

St. Stephen's Church
(Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion)
High Street, Middleton, Manchester, M24 6DX.
Registered Charity Number 1171467

Trustees Annual Report to 30th June 2022

Until 3rd February 2017 St. Stephen's Church was a constituent part of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion charity, reference 232674. On the 3rd February 2017 the church was separately registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), reference 1171467. This report including financial statements covers the year from 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022, the fourth full year of the charity.

Aims and Objectives

The objects of the CIO for the public benefit are to advance the Christian faith, in accordance with the statement of beliefs, in Middleton, Manchester and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the charity trustees may from time to time think fit.

The CIO is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the worshipping community at St. Stephen's. When planning our activities for the year we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit. In particular we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the community through: -

- Worship and prayer
- Teaching and development of their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral support
- Missionary and outreach work
- Working with children

To facilitate this work we maintain the fabric of the church buildings.

Achievements and Performance

Ministry

After three and a half years of service to the church, Mr Mark Robinson left his role as part-time pastor of the church in April 2022. The trustees thank him again for his commitment and love shown to all the church family during his time at St. Stephen's. Pastoral duties are currently being undertaken by the church leadership.

Sunday Worship

The church has been open for worship on every Sunday during the year. and from August 2021 we have been back to normal with singing in church and opening up for refreshments. Our mid-week bible studies and prayer meetings restarted in church in July 2021 and our children's activities re-opened on 17th September 2021.

We continue to be blessed in so far as no members of the church were badly affected by the virus. However the health of a number of our older members has continued to deteriorate.

Numbers attending services have decreased during the year as people returned to their churches when they re-opened after lockdowns and other personal circumstances.

Guest speakers/lay preachers and members of the congregation lead the teaching within the church. The trustees and church family pass on their thanks for this valuable and spirit-led teaching.

Mid-week Meetings

In September 2021 a number of mid-week activities re-opened. The Afternoon Fellowship meeting re-opened, meeting once a month. Following a review of church activities this has been replaced by a monthly coffee morning. There is a weekly prayer and bible study meeting again led by church members. The weekly Good News Club for children aged 4 to 11 has restarted with between up to 12 children regularly attending. This is a session of bible teaching, games and craft activities, generally led by members of the church fellowship. The Baby and Toddler group has also restarted meeting weekly for pre-school children together with their parents and carers.

Ecumenical and Local Mission

The church fellowship is very aware of the need to maintain and improve links to the local community, both within the geographical area of the church and the wider church community in Middleton. Members of the congregation continue to be involved in Street pastors, assisting in vaccination centres and assisting homeless centres. The church continues to support the Middleton Central Food Bank.

The church fellowship has a policy of making the church hall available for as much use as possible. The main reason for this is for the church to be seen as being used as part of the community, but it also raises some income for the church. During the year the hall continued to be used as a polling station, and a local church group, Grace Fellowship Manchester has used the premises on Sunday afternoons. Middleton Brass Band, Middleton Music Society and a local dance class also make use of the church hall.

External Mission

The fellowship continues to support the wider mission of the body of Christ. The church tithes all voluntary giving, which is used for the support of external Christian charitable work. The main recipients were the Sierra Leone Mission, the Missionary arm of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion and the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Mission Fund. Additional gifts were made to Tear Fund, Evangelical Alliance, , Middleton Food Bank and UCB.

Volunteers

The church fellowship cannot function without the assistance of volunteers. As we are a small fellowship virtually all members contribute in some way to the running of the church in a voluntary capacity.

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £20,101.54, after £1,611.50 was transferred into the Tithe account. Restricted funds of £2,800.80 were received, including the transfer from unrestricted funds, the remainder being predominantly for church organisations and donations in memory. Freewill offerings were lower this year due to a decrease in cash offerings from a lower attendance at worship services. Rental income was increased due to the re-opening of the church to external bodies during lockdown. Overall there was an increase in unrestricted income this year of £1,302.41.

There was an increase in expenditure during the year. The main reason for this was the increased expenditure on repairs to the building.

