# CHURCH OF CHRIST (COMMERCIAL ROAD), TUNBRIDGE WELLS

England & Wales · Charity number 1169423

## Details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Status** | Registered |
| **Legal form** | CIO |
| **Registered** | 2016-09-30 |
| **Register** | View on the Charity Commission register |

## Contact

| | |
|---|---|
| **Address** | Church of Christ<br>Commercial Road<br>Tunbridge Wells<br>Kent<br>TN1 2RR |
| **Phone** | 01892514050 |
| **Email** | cllyallen@aol.com |
| **Website** | https://twchurchofchrist.wordpress.com/ |

## Activities

**Objects:** THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE CIO IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST (FCC).- THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH RELIGION, MAINLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY MEANS OF BROADCASTING MESSAGES OF AN EVANGELISTIC AND TEACHING NATURE.- TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE HOLDING OF PRAYER MEETINGS, TALKS, EVENTS, PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS, PRODUCING AND/OR DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE TO ENLIGHTEN OTHERS ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.- THE CHURCH MAY ALSO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND CARRY OUT OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING FEEDING THE POOR, WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, VISITING THE SICK AND ELDERLY, SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS AND THOSE IN NEED.

**Activities:** Church of Christ (Commercial Road), holds regular worship and teaching services, prayer meetings, events, public celebration of religious festivals, produces/distributes literature to enlighten others about the Christian faith. We also carry out other charitable purposes: feeding the poor, working with children/young people, visiting the sick and elderly, supporting the homeless and those in need.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1169423

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Kent

## Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2024-12-31 | £57,584 | £53,135 | - | - |
| 2023-12-31 | £49,337 | £45,714 | - | - |
| 2022-12-31 | £46,396 | £42,009 | - | - |
| 2021-12-31 | £42,957 | £35,333 | - | - |
| 2020-12-31 | £36,132 | £31,980 | - | - |

## Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| Hannah Brown | | 2026-01-18 |
| Jack Ingle | | 2018-06-24 |
| Lynn Joyce Allen | | 2018-06-22 |
| Ricky Brown | | 2025-07-16 |
| Simone Curry | | 2025-07-16 |
| Stephanie Harding | | 2026-01-18 |

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1169423

**CHURCH OF CHRIST (COMMERCIAL ROAD), TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1169423

# Accounts

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Day | Month | Year | | Day | Month | Year |
| | 01 | 01 | 2024 | | 31 | 12 | 2024 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Charity name** | Church of Christ |
| **Other names charity is known by** | N/A |
| **Registered charity number (if any)** | 1169423 |
| **Charity's principal address** | Commercial Road, |
| | Tunbridge Wells, |
| | Kent |
| | **Postcode** TN1 2RR |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chris Dare | | | |
| 2 | Cliff Allen | | 17 July – 31 Dec | |
| 4 | Jack Ingle | | | |
| 5 | Lynn Allen | | | |
| 6 | Leo Harvey | Chairman | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |

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

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|

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

## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution) | Constitution |
| How the charity is constituted | Charitable Incorporated Organisation |

(e.g. trust, association, company)

Trustee selection methods
(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

Appointment of charity trustees

1. At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office;

2. At every [subsequent] annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;

3. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;

4. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (5) of this clause;

5. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause [15] (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause [12(3)] on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;

6. A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

12. Charity trustees

3. Number of charity trustees
a) There must be at least five charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee.
b. The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

15. Retirement and removal of charity trustees

1. A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:

a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);
b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
c) dies;
d) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
e) [is removed by the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause;] or
f) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
2. A charity trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause [11], and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.
3. A resolution to remove a charity trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral and/or written representations to the members of the CIO.]

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

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

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

Church of Christ is committed to the following policies, which are maintained in accordance with guidelines, in consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage these risks:

Safeguarding Child protection
Safeguarding Vulnerable adults
Anti-Bullying
Data protection
Acceptable use of IT
Health and Safety
Privacy Notice
Lone Working
Investment
Social Media
Equal opportunities and diversity
Complaints
Anti-bribery
Risk Assessments

## Section C Objectives and activities

| | |
|---|---|
| **Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document** | **<u>The objects of the CIO are:</u>**<br>The principal purpose of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).<br><br>The advancement of the Christian faith religion, mainly but not exclusively, by means of broadcasting messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.<br><br>To advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells for the benefit of the public through the holding of prayer meetings, talks, events, public celebration of religious festivals, producing and/or distributing literature to enlighten others about the Christian faith.<br><br>The church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world, including feeding the poor, working with children and young people, visiting the sick and elderly, supporting the homeless and those in need… |
| **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)** | Church of Christ is a growing family friendly, community Church, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and race. Our Sunday Services, include lively and varied worship, prayers, Bible based and relevant preaching and the sharing of Communion. Services are informal and inspirational and combine both new and traditional ways of Celebrating God.<br><br>Weekly 'Sunday Special' groups are offered during our services for children/youth aged 3-11. These groups seek to teach our youngsters about Christ, his life and the benefits of a relationship with him through age-related fun Bible learning sessions run by a team of creative, caring and dedicated teachers.<br><br>During 2024, our Youth group for secondary aged youth met on a twice monthly basis, as well as offering a Youth Class on Sunday mornings twice each month. Our Sunday School for children aged 3-11 offered weekly classes. Our annual summer holiday camp for children and youth aged 7-17 took place during the last weekend of June.<br><br>Our community outreach and pastoral care included holding an open service with other Churches on Good Friday, as well as on Easter Morning. We provide a |

meeting space for local groups including a community choir, a Drugs Anonymous support group, English lessons for Ukrainian refugees, and other groups who use it from time to time. Several in our Church family support the work of Mosaic, a Churches for Tunbridge Wells run group offering food to the homeless and lonely.

Thankfully, we have been able to continue financial support for overseas initiatives: Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea, Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa; Pro-Vision (subsidiary of Pro-Vision International - PVI) - a Southern Africa based Christian missions serving agency; the wider Persecuted Church; along with the Bible Society. Locally and nationally, we have supported Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors, Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ, Mosaic Resource, Centre, Empathy Action, as well as our national Fellowship of Churches of Christ.

In planning the activities for Church of Christ during the reporting year the trustees have considered and had regard for the commission's guidance on public benefit with decisions made to further advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells. Specifically, that through these activities to advance the Christian faith, to further educate and to carry out charitable work, this will be for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

**Worship and Prayer**

Sermons in 2024 included:

- teaching on our responsibility as Church Members to play an active and positive role in the life, service, testimony and mission of the Church.
- Our teaching through Lent focused on 'Trees in the Bible' culminating on Easter Sunday with the Cross of Calvary and the empty tomb.
- We taught through the life of Jonah.
- We taught on some of the core beliefs and practices of our

congregation, including baptism, communion, giving and others.
- During Advent we looked at how the birth of Jesus makes a difference in our lives.

We continue to livestream our services so those who live afar, or those who have been ill or unable to attend could still join us. We have had viewers from USA, Portugal, Czech Republic and varying places around the UK.

Prayer support has been offered through the healthy engagement and involvement of church members via a whatsapp group, as well as prayer needs being made known to the wider congregation via emails, when appropriate. Prayer is offered weekly, following our morning times of worship, or can be requested at any time through the week. Church members are encouraged to meet up with others for prayer support and encouragement, providing care, support, and comfort with words, compassion, and sensitivity.

Throughout the year our midweek groups have met in person. Occasional meetings via zoom took place. These times provide opportunities for fellowship, prayer and Bible study, designed to encourage and equip people in their faith. Various people led discussions on different Bible topics – these were interactive, informative, and good opportunities for people to be connected with God and with one another. We have run a a 'Practicing the Way' Course, and followed this up by looking at the Spiritual Practices of Sabbath and Prayer. All are designed to deepen our faith and experience of Jesus, and equip us to be His disciples in our day to day living.

Sunday Special for 3-11s met on a weekly basis and invitations were regularly sent to parents and children inviting them to join in our Sunday Special times.

Our Youth Group met twice monthly through the week and on Sunday mornings, taking part in a variety of activities, always with a faith element and opportunity for prayer offered in a fun environment.

The baptism pool at Church of Christ enables a fully immersive commitment of faith. We are pleased to report that through the year, 4 people committed their lives to Christ through the waters of baptism.

All who attend our services at Church of Christ (in the building or online) benefit from our teachings and worship, learning how Christ may be working in each of our lives and through us into the wider community. We seek to encourage the practise of Christian principles within the lives of those who attend our services. Recognising there will always be differences in belief and practices we uphold the value of the Church as a missional community and seek to work to fulfil the great commission of Jesus. As God calls us into partnership with Himself, so we seek to express this value in our working together with our community so all may have a relationship with Christ.

**Children & Youth Ministry**

At Easter time we offered an Easter Egg Hunt for children of the community. We also ran our annual weekend camp, this year in partnership with the local Baptist Church. There were 40 children/youth who attended.

Our youth met monthly throughout the year with average of 6 young people attending. The NOISE a youth social action project run at Easter with other

churches in town took place with several of our young people being involved.

Our Minister regularly leads Acts of Worship at a local primary school, sharing Bible truths and lessons.

**Community Outreach /Pastoral Care**

We believe in helping those in need. At Church of Christ, we do this by serving the community around us, particularly those in great hardship and need. We met the needs of the local homeless community by signposting them to our local Mosaic Resource Centre, which offers food, friendship and help to the homeless, lonely, marginalised and vulnerable. We have signposted people and families in need to Community Larders which are run out of several local churches.

Church of Christ has been involved with building community bridges with the diverse local area especially with the nearby mosque. Our minister and his wife have maintained contact with the local Imam and his wife. An interfaith women's group was able to meet in 2024 and it is hoped that more will be planned for the future.

