

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1181249

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-12-18

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Solent Evangelical Church
365a Forton Road
Gosport
PO12 3HF

Phone 02392528480

Email info@solentchurch.org.uk

Website www.solentchurch.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH ARE: 1. THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIS OF FAITH PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN GOSPORT AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD; AND 2. SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS SHALL, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHARITY TRUSTEES, PUT INTO PRACTICE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIS OF FAITH, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: THE PREVENTION AND RELIEF OF NEED, HARDSHIP AND SICKNESS; THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION; AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE PROVIDED THAT THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUCH PURPOSES MUST BE UNDERTAKEN IN A MANNER THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DOCTRINAL DISTINCTIVES AND ETHICAL STATEMENTS AS MAY BE ADOPTED AND AMENDED BY THE CHURCH FROM TIME TO TIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHURCH HANDBOOK.

Activities: We run Sunday services for all ages, for prayer, Bible teaching and worship. We hold midweek small groups for prayer and Bible study, and groups for those who want to investigate Christianity. We run a regular coffee shop, and a toddler group. We run other social events and activities, and we help needy individuals in the locality.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Hampshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-02-28	£69,461	£61,659	-	-
2024-02-29	£47,934	£54,497	-	-
2023-02-28	£43,503	£55,108	-	-
2022-02-28	£42,674	£61,826	-	-
2021-02-28	£62,683	£49,077	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Hugh Stanford	Chair	2018-12-18
Paul David Williams		2018-12-18
Ronald Philip Bygrave		2018-12-18

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1181249

Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 28 February 2025

Stewardship 
Active generosity

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

**SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	365A Forton Road Gosport PO12 3HF
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Constitution Registered 18 December 2018
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1181249
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	David Hugh Stanford (Pastor) Ronald Philip Bygrave Paul David Williams
BANKERS	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Maling Kent ME19 4JQ
INSURERS	Ansvar Insurance Ansvar House St Leonards Road Eastbourne BN21 3UR
AFFILIATIONS	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) Solent Gospel Partnership (SGP)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Sarah Crispin (ACA) Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2 - 6	Trustees' Report
Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 10	Notes to the Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement

Reporting Period: 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025

Governance

The managing trustees of the charity are the elders, who are appointed by members in accordance with the Church Handbook. The current elders are listed above. Paul Williams was re-elected for a 5 year term at a Church Members Meeting held on 23 October 2024. Ron Bygrave was re-elected at the same meeting for a reduced term ending November 2025. David Stanford as an employed elder / pastor is not appointed for a fixed term of office but his appointment as elder (managing trustee) would terminate with his employment were that to cease according to the proper processes.

Deacons are also appointed in support of the elders and to take responsibility for various roles in the life of the church which would otherwise distract the elders from the primary leadership role. Paul Bassett was appointed for a 3 year term in November 2022. His special responsibilities are for the tech equipment and for publicity. Rachel Bassett was appointed for a 3 year term in July 2023. She is particularly responsible for the finances and is the church treasurer. She is employed for a few hours each week to assist her in completing her treasurer duties.

Charity Objectives

As set out in our Constitution, the objectives of Solent Evangelical Church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Gosport and the surrounding neighbourhood; and such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

Activities in fulfilment of the Objectives

The church is committed to helping any who we can to come to know and follow Jesus and leading people to faith in Jesus is core to the advancement of the Christian faith. This is of huge benefit to those who come to trust in God in this way, and we believe it is therefore a great public benefit to give people the opportunity to hear about the Christian faith.

Over the period March 2024 – February 2025 we have sought to fulfil this mission and our objectives in the following ways.

- Regular Sunday morning services, including singing, prayer, Bible reading and preaching. These are our primary gathering of the week, and have been our consistent opportunity for regulars and members to meet together, and for outsiders to come and hear about the Christian faith.
- We continue to livestream our Sunday morning service, and some other occasional meetings. We see this as an excellent way for the Christian faith to be accessible to those unfamiliar with its message, and it also provides a way for members of the community who are not able to physically attend to have access to the service online. In order to do this in a way which we think it needs to be done requires a significant skill level in operators, and is a significant investment of people resources on Sunday mornings when our resources are stretched. But nonetheless we think this is important for the above reasons.
- At the start of 2025 we began a new series of home based Bible studies using some study material called J-Curve. New home based groups were formed at this point, drawing into the midweek groups members who had not previously attended.

- Once per month, on average, we meet on Sunday evenings for Bible teaching followed by a meal. This has been, and continues to be, a valuable part of our community life.
- At the start of 2025, we restarted groups for children on Sunday mornings as part of our morning gathering. We had had a group running prior to this, which relied on one individual, but the new setup has drawn in new teachers, and has established this on a better footing. This is to cater for an increasing number of children attending church with parents / grandparents. We also now hold an all-age service once every 4 weeks to include the children in our whole church gathering and provide a break from teaching to the leaders of the Sunday school.
- Coffee Pot (a coffee shop) runs once every 2 weeks in term time, and has continued to run throughout the current year, with a good number of regular visitors from the community surrounding the church, providing a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for friends to gather and for the church to make contact with people and help where possible. This continues to be much appreciated by local people who attend.
- At Christmas we ran a number of Christmas related events including an informal all age church event, and a carol service in the lead up to Christmas. We met as we usually do on Christmas day. All these services are open to visitors to attend and we saw a number of new visitors at these meetings.
- In September 2024 we started regular financial support for one of our members who has moved to work in Central Asia, with the goal of furthering our mission priorities in that part of the world. This support will reduce in level once they are able to reduce the amount of language study they are doing.
- We have continued to support financially outside organisations who share our ethos and desire to advance the Christian faith.

Leadership and Employment

We had part time employed an individual in the role of “Financial Administrator, Best Practice Administrator, Evangelism Worker and Events Co-ordinator”. Their work in this role was an important contribution to church life, but due to limited finances we have reduced the hours of this employment to 2 hours per week, and the role is limited to finances work.

Achievements and Performance

We have successfully continued to tell people about the message of Jesus Christ, both locally and beyond, through our regular activities, and have been glad to see large numbers of people come through the doors of the church for a variety of reasons and we believe we have been able to offer hope and support through our activities in a positive way.

This has been a period with an increase in regular meetings and activities. There has also been significant work on the building during this time, including required work on the fixed electrical system, a complete upgrade of the video distribution system for the projector and satellite screens, updates to the Sunday school rooms to prepare for new children’s groups on Sundays, to name a few. All of this was in different ways, necessary work, and required significant input from a number of individuals and significant volunteer work.

Our church community continues to be valued by members and regulars and is a help to people in a variety of life struggles.

The trustees have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and believe that we have fulfilled our objectives in this regard.

Financial Policies

It is our general policy to hold reserves in place equal to at least the running costs of the church for a three month period, considered in the scenario of a catastrophic loss of income.

This figure is currently estimated to be £10,000. At the end of the current year (end of February 2025) we held £23,839 in reserve which is well above the required reserves level.

Financial Summary

Following a period where we were drawing significantly on our reserves, at an unsustainable level, in the first half of this current period we reluctantly reduced the hours of our part time Financial Administrator. As well as this, we continued to keep our costs as low as possible.

Unfortunately, we also needed to implement costly work on the fixed electrical system to gain a satisfactory EICR report – an important part of our Fire risk assessment. In addition, our aging AV system was desperately in need of an upgrade and other maintenance work on the building fabric was required.

