Praying for players to succeed. Standing with those who have significant injuries and might be seeing their careers drawing to a close. Being careful not to over-step my bounds. Sometimes being shocked by how wide my bounds are – and plenty more besides!

Chaplaincy is a privilege and a responsibility which God and Sports Chaplaincy UK gives to me – and I love it.

I've been chaplain at Northampton Town since 2017. As such I'm now one of the longest-serving first team squad members. It's been an enormous gift to me that the club have welcomed me (and coped with me!) over these years. I've learned a lot about people, about sport, about tactics, about leadership (good and bad) and about how vulnerable we all are in the professional football family. What I keep coming back to again and again is that service

is at the heart of it all, just like it is at the heart of ministry and in the life of faith altogether.

I've had times of enormous joy and times of great sorrow in these last seven years but the greatest times have come when I've found my lane, as it were, of service, stayed in it, tried to be as faithful and open-hearted as I can and got on with being there. That's what I'll be aiming to do as the chaplaincy representative on the trustees of Sports Chaplaincy UK in the coming years. I'm looking forward to seeing what is around the corner.

Thank you to all our chaplains and supporters for their prayers and kindness. We couldn't reach the community of sport without you.



**Haydon  
Spenceley,  
Trustee  
Sports  
Chaplaincy  
UK**

Published by Sports Chaplaincy UK. Keep up to date with news of Sports Chaplaincy UK on

   or [www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk).

To register for our monthly prayer letter visit [www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/prayer](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/prayer)

Editorial: Matthew Murray. Design: The Media Consultancy

# Making a real difference

Chaplaincy in sport continues to impact lives and transform communities, says CEO **Warren Evans**

*Bear friends and partners*

**ACROSS THE UK** and Ireland, chaplains are doing a wonderful job in making a real difference. Their faithful presence is impacting lives, bringing hope and encouragement to athletes, coaches and sports communities. By being the hands and feet of Jesus, they are helping to transform communities, demonstrating God's love in practical, meaningful ways. Whether offering a listening ear, praying with those in need, or simply showing up consistently, chaplains play a vital role in shaping the culture of sport with faith and compassion.

At Sports Chaplaincy UK

& Ireland, we are privileged to be part of something much greater than ourselves – God's mission. As chaplains step into their various sporting worlds to be a living expression of God's love and compassion, the vision is clear: to see an expression of God's love and compassion in every community called sport.

## **The largest untapped mission field**

The world and community of sport is a vast and dynamic space, rich with opportunity yet often overlooked as a place of ministry. It is a mission field where millions

gather, forming a unique cultural and social landscape. Yet, many within this space identify as 'spiritual but not religious'. They long for deeper connection and meaning but may not walk into a church building. This is where we, as sports chaplains, come in – bringing hope, encouragement and presence into the lives of athletes, coaches and staff.

## **Salt and light**

Jesus calls us to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt preserves and enhances, just as chaplains bring hope and transformation. Light reveals and illuminates, just as we are called to shine God's presence in sports communities. Our mission is not about grand gestures but about showing up, listen-

ing and building trust. It is about turning rhetoric into reality – demonstrating God’s love through our consistent and humble service.

### **Mission and action**

**S – See:** Do we see people the way God sees them? Not by outward appearance, but by the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

**P – Pray:** Prayer is our foundation. The heartfelt prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective (James 5:16).

**O – Obey:** The Great Commission calls us to go and make disciples. We must be intentional in stepping into this mission field (Matthew 28:19-20).

**R – Relate:** Jesus modelled deep, authentic relationships. Love your neighbour as yourself (Galatians 5:14).

**T – Transform:** True transformation comes by renewing minds and leading others toward God’s purpose (Romans 12:2).

As Jesus walked among the people, we too are called to walk slowly through the crowd, seeing, listening and serving. It is about engaging in spirituality in unexpected spaces, and being a light in locker rooms, stadiums and training grounds. We must embrace the ministry of interruption, responding to the unplanned, and trusting that God is always at work.

### **God’s work**

This work is not ours – it is God’s. As a charity and as chaplains, we are stewards of something divine. Each conversation, each moment of support is an opportunity for God’s grace to move. We hold it lightly, knowing that it is always in his hands.

Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland is more than an organisation; it is a movement of God’s love in action. The mission continues, not by our strength, but through faith, obedience and an unwavering commitment

to shine His light in the community of sport. The choice is ours: Go! Make a difference.

Thank you to everyone for their faithful support.

**Warren Evans**

**CEO**

**Sports Chaplaincy**





# Our growth in golf is on par!

New sports are opening up in England in what has been an exciting year, reports National Director **Matt Baker**



Dr Michael Bennett with new Barnsley FC chaplain Zach Zachariah

**WHEN I WROTE** in the last edition of *Activate* I mentioned how we felt doors were opening for chaplaincy in golf. I am therefore delighted that we have made our first two appointments in golf chaplaincy in the last twelve months.

Alan Cable has been appointed chaplain to Bexleyheath Golf Club and Derek Blois at Mundesley Golf Club in Norfolk. We hope and pray that these are the first of many appointments for us in this sport.

We have continued to hold regular online induction training evenings for new and potential chaplains including individuals who attended from as far away as China and Kenya! These have led to appointments from grassroots to elite sport and as with golf it has been exciting to have fresh expressions of chaplaincy in

walking football, mixed martial arts and boxing.

As always it is a highlight for chaplains to be able to gather at our annual conferences to share, pray together and get excellent training and insight into sport.

The October conferences in Headingley (North) and Reading (South) were no exception with the main teaching session on the impact of digital media from Robbie Hunter-Paul, former rugby league international. Archbishop Costakis Evangelou, affectionately known as the 'Boxing Bishop' led our devotions in the North, and in the South we were treated to an excellent panel discussion with chaplains in motor racing, football, cricket and rugby.

We were also very pleased that Dr Michael Bennett, Director of Player Wellbeing at the Professional Footballers'

Association, could join us and be interviewed about his career and his faith and also encourage us on the vital role chaplains play in supporting players and staff within the industry. We continue to be grateful for the support and contribution of the Premier League, Football League and the PFA in our work of sports chaplaincy.

Chaplain Alan Cable, right





Ray Montgomerie, Sports Chaplaincy Scotland Ambassador

# Rush to join chaplaincy

New areas of Scotland have opened up to chaplaincy, reports National Director Mark Fleming



Thomas Davis is the first ever chaplain from Carloway FC

**AFTER THE SAD** passing of our patron, former Scotland manager Craig Brown, we decided to retire the title 'Patron' and appoint an ambassador, Ray Montgomerie. Ray is best known in Scottish football for being the captain of Kilmarnock FC when they won the Scottish Cup in 1997. I got to know him two years later when he signed for the club I was chaplain to at the time, Partick Thistle, and he has been unwavering in his support of Sports Chaplaincy Scotland since then. Ray is going to be helping us with fund-raising initiatives and spreading the word about our work.

We are delighted to see significant openings for chaplaincy in Scottish athletics for the first time. Our first chaplain in this sport is Chris

Barlas who represented Scotland until the age of 17. He became chaplain at Inverclyde Athletics club during the summer and this has led to interest from other clubs.

We have also been delighted to see the development of chaplaincy in the Lewis and Harris Football League. Every one of the nine clubs now have a chaplain in place. Thomas Davis is the first ever chaplain of Carloway FC.

We now number around 170 chaplains across all sports. We have never had so many people enquiring about becoming chaplains, recognising how valuable such a role can be in order for churches to build bridges into their local community.

Often these people are already busy in other areas of ministry, however, they find sports chaplaincy to be energising, a blessing rather than a burden.

Chris Barlas, left





# Making an impact in challenging times

Many lives are being reached across many sports in Wales, reports National Director **Martin Lewis**

**WE HAVE SEEN** many new chaplains placed in Wales who are already making a big impact.

You can read on page 10 the story of Newtown footballer Kieran Mills-Evans and how chaplaincy intervened and supported him when injury struck. Others have had meaningful chats and started running carol services. We have amazing stories – not to forget those who clear weeds from car parks and become the hands and feet of Jesus.

We have another UK first in placing a chaplain at a bowls club – this has been warmly received. Another chaplain became accepted enough to be able to share Christian messages on his team's WhatsApp group.

It is a privilege for us to serve teams from international level to local clubs, male and female sport, able bodied

and all ability sport. Also big events like the Run4Wales series, the Swansea Half Ironman, Tenby Ironman and the Ceredigion Car Rally provide opportunities. One guy came and asked if we could help him find a church. Others asked us to pray with them.

Yet there have also been so many challenging situations for us to deal with – mental health, suicide and loss. We need God's help, wisdom and grace to offer support and minister into people's lives.

This year we have updated our Wales club booklet and had fresh endorsements from Welsh Lions hero Gerald Davies, top sports psychologist Mikel Mellik and our new ambassador, rugby legend Nick Williams. Both Nick and Byron Hayward have helped us gain further insight into elite sport so we can be more aware of issues that affect sports

people and how to respond.

Similarly in our conference this year at Merthyr Town FC we had a blessed time. A lady shared her story of coming to faith as a chaplain walked with her for nearly three years through tragedy. She said, "I don't think I would be here now if it wasn't for our chaplain."

It is ever a joy to watch what God does and may we in Wales see more and more of his hand at work.

Nick Williams





# How our prayers are being answered

Ireland National Director **Phil Mitchell** and his team are impacting thousands with God's love across a variety of sports...

**WE HAVE HAD** so much to thank God for... our regular prayer times have heralded many answers including new opportunities to serve at the Euro Under 19 Championships as well as minister at new clubs as far as Inishowen Rugby Club in the north, Cork City Football in the south, Oughterard Rugby Club in the west and Portavogie Rangers in the east.

We had the privilege of providing for our club chaplains over 5,000 individually club crested Bibles, putting the Word of God in sports people's hands for the first time. Our partnerships with Jesus Ministries, Made for More, Alpha, UCB Ireland and Care for the Family are adding significant value as they provide resources and support to the club chaplain.

We are honoured to be



**Phil Mitchel with Reuben Walls of Trailblazers**

serving across 15 out of 20 League of Ireland Men's Football clubs, spearheaded by Drogheda United chaplain Liam McGrath and also 44 of the 48 Northern Ireland League Men's and Women's Football clubs, whilst in international football, amateur football and disability football the work continues to both deepen and expand. More rugby, hockey and cricket clubs than ever have - through Sports Chaplaincy - made

appointments in what is now approaching 350 unique roles.

Please continue to pray for all our sports chaplains and that many more will join them! We need to get close enough to people to make shouting unnecessary. Are we brave enough to get that close? If the answer is yes, the possibilities are great!

God has gifted and graced us to love and do and speak where and when he appointed us, so that we might become a bridge through which Christ may walk into the hearts of the people we love and serve in our sports clubs.

**WE ARE HONOURD TO BE SERVING ACROSS 15 OUT OF 20 LEAGUE OF IRELAND MEN'S FOOTBALL CLUBS**

# Injured footballer: everything

**Kieran Mills-Evans** recalls the day an horrific injury changed his life in more ways than one

**A FOOTBALLER** in the Welsh Premier League has spoken of the immense impact the club's chaplain had following a near career-ending injury.

Kieran Mills-Evans, centre back for Newtown AFC, was just one minute away from being substituted in a friendly game when he shattered his fibula in an horrific accident.