We have taken an active part in reaching out to the Ukrainian community in the following ways:

- We continue to offer English lessons to Ukrainian refugees, free of charge.
- We incorporated several Ukrainian families in a Christmas meal and in a special Ukrainian Christmas Carol Service, as well as welcoming them into our English speaking Carol service.
- We have welcomed Ukrainian families into our Church family, supporting them through friendship, love and support in a variety of ways.
- We have welcomed a Nigerian family, a Portuguese family as well as newly arrived South Africans into our Church family.

We were able to offer a Good Friday Witness in our town centre joining Christians from other churches as an act of witness to Jesus' death and resurrection, a 'Sunrise Easter Service' in a local park, sharing in our worship and praise for the benefit of knowing that in Jesus dying on the cross all may be saved through a relationship with Christ.

We've offered times of 'Breakfast Church' inviting the local community and church community to share in physical food as well as spiritual food together.

We offered a 'Try Church' Sunday inviting the local community to come and hear a variety of stories of faith from some of our existing members.

Easter and Christmas cards were delivered to those in close proximity to our church building.

CREATE Community Choir used our building on a weekly basis, while the Cocaine Anonymous (CA) group held weekly meetings throughout the year for their weekly support group.

Our minister continues to be involved in supporting and developing the work of local Christian community groups and events in the following ways:

- Chairman of Street Pastors - a group who pray for and reach out to young adults out socialising in the town centre during the late/early hours at weekends,

- Chairman of the Churches for Tunbridge Wells committee – an umbrella organisation overseeing much of the Christian social action work in the town,
- Organising Church Leaders prayer lunches - drawing church leaders from all denominations together for pray, encouragement and support,
- Organising annual Week of Prayer events - drawing people from various churches together for prayer.
- Supporting a Church planting initiative in Ilford, Essex by chairing the trustees and meeting with the Church planter on a regular basis.

**Overseas Initiatives - supporting the wider Christian community**

Church of Christ has supported, through the voluntary giving of the congregation, the following overseas Initiatives, as well as local initiatives through prayer and finance:

- Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea - We particularly sponsor a teenage boy, who was abandoned but is now greatly cared for in this loving orphanage.
- Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa - He teaches many young pastors at Ghana Christian College. Some of his students travel far to take the gospel to unreached territories. We are supporting Brian as he begins to mentor young leaders as he develops the ministry of Barnabas House.
- The Persecuted Church is a particular focus for our church, and we support organisations such as Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Release International and Open Doors.
- Pro-vision International is a Christian Missions Serving Agency with caring roots deeply entrenched in community development in Africa's Southern region with hearts that are invested in accomplishing the wellbeing of its peoples. The agency provides mentoring, resource acquisition and management services which build capacity into leader's lives and sustainability into life-giving community projects.
- Bible Society – providing Bibles and Bible teaching resources for peoples around the world.
- Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors – a local Christian Charity with people from 15 different churches working together to patrol our streets from 10pm-1am 4 nights a month to minister to those enjoying the night-time economy.
- Mosaic Resource Centre – run by Churches for Tunbridge Wells, this organisation feeds the hungry, lonely and homeless and signposts people to housing and mental health help.
- Empathy Action – a local charity raising awareness of poverty and the plight of refugees.
- Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ – a local Christian Charity working with young people in schools through assemblies and mentoring and working in some of the more deprived areas of the town helping churches run children's and youth clubs for local communities.
- Fellowship of Churches of Christ – this is the denomination to which we belong, and we are pleased to be able to support its work and ongoing mission to both support existing Churches, as well as to see new Churches planted through their church planting initiatives.
- TEAR Fund – A Christian Relief Organisation operating around the world. This year, we sent gifts specifically for their work in supporting aid work in Ukraine.

**Governance**
During the year the congregation, with the help of Ellis-Fermor Solicitors made some amendments to the Constitution. The amendments were as follow:

- Enabling a paid Minister to be a Trustee.
- Including our statement of faith from our original Trust Deed of 1885.
- Making it clear that should this congregation cease to exist the building property and assets would revert to the Fellowship of Churches of Christ.

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Church of Christ is a small church with an average annual income of £45,000.

£42,675 is currently held as Restricted Funds for use with approval of the Trustees. Of this amount, Reserves of £30,855 are ring fenced for specific considerations including:
Approximately four/five months' running costs to be spent at any such time a drop in income leads to the requirement to make use of reserves. Additional sums are held in reserve for emergency or ongoing building maintenance and repairs, for investment in mission outreach in our local community and to cover the amount received from the US which would cease to be paid at any time Cliff Allen's appointment at Church of Christ ends.

The Reserves Policy is reviewed on an annual basis, or at any such time as the financial position of the church changes to have a significant impact on the running of the church.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section F Other optional information

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

**Full name(s)**

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

**Date**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

| Charity Name | No (if any) |
|---|---|
| Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells | 1169423 |

# Receipts and payments accounts

**CC16a**

| For the period from | Period start date | To | Period end date |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 01/01/2024 | | 31/12/2024 |

## Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A1 Receipts** | | | | | |
| Offerings | 49,465 | - | - | 49,465 | - |
| Grant and Church hire | 2,365 | - | - | 2,365 | - |
| Raising funds for community activities | 4,205 | - | - | 4,205 | - |
| Interest received | 1,550 | - | - | 1,550 | - |
| Misc | - 1 | - | - | - 1 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** *(Gross income for AR)* | 57,584 | - | - | 57,584 | - |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total receipts*** | 57,584 | - | - | 57,584 | - |
| **A3 Payments** | | | | | |
| Admin and running costs | 14,756 | - | - | 14,756 | - |
| Personnel and speakers | 21,268 | - | - | 21,268 | - |
| Community activities and offerings | 16,586 | - | - | 16,586 | - |
| Other | 525 | - | - | 525 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | 53,135 | - | - | 53,135 | - |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total payments*** | 53,135 | - | - | 53,135 | - |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | 4,449 | - | - | 4,449 | - |
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | | - | - | - | - |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 23,813 | 42,676 | - | 66,489 | - |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 28,262 | 42,676 | - | 70,938 | - |

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B1 Cash funds** | Current account | 578 | - | - |
| | Investment fund | - | 32,857 | - |
| | CAF current account | 2,639 | | |
| | CAF savings account | 25,045 | 9,819 | - |
| | ***Total cash funds*** | 28,262 | 42,676 | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |

| | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B2 Other monetary assets** | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B3 Investment assets** | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use** | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B5 Liabilities** | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |

| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees/ members of** | Charity Name<br>Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells | | |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 December 2024 | **Charity no (if any)** | 1169423 |
| **Set out on pages** | Receipts and Payments Accounts/Statement of Assets and Liabilities (Form CC16a)<br>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets) | | |

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** |  | **Date:** | 20/02/2025 |
| **Name:** | Chris Maslin | | |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s):** | Chartered Tax Adviser | | |
| **Address:** | 72 Ravenswood Avenue<br>Tunbridge Wells<br>Kent, TN1 2QP | | |

| Section B | Disclosure |
| --- | --- |
| | Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners). |
| **Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose**. | N/A |

**CHURCH OF CHRIST (COMMERCIAL ROAD), TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1169423

# Accounts

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Day | Month | Year | | Day | Month | Year |
| | 01 | 01 | 2023 | | 31 | 12 | 2023 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Charity name** | Church of Christ |
| **Other names charity is known by** | N/A |
| **Registered charity number (if any)** | 1169423 |
| **Charity's principal address** | Commercial Road,<br>Tunbridge Wells,<br>Kent<br>**Postcode** TN1 2RR |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chris Dare | | | |
| 2 | Ann Marjorie Mason | | 1 January – 17 July | |
| 4 | Jack Ingle | | | |
| 5 | Lynn Allen | | | |
| 6 | Leo Harvey | Chairman | | |
| 7 | Victoria Daniell | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |

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

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---|---|

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|

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

## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution) | Constitution |
| How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company) | Charitable Incorporated Organisation |

| Trustee selection methods (e g appointed by elected by) | Appointment of charity trustees<br><br>1. At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office;<br><br>2. At every [subsequent] annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;<br><br>3. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;<br><br>4. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (5) of this clause;<br><br>5. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause [15] (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause [12(3)] on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;<br><br>6. A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.<br><br>12. Charity trustees<br><br>3. Number of charity trustees<br>a) There must be at least five charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee.<br>b. The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.<br><br>15. Retirement and removal of charity trustees<br><br>1. A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:<br>a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);<br>b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their |
|---|---|

meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
c) dies;
d) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
e) [is removed by the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause;] or
f) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
2. A charity trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause [11], and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.
3. A resolution to remove a charity trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral and/or written representations to the members of the CIO.]