In the light of all this, we made members and wider supporters aware of the difficult financial situation, and were delighted that our supporters responded to this significantly, and in some cases with large and unexpected gifts. We are very grateful for this and the improvement that it has brought about to our financial situation.

Our income for the year was £69,461, a major increase on the previous year's income of £47,934 – reflecting the increased giving of our supporters. Our total expenditure was £61,659, up from the previous years figure of £54,497. The increase in expenditure is accounted for by the costs of the building upgrades as detailed above, and new support for our worker in Central Asia (also mentioned earlier in this report).

This is all despite the fact that our employment costs have come down because we reduced our Financial Administrator's part time hours. Employment costs reduced from £41,631 (previous year), to £37,451 (this year). The reduction in part time hours did not take effect until 4 months into the year had elapsed, so the saving in employment costs for ongoing years will be greater, assuming other employment costs remain the same, which may not be the case.

So, our closing balance for the year was £23,839. This, in a costly year, is up a good amount from the previous year's closing balance of £16,037.

However, it would be unhelpful for us to presume that the kind of income received in this year will be representative of future years. The increase in giving was clearly exceptional and one off in some cases. Although we can breathe a little easier with healthier levels of reserves, and be grateful that we have been able to invest in the building to bring it up to a suitable standard in a number of areas, there will always be other maintenance and upgrade work required to keep the building in a satisfactory state.

Responsibilities of Trustees

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:

D H Stanford

D H Stanford (Nov 30, 2025 16:14:24 GMT)

David Stanford:

Date: Nov 30, 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Solent Evangelical Church ('the charity') for the year ended 28 February 2025 on pages 8 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.

Sarah Crispin

Sarah Crispin (Dec 15, 2025 09:15:24 GMT)

Sarah Crispin (ACA)

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Dec 15, 2025

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2025 £	2024 £
		General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
Income receipts						
Donations		52,101	-	3,205	55,306	39,049
Gift aid receipts		7,521	-	196	7,718	5,734
Income from letting of facilities		6,223	-	-	6,223	3,050
Interest received		53	-	-	53	101
Other		162	-	-	162	-
Total receipts		<u>66,060</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,401</u>	<u>69,461</u>	<u>47,934</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	54,539	-	1,750	56,289	51,977
Grants paid in relation to charitable		3,270	-	2,100	5,370	2,520
Total payments		<u>57,809</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,850</u>	<u>61,659</u>	<u>54,497</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		8,251	-	(449)	7,802	(6,563)
Transfers between funds	5	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>8,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(449)</u>	<u>7,802</u>	<u>(6,563)</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		15,447	-	590	16,037	27,642
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>23,698</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>23,839</u>	<u>16,037</u>

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2025 £	2024 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £		
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	23,698	-	141	23,839	16,037
Petty cash	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>23,698</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>23,839</u>	<u>16,037</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	9,583	-	248	9,830	7,718
Other debtors	132	-	-	132	-
	<u>9,715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>9,962</u>	<u>7,718</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
HMRC payroll taxes due	1,233	-	-	1,233	1,178
Pension	151	-	-	151	193
Fee for Independent Examination	990	-	-	990	930
Accrued expenses	96	-	-	96	219
Total	<u>2,471</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,471</u>	<u>2,327</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use				Cost £	Current value £
Freehold of church building				20,000	352,649
Computers and IT				4,442	-
Furniture				9,628	-
				<u>34,070</u>	<u>352,649</u>

The trustees have used insurance values for the church building as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.

E 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:

D H Stanford
D H Stanford (Nov 30, 2025 16:14:24 GMT)

David Stanford

Date: Nov 30, 2025

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

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 Funds			Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted Funds		
	£	£	£		
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs (see note 3)	36,721	-	-	36,721	40,198
Ministry expenses	2,247	-	-	2,247	1,858
Coffee Pot expenses	155	-	-	155	236
Sound and Tech upgrade	1,258	-	-	1,258	-
Building maintenance & repair	5,453	-	1,750	7,203	1,253
Utilities	3,448	-	-	3,448	2,094
Insurance	1,567	-	-	1,567	1,530
Legal & Professional fees	1,263	-	-	1,263	1,305
Office & IT costs	1,707	-	-	1,707	2,753
Other costs	-	-	-	-	30
Contribution to FIEC	720	-	-	720	720
	54,539	-	1,750	56,289	51,977

3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others

Grants for:					
UFM	360	-	-	360	360
Children for Christ	30	-	-	30	360
Gosport School Pastors	240	-	-	240	240
Through the Roof	-	-	135	135	-
Individuals	2,640	-	1,965	4,605	1,560
	3,270	-	2,100	5,370	2,520

4 Transactions with related parties

David Stanford served as church leader and was paid £32,988 inclusive of pension (2024: £32,988) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

Rhiannon Stanford who is related to David Stanford, received £920 (2024: £720) towards her support at Bible College.

5 Movement of funds

	Balance at 29 February 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 28 February 2025
	£				£
General funds	15,447	66,060	(57,809)	-	23,698
Restricted funds					
Support for individuals	590	1,516	(1,965)	-	141
Building improvements	-	1,750	(1,750)	-	-
Special Funds	-	135	(135)	-	-
	590	3,401	(3,850)	-	141
Total funds	16,037	69,461	(61,659)	-	23,839

Restricted Funds

Support for individuals represent donations given specifically to support individuals for training and missions.

Building improvements is for funds received towards building improvements

Special Funds represents funds received for special collections

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1181249

Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 29 February 2024

Stewardship 
Active generosity

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

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	365A Forton Road Gosport PO12 3HF
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Constitution Registered 18 December 2018
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1181249
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	David Hugh Stanford (Pastor) Ronald Philip Bygrave Paul David Williams
BANKERS	Santander Business Banking Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB
INSURERS	Ansvar Insurance Ansvar House St Leonards Road Eastbourne BN21 3UR
AFFILIATIONS	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) Solent Gospel Partnership (SGP)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Sarah Crispin (ACA) Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2 - 6	Trustees' Report
Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 10	Notes to the Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement

Reporting Period: 1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024

Governance

The managing trustees of the charity are the elders, who are appointed by members in accordance with the Church Handbook. The current elders are listed above. Ron Bygrave and Paul Williams were re-elected for a 5 year term at a Church Members Meeting held on 6 November 2019. David Stanford as an employed elder / pastor is not appointed for a fixed term of office but his appointment as elder (managing trustee) would terminate with his employment were that to cease according to the proper processes.

Deacons are also appointed in support of the elders and to take responsibility for various roles in the life of the church which would otherwise distract the elders from the primary leadership role. Paul Bassett was appointed for a 3 year term in November 2022. His special responsibilities are for the tech equipment and for publicity. Rachel Bassett was appointed for a 3 year term in July 2023. She is particularly responsible for the finances and is the church treasurer. She also performs other administrative tasks. Her part time employment also involves other duties which are not tied to her role as deacon.

Charity Objectives

As set out in our Constitution, the objectives of Solent Evangelical Church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Gosport and the surrounding neighbourhood; and such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

Activities in fulfilment of the Objectives

The church is committed to helping any who we can to come to know and follow Jesus and leading people to faith in Jesus is core to the advancement of the Christian faith. This is of huge benefit to those who come to trust in God in this way, and we believe it is therefore a great public benefit to give people the opportunity to hear about the Christian faith.

