

St Mark's Milton Keynes

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

St MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	29 Bradwell Road Bradville Milton Keynes MK13 7AX
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution dated 13 August 2018 Registered 26 September 2018
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1180087
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	A M Rosier P Oxley J Hyde A Jones H Bunce
KEY MANAGEMENT	R Lawrence P Oxley
BANKERS	HSBC UK Bank plc
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Lisa Darby ACA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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St MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Formation

St Mark's Milton Keynes was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation by a Constitution dated 13th August 2018 and has the Registered Charity Number 1180087.

Trustees

The trustees are the only voting members of the charity. They are not remunerated in any form for their services as trustees.

The existing trustees have the power to appoint new or additional trustees.

Under the terms of the Constitution, the trustees have the power to do anything which is calculated to further the objects of the charity or is conducive or incidental to doing so. The income and property of the charity must be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects.

Objects of the charity

The objects of the charity are, for the public benefit:

1. The advancement of the Christian faith, in accordance with the Statement of Faith, in Milton Keynes and such other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Charity Trustees may from time to time decide; and
2. The prevention and/or relief of poverty in particular, but not exclusively, by providing financial support to individuals in need, and charities or organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

Our last annual report was written in the immediate aftermath of Covid 19. This subsequent report demonstrates that the effects of the virus, lockdowns and altered practices of gathering and working have continued to have a profound effect on St Marks.

There have of course been many challenges. While we continued to prioritise safety, meeting online and at outdoor locations proved increasing difficult as screen fatigue made zoom church less enjoyable and the winter weather made outdoor gatherings less survivable! Our finances were impacted by decreased giving and some additional costs. And our ability to grow as a community of faithful people was also impacted.

All that said, as the rest of this report demonstrates, we were able to achieve a great deal over this time, and we are impressed by the continued creativity that the church continued to show in meeting challenges and continuing the work of the church in Milton Keynes and beyond.

As always, we remain thankful to all the people of our small church for their incredible joyfulness, tenacity and creativity. None of what is outlined below would be possible without them.

1. Village Life

This year, throughout various phases of the covid response, has seen us gather as church in a variety of ways. We began the year continuing to meet online. We then moved towards a term of highly relational events, mostly outdoors, seeking to re-connect after such a long period without much face-to-face time. The year ended with a three month long experience of "Car Park Church", gathering each week in a car park, sitting in open boots and sharing fellowship in a covid-secure way.

Safety remained a priority for us as we gathered. Of course physical safety from the virus, but also gathering in a way which promoted mental well-being as people began to cope with the after-effects of the lockdowns and re-entering "normal" life.

Throughout this time, it became obvious that some people had moved away from the church throughout the past 18 months or so. We hope many will return or find a good and safe home elsewhere.

2. St. Marks Meals

St Marks Meals has continued to grow at considerable pace throughout the year, adding more school and community partners from across the city.

We remain based in a warehouse with other sector charities and enjoy working in partnership with MK Foodbank especially.

Advice gained from our Natwest business coaching has been invaluable and helped us think through working practices as we 'scale-up'.

A major transition of the year has been to switch our fundraising and giving platform, enabling us to offer many more giving options and to make efficiency savings in the process. This has born immediate fruit with a number of new regular givers and runners fundraising for us through the MK marathon especially.

As well as increasing the number of local schools benefitting from St Marks Meals, we have connected with four churches in other parts of the country and enabled them to start their own, contextually branded version of St Marks Meals. This means that more children are going to bed with a full tummy.

3. Pray-MK

In our final year of grant funding for this project we were determined to create resources which would outlive the project when the funding came to an end.

To this end we are overjoyed with some of the products and resources which we have been able to create.

Of special note is the book produced by local author Deborah Fielding, "Opening" which is a series of prayers, poems and spaces. The book has been well received and will continue to be sold long after the project has come to an end.

We have also worked with a local agency to produce a pop-up-prayer-tent for local churches to borrow, and some family, table-based prayer resources with artist Andy Smith.

As this project now closes, we believe it to have been vital in galvanising prayer in many people across Milton Keynes, and are sure that the creative response to this years constraints means that the resources produced will continue to serve people long into the future as they remain available for purchase or hire.