The net result for the year was an excess of unrestricted payments over receipts of £5,906.81, with an additional £3,111.17 of gift aid tax refunds outstanding at the year end. The unrestricted balance at the year-end was £66,635.91. Of this £40,000 has been designated for the support of paid ministry and £20,000 for the provision of disabled toilet facilities and necessary repairs to the church.

At the year end there was £703.45 held as restricted funds for church organisations, £2,922.20 in the Tithe fund and £4,724.31 of donations and legacies held for specific purposes.

Reserves Policy

It is the church policy to maintain an unrestricted balance of six months unrestricted expenditure or £6,000 whichever is greater to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £6,635.91 is close to the target.

Administrative information

The church is situated at High Street, Middleton, Manchester M24 6DX, and is a member of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion.

The church is a registered CIO since 3rd February 2017.

The Trustees that have served during the year are:-

Mr Graham Squibbs Chair
Mrs Margaret Dixon
Mrs Marrie Haworth
Miss Alison Wood.

Statements

During the year there have been no serious incidents or loss of funds that would pose a serious risk to the Charities beneficiaries, resources or reputation.

Declaration

I declare that this is a true report and in my capacity of Chair of Trustees I am authorised to sign it on behalf of the Trustees.

Name: Graham A. Squibbs

Signature: 

Date: 07th February 2023

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, HIGH ST., MIDDLETON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022

		<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Offerings		11616.29	11616.29	15240.13
Private Donations	185.00	120.00	305.00	630.00
Collections for Outside Bodies	325.93		325.93	295.92
Tax Refund on Gift Aid	0.00	3468.15	3468.15	2611.15
Miscellaneous Receipts	0.00		0.00	0.00
Interest on Investments	0.00	694.60	694.60	792.20
Legacies	0.00		0.00	0.00
Room Hire	0.00	5814.00	5814.00	2020.00
Afternoon Fellowship	109.11		109.11	0.00
Flower Fund	395.00		395.00	180.00
Community Lunch	0.00		0.00	0.00
Baby and Toddler	174.26		174.26	0.00
Tithes etc Transferred to Restricted	1611.50	-1611.50	0.00	0.00
Restricted Transferred to General	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	2800.80	20101.54	22902.34	21769.40

PAYMENTS

Ministerial Expenditure		8927.09	8927.09	9500.00
Manse Expenses		3099.78	3099.78	3064.50
Speaker's Expenses		470.00	470.00	225.00
Organ & Piano Tuning		183.00	183.00	126.00
Annual Fees		127.00	127.00	122.00
Repairs, Decoration & Renewals		7750.04	7750.04	2280.19
Gas & Electricity		2748.00	2748.00	1887.41
Insurance		1399.48	1399.48	1314.56
Printing, Stationery & Music		60.00	60.00	40.00
Church Water Rates		340.42	340.42	305.72
Senior Conference Expenses		720.00	720.00	0.00
Sunday School / Youth Work		50.10	50.10	0.00
Donations (Including Payments)	2551.85	0.00	2551.85	1230.00
Benevolent Fund Payments		33.00	33.00	31.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		45.00	45.00	0.00
Outreach		55.44	55.44	0.00
Afternoon Fellowship	20.00		20.00	0.00
Flower Fund	370.00		370.00	235.00
Community Lunch	0.00		0.00	0.00
Baby and Toddler	74.00		74.00	44.04
Total	3015.85	26008.35	29024.20	20405.42

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 30TH JUNE 2022

		<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Investment	0.00	47313.17	47313.17	46621.34
Cash at Bank.	7646.51	15930.34	23576.85	30698.02
Community Lunch	106.71		106.71	106.71
Cash on Hand				
Church	0.00	281.23	281.23	188.12
Afternoon Fellowship	191.48		191.48	102.37
Flower Fund	285.00		285.00	260.00
Baby and Toddler	120.26		120.26	20.00
Creditors				
Income Tax Recoverable	0	3111.17	3111.17	3764.51
Total	8349.96	66635.91	74985.87	81761.07