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

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

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

Church of Christ is committed to the following policies, which are maintained in accordance with guidelines, in consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage these risks:

Safeguarding Child protection
Safeguarding Vulnerable adults
Anti-Bullying
Data protection
Acceptable use of IT
Health and Safety
Privacy Notice
Lone Working
Investment
Social Media
Equal opportunities and diversity
Complaints
Anti-bribery
Risk Assessments

## Section C Objectives and activities

| | |
|---|---|
| **Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document** | **The objects of the CIO are:**<br>The principal purpose of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).<br><br>The advancement of the Christian faith religion, mainly but not exclusively, by means of broadcasting messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.<br><br>To advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells for the benefit of the public through the holding of prayer meetings, talks, events, public celebration of religious festivals, producing and/or distributing literature to enlighten others about the Christian faith.<br><br>The church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world, including feeding the poor, working with children and young people, visiting the sick and elderly, supporting the homeless and those in need... |
| **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)** | Church of Christ is a growing family friendly, community Church, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and race. Our Sunday Services, include lively and varied worship, prayers, Bible based and relevant preaching and the sharing of Communion. Services are informal and inspirational and combine both new and traditional ways of Celebrating God.<br><br>Weekly 'Sunday Special' groups are offered during our services for children/youth aged 3-11. These groups seek to teach our youngsters about Christ, his life and the benefits of a relationship with him through age-related fun Bible learning sessions run by a team of creative, caring and dedicated teachers.<br><br>During 2023, our Youth group for secondary aged youth met on a monthly basis, while our Sunday School for children aged 3-11 offered weekly classes. Our annual summer holiday camp for children and youth aged 7-17 took place during the last weekend of June.<br><br>Our community outreach and pastoral care included holding an open service with other Churches on Good Friday, as well as on Easter Morning. We provide a meeting space for local groups including a community choir, a Drugs Anonymous support group, English lessons for Ukrainian refugees, and other groups who use it from time to time. Several in our Church family support the work of Mosaic, a Churches for Tunbridge Wells run group offering food to the homeless and lonely. |

Thankfully, we have been able to continue financial support for overseas initiatives: Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea, Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa; Unsung Heroes (subsidiary of Pro-Vision International - PVI) - a Southern Africa based Christian missions serving agency; the wider The Persecuted Church; along with the Bible Society. Locally and nationally, we have supported Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors, Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ, as well as our national Fellowship of Churches of Christ.

In planning the activities for Church of Christ during the reporting year the trustees have considered and had regard for the commission's guidance on public benefit with decisions made to further advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells. Specifically, that through these activities to advance the Christian faith, to further educate and to carry out charitable work, this will be for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

**Worship and Prayer**

Sermons in 2023 included:

- teaching on our purpose as a congregation – growing Up in our Intimacy with Christ – Building a healthy Church Community and finding ways to bless our local community.
- Our teaching through Lent focused on the 'Parable of the Lost Son' – exploring this well-known story and applying it to our own relationship with God.
- We taught through the life of Joseph in the OT, and seeing him as a type of Christ in his life and ministry.
- We taught on the marks of being a disciple which included – authenticity, accountability and availability.
- During Advent we looked at how the birth of Jesus fit into the bigger story of the Bible, talking about God's Bigger and Better Story.

We continue to livestream our services so those who live afar, or those who have been ill or unable to attend could still join us. We have had viewers from USA, Portugal, Czech Republic and varying places around the UK.

Prayer support has been offered through the healthy engagement and involvement of church members via a whatsapp group, as well as prayer needs being made known to the wider congregation via emails, when appropriate. Prayer is offered following our morning times of worship, or can be requested at any time through the week. Church members are encouraged to meet up with others for prayer support and encouragement, providing care, support, and comfort with words, compassion, and sensitivity.

Throughout the year our midweek groups have met in person. Occasional meetings via zoom took place. These times provide opportunities for fellowship, prayer and Bible study, designed to encourage and equip people in their faith. Various people led discussions on different Bible topics – these were interactive, informative, and good opportunities for people to be connected with God and with one another. We have run an Alpha Course, a course on the book or Romans as well as running an overview of the Bible called The Bible Course. All are designed to deepen our faith and experience of Jesus, and equip us to be His disciples in our day to day living.

Sunday Special for 3-11s met on a weekly basis and invitations were regularly sent to parents and children inviting them to join in our Sunday Special times. We are open to trying different things to engage with children in our community.

Our Youth Group met on a monthly basis through the year doing a variety of activities, always with a faith element and opportunity for prayer offered in a fun environment.

The baptism pool at Church of Christ enables a fully immersive commitment of faith. However, this reporting year there have been no baptisms to report.

All who attend our services at Church of Christ (in the building or online) benefit from our teachings and worship, learning how Christ may be working in each of our lives and through us into the wider community. We seek to encourage the practise of Christian principles within the lives of those who attend our services. Recognising there will always be differences in belief and practices we uphold the value of the Church as a missional community and seek to work to fulfil the great commission of Jesus. As God calls us into partnership with Himself, so we seek to express this value in our working together with our community so all may have a relationship with Christ.

**Children & Youth Ministry**
At Easter time we offered an Easter Egg Hunt for children of the community. We also ran our annual weekend camp, this year in partnership with the local Baptist Church. There were 40 children/youth who attended.

Our youth met monthly throughout the year with average of 10 young people attending. The NOISE a youth social action project run at Easter with other churches in town took place with several of our young people being involved.

Our Minister regularly leads Acts of Worship at a local primary school, sharing Bible truths and lessons.

**Community Outreach /Pastoral Care**
We believe in helping those in need. At Church of Christ, we do this by serving the community around us, particularly those in great hardship and need. We met the needs of the local homeless community by signposting them to our local Mosaic Resource Centre, which offers food, friendship and help to the homeless, lonely, marginalised and vulnerable. We have signposted people and families in need to Community Larders which are run out of several local churches.

Church of Christ has been involved with building community bridges with the diverse local area especially with the nearby mosque. Our minister and his wife have maintained contact with the local Imam and his wife. An interfaith women's group was able to meet early in 2023 and it is hoped that more will be planned for the future.

We have taken an active part in reaching out to the Ukrainian community in the following ways:

- We continue to offer English lessons to Ukrainian refugees, free of charge.
- We incorporated several Ukrainian families in a Christmas meal and in our Christmas Carol Service, enabling them to take part in their own language.
- We have welcomed Ukrainian families into our Church family, supporting them through friendship, love and support in a variety of ways.

We were able to offer a Good Friday Witness in our town centre joining Christians from other churches as an act of witness to Jesus' death and resurrection, a 'Sunrise Easter Service' in a local park, sharing in our worship and praise for the benefit of knowing that in Jesus dying on the cross all may be saved through a relationship with Christ.

The women in our Church organised a community event at a local pottery shop, which brought together women in a creative, fun way.

Our men were able to meet for a curry night and hope to do something more regularly in the future.

We've offered times of 'Breakfast Church' inviting the local community and church community to share in physical food as well as spiritual food together.

We offered a 'Back to Church' Sunday inviting the local community to come and hear a Ukrainian lady give her testimony of life in the UK after leaving

the war in Ukraine.

Easter and Christmas cards were delivered to those in close proximity to our church building.

CREATE Community Choir used our building on a weekly basis, while the Cocaine Anonymous (CA) group held weekly meetings throughout the year for their weekly support group.

Our minister continues to be involved in supporting and developing the work of local Christian community groups and events in the following ways:

- Chairman of Street Pastors - a group who pray for and reach out to young adults out socialising in the town centre during the late/early hours at weekends,
- Chairman of the Churches for Tunbridge Wells committee – an umbrella organisation overseeing much of the Christian social action work in the town,
- Organising Church Leaders prayer lunches - drawing church leaders from all denominations together for pray, encouragement and support,
- Organising annual Week of Prayer events - drawing people from various churches together for prayer.
- Supporting a Church planting initiative in Ilford, Essex by chairing the trustees and meeting with the Church planter on a regular basis.

**Overseas Initiatives - supporting the wider Christian community**

Church of Christ has supported, through the voluntary giving of the congregation, the following overseas Initiatives, as well as local initiatives through prayer and finance:

- Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea - We particularly sponsor a teenage boy, who was abandoned but is now greatly cared for in this loving orphanage.
- Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa - He teaches many young pastors at Ghana Christian College. Some of his students travel far to take the gospel to unreached territories. We are supporting Brian as he begins to mentor young leaders as he develops the ministry of Barnabas House.
- The Persecuted Church is a particular focus for our church, and we support organisations such as Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Release International and Open Doors.
- Pro-vision International is a Christian Missions Serving Agency with caring roots deeply entrenched in community development in Africa's Southern region with hearts that are invested in accomplishing the wellbeing of its peoples. The agency provides mentoring, resource acquisition and management services which build capacity into leader's lives and sustainability into life-giving community projects.
- Bible Society – providing Bibles and Bible teaching resources for peoples around the world.
- Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors – a local Christian Charity with people from 15 different churches working together to patrol our streets from 10pm-1am 4 nights a month to minister to those enjoying the night-time economy.
- Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ – a local Christian Charity working with young people in schools through assemblies and mentoring and working in some of the more deprived areas of the town helping churches run children's and youth clubs for local communities.
- Fellowship of Churches of Christ – this is the denomination to which we belong, and we are pleased to be able to support its work and

ongoing mission to both support existing Churches, as well as to see new Churches planted through their church planting initiatives.

- TEAR Fund – A Christian Relief Organisation operating around the world. This year, we sent gifts specifically for their work in supporting aid work in Ukraine.

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Church of Christ is a small church with an average annual income of £43,000.

£42,675 is currently held as Restricted Funds for use with approval of the Trustees. Of this amount, Reserves of £30,855 are ring fenced for specific considerations including:
Approximately four/five months' running costs to be spent at any such time a drop in income leads to the requirement to make use of reserves. Additional sums are held in reserve for emergency or ongoing building maintenance and repairs, for investment in mission outreach in our local community and to cover the amount received from the US which would cease to be paid at any time Cliff Allen's appointment at Church of Christ ends.

The Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or at any such time as the financial position of the church changes to have a significant impact on the running of the church.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section F Other optional information

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

**Full name(s)** LEO HARVEY

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)** CHAIRMAN

**Date** 07/07/24

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

| Charity Name | No (if any) |
|---|---|
| Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells | 1169423 |

# Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

| For the period from | 01/01/2023 | To | 31/12/2023 |
|---|---|---|---|

## Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A1 Receipts** | | | | | |
| Offerings | 42,086 | - | - | 42,086 | - |
| Grant and Church hire | 2,654 | - | - | 2,654 | - |
| Raising funds for community activities | 3,377 | - | - | 3,377 | - |
| Interest received | 1,218 | - | - | 1,218 | - |
| Misc | 2 | - | - | 2 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)* | 49,337 | - | - | 49,337 | - |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total receipts*** | 49,337 | - | - | 49,337 | - |
| **A3 Payments** | | | | | |
| Admin and running costs | 9,412 | - | - | 9,412 | - |
| Personnel and speakers | 20,853 | - | - | 20,853 | - |
| Community activities and offerings | 15,351 | - | - | 15,351 | - |
| Other | 98 | - | - | 98 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | 45,714 | - | - | 45,714 | - |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total payments*** | 45,714 | - | - | 45,714 | - |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | 3,623 | - | - | 3,623 | - |
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | | - | - | - | - |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 20,190 | 42,676 | - | 62,866 | - |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 23,813 | 42,676 | - | 66,489 | - |

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

### B1 Cash funds

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current account | 2,132 | - | - |
| | Investment fund | - | 32,038 | - |
| | CAF current account | 6,173 | | |
| | CAF savings account | 15,508 | 10,638 | - |
| | ***Total cash funds*** | 23,813 | 42,676 | - |

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

### B2 Other monetary assets

| Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |

### B3 Investment assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |

### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |

### B5 Liabilities

| Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|---|---|---|
| | LEO HARVEY | 07/07/24 |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees/ members of** | Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells | | |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 December 2023 | **Charity no (if any)** | 1169423 |
| **Set out on pages** | Receipts and Payments Accounts/Statement of Assets and Liabilities (Form CC16a) | | |

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** | | **Date:** | 16/01/2024 |
| **Name:** | Chris Maslin | | |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s):** | | | |
| **Address:** | 72 Ravenswood Avenue<br>Tunbridge Wells<br>Kent, TN1 2QP | | |

**CHURCH OF CHRIST (COMMERCIAL ROAD), TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1169423

# Accounts

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Day | Month | Year | | Day | Month | Year |
| | 01 | 01 | 2022 | | 31 | 12 | 2022 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Charity name** | Church of Christ |
| **Other names charity is known by** | N/A |
| **Registered charity number (if any)** | 1169423 |
| **Charity's principal address** | Commercial Road,<br>Tunbridge Wells,<br>Kent |
| **Postcode** | TN1 2RR |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chris Dare | | | |
| 2 | Ann Marjorie Mason | | | |
| 3 | Jonathan Robert Daniell | | 1 January – 12 June | |
| 4 | Jack Ingle | | | |
| 5 | Lynn Allen | | | |
| 6 | Leo Harvey | Chairman | | |
| 7 | Victoria Daniell | | 12 June – 31 Dec | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |

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

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---|---|

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|

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

## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution) | Constitution |
| How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company) | Charitable Incorporated Organisation |

| | |
|---|---|
| Trustee selection methods | Appointment of charity trustees<br><br>1. At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office;<br><br>2. At every [subsequent] annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;<br><br>3. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;<br><br>4. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (5) of this clause;<br><br>5. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause [15] (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause [12(3)] on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;<br><br>6. A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.<br><br>12. Charity trustees<br><br>3. Number of charity trustees<br>a) There must be at least five charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee.<br>b. The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.<br><br>15. Retirement and removal of charity trustees<br><br>1. A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:<br>a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings); |

b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
c) dies;
d) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
e) [is removed by the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause;] or
f) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
2. A charity trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause [11], and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.
3. A resolution to remove a charity trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral and/or written representations to the members of the CIO.]

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

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

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

Church of Christ is committed to the following policies, which are maintained in accordance with guidelines, in consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage these risks:

Safeguarding Child protection
Safeguarding Vulnerable adults
Anti-Bullying
Data protection
Acceptable use of IT
Health and Safety
Privacy Notice
Lone Working
Investment
Social Media
Equal opportunities and diversity
Complaints
Anti-bribery
Risk Assessments

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

**The objects of the CIO are:**

The principal purpose of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).

The advancement of the Christian faith religion, mainly but not exclusively, by means of broadcasting messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.

To advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells for the benefit of the public through the holding of prayer meetings, talks, events, public celebration of religious festivals, producing and/or distributing literature to enlighten others about the Christian faith.

The church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world, including feeding the poor, working with children and young people, visiting the sick and elderly, supporting the homeless and those in need...

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

Church of Christ is a growing family friendly, community Church, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and race. Our Sunday Services, include lively and varied worship, prayers, Bible based and relevant preaching and the sharing of Communion. Services are informal and inspirational and combine both new and traditional ways of Celebrating God.

Weekly 'Sunday Special' groups are offered during our services for children/youth aged 3-16. These groups seek to teach our youngsters about Christ, his life and the benefits of a relationship with him through age-related fun Bible learning sessions run by a team of creative, caring and dedicated teachers.

During 2022, our Youth group for secondary aged youth met on a monthly basis, while our Sunday School for children aged 3-11 offered weekly classes. Our annual summer holiday camp for children and youth aged 7-17 took place during the last weekend of June.

Our community outreach and pastoral care included holding an open service on Easter Morning, as well as over the August bank holiday weekend. We provide a meeting space for local groups including a community choir, a Drugs anonymous support group, English lessons for Ukrainian refugees, and other groups who use it from time to time. Several in our Church family support the work of Mosaic, a Churches for

Tunbridge Wells run group offering food to the homeless and lonely.

Thankfully, we have been able to continue financial support for overseas initiatives: Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea, Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa; Unsung Heroes (subsidiary of Pro-Vision International - PVI) - a Southern Africa based Christian missions serving agency; the wider The Persecuted Church; along with the Bible Society. Locally and nationally, we have supported Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors, Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ, as well as our national Fellowship of Churches of Christ.

In planning the activities for Church of Christ during the reporting year the trustees have considered and had regard for the commission's guidance on public benefit with decisions made to further advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells. Specifically, that through these activities to advance the Christian faith, to further educate and to carry out charitable work, this will be for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

**Worship and Prayer**

Sermons in 2022 included:

- teaching on our purpose as a congregation – growing Up in our Intimacy with Christ – Building a healthy Church Community and finding ways to bless our local community.
- Our teaching through Lent focused on 'Stories of Stones' – using Bible stories that mention stones to bring valuable lessons of God's love, truth and mercy in our lives.
- We taught through the book of Philippians, highlighting the joy to be found in following Jesus.
- We taught on the theme of being generous givers as well as what it means to be a 'follower of Jesus.'
- During Advent we looked at Old Testament Prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and how they referred to Jesus and the comfort and peace He brings to our lives even in chaotic and turbulent times.

We have livestreamed our services so those who live afar, or those who have been ill or unable to attend could still join us. We have had viewers from USA, Portugal, Czech Republic and varying places around the UK.

Prayer support has been offered through the healthy engagement and involvement of church members via a whatsapp group, as well as prayer needs being made known to the wider congregation via emails, when appropriate. Prayer is offered following our morning times of worship, or can be requested at any time through the week. Church members are encouraged to meet up with others for prayer support and encouragement, providing care, support, and comfort with words, compassion, and sensitivity.

Throughout the year our midweek groups have met in person, with some times including the opportunity for others to join via zoom. These times provide opportunities for fellowship, prayer and Bible study, designed to encourage and equip people in their faith. Various people led discussions on different Bible topics – these were interactive, informative, and good opportunities for people to be connected with God and with one another. We have explored 'Mission Focused Living' encouraging us to live out our faith in meaningful and relevant ways. We have used materials from the Bible Project and the Bible Society all designed to deepen our faith and experience of Jesus, and equip us to be His disciples in our day to day living.

Sunday Special for 3-11s met on a weekly basis and invitations were regularly sent to parents and children inviting them to join in our Sunday Special times. We are open to trying different things to engage with children in our community.

Our Youth Group met on a monthly basis through the year doing a variety of activities, always with a faith element and opportunity for prayer offered in a fun environment.

The baptism pool at Church of Christ enables a fully immersive commitment of faith. However, this reporting year there have been no baptisms to report.

All who attend our services at Church of Christ (in the building or online) benefit from our teachings and worship, learning how Christ may be working in each of our lives and through us into the wider community. We seek to encourage the practise of Christian principles within the lives of those who attend our services. Recognising there will always be differences in belief and practices we uphold the value of the Church as a missional community and seek to work to fulfil the great commission of

Jesus. As God calls us into partnership with Himself, so we seek to express this value in our working together with our community so all may have a relationship with Christ.

**Children's Outreach**

A children's club was offered to the community during the February half term which saw several children from the local community attend, including some of our Muslim neighbours. At Easter time we offered an Easter Egg Hunt for children of the community. We also ran our annual weekend camp, this year in partnership with the local Baptist Church. There were nearly 30 children/youth who attended.

Our youth met monthly throughout the year with average of 10 young people attending. The NOISE a youth social action project run at Easter with other churches in town took place with several of our young people being involved.

Our Minister regularly leads Acts of Worship at a local primary school, sharing Bible truths and lessons, and this past year lead the Harvest Assemblies at a local secondary school.

**Community Outreach /Pastoral Care**

We believe in helping those in need. At Church of Christ, we do this by serving the community around us, particularly those in great hardship and need. We met the needs of the local homeless community by signposting them to our local Mosaic Resource Centre, which offers food, friendship and help to the homeless, lonely, marginalised and vulnerable. We have signposted people and families in need to Community Larders which are run out of several local churches.

Church of Christ has been involved with building community bridges with the diverse local area especially with the nearby mosque. Our minister and his wife have maintained contact with the local Imam and his wife. An interfaith women's group was able to meet early in 2022 and it is hoped that more will be planned for the future.