The 32-year-old knew instantly something was wrong when he put his foot down in a friendly just days away from the club's biggest game of the season for European qualification. Minutes later Kieran was lying in agony on the pool table in the club's bar, only to be told that an ambulance could take six or seven hours to arrive to the Welsh town. It was the club chaplain Matt Allport who was at Kieran's side, offering to drive him to the hospital to get urgent treatment.

Kieran said: "As we were driving there with my partner, Matt asked if he could pray

for me. I'm not a religious guy, and I'm not interested in all of that, but for some reason, it just seemed the right thing to do. He prayed that we would be seen straight away, and that my leg would be fixable.

"Amazingly, everything we prayed for came true. When we arrived at the hospital, Matt went to book me in and despite there being six ambulances waiting and a full waiting room, I was seen straight away."

The resulting x-rays showed that Kieran had shattered his fibula in two places above the ankle, requiring a plate and two rods. During

the subsequent five days in hospital, Matt visited every day, even waiting with him until 1am on the morning of his operation.

Kieran added: "I felt so guilty that Matt was devoting all his time to be with me, but it just shows what kind of person he is – he's just someone to lean on, he doesn't get down or upset or judge; he's just lovely company."

For the next three weeks Matt contacted Kieran every day either by text, calling or visiting in person.

"He was always there when I needed him," the footballer said. "It was the hardest three weeks of my life, but getting to know Matt,



Kieran Mills-Evans with chaplain Matt Allport

# chaplain prayed came true



Kieran goes in for a tackle  
Pic: Mike Sheridan

and the relationship I have built with him is the one real positive that has come out of what happened. I could talk to him in a way that I couldn't talk to my friends and family. I felt guilty about burdening them with my sorrows, but Matt was always there and went through every emotion with me.

"He even supported my partner, sending her flowers and just showing such an interest in our lives."

Kieran believes that every football club would benefit from a chaplain, and says

**AMAZINGLY,  
EVERYTHING  
WE PRAYED FOR  
CAME TRUE**

the impact he's had not just on him but on the younger players and other staff at the club is immeasurable.

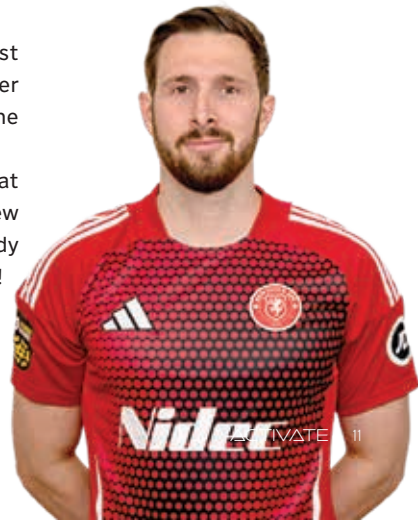
"When he first arrived at the club, nobody really knew what he was - somebody told me he was the Vicar! He doesn't force religion on anybody but he's just so supportive and we all know that we can talk

to him about anything if we need to."

Matt joined the Robins as chaplain in 2023 and was supported by the Sports Chaplaincy team in Wales.

He told Activate: "As the chaplain, my role is to offer pastoral support and a listening ear to those who need it - that role really came to life with Kieran's injury. He suffered a nasty leg break and from here I had the privilege of standing alongside him throughout his recovery.

"Kieran is great guy, a leader on and off the field. It's been quite a journey to see him battle through pain and have the courage and determination to keep going."



# A great way to connect with your community

National Sports Sunday provides an incredible opportunity to link sport and the church. **Ed Jones**, a minister at Battle Baptist Church in Sussex and chaplain to Battle Town FC, explains how his town got involved...

**AS A CHURCH** we first engaged in National Sports Sunday in 2022, praying for our local community of sport.

Afterwards, we were asking the question, how can we make the most of this opportunity? We wanted to use National Sports Sunday as a further connection point with the local community – so we began to dream. This was the beginnings of our town's Sports Sunday.

Very simply, on National Sports Sunday, we pray for the sporting community in Battle, but the church and the football club join forces and host a day of activity, open to the whole community for all ages and all abilities.

A host of exhibition matches take place. There are tasteful opportunities from youth football through to walking football, plus a variety



A host of exhibition matches take place in Battle on National Sports Sunday

of other games and sports where people can join in. The vision is to bring the community together through sport, whether taking part or cheering others on.

Both in 2023 and 2024 God blessed us with great weather, but more to the point across the days we saw 200-300 people from

the community come together, having a great time, all because of sport.

We believe God has given us this plan to reach people and National Sports Sunday provides a great vehicle. Why not give it a go yourself, or at least start dreaming of what God might have in store for you, wherever you are?

# The joys and challenges of being a sports chaplain

**Suzanne Littler** tells Activate about the highs and lows of chaplaincy for St Helens RF Women

## Tell us about your position as chaplain. How did it come about?

I became chaplain for the women in January 2019. I received a call from a good friend Paul Johnson (Chaplain and Wellbeing Manager at St Helens RLFC) in December 2018 as an opportunity came up for the women's team. Paul asked if this was something I would like to get involved with. I gave all but two seconds to think about it and answered with an excited 'yes'. I've never looked back!

There are always opportunities to support a player, whether that's someone with stress away from rugby as the majority of the team are either working full time, studying at university or raising a family, or pressures within rugby. It is always encouraging when a player asks you to pray for them or wants to have a conversation about faith.

## What have been the best moments so far?

Journeying with a player through injury/rehab and then seeing them 'smash it up' on the pitch is emotional and a moment to praise God for His provision and protection. One of the stand out moments was

when the team beat York 17-16 in the Challenge Cup semi-final with a Faye Gaskin drop goal in the 79th minute. For the first time in history a Women's Super League Challenge Cup Final would be hosted at Wembley. The girls won that final against Leeds and I felt like a very proud spiritual Mum that day!

## What about the difficulties? Any challenges?

One of the challenges can be steering through commitments as working full time and doing chaplaincy voluntarily can become difficult if you don't get the balance or boundaries right.

## How can others support chaplaincy and get involved?

Prayer is powerful and knowing there are people praying for your club, for conversations you have with players and staff, is so encouraging. Donating regularly to Sports Chaplaincy UK is another way to support the work that is carried out in many sports.

**Suzanne Littler says it's encouraging when a player asks for prayer**



# Find the right balance

Sports chaplaincy can be tough, and service with a smile goes a long way, jokes Wythenshawe FC's **Andy Campsall**...

**WHY DID THE** football team invite the chaplain to the match? Because they needed some holy assistance with their crosses!

Being a sports chaplain at Wythenshawe FC isn't just about spiritual wisdom, it's also about showing up with a bit of humour. If you're going to have a role that's part spiritual advisor, part therapist and part honorary team mascot, you've got to bring some laughs to the table... or, in this case, the dressing room.

As chaplain I'm not just there to offer deep, profound life advice like 'thou shalt not lose possession'. It's more like, 'Thou shalt chill out mate; it's just football.' I'm there during training sessions, subtly reminding the players that having a go at the ref probably won't score points with God. I'm also there on match day, providing moral support

and hoping for a little divine intervention for penalties!

When tensions are running high, it's good to try and lighten the mood. I'll happily pretend to bless the ball

**YOU'VE GOT TO BRING SOME LAUGHS TO THE TABLE**

before kick-off just in case anyone needs a little extra help bending it like Beckham.

But it's not all jokes, there are the tough moments when a player gets injured, or a game doesn't go our way. That's when I step in with a bit of wisdom and compassion and a hint of fun, kind of like a referee for the soul, making sure we don't

lose our way in the heat of the game.

At the end of the day, being a chaplain is about balance. Whether it's helping players spiritually or having a laugh, I'm there to remind the team that while football is serious business, it's still okay to have fun along the way.

Proverbs 17:22 says: "A happy heart is good medicine, and a joyful mind causes healing."



**Andy Campsall** is the chaplain at Wythenshawe FC

**I HAVE THE GREAT** privilege of being chaplain to Portsmouth Women's Football Club. I joined the club at the end of the Covid lockdown in March 2021 and have pretty much enjoyed every moment since. Given that I love Jesus, people and football, it's a perfect fit for me!

As I see it, my role involves supporting anyone in the club, whether team or staff, both pastorally and spiritually, whether the person has faith or not. Relationships are really important, and so a lot of my time is spent chatting and getting to know people and some of what's going on in their lives. As a result of that when times get hard, people are much more ready to talk to me about their situation. Over the years, I've been able to signpost people to the NHS mental health support, talked and listened to those going through bereavement, health issues and family troubles, as well as general life situations.

We've had an exciting and challenging time in the last twelve months, having just been promoted to the Championship this year. There are lots of changes and adjustments as we move to being full-time and the jump from tier three to tier two is huge. I



## My role is more important now!

As women's football expands, so does the need for chaplains, explains

**Debs Smart**, of Portsmouth FC...

feel as though my role is even more important now, to be there for both the players and staff, to be a sounding board for emotions, and to remind people that they are loved because of who they are, not because of whether they are successful or not.

And I feel hugely excited when people ask questions about what and why I believe. I meet regularly with one member of staff and always pray at the end of our meet-

ing. Recently I was able to share my testimony which led to further questions.

Another member of staff and I ended up having an amazingly deep conversation about forgiveness and how costly it is.

I am incredibly grateful for this role... it feels such a privilege to be involved in the club and the people there. I long for more to know Jesus, and I pray that I can be a part of bringing that about.

# YOU REALLY CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT AS A CHAPLAIN

Assistant National Director for England **Christian Wienkamp** continues to lead by example in his role as chaplain at West Brom.

## **TELL US ABOUT your at West Bromwich Albion. How's it going?**

I've been the club chaplain at WBA now since 2021 and I've already seen many managers, coaches and players come and go. I'm well used to the transient nature, and you're often having to build relationships time and time again. It's a privilege to be involved with the club and wider within the industry and I feel my role has been really embraced. Through being a consistent presence at the training ground and home match days, I'm continuing to sow into relationships and get involved in as much as I can within the life of the club.

## **How has chaplaincy changed over the years?**

Sports chaplaincy in the UK has developed significantly, expanding its reach and deep-



ening its impact within the sporting community. Initially concentrated in professional sports, chaplaincy has expanded into motorsport, golf clubs, amateur clubs and leagues, gyms, and health clubs with around 800 chaplains now serving their local sports communities. This expansion reflects a broader recognition of the importance of pastoral, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing in sports.

## **What do you think are the biggest challenges for chaplains now?**

Sometimes, the ambiguous nature of the role can offer certain freedoms but also presents challenges. In cases where chaplaincy is not fully embraced, chaplains can feel undervalued or misunderstood. I think it is crucial to stay approachable and adaptable while showing clubs the positive impact you're making.

## **What would you say to someone who is considering becoming a chaplain?**

You really can have great impact in your sports community, and it is a privileged role. You'll have the unique opportunity to walk alongside people in some of their most vulnerable and significant moments and you can make a big difference. Go for it!

**GLOBAL  
SPORTS  
SUNDAY**  
21 SEPTEMBER



## **UNITING FAITH AND SPORT AROUND THE WORLD**

**GLOBAL SPORTS SUNDAY** was once again a powerful and inspiring event, bringing churches and sports communities together in a unique way.

Congregations across the world dedicated this special day to praying for athletes, coaches, sports chaplains and the broader sports ministry, recognising the impact of sport and the size of the mission.

Churches not only prayed for those involved in sports but also emphasised the role of sports in bridging cultural and social divides. Australia, New Zealand, USA, Germany

and the UK are just some of the countries that took part, with encouraging reports being received of unity and excitement for the mission ahead.