4. Sanctuary Network

Thanks to a grant from Oxford Diocese we were able to begin our long-awaited "Sanctuary Network". Through advice and input from local Women's Refuge services as well as national experts, we have created a local network of churches seeking to become safe spaces led by safe leaders who respond well to survivors of domestic abuse.

Special thanks to Gail Foot for her leadership in this area.

A series of Learning Community events will be held throughout the year for local church leaders, as well as the production of a website, resources and a video-course for churches.

We are proud of this work and believe it to be important, challenging abuse and being involved in healthy spiritual leadership and restoration of both health and safety for survivors.

5. Milton Keynes Child Poverty Partnership

The Milton Keynes Child Poverty Partnership has come into fruition, founded and chaired by Rev Oxley.

The partnership is bringing together many different charities from across Milton Keynes to ensure good working, sharing of resources and to advocate with a united voice on behalf of the children of MK.

In its early days the partnership has already succeeded in building a web-based directory of local services, joined a task force concerned with Period Poverty and initiated Roundtable discussions with local government and charity leaders concerned about the looming energy crisis.

6. Governance and finance

This year required hard work on the part of trustees and staff as we emerged from Covid while overseeing several growing projects, delivering grant-funded ministries and navigating the complex demands of sustainability.

We entered this financial year having drawn significantly upon our reserves. A priority therefore became the financial management of the charity to rebuild those reserve funds. By the end of the year we had done so to a level of £10,000, which though not quite to the level stated in our policy, is much more healthy than this time last year.

Our thanks go to the staff of the church and to our treasurer for hard work in this area.

While there of course remains uncertainty regarding the future, with war and other factors affecting prices, stability and confidence...we remain committed to the mission of St Marks and confident that the charity is in a healthy and viable position to meet the challenges of the future with creativity and kindness.

Financial review

Having ended our previous financial year in a slight deficit, the primary task of this year, as well as fulfilling the function and vision of the church and charity, was to rebuild our reserves and restore a greater level of financial health. This has been done, through hard work by the staff and trustees and as this report shows, we end this financial year with reserves which, though not at our desired level, are much more healthy than previously.

This has been another hard year to raise money, and so particular thanks must go to our COO and the Meals Team for showing tenacity and creativity in raising money and managing it well.

With the general health of the charity, the activity planned and the snapshot of this report, the trustees are happy to report that we are confident of the ongoing financial health and viability of St Marks MK.

Reserves policy

Overall, the trustees look to hold £20,000 in reserves, or three months unrestricted expenditure. As this report evidences, we are not currently at this level, though through a combination of organisational changes, cost-savings, efficiency savings and budget control, we are confident that we will continue to be able to build the reserves while fulfilling the role and function of the charity.

Risk Statement

The Trustees continue to review the risks to which they consider the charity is exposed. Appropriate procedures are in place to identify, monitor, and review these risks on a regular basis.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Paul Oxley

.....
Rev Paul Oxley
Chair

Date: 12/1/23 _____

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
St MARK'S MILTON KEYNES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mark's Milton Keynes ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 on pages 7 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Lisa Darby ACA

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 23rd January 2023

St MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Income receipts					
Donations and grants		68,069	74,009	142,078	155,010
Government Job Retention Scheme Grants		-	-	-	3,200
Other		-	-	-	343
		<u>68,069</u>	<u>74,009</u>	<u>142,078</u>	<u>158,553</u>
Total receipts		<u>68,069</u>	<u>74,009</u>	<u>142,078</u>	<u>158,553</u>
Payments					
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	47,314	67,892	115,206	112,123
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	4,560	14,744	19,304	6,094
		<u>51,874</u>	<u>82,636</u>	<u>134,510</u>	<u>118,217</u>
Total payments		<u>51,874</u>	<u>82,636</u>	<u>134,510</u>	<u>118,217</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		16,195	(8,627)	7,568	40,336
Transfers between funds		(1,238)	1,238	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>14,957</u>	<u>(7,389)</u>	<u>7,568</u>	<u>40,336</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		(1,362)	68,334	66,972	26,636
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>13,595</u>	<u>60,945</u>	<u>74,540</u>	<u>66,972</u>