We have taken an active part in reaching out to the Ukrainian community in the following ways:

- We organised a prayer meeting in the town centre shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine to pray for peace and protection of the Ukrainian people.
- In May, we organised a Welcome day for Ukrainian refugees, in partnership with other Churches in the town.
- Since July, our Church building has been used to offer English lessons to Ukrainian refugees.
- In August, we organised a prayer meeting in the town centre to mark Ukrainian Independence Day.
- We have welcomed Ukrainian families into our Church family, supporting them through friendship, love and support in a variety of ways.

We were able to offer a Good Friday Witness in our town centre joining Christians from other churches as an act of witness to Jesus' death and resurrection, a 'Sunrise Easter Service' in a local park, sharing in our worship and praise for the benefit of knowing that in Jesus dying on the cross all may be saved through a relationship with Christ.

The women in our Church organised a community event at a local pottery shop, which brought together women in a creative, fun way. They also organised a curry evening with a qualified counsellor speaking about how to deal with fear and anxiety.

Our men were able to meet for a breakfast earlier in the year for prayer and a weekend event was held in September. Both were great times of encouragement in building faith.

Over the year we have offered 'Walk Church' an opportunity to meet together and walk in the parks of Tunbridge Wells sharing spiritual thoughts and insights. We've also offered times of 'Breakfast Church' inviting the local community and church community to share in physical food as well as spiritual food together.

We also offered a 'Back to Church' Sunday inviting the local community to come and hear a Ukrainian lady tell her story of escape from Ukraine and how God had led her to the UK.

We invited the local community to a time of celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and later in the summer for a Church Barbecue and games afternoon.

Easter and Christmas cards were delivered to those in close proximity to our church building.

CREATE Community Choir used our building on a weekly basis, while the Cocaine Anonymous (CA) group held weekly meetings throughout the year for their weekly support group.

Our minister continues to be involved in supporting and developing the work of local Christian community groups and events in the following ways:

- Chairman of Street Pastors - a group who pray for and reach out to young adults out socialising in the town centre during the late/early hours at weekends,
- Chairman of the Churches for Tunbridge Wells committee – an umbrella organisation overseeing much of the Christian social action work in the town,
- Organising Church Leaders prayer lunches - drawing church leaders from all denominations together for pray, encouragement and support,
- Organising annual Week of Prayer events - drawing people from various churches together for prayer.
- Supporting a Church planting initiative in Ilford, Essex by chairing the trustees and meeting with the Church planter on a regular basis.

**Overseas Initiatives - supporting the wider Christian community**

Church of Christ has supported, through the voluntary giving of the congregation, the following overseas Initiatives, as well as local initiatives through prayer and finance:

- Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea - We particularly sponsor a teenage boy, who was abandoned but is now greatly cared for in this loving orphanage.
- Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa - He teaches many young pastors at Ghana Christian College. Some of his students travel far to take the gospel to unreached territories. We are supporting Brian as he begins to mentor young leaders as he develops the ministry of Barnabas House.
- The Persecuted Church is a particular focus for our church, and we support organisations such as Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Release International and Open Doors.
- Unsung Heroes (subsidiary of Pro-vision International) is a Christian Missions Serving Agency with caring roots deeply entrenched in

community development in Africa's Southern region with hearts that are invested in accomplishing the wellbeing of its peoples. The agency provides mentoring, resource acquisition and management services which build capacity into leader's lives and sustainability into life-giving community projects.

- Bible Society – providing Bibles and Bible teaching resources for peoples around the world.
- Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors – a local Christian Charity with people from 15 different churches working together to patrol our streets from 10pm-1am 4 nights a month to minister to those enjoying the night-time economy.
- Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ – a local Christian Charity working with young people in schools through assemblies and mentoring and working in some of the more deprived areas of the town helping churches run children's and youth clubs for local communities.
- Fellowship of Churches of Christ – this is the denomination to which we belong, and we are pleased to be able to support its work and ongoing mission to both support existing Churches, as well as to see new Churches planted through their church planting initiatives.
- TEAR Fund – A Christian Relief Organisation operating around the world. This year, we sent gifts specifically for their work in supporting aid work in Ukraine.

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Church of Christ is a small church with an average annual income of £40,000.

£42,675 is currently held as Restricted Funds for use with approval of the Trustees. Of this amount, Reserves of £30,855 are ring fenced for specific considerations including:
Approximately four/five months' running costs to be spent at any such time a drop in income leads to the requirement to make use of reserves. Additional sums are held in reserve for emergency or ongoing building maintenance and repairs, for investment in mission outreach in our local community and to cover the amount received from the US which would cease to be paid at any time Cliff Allen's appointment at Church of Christ ends.

The Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or at any such time as the financial position of the church changes to have a significant impact on the running of the church.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section F Other optional information

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signature(s)** | | |
| **Full name(s)** | LEO HARVEY | JACK INGLE |
| **Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)** | CHAIR | TRUSTEE |
| **Date** | 16/07/23 | |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

| Charity Name | No (if any) |
|---|---|
| Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells | 1169423 |

# Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

| For the period from | Period start date | To | Period end date |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 01/01/2022 | | 31/12/2022 |

## Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A1 Receipts** | | | | | |
| Offerings | 38,763 | - | - | 38,763 | - |
| Grant and Church hire | 4,324 | - | - | 4,324 | - |
| Raising funds for community activities | 2,882 | - | - | 2,882 | - |
| Interest received | 248 | - | - | 248 | - |
| Misc | 179 | - | - | 179 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** *(Gross income for AR)* | 46,396 | - | - | 46,396 | - |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total receipts*** | 46,396 | - | - | 46,396 | - |
| **A3 Payments** | | | | | |
| Admin and running costs | 8,509 | - | - | 8,509 | - |
| Personnel and speakers | 18,596 | - | - | 18,596 | - |
| Community activities and offerings | 14,745 | - | - | 14,745 | - |
| Other | 159 | - | - | 159 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | 42,009 | - | - | 42,009 | - |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total payments*** | 42,009 | - | - | 42,009 | - |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | 4,387 | - | - | 4,387 | - |
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | | - | - | - | - |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 15,803 | 42,676 | - | 58,479 | - |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 20,190 | 42,676 | - | 62,866 | - |

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

### B1 Cash funds

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current account | 2,498 | - | - |
| | Investment fund | - | 31,283 | - |
| | CAF current account | 5,391 | | |
| | CAF savings account | 12,301 | 11,393 | - |
| | ***Total cash funds*** | **20,190** | **42,676** | **-** |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |

### B2 Other monetary assets

| Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |

### B3 Investment assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |

### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |

### B5 Liabilities

| Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|---|---|---|
| | LEO HARVEY. DAVE INGALL | 16/07/23 16/07/23 |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees/ members of** | Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells | | |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 December 2022 | **Charity no (if any)** | 1169423 |
| **Set out on pages** | Receipts and Payments Accounts/Statement of Assets and Liabilities (Form CC16a) | | |

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

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** | | **Date:** | 31/01/2023 |
| **Name:** | Chris Maslin | | |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s):** | FCA (Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales) | | |
| **Address:** | 72 Ravenswood Avenue<br>Tunbridge Wells<br>Kent, TN1 2QP | | |

| Section B | Disclosure |
| --- | --- |
| | Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners). |
| **Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.** | N/A |

**CHURCH OF CHRIST (COMMERCIAL ROAD), TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1169423

# Accounts

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Day | Month | Year | | Day | Month | Year |
| | 01 | 01 | 2021 | | 31 | 12 | 2021 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Charity name** | Church of Christ |
| **Other names charity is known by** | N/A |
| **Registered charity number (if any)** | 1169423 |
| **Charity's principal address** | Commercial Road,<br>Tunbridge Wells,<br>Kent<br>**Postcode** TN1 2RR |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chris Dare | | | |
| 2 | Ann Marjorie Mason | | | |
| 3 | Jonathan Robert Daniell | | | |
| 4 | Jack Ingle | | | |
| 5 | Lynn Allen | | | |
| 6 | Leo Harvey | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |

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

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---|---|
| | |

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

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

## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution) | Constitution |
| How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company) | Charitable Incorporated Organisation |

| Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by) | Appointment of charity trustees<br><br>1. At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office;<br><br>2. At every [subsequent] annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;<br><br>3. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;<br><br>4. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (5) of this clause;<br><br>5. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause [15] (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause [12(3)] on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;<br><br>6. A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.<br><br>12. Charity trustees<br><br>3. Number of charity trustees<br>a) There must be at least five charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee.<br>b. The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.<br><br>15. Retirement and removal of charity trustees<br><br>1. A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she: |
|---|---|

a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);
b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
c) dies;
d) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
e) [is removed by the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause;] or
f) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
2. A charity trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause [11], and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.
3. A resolution to remove a charity trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral and/or written representations to the members of the CIO.]

