

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 2023

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 2022 to 30th June 2023, the fifth 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

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.

Numbers attending services have been relatively stable during the year. We were pleased to welcome a new member to the church during the year.

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

The monthly coffee and chat meeting has continued during the year. 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 continued during term time with up to 16 children attending. This is a session of bible teaching, games and craft activities, generally led by members of the church

fellowship. Sadly, the Baby and Toddler group has had to close during the year due to limitations on the staff to run it.

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. 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.

Property

During the year the toilet facilities of the church and hall were upgraded with the existing male toilets being converted to an accessible toilet and a separate male toilet, and the lighting in the church and hall was replaced at a total cost of £12,500.

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £18,950.45, after £1,248.58 was transferred into the Tithe account. Restricted funds of £3,789.02 were received, including the transfer from unrestricted funds, the remainder being predominantly for church organisations and donations in memory. Overall, there was an increase in unrestricted income this year of £1,151.09.

There was a reduction in expenditure during the year. The main reason for this was the lack of paid staff during the year and a reduction in manse expenses, which more than offset the additional property expenses.

The net result for the year was an excess of unrestricted receipts over payments of £3,555.05, with an additional £2,406.87 of gift aid tax refunds outstanding at the year end. The unrestricted balance at the year-end was £69,491.66. Of this £50,000 has been designated for the support of future paid ministry, as current income will be insufficient to cover this, and £10,000 for the provision of necessary repairs to the church.

At the year end there was £569.26 held as restricted funds for church organisations, £3,185.78 in the Tithe fund and £780.00 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 £9,491.66 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: 03rd April 2024

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, HIGH ST., MIDDLETON
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 30th June 2023

	<u>2023</u>			<u>2022</u>
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Offerings		9214.20	9214.20	11616.29
Private Donations	1300.00	135.00	1435.00	305.00
Collections for Outside Bodies	338.81		338.81	325.93
Tax Refund on Gift Aid	0.00	3010.59	3010.59	3468.15
Miscellaneous Receipts	0.00		0.00	0.00
Interest on Investments	0.00	126.04	126.04	694.60
Legacies	500.00		500.00	0.00
Room Hire	0.00	7713.20	7713.20	5814.00
Afternoon Fellowship	0.00		0.00	109.11
Flower Fund	340.00		340.00	395.00
Community Lunch	0.00		0.00	0.00
Baby and Toddler	61.63		61.63	174.26
Tithes etc Transferred to Restricted	1248.58	-1248.58	0.00	0.00
Restricted Transferred to General	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	3789.02	18950.45	22739.47	22902.34
PAYMENTS				
Ministerial Expenditure		0.00	0.00	8927.09
Manse Expenses		1549.15	1549.15	3099.78
Speaker's Expenses		1090.00	1090.00	470.00
Organ & Piano Tuning		90.00	90.00	183.00
Annual Fees		92.00	92.00	127.00
Repairs, Decoration & Renewals	5744.31	7205.73	12950.04	7750.04
Gas & Electricity		2543.10	2543.10	2748.00
Insurance		1677.65	1677.65	1399.48
Printing, Stationery & Music		80.00	80.00	60.00
Church Water Rates		447.94	447.94	340.42
Senior Conference Expenses		380.00	380.00	720.00
Sunday School / Youth Work		105.04	105.04	50.10
Donations (Including Payments)	1318.81	0.00	1318.81	2551.85
Benevolent Fund Payments		29.00	29.00	33.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		73.79	73.79	45.00
Outreach		32.00	32.00	55.44
Afternoon Fellowship	0.00		0.00	20.00
Flower Fund	360.00		360.00	370.00
Community Lunch	0.00		0.00	0.00
Baby and Toddler	175.82		175.82	74.00
Total	7598.94	15395.40	22994.34	29024.20

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 30TH JUNE 2023

	<u>2023</u>			<u>2022</u>
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Investment	0.00	43000.00	43000.00	47313.17
Cash at Bank.				
Church	3965.78	23825.87	27791.65	23576.85
Baby and Toddler	6.07		6.07	120.26
Community Lunch	106.71		106.71	106.71
Afternoon Fellowship	191.48		191.48	191.48
Cash on Hand				
Church	0.00	258.92	258.92	281.23
Flower Fund	265.00		265.00	285.00
Creditors				
Income Tax Recoverable	0	2406.87	2406.87	3111.17
Total	4535.04	69491.66	74026.70	74985.87