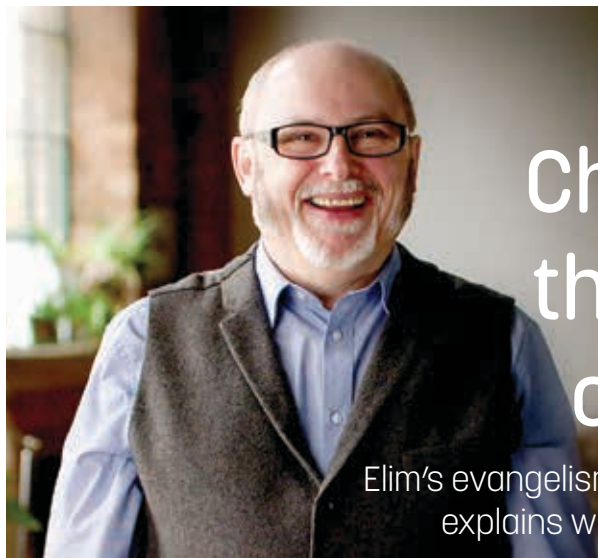
In many places, churches invited local sports clubs and organisations to participate in the service, creating a welcoming environment for athletes and sports enthusiasts.

One church leader said: "We invited sports clubs and organisations in our community to attend the service. They came to attend the service, and we had lots of fun. The suggestion to play a game

together worked very well. Thank you! Some people also wore their favourite sports team's jersey. We also had a special prayer for them and invited them to stay for coffee after the service. It was a joy and privilege to join in with Global Sports Sunday!"

Global Sports Sunday was more than just a day of prayer – it was a celebration of the unifying power of sports and faith.

As churches continue to embrace sports as a means of ministry, the hope is that more lives will be impacted and drawn closer to God through the shared love of sport.



# We need Christians in the sporting community

Elim's evangelism director **Mark Greenwood** explains why he's a fan of chaplaincy

**I'M 16 YEARS OLD** and I am playing in goals for Fairfax Community School in Bradford. He is 16 years old and he is playing in goals for Tong School. I am 5ft 5in and he's about 6ft5in. I was the better goalkeeper, he may differ in his opinion of course. His name? Warren Evans, the current CEO of Sports Chaplaincy UK.

We didn't know each other at the time, but in a matter of a few years we would become close friends, working on lots of cross-church events over the years that followed, as well as being in an accountability group together for many years, and, we are fellow Bradfordians!

Since getting to know Sports Chaplaincy more during Warren's leadership,

I am more convinced of the critical nature of showing Jesus' kindness to the sporting community. I have the privilege of knowing a number of professional sports people (most retired now).

I have seen firsthand the pressures that sports people, and their families, are under. With all of this, of course, comes the impact on supporters and the broader sporting community. Whether it's supporters (Bradford City and Bradford Bulls Rugby League for me) as well as Worcester Warriors (my daughter played for the development squad), the supporters really do go on a rollercoaster ride, especially with many clubs going into administration and then liquidation in recent years.

For many involved in sport at all levels, it really can have an impact on many aspects of life.

My daughter also represented the county at national level in sprints, hurdles and javelin. Several times a week parents are almost managers and assistant coaches to their children as they travel around the country with their loved ones.

I am the Director of evangelism for Elim churches UK and we are massive fans of chaplaincy – it is an amazing opportunity for the church. When you think of how many people around the UK are involved in sport, of all ages and cultures, there is no better place for Christians to be than in the sporting community.

# NATIONAL SPORTS SUNDAY

11 MAY 2025

## CONNECTING YOUR CHURCH TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST MISSION FIELD

**PRAYER – MOBILISATION – MISSION**

**TAKE PART AND GET INVOLVED**

*we need you!*



[www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk)

**SPORTS**  
CHAPLAINCY UK  
SERVING SPORT THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN CHAPLAINCY



# BECOME A CHAPLAIN

***YOUR COMMUNITY  
NEEDS YOU!***

*Could you become a chaplain?*

***Dozens of sporting clubs have no chaplain!***

---

- **Guidance**
- **Support**
- **Prayer**
- **Influence**
- **Professional support**
- **Free resources**

*Register your interest today:*

**[www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk)**

**SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK**

**SPORTS CHAPLAINCY OFFERING RESOURCES AND ENCOURAGEMENT**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31/12/2024**

**CHARITY INFORMATION**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1168051

REGISTRATION IN SCOTLAND

SCO44263

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Thorpe House  
9 School Lane  
Dronsfield  
Derbyshire  
S18 1RY

TRUSTEES

D Courteen - Chair  
D Caldwell  
B Hamer  
J D Lusted  
D Thorpe - Treasurer  
A Wafula Strike  
R Wilson  
H Spenceley

**PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

BANKERS

CAF BANK  
25 KINGS HILL AVENUE  
KINGS HILL  
WEST MALLING  
KENT ME19 4JQ

Sort Code 40-52-40  
Account 00022268

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

RICHARD KNAPP

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

INDEX	Page no.
Trustees' Report	4
Independent examiner's report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

### **HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY**

The charity was formed as a successor charity of Sports Chaplaincy UK (Charity reference 1005446) to take advantage of the newly available CIO structure. Assets and liabilities were transferred from the original charity on 1 April 2017 in agreement with the Charities Commission and creditors. The charity was dissolved on 31st December 2018 and the Charity Commission notified on 1 January 2019. During 2019 the process commenced to register the CIO as a Cross Border Charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

The original charity was formed in September 1991 with the objective of the advancement of the Christian religion chiefly supporting and resourcing sports chaplaincy and pastoral support for both amateur and professional participants. The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and activities of the charity and we consider our charitable activities, free at the point of delivery, support the advancement of religion, citizenship and community development in sport without discrimination of age, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation or health disability.

### **MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Governing Document provides for a minimum of 3 Trustees with no maximum number. As a foundation CIO, new Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees. The Chair is responsible for the induction of any new Trustee which involves the awareness of a their responsibilities, the governing document, administrative procedures and the history and philosophical approach of the charity.

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

The Trustee Board annually reviews the risks the charity faces and considers the following risks which may effect the work of the charity:

- Operational - related to the geographical locations of the work
- Statutory and Legal - relating to Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Charities' governance.
- Financial - relating to reduction in income or excessive expenditure
- Reputation - from adverse publicity and associated professional risks

Steps are in place to minimise these risks by specific Trustees monitoring the staff and volunteers and the work of the charity reviewing their statutory responsibilities. The Trustee Board receives their reports and prepares an annual budget and monitors the financial performance as well as operational and statutory matters at its regular meetings. The charity makes itself accountable to the public and its stakeholders in producing its annual report and accounts alongside a brochure currently called "Activate" highlighting its achievements in the year in a more user-friendly medium which is also available on the charity's website.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY**

The charity supports over 800 chaplains across a wide range of sports. We maintain a strong presence across all four home nations of the United Kingdom and continue to expand into the island of Ireland. Increasingly, we are also providing chaplaincy support in women's sports, disability sports, and all-ability contexts. This year, we have continued to experience the longer-term impact of Covid-19, particularly in relation to cash flow and reserves. Despite these ongoing challenges, the charity concludes the year in a healthy operational position and remains vigilant to the wider financial pressures facing the charitable sector. Recognition of the charity's work continues to grow, particularly through increased visibility on digital media platforms. Expressions of interest in chaplaincy remain strong. In response to growing cross-border engagement, the charity is in the process of establishing an appropriate legal and operational vehicle to enable activity within the Republic of Ireland. The continued work of the Finance Committee and the now merged Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) and HR sub-groups has further strengthened governance. These developments reflect the evolving expertise and capacity of the Board of Trustees, and the broadening skill set now represented. \*R Townsend stood down during this year, but she has now been replaced in 2025 with J Barnes another HR specialist.

Our primary sporting partners continue to include the Professional Footballers' Association.

\*Racing Welfare, the Premier League, the English Football League, the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL), and the Irish Football Association (IFA). We are also actively developing relationships with other significant sporting bodies as we seek to widen our collaborative reach. During the year, we continued to strengthen our support base and made progress in establishing a more robust administrative structure to sustain and enable future growth.\*Racing Welfare have formally given notice on our existing partnership agreement. While this is naturally disappointing, we remain deeply grateful for their long standing support and the positive impact they have helped make possible. Encouragingly, the wider Racing community rallied in support of their chaplain, who remains accredited and continues to work faithfully in alignment with the mission and values of the charity but directly engaged by Racing Welfare and others from the racing community.

## **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

Historically the charity has made pension contributions on behalf of employees where they had arrangements in place when they joined the charity, mainly to denominational pension schemes. Two employees were members of the Baptist Pension Scheme which was at that time a multi-employer Defined benefit scheme. Legal clarification has confirmed that bodies making payments into the scheme on behalf of members, would be regarded as a responsible employer and would be required to ensure that there are sufficient assets to meet liabilities in the scheme. The scheme has closed to to future accrual but the scheme was substantially underfunded. This situation has now changed We have now entered DDA with the Baptist Pension Trust, (as of Dec 2024) our liabilities under this scheme are now zero. During the previous year we had been under a Period of Grace (PoG)

This is due to the fact that during 2022 the situation has changed with the Baptist Pension Scheme achieving balance partly as a result of a buy in of some of the liabilities by an insurance company and partly as the result of market movements. The charity therefore no longer carries any contingent liability under the scheme.

## **FINANCIAL**

The charity relies heavily on donations to finance its growth. Income is in the form of grants and gifts from Trusts and churches, and from individual supporters with associated Gift Aid.

Many grants are for the support of specific work and these are disclosed as designated funds where appropriate. Individual funding arrangements allow for a percentage of income to support the administration and management of the charity and these are reflected in the accounting.

A number of gifts are indicated to be for the support of specific activities and, although these gifts are not supported by a formal agreement, the Trustees may designate these to specific areas/activities. Again, an administration fee is taken to support the associated administration and management. The charity is seeking further funds to develop the management of the charity but has structured activities so that costs can be scaled to the income level.

The Accounts are subject to an independent review in line with the Charity Commission guidelines for a charity of this size and nature.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

Over the next 12 months the charity will continue to develop chaplaincy appointments in its core sports, consider opportunities to develop chaplaincy in other sports. To review our internal systems for great efficiency. A key goal of the Charity will be the development and delivery of a sustainable funding strategy and the replenishment of reserves , to provide for the ongoing development of the Charity.

## **STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c) State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- d) Prepare the financial statements on the on-going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position fo the charity, ensuring that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



D Courteen, Chair of Trustees.