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

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

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

Church of Christ is committed to the following policies, which are maintained in accordance with guidelines, in consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage these risks:

Safeguarding Child protection
Safeguarding Vulnerable adults
Anti-Bullying
Data protection
Acceptable use of IT
Health and Safety
Privacy Notice
Lone Working
Investment
Social Media
Equal opportunities and diversity
Complaints
Anti-bribery
Risk Assessments

## Section C Objectives and activities

| | |
|---|---|
| **Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document** | **The objects of the CIO are:**<br>The principal purpose of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).<br><br>The advancement of the Christian faith religion, mainly but not exclusively, by means of broadcasting messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.<br><br>To advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells for the benefit of the public through the holding of prayer meetings, talks, events, public celebration of religious festivals, producing and/or distributing literature to enlighten others about the Christian faith.<br><br>The church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world, including feeding the poor, working with children and young people, visiting the sick and elderly, supporting the homeless and those in need... |
| **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)** | Church of Christ is a growing family friendly, community Church, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and race. Without Covid restrictions, we would normally hold cafe style services weekly, with the aim of providing engaging and relaxed times of worship. Sunday Services, online during Covid times, include lively and varied worship, prayers, Bible based and relevant preaching and the sharing of Communion. Services are informal and inspirational and combine both new and traditional ways of Celebrating God.<br><br>Weekly 'Sunday Special' groups take place during our services for children/youth aged 3-16. Due to Covid restrictions these were held for only a small portion of the year. YouTube videos and activity sheets were sent to parents during those months we could not hold Sunday Special. These groups and online activities seek to teach our youngsters about Christ, his life and the benefits of a relationship with him through age-related fun Bible learning sessions run by a team of creative, caring and dedicated teachers.<br><br>Due to Covid Restrictions our children's outreach this year has been limited. Our annual summer holiday camp for children and youth aged 7-16 was cancelled, and our monthly 'Exhilarate' club for primary children aged 4-11 was also cancelled. Our Youth Group which would normally meet at least once a month, was limited to meetings from |

September - December. Due to Covid restrictions our Halloween (Light), Christmas and other Children's parties were cancelled.

Without Covid Restrictions, our community outreach and pastoral care would normally include holding an open service on Easter Morning, providing a meeting space for local groups, and running a twice weekly soup bowl. We have given out packed lunches from the door of the church and signposted to agencies for support, and allowed one support group to meet. From 1 October, we have seen a new venture, Mosaic Resource Centre, come into being. This now houses the daily Soup Bowl as well as provided other services for the lonely, homeless, or marginalised. While this no longer meets in our building, several from our Church family are involved in volunteering with this ministry.

Thankfully, we have been able to continue financial support for overseas initiatives: Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea, Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa; Unsung Heroes (subsidiary of Pro-Vision International - PVI) - a Southern Africa based Christian missions serving agency; the wider The Persecuted Church; along with the Bible Society. Locally and nationally, we have supported Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors, Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ, as well as our national Fellowship of Churches of Christ.

In planning the activities for Church of Christ during the reporting year the trustees have considered and had regard for the commission's guidance on public benefit with decisions made to further advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells. Specifically, that through these activities to advance the Christian faith, to further educate and to carry out charitable work, this will be for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

**Worship and Prayer**

Sermons in 2021 included:

- teaching on our purpose as a congregation – growing Up in our Intimacy with Christ – Growing In as we build a healthy Church Community and growing Out as we bless our local community.
- Our teaching through Lent focused on 'Worship in the Wilderness' teaching on how God often calls us to the wilderness in order to teach us valuable lessons about faith, trust and obedience.
- We taught through the book of Malachi, highlighting God's faithfulness, despite our disobedience.
- We had a series on marriage and singleness and Godly relationships.
- In August, we began meeting together outside in a local park and local school grounds. Our teaching focused on being part God's' family and what that meant.
- We began meeting again in the building in September and focused on the invitations Jesus extends to us to follow Him.
- We had a short series of talks and studies on the environment.
- We looked at different characters in the Christmas story through the season of Advent.

We have livestreamed our services so those who live afar, or those who have been apprehensive about returning to the building could still join us. From January to the end of July, our worship times were uploaded to Youtube with most people watching from home, while a few people came to the building to watch together. We have had viewers from USA, Portugal, Czech Republic and varying places around the UK.

Prayer support has been offered through the healthy engagement and involvement of church members via a whatsapp group, as well as prayer needs being made known to the wider congregation via emails, when appropriate. From September onwards, prayer support and ministry have been offered informally, with church members ministering to one another when needed. Church members are encouraged to meet up with others for prayer support and encouragement, providing care, support, and comfort with words, compassion, and sensitivity.

Throughout the year our midweek groups met via zoom providing opportunities for fellowship, prayer and Bible study, designed to encourage and equip people in their faith. Various people led discussions on different Bible topics – these were interactive, informative, and good opportunities for people to be connected with God and with one another. A popular series was the 'Wellbeing Journey' which engaged people in thinking about their physical, financial, relational, mental, emotional wellbeing. We shared a hybrid study (in person and online) on 'Caring for Creation' which focused on our treatment of the environment from a Biblical perspective. During Advent we enjoyed a series of sharing our favourite Christmas Carols and hearing stories of how and why they were written. Offering online meeting opportunities has enabled us to make sure individual needs were made known and met.

Sunday Special for 3-11s did not meet in person from January – August. Internet Links were sent each week for age-appropriate material for parents to help their children engage with Bible material. Our Sunday Special began meeting from September, but with a reduced attendance from pre-Covid days. Invitations have regularly been sent to parents and children inviting them to re-engage with Sunday Special. We are open to trying different things to engage with children in our community.

Our Youth Group was unable to meet in person from January – August, however, one of our older teens has been in regular phone contact with many of the younger youth, encouraging them in their faith and praying with them. From September, we have had monthly youth meetings at the Church building which have been well attended and great times of learning and fun.

The baptism pool at Church of Christ enables a fully immersive commitment of faith. However, this reporting year there have been no baptisms to report.

We were able to rejoice in 1 wedding that took place at our building between 2 of our members and officiated by our minister. Many in the congregation provided food and decorations on the day to bless the couple as they begin their lives together as husband and wife.

All who attend our services at Church of Christ (in the building or online) benefit from our teachings and worship, learning how Christ may be working in each of our lives and through us into the wider community. We seek to encourage the practise of Christian principles within the lives of those who attend our services. Recognising there will always be differences in belief and practices we uphold the value of the Church as a missional community and seek to work to fulfil the great commission of Jesus. As God calls us into partnership with Himself, so we seek to express this value in our working together with our community so all may have a relationship with Christ.

**Children's Outreach**

Due to continued Covid restrictions in 2021, we were unable to resume our monthly children's club. We weren't able to run our annual weekend camp, or have a summer Holiday club. We hope to resume greater outreach activities in 2022.

Our youth met monthly from September – December for food, teaching and activities with an average of 10 young people attending. The NOISE a youth social action project run at Easter with other churches in town had to be cancelled.

**Community Outreach /Pastoral Care**

We believe in helping those in need. At Church of Christ, we do this by serving the community around us, particularly those in great hardship and need. We met the needs of the local homeless community through giving out sandwiches every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from our building from January – September. From October, this service has moved to the Mosaic Resource Centre (described above). This provides a place of food and nourishment for those in need, as well as opportunities for conversation and friendship benefiting those who are lonely or marginalised. We have signposted people and families in need to Community Larders which are run out of several local churches.

Church of Christ has been involved with building community bridges with the diverse local area especially with the nearby mosque. Despite Covid restrictions, our minister and his wife have maintained contact with various people in the mosque via phone and text and the occasional social distanced walk, including the Mosque's Imam and his wife. An interfaith women's group was able to meet prior to Christmas at our Church building.

Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to reach out to our local community in ways we have done so in the past, including; a Good Friday

Witness in our town centre joining Christians from other churches as an act of witness to Jesus' death and resurrection, a 'Sunrise Easter Service' in a local park, sharing in our worship and praise for the benefit of knowing that in Jesus dying on the cross all may be saved through a relationship with Christ.

However, throughout Covid, each person in our Church fellowship has been encouraged to find ways to connect meaningfully with neighbours, work colleagues and others on their 'frontlines' (those places they regularly go and rub shoulders people who are not yet Christians). This has resulted in a variety of organic activity taking place including Christmas carols being sung outside on one road; summer street parties, the delivery of Easter and Christmas cards to those in close proximity to our church building, the offer of prayer to neighbours; litter picking on various roads; prayer walking in different neighbourhoods; establishing local neighbourhood WhatsApp groups to keep neighbours connected and needs known.

A men's group met online to encourage and support one another, and once Covid Restrictions were lifted a men's breakfast was hosted, drawing in men from both the church and the wider community.

CREATE Community Choir began using our building from September, while the Drug Addicts Anonymous (DAA) group was able to hold their meetings throughout the year for their weekly support group. A 'Chronic Pain' group began using the building on a monthly basis towards the end of the year, providing help and support for those suffering from chronic pain.

Our minister continues to be involved in supporting and developing the work of local Christian community groups and events in the following ways:

- Chairman of Street Pastors - a group who pray for and reach out to young adults out socialising in the town centre during the late/early hours at weekends,
- Secretary of the Churches for Tunbridge Wells committee – an umbrella organisation overseeing much of the Christian social action work in the town,
- Organising Church Leaders prayer lunches - drawing church leaders from all denominations together for pray, encouragement and support,
- Organising annual Week of Prayer events - drawing people from various churches together for prayer.
- Supporting a Church planting initiative in Ilford, Essex by chairing the trustees and meeting with the Church planter on a regular basis.

*NOTE – Most of the above were affected in some way due to Covid Restrictions, but continued to operate either in a reduced capacity, or via online activities.*

**Overseas Initiatives - supporting the wider Christian community**

Church of Christ has supported, through the voluntary giving of the congregation, the following overseas Initiatives, as well as local initiatives through prayer and finance:

- Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea - We particularly sponsor a teenage boy, who was abandoned but is now greatly cared for in this loving orphanage.
- Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa - He teaches many young pastors at Ghana Christian College. Some of his students travel far to take the gospel to unreached territories. We are supporting Brian as he

begins to mentor young leaders as he develops the ministry of Barnabas House.