Over the period March 2023 – February 2024 we have sought to fulfil this mission and our objectives in the following ways.

- Regular Sunday morning services, including singing, prayer, Bible reading and preaching. These are our primary gathering of the week, and have been our consistent opportunity for regulars and members to meet together, and for outsiders to come and hear about the Christian faith.
- We continue to livestream our Sunday morning service, and some other occasional meetings. We see this as an excellent way for the Christian faith to be accessible to those unfamiliar with its message, and it also provides a way for members of the community who are not able to physically attend to have access to the service online. In order to do this in a way which we think it needs to be done requires a significant skill level in operators, and is a significant investment of people resources on Sunday mornings when our resources are stretched. But nonetheless we think this is important for the above reasons.
- Regular midweek Bible studies and monthly prayer meetings have been restarted, currently meeting in one group at the church, rather than in separate small groups in homes which

would be our preference. These have seen a fairly small but consistent core of individuals attending, a subset of our regular congregation.

- We also are now holding evening church roughly once a month, and at the end of this reporting year included a meal together as part of this. It is our intention to continue this each month. The meeting includes Bible teaching, sometimes more informal with discussion, and sometimes singing. The meal follows the Bible time.
- Over the spring and summer of this year, we lost 4 of our long time members who passed away from ill health and older age. This was a sad time for our church community, but also a time to mutually support one another, and an opportunity to draw strength from the incredible hope offered in the Christian message. The funeral thanksgiving services were held in the church and meant that we were also able to tell something of this hope to significant numbers of outsiders who had gathered in tribute to those lost. Although we would not have chosen this course of events, it was an important way in which we were able to fulfil our mission and objectives.
- Coffee Pot (a coffee shop) runs once every 2 weeks in term time, and has continued to run throughout the current year, with a good number of regular visitors from the community surrounding the church, providing a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for friends to gather and for the church to make contact with people and help where possible. This continues to be much appreciated by local people who attend.
- At Christmas we ran a number of Christmas related events including an informal all age church event, and a carol service in the lead up to Christmas. We met as we usually do on Christmas day. All these services are open to visitors to attend and we saw a number of new visitors at these meetings.
- Towards the end of the year, we held a baptism service for 2 individuals who had put their trust in Jesus and wanted to signal that through baptism. There were a significant number of visitors who came to this joyful occasion and were able to hear about the message of Jesus.
- We have supported two individuals from the church who have been undertaking theological training with a view to future full time Christian work. One of these completed their training part way through the year, and so their support from us was for part of the year only.
- We have continued to support financially outside organisations who share our ethos and desire to advance the Christian faith.

Leadership and Employment

We continued to employ an individual in the role of “Financial Administrator, Best Practice Administrator, Evangelism Worker and Events Coordinator”. Their work has contributed significantly to the improvement of our financial arrangements, with a change of bank account, and transferral over to a new accounting system which has brought significant benefits to our day to day financial operations. We have continued to benefit greatly from the additional input to church life through this appointment.

Achievements and Performance

We have successfully continued to tell people about the message of Jesus Christ, both locally and beyond, through our regular activities, and have been glad to see large numbers of people come through the doors of the church for a variety of reasons and we believe we have been able to offer hope and support through our activities in a positive way.

There have been real difficulties for our church community over this period, and we have mourned the loss of a number of significant individuals over this time. However, we believe that despite the sadness, what we believe, and our trust and commitment to the message of Jesus Christ has been a source of great strength for both our own community and those outside it who have also been touched by these losses. We consider this to be a significant part of our role and an area where we can offer a unique contribution through our specific charitable activities.

Our church community continues to be valued by members and regulars and is a help to people in a variety of life struggles.

The trustees have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and believe that we have fulfilled our objectives in this regard.

Financial Policies

It is our general policy to hold reserves in place equal to at least the running costs of the church for a three month period, considered in the scenario of a catastrophic loss of income.

This figure is currently estimated to be £10,000. At the end of the current year (end of February 2024) we held £16,037 in reserve which is above the required reserves level.

Financial Summary

We entered this year aware that we were drawing on our reserves at a significant rate. With this in mind we took steps early in the year to arrest this – firstly by taking care to reduce our outgoings on unnecessary expenditure as much as possible, and secondly by asking members and regulars to reassess their giving.

Both of these measures were successful to a degree. Our expenditure for the year stands at a slightly lower figure to the previous year of £54,497 (last year, £55,108), but there were expected increases in employment costs and expenses of £2,500 which in the event were £3,222. So, in the light of that, we have done well in keeping expenditure at a lower figure than the previous year.

Income last year was £43,503 and this year was £47,934 – an increase of £4,431, thanks largely to an increase in donations, which interestingly seems to be largely an increase in cash donations.

The resulting deficit for the year in the end was £6,563 compared to around £11k the previous year.

Although this means that we still have a reasonable level of reserves in hand above our agreed reserves minimum (a total amount of £16,037) and that we have delayed the point at which we would violate the policy, our current levels of expenditure and income would mean our reserves dipping to close to or below our reserves minimum by the end of the next year if everything stays the same.

However, there are additional costs which we have delayed which will need to be incurred on building repairs ideally in the first half of the next year. Other increases in outgoings are also anticipated, especially with regards to support of external workers. So, in the light of this, the trustees will need to consider making significant adjustments to other areas of expenditure in

order to arrest the current trend and allow us to perform required building and infrastructure repairs. It is likely that this will require changes to our employment commitments, even though we have benefited enormously from the current set up and would rather not reduce current workers employed hours.

Responsibilities of Trustees

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:

David Stanford: 
David Stanford (Oct 8, 2024 12:40 GMT+1)

Date: Oct 8, 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Solent Evangelical Church ('the charity') for the year ended 29 February 2024 on pages 8 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.


Sarah Crispin (Oct 24, 2024 15:21 GMT+1)

Sarah Crispin (ACA)

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Oct 24, 2024

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2024 £	2023 £
		General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
Income receipts						
Donations		37,839	590	620	39,049	35,860
Gift aid receipts		5,734	-	-	5,734	6,045
Income from letting of facilities		3,050	-	-	3,050	1,563
Interest received		101	-	-	101	35
Total receipts		<u>46,725</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>620</u>	<u>47,934</u>	<u>43,503</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	51,711	236	30	51,977	51,708
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others		2,520	-	-	2,520	3,400
		<u>54,231</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>54,497</u>	<u>55,108</u>
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total payments		<u>54,231</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>54,497</u>	<u>55,108</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(7,507)	354	590	(6,563)	(11,605)
Transfers between funds	4	1,055	(1,055)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(6,452)</u>	<u>(701)</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>(6,563)</u>	<u>(11,605)</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		21,899	701	-	22,600	34,205
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>15,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>16,037</u>	<u>22,600</u>

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

Notes	Unrestricted Funds			2024 £	2023 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £		
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	15,447	-	590	16,037	22,509
Petty cash	-	-	-	-	91
	<u>15,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>16,037</u>	<u>22,600</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	7,718	-	-	7,718	5,714
	<u>7,718</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,718</u>	<u>5,714</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
HMRC payroll taxes due	1,178	-	-	1,178	1,025
Fee for Independent Examination	930	-	-	930	930
Accrued expenses	219	-	-	219	952
	<u>2,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,327</u>	<u>2,907</u>
Total	<u>2,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,327</u>	<u>2,907</u>

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Cost £	Current value £
Freehold of church building	20,000	315,790
Computers and IT	2,599	932
Furniture	5,000	-
	<u>27,599</u>	<u>316,722</u>

The trustees have used insurance values for the church building as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.