Date: 10th September 2025

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out in pages 8 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- a) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- b) Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c) State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as whether the accounts present "a true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

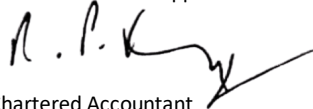
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Richard Knapp



Chartered Accountant  
Bradgate Road, Hinkley, LE10 1LA  
Date: 10th September 2025

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<i>Voluntary Income</i>		
Donations from Individuals	58981	74143
Donations from Churches and Trusts	201162	162129
Grants	214987	198412
Tax Refunds	6011	7084
<i>Income from Charity Activity</i>		
Conference and Membership	16574	15238
Bank Interest	218	244
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>497,933</u></b>	<b><u>457,250</u></b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<i>Charity Activity</i>		
Staff Salaries, Pensions and Housing	275567	251830
Consultancy Fees	123654	104531
Travel and Training Costs	57351	51251
Conference and Newsletter	12846	6786
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Insurance and Office Property	2885	2753
Stationery, Postage & Telephone	7230	4163
Publicity, Printing & Reproduction	1078	4657
Secretarial and Accountancy Costs	16872	16361
IT Costs	16773	9463
Awards and Subscriptions	4572	348
Legal and Professional Costs	3300	4090
Fundraising Expenses	0	754
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b><u>522,128</u></b>	<b><u>456,987</u></b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS</b>	<b><u>-24,195</u></b>	<b><u>263</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2024</b>	<b>45,994</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024</b>	<b>21,800</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	4	4,090	9,490
Cash at Bank and in Hand		117,396	127,403
		<u>121,486</u>	<u>136,893</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry Creditors	5	99,686	90,899
		<u>21,800</u>	<u>45,994</u>

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



D Courteen  
Chair

Date: 10th September 2025

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Financial Statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is responsible in law and are in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, the Charities SORP 2015 and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations issued under the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Incoming Resources**

Gifts, subscriptions and donations were previously recognised when received. However the Trustees believe that where sporting bodies provide funding in advance for roles over a sporting year, this income should be apportioned over the period it notionally covers.

All income resources are accounted for gross, without deducting related expenditure. All the income is expended on supporting and resourcing chaplaincy activities in a wide cross-section of recognised sports.

#### **Resources Expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended in the period where they are incurred, not on payment.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Assets purchased or donated after 2005, costing or valued at more than £1,000 are shown in the accounts as equipment. Equipment used for the charity is depreciated over four years, on a straight line basis and are included in the accounts at historical cost less depreciation. Items costing or valued at less than £1,000 are written off in the year of acquisition.

#### **Reserves**

The Trustees have adopted a policy of maintaining reserves to ensure commitments on fixed charity costs can be maintained. £20,000 is reserved to ensure these commitments can be met, particularly given that large grants are given in line with with sporting rather than calendar years.

### **2. Taxation**

The trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)****3. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salaries	227,766	212,571
Employer's Social Security Costs	20,156	18,160
Employer's Pension Contributions	11,388	5,235
Pension Deficit Payments	10	12
Housing and Other Benefits	16,247	15,852
	<u>275,567</u>	<u>251,830</u>

During the year, the Trustees engaged 6 members of staff under contracts of employment, undertaking core charitable activities. Book-keeping payroll and administration were provided on a contracted out basis. The Trust also made contributions to the ministry of members promoting the growth of Sports Chaplaincy UK activities into new areas. Further support to the charity was provided on a voluntary basis.

**4. ANALYSIS OF DEBTORS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepaid Expenses	0	4352
Outstanding Debts	4,090	5,138
	<u>4,090</u>	<u>9,490</u>

**5. ANALYSIS OF CREDITORS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred Income (Grants)	85,500	81,375
Inland Revenue, PAYE etc.	6,580	5,181
Accounts Payable	6,230	4,343
Money held re Global Chaplaincy	1,376	0
	<u>99,686</u>	<u>90,899</u>

**Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168051

---

# Accounts

---



*Annual “Activate” Report and  
Financial Statement  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2023*



# Sports Chaplaincy UK: Year-End 2023 Report & Highlights

## Introduction

This document combines the financial overview from the Year-End 2023 report with key stories and highlights from the latest edition of the Activate UK and Ireland as well as the impact chaplains and volunteers are having across sports in the UK and Ireland.

## Financial Overview - Summary:

- **Financial Performance:**

- Total income for the year: £457,250, largely from donations, grants, and individual supporters.
- Total expenditure: £456,987, with most going towards salaries, consultancy fees, and travel.
- A small positive balance: £263.

- **Highlights from Activate Magazine:**

- **Volunteer Chaplains:** Over 700 chaplains now serve in various sports across the UK and Ireland.
- **Stories from Volunteer Chaplains:** Peter Amos retired after 27 years at Barnsley FC, passing his role to Zach Zachariah.
- **New chaplaincy roles** in other sports, such as motor racing and running clubs.
- **Notable Events:** Mental Health Awareness Week challenge raised over £20,000 by climbing five peaks.
- **National Sports Sunday:** Saw record participation, connecting churches with sports communities.

- **The Impact of Chaplaincy:**

- **Nick Williams, former rugby star,** who survived a cardiac arrest thanks to support from chaplains.
- **Anne Wafula Strike, Paralympian,** who shared how sports chaplaincy provided spiritual encouragement throughout her career.

# ACTIVATE



The official magazine of Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland · 2023/24 ISSUE

## Determined to make a difference



**AT THE PEAK OF FUNDRAISING**



## LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATIONS

# VOLUNTEER FOR US TODAY



**MANY ROLES AND OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE**

**[www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk)**





Sports Chaplaincy Trustees and National Directors

**WHAT A GREAT** privilege it is for me to be involved in Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland.

In 2019 Philip Mitchell (National Director for Ireland) and I met in Belfast and discussed the possibilities of appointing further sports chaplains on the island of Ireland. This conversation was something that really connected with me as I had been the chairperson of a local football club and had been involved in management with the university ladies Gaelic football team. In addition, I am a senior leader in a church and am a part-time chaplain on a university campus.

Having recently joined SCUK as a trustee, I have been so encouraged to hear stories of how chaplains are impacting the world of sport. This is no surprise as I have long understood chaplaincy to have a key role in providing pastoral care and supporting wellbeing. In sport I have observed that the model which focused almost exclusively on physical performance to the detriment of the other aspects of an athlete's life left

many poorly equipped for the challenges they would face.



The increasing recognition of the necessity to have a holistic approach to athletes and their wellbeing which appreciates their physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs is emerging. It is into this space that we should step with boldness and confidence, understanding that just as the physical needs of athletes can be met by coaches, physiotherapists, dieticians/nutritionists, the psychological and social needs can be met by psychologists, mentors and liaison officers, the spiritual needs can be met by chaplains.

Thanks to everyone who supports Sports Chaplaincy, we hope this issue of Activate blesses you all.

**Daniel Caldwell,**  
**trustee on behalf**  
**of the board**



Published by Sports Chaplaincy UK. Keep up to date with news of Sports Chaplaincy UK on

   or [www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk).

To register for our monthly prayer letter visit [www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/prayer](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/prayer)

Editorial: Matthew Murray. Design: The Media Consultancy

# Gratitude and reflection

It has been a year of growth and challenges for Sports Chaplaincy UK, explains CEO **Warren Evans**

*Dear friends and partners*

**AS I SIT** down to write this welcome to the pages of Activate Magazine, my heart is filled with gratitude and reflection. The past year has brought its fair share of challenges, yet through it all, we have witnessed the unwavering faithfulness of our Heavenly Father. As Psalm 23:4 reminds us, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

In the embrace of these pages, I invite you to join me in a journey of warmth, inspiration, and spiritual encouragement. The pages of Acti-

vate Magazine have been carefully woven together to reflect not only the incredible growth of Sports Chaplaincy UK but also the deep and profound impact it has had on lives across the spectrum of sport.

The community of sport has evolved in unimaginable ways, transcending borders and languages, uniting people through their shared love for the game. This year, we’ve witnessed remarkable growth, particularly in golf, cricket, and rugby union. As we see these ministries thrive, we recognise the beautiful opportunity they

provide for us to bring the light of Christ into the lives of athletes and fans alike.

One of the incredible blessings that the digital age has bestowed upon us is the ability to reach hearts and minds through various media platforms. We’re immensely thankful for the media opportunities that have allowed us to spread our message of hope, faith, and love further than we could have ever imagined.

Our hearts swell with gratitude as we reflect on the overwhelming success of National Sports Sunday. This movement, which aims to unite churches in caring for the sporting community, has reached record numbers in 2023. The spirit of compas-



sion and unity displayed during this event is a true testament to the power of faith in action. It's a reminder that our mission is not only to serve but to bridge the gap between the spiritual and the physical realms.

Speaking of challenges, we can't help but look back on the Five Peak Challenge with a mix of exhaustion and elation. Scaling those gruelling peaks was a testament to the strength of our spirits and our unwavering

commitment to the cause. The funds raised during this challenge will undoubtedly fuel our efforts to make a lasting impact on the lives of athletes and those around them.

In the face of adversity, it's awe-inspiring to witness how much we've accomplished on a budget that pales in comparison to other charities. This goes to show that when God's hand is upon a mission, resources are multiplied, and miracles happen.

As we move forward, our gaze is set on strengthening our leadership team and board. The road ahead is exciting, and we believe that the right people will join us in this journey, sharing our passion and drive to bring hope to the community of sport.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every chaplain who works tirelessly behind the scenes, offering spiritual guidance, comfort,

and a listening ear to those who need it most. Your selfless dedication does not go unnoticed.

And as we flick through these pages, let us not forget our expansion in Ireland. The work there is growing, and hearts are being touched, reminding us that our mission knows no geographical bounds.

In closing, I invite you to embrace the stories, testimonies, and reflections within this magazine. May they ignite a fire of faith within you and encourage you to see the incredible impact that faith can have in the community of sport. Thank you for joining us on this remarkable journey – together, we can continue to make a difference.

*Blessings and warm regards*

Warren Evans  
CEO, Sports Chaplaincy UK



# Gearing up for new areas

After a turbulent couple of years, sports clubs and communities have further opened up their doors in England, writes National Director **Matt Baker**



**Simon Bailey, Pastoral Director for Horse Racing**

**OVER THE LAST** year we have been able to continue to train and support many chaplains through our CPD accredited induction course via online training. As well as introducing new chaplains to sport, we are also having to adapt to new expectations for chaplaincy so we were excited earlier this year to enter into a new agreement for chaplaincy provision at Manchester City.

Football chaplaincy is where it all started for SCUK and one of those who has faithfully served as a chaplain is Peter Amos at Barnsley FC.

After 27 years Peter decided it was time to step down and hand the baton on to Zach Zachariah (see page 15). The club handled this transition brilliantly with a farewell to Peter with staff at the club and also honouring him on his last match day as chaplain. Beyond football we are very excited to

announce further chaplaincy appointments in other sports too such as rugby league, horse racing and running clubs. We believe that chaplaincy at a running club is a first for SCUK so we were delighted to be able to be involved in a commissioning service for Iain Walker at St Austell Running Club in Cornwall in July.

Within golf, we have continued networking, connecting and initiating relationships within the industry across England and we are so excited to see what God will continue to do.

In April we were able to take new motor racing chaplains through our induction training (the first in person induction training since early 2020) and alongside the experience and leadership of James Rigby, support them in providing chaplaincy this season to the Historic Sports Car Club



**A commissioning service at The Message Trust for Wythenshawe Amateurs FC near Manchester with chaplain Andy Campsall, WAFC Chairman Carl Barratt and Warren Evans**

events. It is wonderful to see how much they have been valued and appreciated in such a short space of time.

As we work hard as a team developing our processes and strategy this year, we are continuing to trust God will keep us in step as he opens up new connections and opportunities within sport.



Stuart Coleman with new Threave Rovers chaplain Tom Dreha

# Appointment helps growth

Football dominates chaplaincy in Scotland but there are areas of breakthrough, reports National Director **Mark Fleming**



Gordy Mackay and Iain Cuthberston with Scone Thistle FC manager Charlie King



Craig Brown with Mark Fleming

IN 1998 I was appointed chaplain at Partick Thistle FC. I never would have imagined that 25 years later I would be overseeing around 165 sports chaplains (over 140 of these being at football clubs). Other sports for which we provide chaplains are shinty, rugby, basketball and cycling.