- The Persecuted Church is a particular focus for our church, and we support organisations such as Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Release International and Open Doors.
- Unsung Heroes (subsidiary of Pro-vision International) is a Christian Missions Serving Agency with caring roots deeply entrenched in community development in Africa's Southern region with hearts that are invested in accomplishing the wellbeing of its peoples. The agency provides mentoring, resource acquisition and management services which build capacity into leader's lives and sustainability into life-giving community projects.
- Bible Society – providing Bibles and Bible teaching resources for peoples around the world.
- Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors – a local Christian Charity with people from 15 different churches working together to patrol our streets from 10pm-1am 4 nights a month to minister to those enjoying the night-time economy.
- Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ – a local Christian Charity working with young people in schools through assemblies and mentoring and working in some of the more deprived areas of the town helping churches run children's and youth clubs for local communities.
- Fellowship of Churches of Christ – this is the denomination to which we belong, and we are pleased to be able to support its work and ongoing mission to both support existing Churches, as well as to see new Churches planted through their church planting initiatives.

## Section E Financial review

| | |
|---|---|
| **Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves** | Church of Christ is a small church with an average annual income of £39,956.<br><br>£42,675 is currently held as Restricted Funds for use with approval of the Trustees. Of this amount, Reserves of £30,855 are ring fenced for specific considerations including:<br>Approximately four/five months' running costs to be spent at any such time a drop in income leads to the requirement to make use of reserves. Additional sums are held in reserve for emergency or ongoing building maintenance and repairs, for investment in mission outreach in our local community and to cover the amount received from the US which would cease to be paid at any time Cliff Allen's appointment at Church of Christ ends.<br><br>The Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or at any such time as the financial position of the church changes to have a significant impact on the running of the church. |
| **Details of any funds materially in deficit** | |

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section F Other optional information

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signature(s)** | | |
| **Full name(s)** | LEO HARVEY | CHRIS DARE. |
| **Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)** | CHAIRMAN | VICE - CHAIRMAN. |
| **Date** | 19/6/22 | 19/6/22. |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

| Charity Name | No (if any) |
|---|---|
| | |

# Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

| For the period from | Period start date | To | Period end date |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 01/01/2021 | | 31/12/2021 |

## Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A1 Receipts** | | | | | |
| Offerings | 40,747 | - | - | 40,747 | - |
| Grant and Church hire | 1,945 | - | - | 1,945 | - |
| Raising funds for community activities | 201 | - | - | 201 | - |
| Interest received | 64 | - | - | 64 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** *(Gross income for AR)* | 42,957 | - | - | 42,957 | - |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total receipts*** | 42,957 | - | - | 42,957 | - |
| **A3 Payments** | | | | | |
| Admin and running costs | 5,262 | - | - | 5,262 | - |
| Personnel and speakers | 18,803 | - | - | 18,803 | - |
| Community activities and offerings | 10,628 | - | - | 10,628 | - |
| Other | 640 | - | - | 640 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | 35,333 | - | - | 35,333 | - |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total payments*** | 35,333 | - | - | 35,333 | - |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | 7,624 | - | - | 7,624 | - |
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | | - | - | - | - |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 8,179 | 42,676 | - | 50,855 | - |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 15,803 | 42,676 | - | 58,479 | - |

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B1 Cash funds** | Current account | 8,367 | - | - |
| | Investment fund | - | 31,076 | - |
| | CAF account | 7,436 | 11,600 | - |
| | ***Total cash funds*** (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | 15,803 | 42,676 | - |
| | | OK | OK | OK |

| | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B2 Other monetary assets** | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B3 Investment assets** | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use** | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B5 Liabilities** | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |

| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | CHRIS DARE. | 19/06/22 |
| | | LEO HARVEY | 19/6/22 |

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

| | |
|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees/ members of** | Charity Name: Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31st December, 2021 — **Charity no (if any)** 1169423 |
| **Set out on pages** | Receipts and Payments Accounts/Statement of Assets and Liabilities (Form CC16a) (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets) |

**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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 to 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 (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

110853396. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

**Signed:** AMBillingham **Date:** 26/5/2022

**Name:** ANNE-MARIE BILLINGHAM

| | |
|---|---|
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | FACCA (Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) |
| **Address:** | 6 Manor Road |
| | Rusthall |
| | Tunbridge Wells, KENT, TN4 8UE |

## Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

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

**CHURCH OF CHRIST (COMMERCIAL ROAD), TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1169423

# Accounts

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Day | Month | Year | | Day | Month | Year |
| | 01 | 01 | 2020 | | 31 | 12 | 2020 |

## Section A Reference and administration details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Charity name** | Church of Christ |
| **Other names charity is known by** | N/A |
| **Registered charity number (if any)** | 1169423 |
| **Charity's principal address** | Commercial Road,<br>Tunbridge Wells,<br>Kent<br>**Postcode** TN1 2RR |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chris Dare | | 13/09/2020 onwards | |
| 2 | Ann Marjorie Mason | | | |
| 3 | Jonathan Robert Daniell | | | |
| 4 | Jack Ingle | | | |
| 5 | Lynn Allen | | | |
| 6 | Leo Harvey | | 13/09/2020 onwards | |

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

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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

## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution) | Constitution |
| How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company) | Charitable Incorporated Organisation |
| Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by) | Appointment of charity trustees<br><br>1. At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office;<br><br>2. At every [subsequent] annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;<br><br>3. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;<br><br>4. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (5) of this clause;<br><br>5. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause [15] (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause [12(3)] on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;<br><br>6. A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.<br><br>12. Charity trustees<br><br>3. Number of charity trustees<br>a) There must be at least five charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee. |

b. The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

15. Retirement and removal of charity trustees

1. A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:
a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);
b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
c) dies;
d) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
e) [is removed by the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause;] or
f) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
2. A charity trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause [11], and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.
3. A resolution to remove a charity trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral and/or written representations to the members of the CIO.]

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

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

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

Church of Christ is committed to the following policies, which are maintained in accordance with guidelines, in consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage these risks:

Safeguarding Child protection
Safeguarding Vulnerable adults
Anti-Bullying
Data protection
Acceptable use of IT
Health and Safety
Privacy Notice
Lone Working
Investment
Social Media
Equal opportunities and diversity
Complaints
Anti-bribery
Risk Assessments

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

**The objects of the CIO are:**

The principal purpose of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).

The advancement of the Christian faith religion, mainly but not exclusively, by means of broadcasting messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.

To advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells for the benefit of the public through the holding of prayer meetings, talks, events, public celebration of religious festivals, producing and/or distributing literature to enlighten others about the Christian faith.

The church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world, including feeding the poor, working with children and young people, visiting the sick and elderly, supporting the homeless and those in need...

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

Church of Christ is a growing family friendly, community Church, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and race. Without Covid restrictions, we would normally hold cafe style services weekly, with the aim of providing engaging and relaxed times of worship. Sunday Services, online during Covid times, include lively and varied worship, prayers, Bible based and relevant preaching and the sharing of Communion. Services are informal and inspirational and combine both new and traditional ways of Celebrating God.
Weekly 'Sunday Special' groups take place during our services for children/youth aged 3-16. Due to Covid restrictions these were held for only a small portion of the year. YouTube videos and activity sheets were sent to parents during those months we could not hold Sunday Special. These groups and online activities seek to teach our youngsters about Christ, his life and the benefits of a relationship with him through age-related fun Bible learning sessions run by a team of creative, caring and dedicated teachers.
Due to Covid Restrictions our children's outreach this year has been limited. Our annual summer holiday camp for children and youth aged 7-16 was cancelled, and apart from Jan, Feb, March, our monthly 'Exhilarate' club for primary children aged 4-11 was also cancelled. Our Youth Group which would normally meet at least once a month, was limited to online Zoom sessions for 3-4 months from April – June. Due to Covid restrictions all our Halloween, Christmas and other Children's parties were cancelled.
Without Covid Restrictions, our community outreach and pastoral care would normally include holding an open service on Easter Morning, providing a meeting space for local groups, and running a twice weekly soup bowl. We have given out packed lunches from the door of the church and signposted to agencies for support, and at times allowed one support group has been able to meet.
Thankfully, we have been able to continue financial support for overseas initiatives: Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea, Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa, Unsung Heroes (formerly Pro-Vision International - PVI) - a Southern Africa based Christian missions serving agency, and the wider The Persecuted Church. Locally and nationally, we have supported Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors and Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ, as well as our national Fellowship of Churches of Christ.
In planning the activities for Church of Christ during the reporting year the trustees have considered and had regard for the commission's guidance on public benefit with

| |
|---|
| decisions made to further advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells. Specifically, that through these activities to advance the Christian faith, to further educate and to carry out charitable work, this will be for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC). |

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

**Worship and Prayer**

Sermons in 2020 included Lent teaching on how our worship of God transforms every aspect of our life and journey of faith. We taught on being an 'unleashed people' using our gifts and passion for serving others in our community and world. We had a series on the miracles of Jesus in John's gospel encouraging us to live in the power of Jesus in our daily lives. We also dipped back into the book of Acts to see its relevance for our daily living. At Christmas, our teaching centred around the names of Jesus given in Isaiah and how they apply to our life and world. From Sunday 22 March 2020, the outset of the first lockdown, all our services have either been livestreamed on the internet or pre-recorded and available on YouTube for the congregation and others to watch. When we have been allowed in the Church building, we have provided a place for those living on their own or with no internet to come and watch the service together – socially distanced and masked, following Government Covid secure guidelines. However, positively our online worship has enabled us to engage with a greater number of people than would have been possible otherwise. We have had people viewing from Brazil, USA, Portugal, Czech Republic and varying places around the UK, as well as seeking to involve as many of our fellowship in taking an active part in our online worship times.

We would normally provide prayer support at the end of each service for any who would avail themselves of it. However, because of Covid restrictions, our prayer ministry has seen a healthy engagement and involvement from many church members via a WhatsApp group that was set up shortly after the first lockdown. This has also provided opportunity for smaller prayer groups to meet online and share together providing care, support, and comfort with words, compassion, and sensitivity.