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

St MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted General funds	Restricted funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds				
Cash at bank with immediate access - HSBC	13,595	59,912	73,507	66,972
Cash at bank with immediate access - Soldo	-	1,033	1,033	-
	<u>13,595</u>	<u>60,945</u>	<u>74,540</u>	<u>66,972</u>
B Other monetary assets				
Gift aid due to charity	1,200	-	1,200	-
	<u>1,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>-</u>
C Liabilities				
Fee for Independent Examination	1,200	-	1,200	1,440
Accrued expenses	-	702	702	292
	<u>1,200</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>1,902</u>	<u>1,732</u>
D Guarantees and secured debts				

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by Paul Oxley date 12/1/23

Rev Paul Oxley
Chair

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

St MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	Unrestricted General funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly				
Employment costs (Note 4)	27,940	44,683	72,623	66,566
St Mark's Meals expenses	-	17,210	17,210	27,938
Pray-MK expenses	-	5,899	5,899	1,706
Property costs (Note 2a and 4)	9,084	-	9,084	8,430
Minor equipment	416	-	416	884
Pastoral care	1,002	-	1,002	161
Administration expenses	3,178	-	3,178	4,662
Events and outreach activities	4,347	-	4,347	1,626
Conferences and training	-	-	-	(2,110)
Work among the young	357	-	357	819
Accounts & independent examination	990	-	990	1,440
	<u>47,314</u>	<u>67,892</u>	<u>115,205</u>	<u>112,123</u>
2 (a) Property costs comprise:				
Church of England Parish share Manse	9,084	-	9,084	8,430
	<u>9,084</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,084</u>	<u>8,430</u>
3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others				
Grants for:				
Mission	4,320	14,001	18,321	4,241
Relief of poverty	-	743	743	1,613
Education and training	240	-	240	240
	<u>4,560</u>	<u>14,744</u>	<u>19,304</u>	<u>6,094</u>
4 Transactions with related parties				

Paul Oxley, a trustee, was paid a salary of £26,025 (2021: £25,600) and pension contributions of £1,299 (2021: £1,280). These payments were made in the capacity of serving as a member of the charity's staff and not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

In addition the charity incurred expenditure totalling £9,084 (2020: £8,340) in respect of the provision of accommodation (which is customary for ministers) to Paul Oxley, who is a trustee so that they could better perform their duties.

5 Movement on restricted funds

	Balance at 31.03.21	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31.03.22
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	(1,361)	68,069	(51,874)	(1,238)	13,596
	<u>(1,361)</u>	<u>68,069</u>	<u>(51,874)</u>	<u>(1,238)</u>	<u>13,596</u>
Restricted funds					
St Marks Meals	57,024	46,829	(46,036)	-	57,817
Work to help Syrian Refugees	121	-	(73)	-	48
Acts of Kindness	275	434	(670)	-	39
Youthwork+	1,010	4,373	(5,389)	7	-
Hardship	424	241	-	-	665
Pray-MK	9,480	9,390	(17,614)	-	1,256
MKCPP	-	3,000	(4,231)	1,231	-
Sanctuary	-	5,500	(4,381)	-	1,119
Chief Operations Officer Salary	-	4,242	(4,242)	-	-
	<u>68,333</u>	<u>74,009</u>	<u>(82,635)</u>	<u>1,238</u>	<u>60,944</u>
Total funds	<u>66,972</u>	<u>142,078</u>	<u>(134,509)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,541</u>

St Marks Meals' provides meals for children and families in schools and children's centres across Milton Keynes who are in need.

Hardship Fund and 'Acts of Kindness' provides those in need with gifts.

Youthwork+ is a project with young people

Pray-MK is a gathering of churches from across Milton Keynes who meet to worship and pray for the city.

The Milton Keynes Child Poverty Partnership (MKCPP) brings together many different charities from across Milton Keynes to ensure good working, sharing of resources and to advocate with a united voice on behalf of the children of MK.

Sanctuary is a local network of churches seeking to become safe spaces led by safe leaders who respond well to survivors of domestic abuse.