E 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:


David Stanford (Oct 8, 2024 12:40 GMT+1)

David Stanford

Date: Oct 8, 2024

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

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.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs (see note 3)	40,198	-	-	40,198	38,410
Ministry expenses	1,858	-	-	1,858	2,885
Coffee Pot expenses	-	236	-	236	511
Refurbishment costs	-	-	-	-	136
Building maintenance & repair	1,253	-	-	1,253	1,418
Utilities	2,094	-	-	2,094	1,812
Insurance	1,530	-	-	1,530	1,449
Legal & Professional fees	1,305	-	-	1,305	1,517
Office & IT costs	2,753	-	-	2,753	2,195
Other costs	-	-	30	30	655
Contribution to FIEC	720	-	-	720	720
	<u>51,711</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>51,977</u>	<u>51,708</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

David Stanford served as church leader and was paid £32,988 inclusive of pension (2023: £32,988) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

Rhiannon Stanford who is related to David Stanford, received £720 (2023: £720) towards her support at Bible College.

4 Movement of funds

	Balance at 28 February 2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 29 February 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	21,899	46,725	(54,231)	1,055	15,447
Designated funds					
Coffee Pot	701	590	(236)	(1,055)	-
	<u>701</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>(236)</u>	<u>(1,055)</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted funds					
Support for individuals	-	620	(30)	-	590
	<u>-</u>	<u>620</u>	<u>(30)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>590</u>
Total funds	<u>22,600</u>	<u>47,934</u>	<u>(54,497)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,037</u>

Designated Funds

Coffee Pot fund represented money held for this activity. It is no longer treated as a designated fund and maintained within general funds.

Restricted Funds

Support for individuals represent donations given specifically to support individuals for training and missions.

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1181249

Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Report and Accounts
Year ended 28 February 2023

Stewardship 
Active generosity

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

Solent Evangelical Church
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	365A Forton Road Gosport PO12 3HF
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Constitution Registered 18 December 2018
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1181249
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	David Hugh Stanford (Pastor) Ronald Philip Bygrave Paul David Williams
BANKERS	Santander Business Banking Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB
INSURERS	Ansvar Insurance Ansvar House St Leonards Road Eastbourne BN21 3UR
AFFILIATIONS	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) Solent Gospel Partnership (SGP)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Sarah Crispin (ACA) Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2-6	Trustees' Report
Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 10	Notes to the Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement

Reporting Period: 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023

Governance

The managing trustees of the charity are the elders, who are appointed by members in accordance with the Church Handbook. The current elders are listed above. Ron Bygrave and Paul Williams were re-elected for a 5 year term at a Church Members Meeting held on 6 November 2019. David Stanford as an employed elder / pastor is not appointed for a fixed term of office but his appointment as elder (managing trustee) would terminate with his employment were that to cease according to the proper processes.

Deacons are also appointed in support of the elders and to take responsibility for various roles in the life of the church which would otherwise distract the elders from the primary leadership role. Paul Bassett had served well as a deacon in two short year terms from January 2020 through to January 2022. He continued in the role de facto, and was reappointed / elected for a full 3 year term at the AGM in November 2022. His special responsibilities are for the tech equipment and for publicity.

Charity Objectives

As set out in our Constitution, the objectives of Solent Evangelical Church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Gosport and the surrounding neighbourhood; and such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

Activities in fulfilment of the Objectives

The church is committed to helping any who we can to come to know and follow Jesus and leading people to faith in Jesus is core to the advancement of the Christian faith. This is of huge benefit to those who come to trust in God in this way, and we believe it is therefore a great public benefit to give people the opportunity to hear about the Christian faith.

The period March 2022 – February 2023 is the first full year without government restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However, we have found that it has taken some time to restart our activities and return to something like the level of activity prior to the pandemic.

- Regular Sunday morning services, including singing, prayer, Bible reading and preaching. These are our primary gathering of the week, and have been our consistent opportunity for regulars and members to meet together, and for outsiders to come and hear about the Christian faith.
- The morning services have been normally livestreamed (except in a few rare cases) and it is our intention to continue with this indefinitely. We see this as an excellent way for the Christian faith to be accessible to those unfamiliar with its message, and it also provides a way for members of the community who are not able to physically attend to have access to the service online.
- Regular midweek Bible studies and prayer meetings have been restarted, especially from October, although currently these are in one group meeting at the church, rather than in separate small groups in homes which would be our preference. These have seen a fairly small but consistent core of individuals attending, a subset of our regular congregation.

- Since October, roughly once a month we have held evening church, which has been for the purpose of teaching the Bible in more depth on issues which are of particular relevance and controversy in the current culture.
- Coffee Pot (a coffee shop) runs once every 2 weeks in term time, and has continued to run throughout the current year, with a good number of regular visitors from the community surrounding the church, providing a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for friends to gather and for the church to make contact with people and help where possible. This continues to be much appreciated by local people who attend. We would like to run this more regularly (once per week), but are limited in that by available volunteers.
- We ran a Christianity Explored class over several weeks in the early part of the year for people interested in understanding the Christian message better.
- At Christmas we ran a number of Christmas related events including an informal all age church event, and a carol service in the lead up to Christmas. We met as we usually do on Christmas day. All these services are open to visitors to attend and we saw a number of new visitors at these meetings.
- We ran occasion youth events for the fairly small number of teenage young people in the church, including Bible studies and social events – a highlight being the “barbecue in the woods”.
- Other one off special events and services occurred during the year – including a church meal, a family fun day, a dedication, and a wedding.
- We have supported two individuals from the church who have moved away to undertake theological training with a view to future full time Christian work.
- We have continued to support financially outside organisations who share our ethos and desire to advance the Christian faith.

Leadership and Employment developments

In May of 2022, we took on a part time administrator to work as “Financial Administrator, Best Practice Administrator, Evangelism Worker and Events Co-ordinator”. It has been a long term aim to be able to employ someone to give time to these areas in the life of the church and we have been very pleased to be able to finally take the step of employing someone.

This has proved to be a successful move, and the church has benefited greatly.

Also during this year, David Stanford took 4 months of long service leave from June to September, after having been continuously employed in his role as pastor at Solent for nearly 15 years. This was undertaken as part of the church’s responsibility to care for its employees and to provide an opportunity for David to be refreshed and rested in a way that is not normally possible in regular employment.

This had a significant effect on the church (doubtless both positive and negative), as visiting preachers came to take Sunday services, and other leadership activities usually handled by David in his regular employment were put on hold. However, we believe this was a valuable and necessary provision to make.

Achievements and Performance

We have successfully continued to tell people about the message of Jesus Christ, both locally and beyond, through our regular activities, and are glad that some have come to believe in Jesus during this period.

We are pleased that some return to pre-pandemic levels of activity has occurred, although are not able to do as much as we would like, and want to see development in other areas as people-power enables it.

A number of individuals have faced life difficulties during this time and have received significant support both practical and moral from the church which has significantly helped them in those difficulties.

The trustees have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and believe that we have fulfilled our objectives in this regard.