During Covid our regular midweek groups gathering for fellowship, prayer and Bible study, designed to encourage and equip people in their faith, have taken place via Zoom and have included studies on the books of Exodus and Ruth – both very relevant to our times of lockdown. We have also engaged in material called 'the Story Formed Way' which gave an overview of the major themes of the Bible so each person could feel more confident in their own understanding of the Bible.

We have many regular attendees at Church of Christ with varying disabilities, the nature of which can frequently be of great discomfort. Our care and teachings can provide support and comfort from having a fellowship within Church of Christ, and from sharing God's love and compassion through prayer and conversation. During these Covid times, we have been able to offer online meetings to everyone in our church fellowship and have endeavoured to make sure individual needs were made known and met.

Sunday Special for 3-11s was disrupted due to Covid from the 22nd of March. Up until that time we had an attendance average of 10 children. Since Covid restrictions our teaching has included weekly links sent out to parents with YouTube videos and activity sheets; lessons prepared by our Sunday School teachers and sent to parents to do with their own children. We were able to hold 1 socially distanced Covid secure Sunday School in October with our children in the building. Advent materials were delivered to all homes with activities and lessons for the children to engage with.

Sunday Special for older children of secondary school age has been more difficult to maintain during the Covid period. There was a period of Zoom sessions run by two of our volunteers that attracted a few of our youth. However, it became apparent that many of our young people found Zoom difficult and so opted out. As a result, parents have been encouraged to engage with their young people in watching the online services and with relevant materials sent out. Towards the end of the year, one of our teens, along with her mum and with the permission of parents, has been ringing some of the young people, engaging them in prayer and discussion and Bible reading – something that has been greatly valued by those who have taken part.

The baptism pool at Church of Christ enables a fully immersive commitment of faith. This reporting year we have held one baptism within the church.

All who attend our services at Church of Christ (in the building or online) benefit from our teachings and worship, learning how Christ may be working in each of our lives and through us into the wider community. We seek to encourage the practise of Christian principles within the lives of those who attend our services. Recognising there will always be differences in belief and practices we uphold the value of the Church as a missional community and seek to work to fulfil the great commission of Jesus. As God calls us into partnership with Himself, so we seek to express this value in our working together with our community so all may have a relationship with Christ.

**Children's Outreach**

During the first 3 months of 2020, approximately 30 children aged between 4-11 attended our monthly children's club, 'Exhilarate'. Many children in the local area are in need or disadvantaged in some way whether it is financially or of a social mobility nature; by opening our doors to these children they receive teachings, games, and other activities that they would otherwise not experience, in an enjoyable and lively atmosphere, where they are able to freely socialise with peers, learn and for some to grow in faith from this interaction. Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to continue providing this activity, but hope to resume at some point in 2021, when restrictions allow.
Due to the loss of our youth group leader and Covid restrictions, our youth group met sporadically and was forced to Zoom sessions which were led by one of our 18+ teens and another volunteer which enabled those who wanted to engage online with one another to do so. A variety of discussion, Bible teachings, social activities and games took place online.
Due to Covid Restrictions, all of our normal youth and children's activities were cancelled including a social action project in the Easter Holidays called the NOISE; our annual children's summer camp called 'Heroes in Training'; our outreach to the local community offering an alternative Halloween event called a Light Party, and our Christmas parties and Carol Service.

**Community Outreach /Pastoral Care**

We believe in helping those in need and letting our light shine before others so that they may see the good work we do in Christ's name. At Church of Christ, we do this by serving the community around us, particularly those in great hardship and need. We meet the needs of the local homeless community through our soup kitchen which runs every Tuesday and Thursday. Not only do these provide food, warmth, and nourishment for those in need, but they also provide an opportunity for conversation and friendship benefiting those who are lonely and in need of companionship. Since Covid lockdown and restrictions we have given out packed lunches from the door of the church, engaging in conversation where possible, assessing needs of those who accessed the food and signposted them to other agencies who could help. From April to July, we provided lunches 5 days a week from the building (Tue, Wed, Thur, Sat, Sun), and from August to December, due to the assessed need, we reduced this provision to 3 days per week (Tues, Wed, Thurs).
Due to the changing nature of homelessness and great response of our local borough council, the Tunbridge Wells Churches Winter Shelter was not needed this year. However, our minister is on a planning committee working to establish a resource centre in the town which will house the Soup Bowl, but also provide a holistic approach to the individual's health and welfare in body, mind and spirit.
Church of Christ has been involved with building community bridges with the diverse local area especially with the nearby mosque. Through lockdown, our minister and his wife have maintained contact with various people in the mosque via phone and text and the occasional social distanced walk, including the Mosque's Imam and his wife.
During Covid restrictions we have been unable to reach out to our local community in ways we would have normally including; a Good Friday Witness in our town centre joining Christians from other churches as an act of witness to Jesus death and resurrection, a 'Sunrise Easter Service' in the public space of Grosvenor Recreation Ground in Tunbridge Wells, sharing in our worship and praise for the benefit of knowing that in Jesus dying on the cross all may be saved through a relationship with Christ.

However, throughout Covid, each person in our Church fellowship has been encouraged to find ways to connect meaningfully with neighbours, work colleagues and others on their 'frontlines' (those places they regularly go and rub shoulders people who are not yet Christians). This has resulted in a variety of organic activity taking place including Christmas carols being sung outside on one road; the organisation of VE day celebrations for a local road; the delivery of Advent candles to children in our church and children who do not attend our church; Christmas cards being delivered to those in close proximity to our church building, the offer of prayer to neighbours; litter picking on various roads; prayer walking in different neighbourhoods; establishing local neighbourhood WhatsApp groups to keep neighbours connected and needs known; providing an online Christmas Carol service; joining with other local churches to provide a 'Nativity Trail' in a local park on Christmas Eve – an event that saw over 250 people take part.

While we have not been able to hold our annual men's weekend retreat, we have gathered several men together for Zoom Meetings of encouragement and prayer which are supportive and inspirational as we grow together in our faith.

CREATE Community Choir continued to use our building until mid-March but has not been able to meet due to Covid restrictions. The Drug Addicts Anonymous (DAA) group resumed the use of our building once regulations allowed and it was safe to do so. They use our building every Saturday night for their support group.

Our minister continues to be involved in supporting and developing the work of local Christian community groups and events on a regular basis:

Chairman of Street Pastors - a group who pray for and reach out to young adults out socialising in the town centre during the late/early hours at weekends.

Secretary of the Winter Shelter management committee - supporting the homeless at a critical time of need during the coldest weeks of the year.

Organising Church Leaders prayer lunches - drawing church leaders from all denominations together.

Organising annual Week of Prayer events - drawing people from various churches together for prayer.

***NOTE – Most of the above were affected in some way due to Covid Restrictions, but continued to operate either in a reduced capacity, or via online activities.***

**Overseas Initiatives - supporting the wider Christian community**

Church of Christ has supported through voluntary giving of the congregation the following overseas Initiatives through prayer and finance:

Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea - This is run by a wonderful servant of Christ, Doctor Chae, who is acting father to hundreds of orphan children and a great man of faith. We particularly sponsor young boy, Lee Hee Sung, who was abandoned but is now greatly cared for in this visionary family.

Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa - He teaches many young pastors at Ghana Christian College and preaches in remote areas. Some of his students travel far to take the gospel to unreached territories. We are supporting Brian as he begins to mentor young leaders as an extension of his work with Ghana Christian College.

The Persecuted Church is a particular focus for our church, and we support organisations such as Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Barnabas Fund, Release International and Open Doors.

Unsung Heroes (formerly Pro-vision International) is a Christian Missions Serving Agency with caring roots deeply entrenched in community development in Africa's Southern region with hearts that are invested in accomplishing the wellbeing of its peoples. The agency provides transformational mentoring, resource acquisition and management services which build capacity into leader's lives and sustainability into life-giving community projects.

Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors – a local Christian Charity with people from 20 different churches working together to patrol our streets from 10pm-4am 6 nights a month to minister to those enjoying the night-time economy. The Street Pastors are there to listen, care and help, and are supported by teams of Prayer Pastors who pray while the Street Pastors are out on patrol.

Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ – a local Christian Charity working with young people in schools through assemblies and mentoring and working in some of the more deprived areas of the town helping churches run children's and youth clubs for local communities.
Fellowship of Churches of Christ – this is the denomination to which we belong, and we are pleased to be able to support its work and ongoing mission to both support existing Churches, as well as to see new Churches planted through their church planting initiatives.

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Church of Christ is a small church with an average annual income of £39,956.

£42,675 is currently held as Restricted Funds for use with approval of the Trustees. Of this amount, Reserves of £30,855 are ring fenced for specific considerations including:
Approximately four/five months' running costs to be spent at any such time a drop in income leads to the requirement to make use of reserves. Additional sums are held in reserve for emergency or ongoing building maintenance and repairs, for investment in mission outreach in our local community and to cover the amount received from the US which would cease to be paid at any time Cliff Allen's appointment at Church of Christ ends.

The Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or at any such time as the financial position of the church changes to have a significant impact on the running of the church.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

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

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

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signature(s)** | | |
| **Full name(s)** | ANN MASON | JACK INGLE |
| **Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)** | Trustee | |
| **Date** | 1.9.2021. | |

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/ members of** Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells

**On accounts for the year ended** 31st December, 2020 | **Charity no (if any)** 1169423

**Set out on pages** Receipts and Payments Accounts/Statement of Assets and Liabilities (Form CC16a)

**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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement** My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 to 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 (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

110853396. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

**Signed:** AMBillingham **Date:** 08/05/2021

**Name:** ANNE-MARIE BILLINGHAM

| | |
|---|---|
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | FACCA (Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) |
| **Address:** | 6 Manor Road |
| | Rusthall |
| | Tunbridge Wells, KENT, TN4 8UE |

## Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

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