Such has been the growth, we have now appointed an Assistant National Director of Sports Chaplaincy Scotland, Stuart Coleman. Stuart has initially started off in a volunteer role and has made a significant impact already. He is pictured making his first appointment by introducing Tom Dreha as chaplain to Threave Rovers FC.

In Scotland, the challenge for us now is not to convince clubs of the merits of having a chaplain, the challenge is actually convincing churches of the merits of releasing people to be chaplains! Outward looking missional churches that recognise the opportunities that sports chaplaincy can

present to build a bridge into their sporting communities are thriving and growing.

Around 60 per cent of our chaplains are not ordained ministers, they are simply mature, committed Christians with the requisite personalities, experience and skill-sets to enable them to relate to the sports people they encounter. Outgoing chaplain to Scone Thistle FC, Pastor Gordy Mackay helpfully sourced a replacement chaplain from his church, Iain Cuthberston. Manager Charlie King welcomed the new appointment because of his own experience of chaplaincy as a player at Brechin City FC.

I was deeply personally saddened with the passing away of my dear friend former Scotland National Team Manager and Patron of Sports Chaplaincy Scotland, Craig Brown. We are retiring the title of Patron and announcing an Ambassador for Sports Chaplaincy Scotland in due course.



# Great things happening

God continues to bless chaplaincy work in Wales, says National Director **Martin Lewis**



Wrexham Town FC chaplains Sarah Sankey and Josh Smith

**WE PRAISE GOD** for the great things that continue to happen across Wales and also thank God for the many faithful chaplains that keep attending clubs/teams at least every week.

Recent new chaplains include places like Cardiff City Women, Wrexham Town FC, Ffos Las Racecourse, RGC, Ebbw Vale RFC and Colwyn Bay RFC.

We also continue to support major events across Wales like the Swansea Ironman, the Run4Wales race events and even the World Coastal Rowing Championships held at Saundersfoot. It has been great to see many more churches starting to really capture the vision and opportunity that comes through sport. We've had churches support the Porthcawl and Barry 10k and a cross section support the World Coastal Rowing Cham-

pionships. We continue to see many great spiritual opportunities like installing a garden of remembrance at Merthyr Town FC, and the opportunity just to quietly get alongside people as they come to reflect over lost loved ones and to minister into their lives. We've even seen people come to church from clubs and go on to find Christ and be baptised.

We continue to give out so many Bibles and New Testaments thanks to Good News For Everyone. It has been great how God has provided us with a little finance so that we've been able to take on John Butler as our North Wales development manager and who is doing a great job already.

We are also delighted that Chris Armstrong helps us with rugby union development in North Wales. We are though sorry to have lost Steve Jones who was driving SCUUs all/



Glenn Symons with cup chaplain at Blackwood RFC supporting Blackwood women's team

dis-ability work. We have had many endorsements over the year, including Gareth Richards, the Nomads Football Academy Manager who cannot praise the influence of sports chaplaincy enough amongst his squad and the wonderful work that the Rev Sally Baird has done there.

There are many challenges facing all sport in Wales especially financial pressures, which makes what we do even more important as we support so many community clubs on a volunteer basis and yet be so well regarded.



Ciaran Buckley



Lois Curragh

# We've so much to thank God for

Sports chaplaincy continues to thrive across Ireland, reports National Director **Phil Mitchell**

**IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR**, we have had so much to thank God for... regular prayer times together plus answers to prayers, new opportunities to serve and to share plus doors opening to new sports clubs and sports.

Hearts are softening and curiosity is growing, leading to Alpha for sportspeople which was launched in Belfast in January over eleven weeks and will soon go online. Partnerships with Good News For Everyone, Crown Jesus Ministries and Made for More are



Alpha for sportspeople launched in Belfast in January

being developed to support our chaplains on the ground.

National Governing body relationships continue to flourish with ringing endorsements from the Irish FA in Belfast, the PFAI in Dublin and the North West Cricket Union in Londonderry. A new series entitled 'Stories from GB' started, providing training and insights online for Irish chaplains featuring Premier League and Football League Chaplains and Welsh Boxing chaplain John Funnell.

Ken Revie, our chaplain to the PGA Golf Professionals, hosted our second inaugural Sports Chaplaincy Golf Day attended by 70 sportspeople across Ireland at Knock Golf Club. Internationals Eric Miller (Rugby), Gail Redmond (Football) and Bethany Harper (Hockey) plus Alastair Donaldson (Running) joined the growing list of ambassa-

dors whilst we were delighted to add the very experienced Russell Bowers to the staff in Northern Ireland.

Over 50 new chaplaincy appointments were made across Ireland including Ciaran Buckley, with the Republic of Ireland U19 squad, Andy Carroll to Bohemians FC, David Woods to Ballynahinch Rugby Club, Gary Halliday to Derriaghly Cricket Club, John Loughery and Charlene Thompson to Derry City FC, Lois Curragh to Lisburn Ladies and Allyson O'Regan to Cobh Ramblers FC in Cork.

Please continue to pray for all our chaplains as they serve at their clubs and please continue to pray for us as an army of sports chaplains serving across Ireland that we may be both obedient and courageous and that our hearts be filled with love.

# FIVE-STAR EFFORT

Amazing fundraisers for Sports Chaplaincy UK climbed five peaks in five days, raising more than £20,000 for the charity. Here's how they got on...

**MUCH HAS BEEN SAID** about sport and mental health over the last few years, and at Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland, we wanted to do more. So, for Mental Health Awareness Week in May, and to raise awareness and address the stigma of Mental Health Awareness, our CEO Warren Evans and England Assistant Director Christian Wienkamp climbed the five highest mountains in each home nation and Ireland in five days, with Christian then going on to complete the Leeds Half Marathon on the sixth day to tie in with National Sports Sunday. The pair were joined at each mountain by other chaplains,

leaders, athletes and friends as they walked and talked. The fundraiser collected more than £20,000, which will rise to nearly £22,000 thanks to Gift Aid. The challenge was followed by a wide variety of national media and sports communities which proved a great blessing to us.

James Stout, club chaplain at Dunbar United joined in with the first peak and shared: "Climbing Ben Nevis was a great, if not challenging experience. The day itself was brilliant, getting to chat with fellow chaplains on what was a decent day weather wise. Between family, friends, colleagues and people connected with Dunbar



Climbing Ben Nevis was a great and challenging experience



**CEO Warren Evans was joined by other chaplains, athletes and friends to climb the UK and Ireland's highest peaks**

United, they contributed several hundreds of pounds to the fundraising total, which I'm extremely grateful for. On a personal level, the slogan 'It's good to walk and talk' has motivated me to improve my physical health as well as keeping good mental health, and I've since taken steps to lose weight and become physically healthier".

Matt Davis, club chaplain to London Broncos Rugby League team, also supported the challenge and completed three of the Peaks. Raising more than £2,500, Matt was a key support in the challenge and with London Broncos cheering him on and tweeting him every step of the way, it showed just how valuable he is to the club community!

As part of the challenge, Warren also did several media interviews in preparation for the event with Dr Allan Johnston about the 5 Mental Health Mountains that many of us face which can still be found on the SCUK website.

All the funds raised from this challenge go directly towards resourcing and equipping chaplains to continue to reach their world.



Paralympian star Anne Wafula Strike is a passionate supporter of chaplaincy

# Determined to make a difference

Sports Chaplaincy UK trustee and Paralympian legend **Anne Wafula Strike** believes chaplaincy is the perfect pulpit

**SPORT CAN TURN** into a pulpit through chaplaincy, according to Paralympian star Anne Wafula Strike.

Anne, who was born in Kenya, is now retired from competitive sport but is the Secretary-General's Champion for Equality in Sports.

She is a passionate supporter of chaplaincy and believes it is an incredible opportunity to share faith.

"We need to be witnesses of Christ wherever we are," she said.

"I believe chaplaincy is a ministry that sometimes people take for granted. In the same way a pastor or a vicar will

stand in a pulpit, chaplaincy and sport becomes our pulpit. Chaplaincy is all about making sure that Jesus is realised and people know of his goodness and mercy on and off the field of play. This is why I love Sports Chaplaincy UK and why I support the charity. They are reaching tens of thousands of lives on a weekly basis."

Anne herself benefited from the support of others when she was an athlete.

"We had cell groups where people would pray together," she recalls.

"As an elite athlete I had a lady named Alison who was one of the physios and she

was such an encouragement. I was in the wilderness training and competing. In the evening I knew someone was praying with me... it was so encouraging. We need this ministry to grow because chaplains are unusual ministers. They're ministering to a certain group of people but people wanting to give their best and breaking barriers and boundaries to get to their best level."

Anne's faith has been her rock throughout her life.

She added: "The Lord is my guiding star... my faith always helped me find myself again when things would go wrong on the track."

# HELP US REACH THE BIGGEST MISSION FIELD ON EARTH

*ANY GIFT BIG OR SMALL  
MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE*



# *DONATE TODAY*

[www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk)

# God saved my life

Rugby union cult hero **Nick Williams** is the latest ambassador for Sports Chaplaincy UK. Here is his incredible story

**FORMER JUNIOR ALL BLACKS** number eight Nick Williams is thankful to God for saving his life after he suffered a cardiac arrest in 2022.

The retired star – who played for Cardiff Blues before hanging up his boots in 2020 – collapsed in the back garden of his friend’s house. Jason Redrup, a retired police officer, was the one who found the Aucklander, and immediately performed CPR before alerting emergency services, with an air ambulance then rushing Williams off to hospital.

Williams, now 39, says the support he received from chaplains Martin and Heather Lewis – Welsh Directors for Sports Chaplaincy UK – was amazing and encouraging.

He said: “We all crave that shoulder to lean on. The support from our chaplains Martin and Heather has been absolutely amazing, encouraging me and my family all the way. I wholeheartedly recommend any sports club having a chaplain and for players,



**Nick Williams in action for Cardiff Blues**

coaches etc to reach out and use them. I am delighted to become an Ambassador for Sports Chaplaincy UK.

“I’m originally from New Zealand, played all over the world and for the Cardiff Blues where I had the privilege of meeting Martin and Heather Lewis who have been top notch. They’ve been amazing in the way they supported me, whenever I was playing, and even more so now I’m retired. “I’ve gone through a tough few

months but for them to be there and be in my corner the whole time for myself and my family has meant the world to us all. They have been absolute rocks and I’m so grateful and I’m so humbled and privileged to be a part of their Sports Chaplaincy UK.”



# MY NEW JOURNEY WITH THE TYKES

Barnsley Football Club was founded by Rev Tiverton Preedy in 1887. Its Christian roots remain with the appointment of new chaplain, **Zach Zachariah**

**MY JOURNEY WITH** Barnsley Football Club started with a surprise phone call from the former chaplain, Peter Amos, who served for 27 years at the club, asking if I'd be interested in taking over from him.

Peter introduced me to Sports Chaplaincy UK. I wasn't prepared at first for anything but just took the step of faith to navigate through this new venture. I have never functioned in a chaplaincy role before but through my journey understood it's not too different from a church pastoral role; as it's all about people.

My rounds take place on a Thursday and on match days at home and my trustees from the Solid Rock Havercroft Church have released me very supportively. I meet with cleaners to the kit man, ground staff, security, reception office and also with the media team. I am in regular contact with

staff and have become part of the fabric of the club and given access to all areas through the generosity of the CEO and the owners.