Financial Policies

It is our general policy to hold reserves in place equal to at least the running costs of the church for a three month period, considered in the scenario of a catastrophic loss of income.

This figure is currently estimated to be £10,000. At the end of the current year (end of February 2023) we held £23,399 in reserve which is well above the required reserves level.

Financial Summary

The big change to the church finances during this period has been the employment of our part time administrator which has been of great benefit. As expected this has meant we have used significant amounts of our reserves which had been earmarked for this purpose, so diminishing reserves are not initially a cause for concern.

However, we have not yet seen an increase in giving which would enable us to be reassured of our ability to continually employ a part time administrator on the current terms. Note also that the part time administrator was employed for 10 months of the year – from May – so the increased costs of employment are not representative of a full 12 months.

The income levels for this year are slightly up from the previous year - £43,503 compared to previous year figure of £42,674.

Actual expenditure has reduced from £61,826 (2022) to £55,108 (this year). However, 2022 figures were inflated due to building refurbishment costs of around £17K so are not a fair comparison. In effect, with the refurbishment costs taken out, general expenditure has increased year to year by around £10K. This increase is due to a combination of factors. The main increase is in our employment costs as previously mentioned, but as well as that there are additional costs in the following: support of two individuals in theological training; church website redesign; additional costs of outside speakers during the pastor's long leave; increases to insurance and utilities; additional janitorial costs (actually part of finishing toilet refurb).

Although some of these costs will continue in the next year, and employment costs are expected to increase by around £2,500, a number of these costs were one offs which will not recur in the next year. Approximately £3,000 of these increases in expenditure could be considered one off expenses.

The next financial year will be a real test of our ability to fulfil our current financial obligations and similar analysis at this point of next year will be critical. Although at this point there is not immediate cause for concern, the finances at this year's close do provide an impetus to the church to increase giving to match our commitments and support our charitable work in the way we believe it should best be done.

We shall also have to consider our outgoings and take care expenditure is kept as low as possible. It may be that expenses we would like to incur (for instance for upgraded equipment) will need to be delayed until funds are available.

Responsibilities of Trustees

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:

David Stanford: *D Stanford*

Date: 18 September 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

Solent Evangelical Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Solent Evangelical Church ('the charity') for the year ended 28 February 2023 on pages 8 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.

S Crispin

Sarah Crispin (ACA)

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date:

Solent Evangelical Church
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2023 £	2022 £
		General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
Income receipts						
Donations		34,990	670	200	35,860	36,451
Gift aid receipts		6,045	-	-	6,045	5,696
Income from letting of facilities		1,563	-	-	1,563	525
Interest received		35	-	-	35	2
Total receipts		<u>42,633</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>43,503</u>	<u>42,674</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	40,820	10,888	-	51,708	59,626
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others		3,200	-	200	3,400	2,200
		<u>44,020</u>	<u>10,888</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>55,108</u>	<u>61,826</u>
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total payments		<u>44,020</u>	<u>10,888</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>55,108</u>	<u>61,826</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(1,387)	(10,218)	-	(11,605)	(19,152)
Transfers between funds	4	1,892	- 1,892	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>504</u>	<u>(12,109)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,605)</u>	<u>(19,152)</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		21,395	12,810	-	34,205	53,357
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>21,899</u>	<u>701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,600</u>	<u>34,205</u>

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

Solent Evangelical Church
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

	Unrestricted Funds			2023 £	2022 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £		
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	21,899	610	-	22,509	34,093
Petty cash	-	91	-	91	112
	<u>21,899</u>	<u>701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,600</u>	<u>34,205</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	5,714	-	-	5,714	6,045
	<u>5,714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,714</u>	<u>6,045</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
HMRC payroll taxes due	1,025	-	-	1,025	-
Fee for Independent Examination	930	-	-	930	840
Accrued expenses	952	-	-	952	-
	<u>2,907</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,907</u>	<u>840</u>
Total	<u>2,907</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,907</u>	<u>840</u>

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Cost £	Current value £
Freehold of church building	-	315,790
Computers and IT	2,599	932
Furniture	5,000	-
	<u>7,599</u>	<u>316,722</u>

The trustees have used insurance values for the church building as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.

E 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:

D Stanford

David Stanford

Date: 18 September 2023

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

Solent Evangelical Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

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 Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs (see note 3)	28,033	10,377	-	38,410	33,940
Ministry expenses	2,885	-	-	2,885	1,489
Coffee Pot expenses	-	511	-	511	255
IT equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Refurbishment costs	136	-	-	136	17,794
Small equipment	-	-	-	-	220
Building maintenance & repair	1,418	-	-	1,418	286
Utilities	1,812	-	-	1,812	1,316
Insurance	1,449	-	-	1,449	1,242
Legal & Professional fees	1,517	-	-	1,517	960
Office & IT costs	2,195	-	-	2,195	1,340
Other costs	655	-	-	655	65
Contribution to FIEC	720	-	-	720	720
	<u>40,820</u>	<u>10,888</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,708</u>	<u>59,626</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

David Stanford served as church leader and was paid £32,988 inclusive of pension (2022: £32,992) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

Rhiannon Stanford who is related to David Stanford, received £720 (2022: £300) towards her support at Bible College.

4 Movement of funds

	Balance at 28 February 2022	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 28 February 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	21,395	42,633	(44,020)	1,892	21,899
Designated funds					
Betchworth special projects	10,377	-	(10,377)	-	-
Local Evangelical Legacy	1,634	-	-	(1,634)	-
Snapdragons	258	-	-	(258)	-
Coffee Pot	542	670	(511)	-	701
	<u>12,810</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>(10,888)</u>	<u>(1,892)</u>	<u>701</u>
Restricted funds					
Mission appeals	-	200	(200)	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>34,205</u>	<u>43,503</u>	<u>(55,108)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,600</u>

Designated Funds

Betchworth special projects fund was set aside for the kitchen refurbishment and employment costs and this year has been spent on employment. Local Evangelical Legacy was set aside for livestream facility and development of unisex toilets. These projects are now complete so the remainder has been transferred to General funds. Snapdragons fund represents money held for the toddler group. This is no longer running so funds have been transferred to general. Coffee Pot fund represents money held for this activity.

Restricted Funds

Mission appeals are funds raised for specific one-off appeals.

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1181249

Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 28 February 2022

Stewardship 
Active generosity

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

Solent Evangelical Church
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	365A Forton Road Gosport PO12 3HF
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Constitution Registered 18 December 2018
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1181249
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	David Hugh Stanford (Pastor) Ronald Philip Bygrave Paul David Williams
BANKERS	Santander Business Banking Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB
INSURERS	Ansvar Insurance Ansvar House St Leonards Road Eastbourne BN21 3UR
AFFILIATIONS	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) Solent Gospel Partnership (SGP)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Lourens du Plessis ACA CA(SA) Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2-6	Trustees' Report
Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 10	Notes to the Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement

Reporting Period: 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022

Governance

The managing trustees of the charity are the elders, who are appointed by members in accordance with the Church Handbook. The current elders are listed above. Ron Bygrave and Paul Williams were re-elected for a 5 year term at a Church Members Meeting held on 6 November 2019. David Stanford as an employed elder / pastor is not appointed for a fixed term of office but his appointment as elder (managing trustee) would terminate with his employment were that to cease according to the proper processes.