I have learned that the speed of change is sudden and you have always got to be prepared with every aspect of pastoral care for any individual. We have done ministry to injured players and seen miracles happen.

Also, we run a Bible study and prayer time each week at the academy director's office which is open for anyone to attend. Very often I am scattering ashes for fans and for their families who have passed and am given the opportunity to share the love of Jesus to them.

I realise through my journey at the club that God is not looking for perfect people, he is just looking for genuine ones.



**Zach Zachariah at Wembley to watch Barnsley in last season's League One play-off final**



**You always have got to be prepared with every aspect of pastoral care**



# AS IRON SHARPENS IRON..!

Event chaplains have fascinating opportunities to share their faith. One such chaplain is triathlon and iron woman star **Pat Cooke-Rogers**

**WHEN I COMMITTED** my life to God in 1995 I had no idea of the crazy journey he would take me on. He took an overweight, unfit, totally non-athletic mother of four and threw me into the world of triathlon. Within six years he had taken me to two World Championships and my first Ultra – without me ever being any good at swimming, cycling or running!

At a race in Hawaii I found a pre-race service called 'Iron-prayer'. God told me to take it back to the UK. Much against my will I did, and this evolved into chaplaincy – even before I knew what chaplaincy was!

This year, God willing, I

will have worked as chaplain for four event organisers at 14 races for 60+ days in England, Scotland, Wales, Sweden and Canada. I will have spoken with hundreds of athletes, family members, event staff and local people. I will have celebrated and commiserated with athletes, hugged many of them and made countless cups of tea! It is an immense and humbling privilege to walk alongside so many people, and to try to show them the love that Jesus has shown me.

Event chaplaincy is exhausting, exhilarating, boring, intense, distressing, exciting and wonderful. You

walk many miles, get hot, cold, wet and wind blown (possibly all in the same day!) but you are alongside so many people with so many opportunities to be Jesus for them.

There are hundreds of events in the UK without chaplains – maybe there are some near you?

**Pat Cooke-Rogers**



Members of the Motorsport Chaplaincy team



# New drive to reach motorsport

The gospel is being spread throughout motorsport after an incredible breakthrough in recent months...

**SPORTS CHAPLAINCY HAS** been given the green light in motorsport and is being recognised at the highest level in this country as the answer to supporting human welfare in the sport.

Over the past year Rev James Rigby has been working with the SCUK team to establish a core of motorsport chaplains with one of the most respected clubs in motorsport, the Historic Sports Car Club. James has a professional background in racing and competed for many

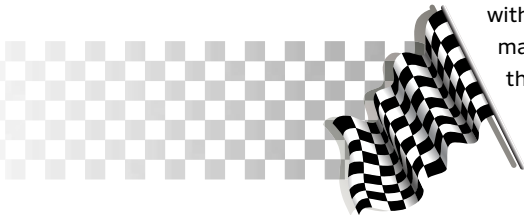
years himself before taking up the call to ordination in the Church of England. While training at theological college in Oxford he became involved with the Jesus Saves Racing Team, a Christian team founded by Brazilian F1 driver Alex Ribeiro in the 1970s and still focused today on sharing the gospel through motorsport.

The team competes in Classic Formula Ford racing which is organised by the HSCC and as the relationship with the club developed James had the conversation with the club chairman about how all the people involved

are supported. James says, "It was amazing to see how God was giving us favour with the club, when I spoke about what I do as a priest and my heart to support the welfare of the motorsport community, the chairman asked why don't you become our chaplain?"

"Since then it has been a joint journey of exploring what that looks like and recruiting a team of chaplains to start meeting the needs at the racetrack."

If you would be interested in finding out more and how you can get involved please contact [admin@sportschaplaincy.org.uk](mailto:admin@sportschaplaincy.org.uk)



# GREAT SCOTS!



There are now an incredible 25 female football club chaplains in Scotland, providing amazing opportunities to impact the women's game, writes **Mark Fleming**

**SPORTS CHAPLAINCY STEADILY** grew in Scottish football for 15 years before Scottish women's football even appeared on my radar.

In 2013, I was speaking on chaplaincy at a UEFA A Licence coaching course in Largs held by the Scottish FA. The head coach of Hibernian Women FC, Willie Kirk, approached me and asked if I could provide a chaplain for his team. I had to admit that I didn't know where to start in terms of training someone to be a women's team chaplain. He suggested that I piloted the role myself and since I had two grown up daughters I thought I could take up the challenge. I was blown away



**Hibs chaplain Catriona Lamont**

by their technical ability and tactical understanding – they were such a joy to work with and so appreciated being given the same value as a men's team.

I realised that they would be better served by a female chaplain so duly appointed Catriona Lamont, who has been with them since, and is so valued by the club that they have taken her away with them when playing in Europe and was recently with them on a pre-season trip to Cork.

Ten years on we now have 25 female football club chaplains (plus female chaplains in shinty and cycling!) covering most Scottish Women's Premier League 1 and 2 clubs, and where a SPFL club has a female counterpart team we seek to place a female chaplain there too. The appreciation and engagement of the players and management is tremendous.

Some of our female chaplains would admit to having



**Mark Fleming in his role at Hibs**



**Alison McLeod and Margaret Liddell**

had little knowledge of football before becoming club chaplains but because they have a desire for Jesus and a passion for women being given the same value and resources as men they have developed a passion for their teams and are doing an incredible job. Two great examples are Alison McLeod (Kilmarnock) and Margaret Liddell (Ayr United).



“As a former player, coach and manager, I cannot recommend highly enough the vital role played by chaplains within football clubs.”

*Chris Powell, retired footballer and former Elite BAME coach for the England national team*



“Chaplains can be of help to all sorts of people involved with sport, when crisis, need or difficulty comes. I commend the idea of sports chaplaincy and the work of Sports Chaplaincy UK to you.”

*Sir Alex Ferguson CBE, Director, Manchester United*



“Sports Chaplaincy UK has a passion for seeing the local church engage in the community of sport. I’m delighted to

celebrate all the work they do with hundreds of chaplains across the country and commend to churches who haven’t considered getting involved in looking at how they can serve their local community to explore this possibility.”

*Bishop Mike Royal, Co-Chair for the Birmingham Churches Commonwealth Working Group*



“Personally, I know the importance of chaplaincy in my life and I am delighted to be a patron of Sports Chaplaincy UK recognising the vital work of chaplains within sport.”

*Fabrice Muamba, retired footballer*



“We are told in just the second chapter of the Bible that we

don’t thrive in isolation. Sport often creates wonderful environments in which communities are built and relationships are allowed to flourish. In my experiences as a Christian professional rugby league player, Sports Chaplaincy UK has been the archetypal nourishment that encourages those environments to thrive.”

*Jamie Jones Buchanan, retired professional rugby league player*



“Every athlete needs some kind of support and encouragement and a chaplain can be a valuable source of this support.”

*Anne Wafula Strike, former Paralympian and gold medallist athlete*

## WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US

Don’t just take our word for it. Here’s what others are saying about Sports Chaplaincy UK and our work...





# THE WORLD'S BIGGEST MISSION FIELD.

**GET INVOLVED.**  
*Reach your world.*

DETAILS AT

[www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk)

GLOBAL  
SPORTS  
SUNDAY



NATIONAL  
SPORTS  
SUNDAY



**SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK**

**SPORTS CHAPLAINCY OFFERING RESOURCES AND ENCOURAGEMENT**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31 December 2023**

**CHARITY INFORMATION**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1168051

REGISTRATION IN SCOTLAND SCO44263

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS Odsal Stadium  
Rooley Avenue  
Bradford  
BD6 1BS

**TRUSTEES**

D Courteen - Chair  
D Caldwell  
B Hamer  
J D Lusted  
D Thorpe  
R Townsend  
A Wafula Strike  
R Wilson

**PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

**BANKERS** CAF BANK  
25 KINGS HILL AVENUE  
KINGS HILL  
WEST MALLING  
KENT ME19 4JQ

Sort Code 40-52-40  
Account 00022268

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER** RICHARD KNAPP

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

INDEX	Page no.
Trustees' Report	4
Independent examiner's report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

### **HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY**

The charity was formed as a successor charity of Sports Chaplaincy UK (Charity reference 1005446) to take advantage of the newly available CIO structure. Assets and liabilities were transferred from the original charity on 1 April 2017 in agreement with the Charities Commission and creditors (including the Baptist Pension Fund with whom the charity had a large contingent liability). The predecessor charity was dissolved on 31st December 2018 and the Charity Commission notified on 1 January 2019. During 2019 the process commenced to register the CIO as a Cross Border Charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

The original charity was formed in September 1991 with the objective of the advancement of the Christian religion chiefly supporting and resourcing sports chaplaincy and pastoral support for both amateur and professional participants. The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and activities of the charity and we consider our charitable activities, free at the point of delivery, support the advancement of religion, citizenship and community development in sport without discrimination of age, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation or health disability.

### **MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Governing Document provides for a minimum of 3 Trustees with no maximum number. As a foundation CIO, new Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees. The Chair is responsible for the induction of any new Trustee which involves the awareness of a their responsibilities, the governing document, administrative procedures and the history and philosophical approach of the charity.

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

The Trustee Board annually reviews the risks the charity faces and considers the following risks which may effect the work of the charity:

- Operational - related to the geographical locations of the work
- Statutory and Legal - relating to Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Charities' governance.
- Financial - relating to reduction in income or excessive expenditure
- Reputation - from adverse publicity and associated professional risks

Steps are in place to minimise these risks by specific Trustees monitoring the staff and volunteers and the work of the charity reviewing their statutory responsibilities. The Trustee Board receives their reports and prepares an annual budget and monitors the financial performance as well as operational and statutory matters at its regular meetings. The charity makes itself accountable to the public and its stakeholders in producing its annual report and accounts alongside a brochure highlighting its achievements in the year in a more user-friendly medium which is also available on the charity's website.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY**

The charity support almost 700+ chaplains in many sports. We have a strong presence across all the home nations of the United Kingdom and are increasingly supporting chaplains in Women's, Disability and All Ability sports.

This year the charity was still feeling the impacted post-Covid 19 and readjustment in re-establishing engagement and activity levels. Notwithstanding the challenges, the Charity ends the year in a strong position in relation to its work and remains financially sound.

Recognition of the work of the Charity continues to grow through the use of digital media channels with the number of expressions of interest in Chaplaincy continuing to be strong.

The Charity is in the process of establishing status in the Republic of Ireland given the growing cross border interest and engagement.

The ongoing work of Finance, E.D.I, HR and Policies sub-groups continues to serve the board of Trustees well and is reflective of the skill sets now evident in the make up of the board.

The main sporting partners continue to be Racing Welfare, the Professional Footballers Association, the Premier League and the English Football League, with relationship being built with other significant sporting bodies. Efforts also continued to develop the support base and to build an appropriate administrative structure to support continued growth.

## **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

Historically the charity has made pension contributions on behalf of employees where they had arrangements in place when they joined the charity, mainly to denominational pension schemes. Two employees were members of the Baptist Pension Scheme which was at that time a multi-employer Defined benefit scheme. Legal clarification has confirmed that bodies making payments into the scheme on behalf of members, would be regarded as a responsible employer and would be required to ensure that there are sufficient assets to meet liabilities in the scheme. The scheme has closed to future accrual but the scheme was substantially underfunded. The Charity is obliged to participate in the recovery scheme along with approximately 1400 other employers. Therefore the Charity made deficit payments of £12 during 2023.