Deacons are also appointed in support of the elders and to take responsibility for various roles in the life of the church. Paul Bassett and Roger White were both reappointed by members approval as deacons for 1 year terms from 29 January 2020, and these terms were extended for a further year at the end of January 2021. Roger White resigned as a deacon on 26 November 2021. Paul Bassett is due to be reappointed later in 2022, and is continuing in the role in the meantime.

Charity Objectives

As set out in our Constitution, the objectives of Solent Evangelical Church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Gosport and the surrounding neighbourhood; and such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

Activities in fulfilment of the Objectives

The church is committed to helping any who we can to come to know and follow Jesus and leading people to faith in Jesus is core to the advancement of the Christian faith. This is of huge benefit to those who come to trust in God in this way, and we believe it is therefore a great public benefit to give people the opportunity to hear about the Christian faith.

The year beginning 1 March 2021 started in the midst of continued government interventions due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The restrictions significantly reduced in July 2021 which freed church to begin opening up to something more like normal. The lessons learned from the previous year of interventions enabled us to continue church activities, albeit rather differently, throughout the period.

For the period from 1 March to 19 July our regular church activities consisted of the following:

- Weekly Sunday morning services held at the church with social distancing measures in place, as well as various restrictions as detailed in government guidance for places of worship. These restrictions included the wearing of masks, and not allowing congregational singing.
- In order to facilitate social distancing we continued to have a free booking system in place to ensure our numbers did not exceed the maximum we could contain with social distancing in place.
- All the services were livestreamed using the set up we had established in the previous year.
- The management of the meetings in this way took considerable weekly volunteer effort to maintain, and numerous technical difficulties had to be handled in this time to keep things operating as smoothly as possible. This would not have been possible without the dedication and long term commitment of a number of key church members and regular attenders.
- Also over this part of the year we also held online (Zoom) "Bible Together" Bible study and prayer meetings on the Bible books of Acts and Leviticus. This also included a programme of

personal Bible reading which those who attended online each week were encouraged to undertake. These studies were an important connection in a time of distance and reduced sense of community, and attracted participants from wider than the church family.

Following the lifting of restrictions on 19 July, normal Sunday meetings were able to resume – with some minor restrictions in place, but largely back to pre-pandemic format – including the resumption of congregational singing and the cessation of the booking system. This was hugely welcome and improved things greatly. From this point attendance in person at services steadily increased over the next few months. Although there have been occasions where a number of people have been absent (especially during the winter months that followed), numbers on Sunday mornings have been back to fairly close to pre-pandemic numbers.

Following the restart of the autumn term we began discussions on restarting pre-pandemic activities. The priority was our Thursday morning coffee shop, Coffee Pot. This restarted on 11 November, with a new improved set up, although only running every other week in term time only. However, it was great to see a renewal of contact with friends from outside the church and local people attending. This continued through the rest of the reporting period.

Over Christmas we held “Café Carols” – a visitor focussed Christmas service with carols, and these saw a number of non-Church people in attendance. Following this in the New Year (2022) we ran a course for people interested in finding out more about Christianity – called Hope Explored. Visitors to the Café Carols had been invited to take part in this.

From September 2021, we also ran a number of youth events for the church young people in secondary / 6th form age group. This included both social events and Bible teaching events held on Sunday evenings and some Saturdays.

During this period a number of people both in the church and known to us suffered ill health and received support both practical and spiritual. We also provided practical support to a family moving into a new home.

In September / October the church toilet area was completely gutted and rebuilt to include a wheelchair access toilet and two self contained unisex toilets. This was done by an outside company. This meant a considerable disruption to the church building over a six week period, and the opportunity was taken by volunteer members to renovate and redecorate the rear lounge area adjacent to the toilet area. Along with the new kitchen completed in March 2020, this means the facilities at the church building are much improved, and we believe that although the combined cost of these works was significant, it was overdue, and has been worth the investment to support our ongoing work as a church in the community.

There are a number of areas of activity which we have not yet restarted as a church, which over the following period will be assessed and restarted as we are able to, and according to whether or not we think these activities support the mission of the church effectively and enable us to achieve our objectives. These include, small groups, Sunday evening Hub evenings, Sunday school, continued youth work. We have found that across the board people do not have the same capacity yet for volunteer work that is vital in an organisation such as ours. Furthermore, the loss of momentum created by the halt in activity because of pandemic restrictions is proving hard to overcome.

The positive side of this, is that we are able to assess freshly what activities we consider to be effective and can restart what we do choose to start in new ways to ensure they more suitable for the purpose they are intended for. This is something much harder to do when existing activities are in place.

We have also continued to financially support external organisations who share our ethos and goals.

Achievements and Performance

The continued preaching of the message of Jesus has provided a source of strength and hope for the members of the church and for many others during this time.

The return of normal congregational activities has been a real help, and a time of rebuilding relationships and rethinking our lives together and for the community has been valuable.

A number of individuals have faced life difficulties during this time and have received significant support both practical and moral from the church which has significantly helped them in those difficulties.

The trustees have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and believe that we have fulfilled our objectives in this regard.

Financial Policies

It is our general policy to hold reserves in place equal to at least the normal running costs of the church for a three month period. This is to act as a buffer in the event of significant reduction in charity income, and to ensure that we can fulfil our financial obligations in that event.

This figure is currently estimated to be £12,000. At the end of this period we held £35,435 in reserve which is well above the reserve policy level. £20,000 of this reserve is informally earmarked as a buffer fund for the part time employment of an administrator, but even with this taken into account, the reserves held above this are £15,435. So by any measure we are adhering to our reserves policy.

Financial Summary

The income levels in this period are very similar to the previous year. This year's income figure is £42,674 as compared to previous year £62,683, but the previous year figure included a special gift of £20,000 which when removed leaves income levels virtually identical between last year and this.

Outgoings stand at £61,826 as compared to £49,077 in the previous year. This increase can be accounted for by the expenses for the toilet rebuild (£15,011), kitchen refurb final (£649) and lounge refurb (£2,134) – all planned expenses which we intended to make from the reserves held. Note that the comparison to the previous year may not be a totally helpful comparison as that

year also had out of the ordinary expenses so will itself have been high compared to “normal” expenses.

However, a better measure perhaps, the level of total reserves in this period has dropped from £53,357 to £34,205, a difference of £19,152. This largely tallies with the total of the above projects, which totals £17,794. Other expenses have slightly dipped into the reserves held, but within reasonable bounds.

With this year and the previous year also being a times of change both externally and internally, it is difficult to accurately gauge the financial state of the church in comparison with past.

With new hopes and plans for the future of the church which will inevitably draw on our financial resources, and with increased difficulties externally from the pressures on the wider economy, our church finances could take a hit in the coming years. But the effect of this is hard to judge, and as things stand we have reasonable leeway to maintain our mission in the immediate future.

Responsibilities of trustees

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:

David Stanford

David Stanford
Date: 6 October 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

Solent Evangelical Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Solent Evangelical Church ('the charity') for the year ended 28 February 2022 on pages 8 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.