This is due to the fact that during 2022 the situation has changed with the Baptist Pension Scheme achieving balance partly as a result of a buy in of some of the liabilities by an insurance company and partly as the result of market movements. The charity therefore no longer carries any contingent liability under the scheme.

## **FINANCIAL**

The charity relies heavily on donations to finance its growth. Income is in the form of grants and gifts from Trusts and churches, and from individual supporters with associated Gift Aid.

Grants are for the support of specific work and these are disclosed as designated funds where appropriate. Individual funding arrangements allow for a percentage of income to support the administration and management of the charity and these are reflected in the accounting.

A number of gifts are indicated to be for the support of specific activities and, although these gifts are not supported by a formal agreement, the Trustees may designate these to specific areas/activities. Again, an administration fee is taken to support the associated administration and management. The charity is seeking further funds to develop the management of the charity but has structured activities so that costs can be scaled to the income level.

The Accounts are subject to an independent review in line with the Charity Commission guidelines for a charity of this size and nature.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

Over the next 12 months the charity will continue to develop chaplaincy appointments in its core sports, consider opportunities to develop chaplaincy in other sports, including mixed ability sport and, seek to broaden its support base. A key goal of the Charity will be the development and delivery of a sustainable funding strategy and the replenishment of reserves post Covid-19, to provide for the ongoing development of the Charity.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c) State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- d) Prepare the financial statements on the on-going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, ensuring that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Courteen', written over a horizontal line.

D Courteen, Chair of Trustees.

12th September 2024

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out in pages 8 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- a) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- b) Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c) State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as whether the accounts present "a true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Richard Knapp  
Chartered Accountant  
Bradgate Road, Hinkley, LE10 1LA  
12th September 2024



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<i>Voluntary Income</i>		
Donations from Individuals	74143	39411
Donations from Churches and Trusts	162129	54680
Grants	198412	261051
Tax Refunds	7084	6200
<i>Income from Charity Activity</i>		
Conference and Membership	15238	15389
Bank Interest	244	102
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>457,250</u></b>	<b><u>376,833</u></b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<i>Charity Activity</i>		
Staff Salaries, Pensions and Housing	251830	246735
Consultancy Fees	104531	61332
Travel and Training Costs	51251	52782
Conference and Newsletter	6786	8027
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Insurance and Office Property	2753	2106
Stationery, Postage & Telephone	4163	3541
Publicity, Printing & Reproduction	4657	4746
Secretarial and Accountancy Costs	16361	19050
IT Costs	9463	8533
Awards and Subscriptions	348	376
Legal and Professional Costs	4090	3883
Fundraising Expenses	754	
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b><u>456,987</u></b>	<b><u>411,111</u></b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS</b>	<b><u>263</u></b>	<b><u>-34,278</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2023</b>	<b>45,731</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023</b>	<b>45,994</b>	

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	4	9,490	9,674
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>127,403</u>	<u>123,450</u>
		<b><u>136,893</u></b>	<b><u>133,124</u></b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry Creditors	5	<u>90,899</u>	<u>87,393</u>
		<b><u>45,994</u></b>	<b><u>45,731</u></b>

**NET CURRENT ASSETS**

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



D Courteen  
Chair  
Date 12th September 2024

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Financial Statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is responsible in law and are in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, the Charities SORP 2015 and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations issued under the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Incoming Resources**

Gifts, subscriptions and donations were previously recognised when received. However the Trustees believe that where sporting bodies provide funding in advance for roles over a sporting year, this income should be apportioned over the period it notionally covers.

All income resources are accounted for gross, without deducting related expenditure. All the income is expended on supporting and resourcing chaplaincy activities in a wide cross-section of recognised sports.

#### **Resources Expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended in the period where they are incurred, not on payment.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Assets purchased or donated after 2005, costing or valued at more than £1,000 are shown in the accounts as equipment. Equipment used for the charity is depreciated over four years, on a straight line basis and are included in the accounts at historical cost less depreciation. Items costing or valued at less than £1,000 are written off in the year of acquisition.

#### **Reserves**

The Trustees have adopted a policy of maintaining reserves to ensure commitments on fixed charity costs can be maintained. £20,000 is reserved to ensure these commitments can be met, particularly given that large grants are given in line with with sporting rather than calendar years.

### **2. Taxation**

The trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)****3. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salaries	212,571	206,256
Employer's Social Security Costs	18,160	17,525
Employer's Pension Contributions	5,235	5,788
Pension Deficit Payments	12	2,192
Housing and Other Benefits	15,852	14,974
	<u>251,830</u>	<u>246,735</u>

During the year, the Trustees engaged 6 members of staff under contracts of employment, undertaking core charitable activities. Book-keeping payroll and administration were provided on a contracted out basis. The Trust also made contributions to the ministry of members promoting the growth of Sports Chaplaincy UK activities into new areas. Further support to the charity was provided on a voluntary basis.

**4. ANALYSIS OF DEBTORS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepaid Expenses	4,352	0
Outstanding Debts	5,138	9,674
	<u>9,490</u>	<u>9,674</u>

**5. ANALYSIS OF CREDITORS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred Income (Grants)	81,375	77,500
Inland Revenue, PAYE etc.	5,181	5,722
Accounts Payable	4,343	2,795
Money held re Global Chaplaincy	0	1,376
	<u>90,899</u>	<u>87,393</u>

**Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168051

---

# Accounts

---

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

INDEX	Page no.
Trustees' Report	4
Independent examiner's report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

### **HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY**

The charity was formed as a successor charity of Sports Chaplaincy UK (Charity reference 1005446) to take advantage of the newly available CIO structure. Assets and liabilities were transferred from the original charity on 1 April 2017 in agreement with the Charities Commission and creditors (including the Baptist Pension Fund with whom the charity had a large contingent liability). The predecessor charity was dissolved on 31st December 2018 and the Charity Commission notified on 1 January 2019. During 2019 the process commenced to register the CIO as a Cross Border Charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

The original charity was formed in September 1991 with the objective of the advancement of the Christian religion chiefly supporting and resourcing sports chaplaincy and pastoral support for both amateur and professional participants. The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and activities of the charity and we consider our charitable activities, free at the point of delivery, support the advancement of religion, citizenship and community development in sport without discrimination of age, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation or health disability.

### **MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Governing Document provides for a minimum of 3 Trustees with no maximum number. As a foundation CIO, new Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees. The Chair is responsible for the induction of any new Trustee which involves the awareness of a their responsibilities, the governing document, administrative procedures and the history and philosophical approach of the charity.

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

The Trustee Board annually reviews the risks the charity faces and considers the following risks which may effect the work of the charity:

- Operational - related to the geographical locations of the work
- Statutory and Legal - relating to Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Charities' governance.
- Financial - relating to reduction in income or excessive expenditure
- Reputation - from adverse publicity and associated professional risks

Steps are in place to minimise these risks by specific Trustees monitoring the staff and volunteers and the work of the charity reviewing their statutory responsibilities. The Trustee Board receives their reports and prepares an annual budget and monitors the financial performance as well as operational and statutory matters at its regular meetings. The charity makes itself accountable to the public and its stakeholders in producing its annual report and accounts alongside a brochure highlighting its achievements in the year in a more user-friendly medium which is also available on the charity's website.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY**

The charity supports more than 550 chaplains in many sports. We have a strong presence across all the home nations of the United Kingdom and are increasingly supporting chaplains in Women's, Disability and All Ability sports.

The year has inevitably focused to a significant extent around issues related to the Covid 19 pandemic, and despite extra costs incurred through the employment of a full-time staff member in January, the charity has emerged in a healthy position both financially and in relation to its work.

Despite ongoing restrictions throughout 2021, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the work of the charity has continued to grow with new chaplaincy appointments and the development of links within Ireland, leading to the exploration of the possibility of registering as a cross border charity

Developments also occurred within the Trustee Board with the election of two new Trustees and the creation of a further sub-committee dealing with Human Resources in addition to those dealing with Finance and E.D.I.

The main sporting partners continue to be Racing Welfare, the Professional Footballers Association, the Premier League and the English Football League, with relationship being built with other significant sporting bodies. Efforts also continued to develop the support base and to build an appropriate administrative structure to support continued growth.

## **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

Historically the charity has made pension contributions on behalf of employees where they had arrangements in place when they joined the charity, mainly to denominational pension schemes. Two employees were members of the Baptist Pension Scheme which was at that time a multi-employer Defined benefit scheme. Legal clarification has confirmed that bodies making payments into the scheme on behalf of members, would be regarded as a responsible employer and would be required to ensure that there are sufficient assets to meet liabilities in the scheme. The scheme has closed to to future accrual but the scheme was substantially underfunded. The Charity is obliged to participate in the recovery scheme along with approximately 1400 other employers. Therefore the Charity made deficit payments of £2192 during 2022.

Failure to participate in the scheme would trigger an S75 cessation event whereby the charity would become immediately liable for its share of the Baptist Pension Fund deficit based on the buyout value of the fund by an insurance company. This is a very prudently calculated figure and has been estimated at around £36.5K at the end of 2021. The trustees regard this as manageable and it is being funded, among others, by Trustees and past members of the Charity in order that the work is not adversely affected.

During 2022 this situation has changed with the Baptist Pension Scheme achieving balance and being bought by an insurance company. The charity therefore no longer carries any contingent liability under the scheme.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out in pages 8 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- a) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- b) Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c) State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as whether the accounts present "a true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Richard Knapp  
Chartered Accountant  
Bradgate Road, Hinkley, LE10 1LA  
20th September 2021

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<i>Voluntary Income</i>		
Donations from Individuals	39411	57993
Donations from Churches and Trusts	54680	54366
Grants	261051	177750
Tax Refunds	6200	4852
<i>Income from Charity Activity</i>		
Conference and Membership	15389	12065
Bank Interest	102	
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>376,833</u></b>	<b><u>307,026</u></b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<i>Charity Activity</i>		
Staff Salaries, Pensions and Housing	246735	224518
Consultancy Fees	61332	28800
Travel and Training Costs	52782	26980
Conference and Newsletter	8027	1744
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Insurance and Office Property	2106	2105
Stationery, Postage & Telephone	3541	1496
Publicity, Printing & Reproduction	4746	1914
Secretarial and Accountancy Costs	19050	17542
IT Costs	8533	4843
Awards and Subscriptions	376	1490
Legal and Professional Costs	3883	1740
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b><u>411,111</u></b>	<b><u>313,172</u></b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS</b>	<b><u>-34,278</u></b>	<b><u>-6,146</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2021</b>	<b>80,009</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022</b>	<b>45,731</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	4	9,674	4,740
Cash at Bank and in Hand		123,450	124,964
		<u>133,124</u>	<u>129,704</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry Creditors	5	<u>87,393</u>	<u>49,695</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<u>45,731</u>	<u>80,009</u>

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

P Manchester  
Chair

A Cadmore  
Secretary

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Financial Statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is responsible in law and are in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, the Charities SORP 2015 and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations issued under the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Incoming Resources**

Gifts, subscriptions and donations were previously recognised when received. However the Trustees believe that where sporting bodies provide funding in advance for roles over a sporting year, this income should be apportioned over the period it notionally covers.

All income resources are accounted for gross, without deducting related expenditure. All the income is expended on supporting and resourcing chaplaincy activities in a wide cross-section of recognised sports.