Lourens du Plessis

Lourens du Plessis ACA CA(SA)

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 6 October 2022

Solent Evangelical Church

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022	2021
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations		36,074	377	-	36,451	55,738
Gift aid receipts		5,696	-	-	5,696	6,222
Income from letting of facilities		525	-	-	525	640
Interest received		2	-	-	2	83
Total receipts		<u>42,297</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,674</u>	<u>62,683</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	43,710	15,916	-	59,626	45,808
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others		2,200	-	-	2,200	1,870
		<u>45,910</u>	<u>15,916</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,826</u>	<u>47,678</u>
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	1,399
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,399</u>
Total payments		<u>45,910</u>	<u>15,916</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,826</u>	<u>49,077</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(3,614)	(15,539)	-	(19,152)	13,606
Transfers between funds	4	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(3,614)</u>	<u>(15,539)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(19,152)</u>	<u>13,606</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		25,008	28,349	-	53,357	39,751
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>21,395</u>	<u>12,810</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,205</u>	<u>53,357</u>

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

Solent Evangelical Church
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2022 £	2021 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £		
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	21,395	12,698	-	34,093	53,357
Petty cash	-	112	-	112	-
	<u>21,395</u>	<u>12,810</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,205</u>	<u>53,357</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	6,045	-	-	6,045	5,907
	<u>6,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,045</u>	<u>5,907</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
Fee for Independent Examination	840	-	-	840	840
Accrued expenses	-	-	-	-	534
	<u>840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>1,374</u>
Total	<u>840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>1,374</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use				Cost £	Current value £
Freehold of church building				-	280,702
Computers and IT				2,599	932
Furniture				5,000	-
				<u>7,599</u>	<u>281,634</u>

The trustees have used insurance values for the church building as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.

E 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:

David Stanford

David Stanford

Date: 6 October 2022

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

Solent Evangelical Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 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 Funds			Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £		
	£	£	£		
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs (see note 3)	33,940	-	-	33,940	32,768
Ministry expenses	1,489	-	-	1,489	2,103
Coffee Pot expenses	-	255	-	255	-
IT equipment	-	-	-	-	1,957
Refurbishment costs	2,134	15,660	-	17,794	3,717
Small equipment	220	-	-	220	145
Building maintenance & repair	286	-	-	286	142
Utilities	1,316	-	-	1,316	1,424
Insurance	1,242	-	-	1,242	1,197
Legal & Professional fees	960	-	-	960	129
Office & IT costs	1,340	-	-	1,340	1,446
Other costs	65	-	-	65	-
Contribution to FIEC	720	-	-	720	780
	43,710	15,916	-	59,626	45,808

3 Transactions with related parties

David Stanford served as church leader and was paid £32,992 inclusive of pension (2021: £32,768) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

Rhiannon Stanford who is related to David Stanford, received £300 (2021: £nil) towards her support at Bible College.

4 Movement of funds

	Balance at 29 February 2021 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 28 February 2022 £
General funds	25,008	42,297	(45,910)	-	21,395
Designated funds					
Betchworth special projects	11,026	-	(650)	-	10,377
Local Evangelical Legacy	16,645	-	(15,011)	-	1,634
Snapdragons	258	-	-	-	258
Coffee Pot	420	377	(255)	-	542
	28,349	377	(15,915)	-	12,810
Total funds	53,357	42,674	(61,825)	-	34,205

Betchworth special projects fund is set aside for the kitchen refurbishment and possible employment costs in the future.

Local Evangelical Legacy is set aside for livestream facility and development of unisex toilets

Snapdragons fund represents money held for the toddler group

Coffee Pot fund represents money held for this activity.

SOLENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1181249

Accounts

Solent Evangelical Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 28th February 2021

Stewardship 
Active generosity

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

Solent Evangelical Church
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	365A Forton Road Gosport PO12 3HF
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Constitution Registered 18 December 2018
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1181249
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	David Hugh Stanford (Pastor) Ronald Philip Bygrave Paul David Williams
BANKERS	Santander Business Banking Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB
INSURERS	Ansvar Insurance Ansvar House St Leonards Road Eastbourne BN21 3UR
AFFILIATIONS	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) Solent Gospel Partnership (SGP)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Lourens du Plessis ACA CA(SA) Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2-5	Trustees' Report
Page 6	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 7	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 8	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 9	Notes to the Accounts

Report of the trustees for the year ended 28 February 2021

Governance

The managing trustees of the charity are the elders, who are appointed by members in accordance with the Church Handbook. The current elders are listed above. Ron Bygrave and Paul Williams were re-elected for a 5 year term at a Church Members Meeting held on 6 November 2019. David Stanford as an employed elder / pastor is not appointed for a fixed term of office but his appointment as elder (managing trustee) would terminate with his employment were that to cease according to the proper processes.

Deacons are also appointed in support of the elders and to take responsibility for various roles in the life of the church. Paul Bassett and Roger White were both appointed by members' vote as deacons for 1 year terms on 29 January 2020. These terms were extended for a further year at the end of January 2021, so their current terms will cease on 29 January 2022.

Charity Objectives

As set out in our Constitution, the objectives of Solent Evangelical Church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Gosport and the surrounding neighbourhood; and such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

Activities in fulfilment of the Objectives

The church is committed to helping any who we can to come to know and follow Jesus and leading people to faith in Jesus is core to the advancement of the Christian faith. This is of huge benefit to those who come to trust in God in this way, and we believe it is therefore a great public benefit to give people the opportunity to hear about the Christian faith.

The year from 1 March 2020 has been a year of unprecedented state intervention due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This has meant that significant activities of the church have completely ceased during this time, and other activities have been severely curtailed and altered in response to the government regulations. However not all of this has been negative – the changed environment has meant that new forms of communication have been developed.

From March 16th 2020, the introduction of country wide social distancing measures meant that all of our regular meetings and activities ceased. On March 23rd 2020 full lockdown was announced and since then various measures have been in place throughout the whole of the reporting period.

Initially and for a period of around 18 weeks our activities as a church consisted of the following:

- A weekly Sunday morning livestream on Youtube including songs, prayers, Bible readings, and sermon conducted by David Stanford from his study.
- As an important part of the Sunday morning livestream the music group worked hard to produce regular music videos using independently produced music videos and then editing them together. This was a significant task, but we believe valuable as a means of aiding our praise of God, and reminding us of the wider nature of the church.

- Occasional communion services conducted on unlisted Youtube livestreams from David Stanford's home.
- Prayer meetings conducted on Zoom
- Occasional social events (quizzes) conducted on Zoom

Other normal church activities such as Coffee Pot (Coffee shop on Thursday mornings), Snapdragons (toddler group on Wednesday afternoons), Hub evenings (meal and Bible teaching on Sunday evenings once a month), Sunday school (usually part of Sunday morning gathering), Ladies Bible study group and other occasional activities and socials completely ceased during this time. Small groups Bible studies were occasionally attempted by some groups using Zoom.

Clearly this change in our activities is overall detrimental to our goals as a church. However, we believe that our work during this time, although nothing like our usual activity as a church, enabled the primary work of the church to continue, in that the message of Jesus was proclaimed albeit in a different form. As far as possible substitutes for the gathering of the church were put in place during a time of great uncertainty and concern. We believe that the church was able to be a consistent support to members and any who wished to access our online material throughout this time.

The use of Youtube also means that the message of Jesus Christ was made widely available to any who might wish to consider Christianity, and in that sense our mission potential has been increased.

For the period from the end of July to the end of September, livestreaming moved to the church. Services, although still only involving one or two individuals, were livestreamed from the church building. This required, behind the scenes, a significant investment of equipment and expertise to make livestreaming possible, including the installation of an internet connection, camera and computer equipment sufficient to live video and broadcast from the building.