#### **Resources Expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended in the period where they are incurred, not on payment.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Assets purchased or donated after 2005, costing or valued at more than £1,000 are shown in the accounts as equipment. Equipment used for the charity is depreciated over four years, on a straight line basis and are included in the accounts at historical cost less depreciation. Items costing or valued at less than £1,000 are written off in the year of acquisition.

#### **Reserves**

The Trustees have adopted a policy of maintaining reserves to ensure commitments on fixed charity costs can be maintained. £20,000 is reserved to ensure these commitments can be met, particularly given that large grants are given in line with with sporting rather than calendar years.

### **2. Taxation**

The trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (CONTINUED)****3. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salaries	206,256	184,914
Employer's Social Security Costs	17,525	16,114
Employer's Pension Contributions	5,788	5,595
Pension Deficit Payments	2,192	3,695
Housing and Other Benefits	14,974	14,200
	<u>246,735</u>	<u>224,518</u>

During the year, the Trustees engaged 6 members of staff under contracts of employment, undertaking core charitable activities. Book-keeping payroll and administration were provided on a contracted out basis. The Trust also made contributions to the ministry of members promoting the growth of Sports Chaplaincy UK activities into new areas. Further support to the charity was provided on a voluntary basis. Staff Costs during this year were supported by Furlough grants from HMRC to a total of £12,486

**4. ANALYSIS OF DEBTORS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepaid Expenses	0	1740
Outstanding Debts	9,674	4,000
	<u>9,674</u>	<u>5,740</u>

**5. ANALYSIS OF CREDITORS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred Income (Grants)	77,500	40,000
Inland Revenue, PAYE etc.	5,722	5,357
Accounts Payable	2,795	2,962
Money held re Global Chaplaincy	1,376	1,376
	<u>87,393</u>	<u>49,695</u>

**Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168051

---

# Accounts

---

**SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK**  
**SPORTS CHAPLAINCY OFFERING RESOURCES AND ENCOURAGEMENT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**###**

**CHARITY INFORMATION**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1168051  
REGISTRATION IN SCOTLAND SCO44263  
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS Odsal Stadium  
Rooley Avenue  
Bradford  
BD6 1BS

**TRUSTEES**

D Chawner  
A Cadmore  
D Courteen  
L Davis  
B Hamer  
P Manchester - Chair elected 29 June 2021  
D Thorpe (elected 10/6/20)  
R Townsend  
A Wafula Strike  
R Wilson

**PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

**BANKERS**

CAF BANK  
25 KINGS HILL AVENUE  
KINGS HILL  
WEST MALLING  
KENT ME19 4JQ

Sort Code 40-52-40  
Account 00022268

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

RICHARD KNAPP

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Page no.
INDEX	
Trustees' Report	4
Independent examiner's report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

### **HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY**

The charity was formed as a successor charity of Sports Chaplaincy UK (Charity reference 1005446) to take advantage of the newly available CIO structure. Assets and liabilities were transferred from the original charity on 1 April 2017 in agreement with the Charities Commission and creditors (including the Baptist Pension Fund with whom the charity had a large contingent liability). The predecessor charity was dissolved on 31st December 2018 and the Charity Commission notified on 1 January 2019. During 2019 the process commenced to register the CIO as a Cross Border Charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

The original charity was formed in September 1991 with the objective of the advancement of the Christian religion chiefly supporting and resourcing sports chaplaincy and pastoral support for both amateur and professional participants. The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and activities of the charity and we consider our charitable activities, free at the point of delivery, support the advancement of religion, citizenship and community development in sport without discrimination of age, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation or health disability.

### **MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Governing Document provides for a minimum of 3 Trustees with no maximum number. As a foundation CIO, new Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees. The Chair is responsible for the induction of any new Trustee which involves the awareness of their responsibilities, the governing document, administrative procedures and the history and philosophical approach of the charity.

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

The Trustee Board annually reviews the risks the charity faces and considers the following risks which may effect the work of the charity:

- Operational - related to the geographical locations of the work
- Statutory and Legal - relating to Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Charities' governance.
- Financial - relating to reduction in income or excessive expenditure
- Reputation - from adverse publicity and associated professional risks

Steps are in place to minimise these risks by specific Trustees monitoring the staff and volunteers and the work of the charity reviewing their statutory responsibilities. The Trustee Board receives their reports and prepares an annual budget and monitors the financial performance as well as operational and statutory matters at its regular meetings. The charity makes itself accountable to the public and its stakeholders in producing its annual report and accounts alongside a brochure highlighting its achievements in the year in a more user-friendly medium which is also available on the charity's website.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY**

The charity supports more than 550 chaplains in many sports. We have a strong presence across all the home nations of the United Kingdom and are increasingly supporting chaplains in Women's, Disability and All Ability sports.

The year has inevitably focused to a significant extent around issues related to the Covid 19 pandemic, and despite extra costs incurred through the employment of a full-time staff member in January, the charity has emerged in a healthy position both financially and in relation to its work.

Despite ongoing restrictions throughout 2021, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the work of the charity has continued to grow with new chaplaincy appointments and the development of links within Ireland, leading to the exploration of the possibility of registering as a cross border charity

Developments also occurred within the Trustee Board with the election of two new Trustees and the creation of a further sub-committee dealing with Human Resources in addition to those dealing with Finance and E.D.I.

The main sporting partners continue to be Racing Welfare, the Professional Footballers Association, the Premier League and the English Football League, with relationship being built with other significant sporting bodies. Efforts also continued to develop the support base and to build an appropriate administrative structure to support continued growth.

## **CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

Historically the charity has made pension contributions on behalf of employees where they had arrangements in place when they joined the charity, mainly to denominational pension schemes. Two employees were members of the Baptist Pension Scheme which was at that time a multi-employer Defined benefit scheme. Legal clarification has confirmed that bodies making payments into the scheme on behalf of members, would be regarded as a responsible employer and would be required to ensure that there are sufficient assets to meet liabilities in the scheme. The scheme has closed to to future accrual but the scheme was substantially underfunded. The Charity is obliged to participate in the recovery scheme along with approximately 1400 other employers. Therefore the Charity made deficit payments of £3695 during 2021.

Failure to participate in the scheme would trigger an S75 cessation event whereby the charity would become immediately liable for its share of the Baptist Pension Fund deficit based on the buyout value of the fund by an insurance company. This is a very prudently calculated figure and has been estimated at around £36.5K at the end of 2021. The trustees regard this as manageable and it is being funded, among others, by Trustees and past members of the Charity in order that the work is not adversely affected.

During 2022 this situation has changed with the Baptist Pension Scheme achieving balance and being bought by an insurance company. The charity therefore no longer carries any contingent liability under the scheme.

**FINANCIAL**

The charity relies heavily on donations to finance its growth . Income is in the form of grants and gifts from Trusts and churches, and from individual supporters with associated Gift Aid.

Grants are for the support of specific work and these are disclosed as designated funds where appropriate. Individual funding arrangements allow for a percentage of income to support the administration and management of the charity and these are reflected in the accounting.

A number of gifts are indicated to be for the support of specific activities and, although these gifts are not supported by a formal agreement, the Trustees may designate these to specific areas/activities. Again, an administration fee is taken to support the associated administration and management. The charity is seeking further funds to develop the management of the charity but has structured activities so that costs can be scaled to the income level.

The Accounts are subject to an independent review in line with the Charity Commission guidelines for a charity of this size and nature.

**FUTURE PLANS**

Over the next 12 months the charity will continue to develop chaplaincy appointments in its core sports, consider opportunities to develop chaplaincy in other sports, including mixed ability sport, seek to broaden its support base, and work to provide a sustainable funding strategy.

**STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c) State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- d) Prepare the financial statements on the on-going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position for the charity, ensuring that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee

P Manchester, Chair of Trustees.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out in pages 8 to 10.

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- a) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- b) Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c) State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as whether the accounts present "a true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Richard Knapp  
Chartered Accountant  
Bradgate Road, Hinkley, LE10 1LA  
20th September 2021

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<i>Voluntary Income</i>		
Donations from Individuals	57993	42260
Donations from Churches and Trusts	54366	54294
Grants	177750	178304
Tax Refunds	4852	14064
<i>Income from Charity Activity</i>		
Conference and Membership	12065	12392
Gift from Sports Chaplaincy UK		
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>307,026</u></b>	<b><u>301,314</u></b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<i>Charity Activity</i>		
Staff Salaries, Pensions and Housing	224518	213101
Consultancy Fees	28800	27142
Travel and Training Costs	26980	20461
Conference and Newsletter	1744	1031
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Insurance and Office Property	2105	2088
Stationery, Postage & Telephone	1496	1576
Publicity, Printing & Reproduction	1914	5323
Secretarial and Accountancy Costs	17542	13160
IT Costs	4843	6411
Awards and Subscriptions	1490	1993
Legal and Professional Costs	1740	5740
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b><u>313,172</u></b>	<b><u>298,026</u></b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS</b>	<b><u>-6,146</u></b>	<b><u>3,288</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2020</b>	<b>86,155</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020</b>	<b>81,009</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	4	4,740	2,907
Cash at Bank and in Hand		124,964	91,270
		<b><u>129,704</u></b>	<b><u>94,177</u></b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry Creditors	5	<b><u>49,695</u></b>	<b><u>8,022</u></b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<b><u>80,009</u></b>	<b><u>86,155</u></b>

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

P Manchester  
Chair

A Cadmore  
Secretary

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Financial Statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is responsible in law and are in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, the Charities SORP 2015 and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations issued under the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Incoming Resources**

Gifts, subscriptions and donations were previously recognised when received. However the Trustees believe that where sporting bodies provide funding in advance for roles over a sporting year, this income should be apportioned over the period it notionally covers.

All income resources are accounted for gross, without deducting related expenditure. All the income is expended on supporting and resourcing chaplaincy activities in a wide cross-section of recognised sports.

#### **Resources Expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended in the period where they are incurred, not on payment.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Assets purchased or donated after 2005, costing or valued at more than £1,000 are shown in the accounts as equipment. Equipment used for the charity is depreciated over four years, on a straight line basis and are included in the accounts at historical cost less depreciation. Items costing or valued at less than £1,000 are written off in the year of acquisition.

#### **Reserves**

The Trustees have adopted a policy of maintaining reserves to ensure commitments on fixed charity costs can be maintained. £20,000 is reserved to ensure these commitments can be met, particularly given that large grants are given in line with with sporting rather than calendar years.

### **2. Taxation**

The trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (CONTINUED)****3. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salaries	184,914	176,943
Employer's Social Security Costs	16,114	14,387
Employer's Pension Contributions	5,595	5,287
Pension Deficit Payments	3,695	2,724
Housing and Other Benefits	14,200	13,760
	<u>224,518</u>	<u>213,101</u>

During the year, the Trustees engaged 6 members of staff under contracts of employment, undertaking core charitable activities. Book-keeping payroll and administration were provided on a contracted out basis. The Trust also made contributions to the ministry of members promoting the growth of Sports Chaplaincy UK activities into new areas. Further support to the charity was provided on a voluntary basis. Staff Costs during this year were supported by Furlough grants from HMRC to a total of £12,486

**4. ANALYSIS OF DEBTORS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepaid Expenses	1,740	
Outstanding Debts	4,000	2,895
	<u>5,740</u>	<u>2,895</u>

**5. ANALYSIS OF CREDITORS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred Income (Grants)	40,000	0
Inland Revenue, PAYE etc.	5,357	5,248
Accounts Payable	2,962	1,398
Money held re Global Chaplaincy	1,376	1,376
	<u>49,695</u>	<u>8,022</u>