From Sunday 27th September, this was expanded, with further investment of additional equipment and setup to enable the livestreaming of a service conducted from the church in something more like a normal form. At this time it was also possible for a congregation to attend in a restricted fashion adhering to the Covid related government regulations. This required significant investment of time and investigation in order to risk assess such gatherings and ensure that we had complied properly with the emergency laws and guidance in place and were able to reassure those attending.

This continued with some variations due to additional lockdowns until the end of the reporting period, and was still in place at that time and beyond.

Although the activities of the church were still significantly curtailed, we believe it was important to provide the opportunity to meet, or if not to watch on a livestream, in order that God's word would continue to be preached, and the opportunity for support and mutual encouragement was in place as best it could be under the circumstances.

Overall it is clear that the right and proper activities of the church have been severely interrupted by the measures adopted by the government. We believe that this has been detrimental to our role as a church in the community and has made it much harder to fulfil our goals as a charity and a church. Much of what we do depends on face to face relationships with people which is not

possible when lockdown or social distancing measures remain in place. However, we believe also that Solent Evangelical Church has worked hard under significant restriction and difficulty to continue our work and attempt to achieve in some form the furtherance of our charitable goals despite the unusual time we have operated through in this year.

Although this has led to the significant outlay of expense (in the case of the livestreaming) we believe that this was a necessary expense to enable the widest number of people possible to continue to engage with the church and our message. We also recognise that now having a presence on a platform like Youtube, means that our potential reach as a church has increased. Indeed we are aware of a number of individuals not from our area, or even our country, who have been able to access our services, and have appreciated our content.

During this time we have also continued to support individuals in need with practical and financial assistance as we believe appropriate. This has consisted of individuals who we already had contact with prior to lockdown. Due to the curtailment of our events where we regularly meet outsiders to the church, we have not expanded our support of individuals as we are not aware of any additional specific needs.

We have also continued to financially support external organisations who share our ethos and goals.

Achievements and Performance

The continued preaching of the message of Jesus has provided a source of strength and hope for the members of the church and for many others during this time.

Although physical attendance at church has been significantly down, even since we have re-established limited in person gatherings, a large majority of our prior congregation have continued accessing our online output throughout the period.

A number of individuals have faced life difficulties during this time and have received significant support both practical and moral from the church which has significantly helped them in those difficulties.

The trustees have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and believe that we have fulfilled our objectives in this regard.

Financial Policies

It is our general policy to hold reserves in place equal to at least the normal running costs of the church for a three month period. This is to act as a buffer in the event of significant reduction in charity income, and to ensure that we can fulfil our financial obligations in that event.

This figure is currently estimated to be £12,000, and the £53,357 held at the end of the reporting period means that we are adhering to our reserves policy.

Financial Summary

During almost the entire reporting period the church has lost a significant amount of income through the loss of letting income. There has been some loss of income due to not having collecting boxes at services. However, our regular income from giving of individuals, has largely continued as prior to the pandemic.

We received a significant gift during this period from an external organisation of £20,000. This has made up for some of the shortfall above, and has enabled us to cover the cost of part of the kitchen renovations (also an expenditure in the previous period), and to cover the cost of the technical equipment for livestreaming.

This means that at the close of this reporting period we find ourselves in a healthy financial situation. There are funds available for much needed renovation work in the fabric of the building. And we continue to hold reserves for the initial implementation of employment of workers which we hope we shall be able to act on as the opportunity arises following the release from lockdown and other restrictions.

During the year income increased by £42,367, to £62,683, and expenditure increased by £24,308, to £49,077 (the prior period represented 5 months' income and expenditure only, see note 5 to the accounts). As a result the cash held by the charity increased by £13,606, to £53,357, of which the entire amount is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Trustees Approval of Report

This report was approved by the trustees at a meeting on 14 October 2021.

It is signed on their behalf by the chair of the trustees

David Stanford
14 October 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

Solent Evangelical Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Solent Evangelical Church ('the charity') for the year ended 28th February 2021 on pages 7 to 9 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.

Lourens du Plessis ACA CA(SA)

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 15 October 2021

Solent Evangelical Church
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2021	5 months 2020
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations		55,643	95	-	55,738	17,397
Gift aid receipts		6,222	-	-	6,222	-
Income from letting of facilities		640	-	-	640	2,658
Other income		-	-	-	-	193
Interest received		83	-	-	83	79
Total receipts		<u>62,588</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,683</u>	<u>20,326</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	40,134	5,674	-	45,808	24,769
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others		1,870	-	-	1,870	-
		<u>42,004</u>	<u>5,674</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,678</u>	<u>24,769</u>
Purchase of fixed assets		-	1,399	-	1,399	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>1,399</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,399</u>	<u>-</u>
Total payments		<u>42,004</u>	<u>7,073</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,077</u>	<u>24,769</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		20,584	- 6,978	-	13,606	- 4,443
Transfers between funds	4	- 20,075	20,075	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>509</u>	<u>13,097</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,606</u>	<u>- 4,443</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		24,499	15,252	-	39,751	44,194
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>25,008</u>	<u>28,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,357</u>	<u>39,751</u>

The notes on page 9 form part of these accounts.

Solent Evangelical Church
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted funds	2021	2020
	General funds	Designated funds			
Notes	£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	25,008	28,349	-	53,357	39,751
Notice deposits	-	-	-	-	-
Petty cash	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>25,008</u>	<u>28,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,357</u>	<u>39,751</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	5,907	-	-	5,907	6,222
Other debtors	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>5,907</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,907</u>	<u>6,222</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
Fee for Independent Examination	840	-	-	840	-
Accrued expenses	534	-	-	534	-
	<u>1,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,374</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>1,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,374</u>	<u>-</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use					
			Cost	Current value	
			£	£	
Freehold of church building			-	270,166	
Computers and IT			2,599	1,399	
Furniture			5,000	-	
			<u>7,599</u>	<u>271,565</u>	

The trustees have used insurance values for the church building as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.

E 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:

David Stanford

Date: 14 October 2021

The notes on page 9 form part of these accounts.

Solent Evangelical Church
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

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.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			Total 2021 £	5 months
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £		Total 2020 £
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs (see note 4)	32,768	-	-	32,768	13,018
Ministry expenses	2,103	-	-	2,103	1,526
IT equipment	-	1,957	-	1,957	-
Kitchen Refurbishment	-	3,717	-	3,717	5,257
Small equipment	145	-	-	145	40
Building maintenance & repair	142	-	-	142	287
Utilities	1,424	-	-	1,424	683
Insurance	1,197	-	-	1,197	1,271
Legal & Professional fees	129	-	-	129	448
Office costs	1,446	-	-	1,446	646
Other costs	-	-	-	-	844
Contribution to FIEC	780	-	-	780	750
	<u>40,134</u>	<u>5,674</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,808</u>	<u>24,769</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

David Stanford served as church leader and was paid £32,768 inclusive of pension (5 months to 29 February 20: £13,017) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

4 Movement of funds

	Balance at 29 February 2020 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 28 February 2021 £
General funds	24,499	62,588	- 42,004	- 20,075	25,008
Designated funds					
Betchworth special projects	14,744	-	3,718	-	11,026
Local Evangelical Legacy	-	-	3,355	20,000	16,645
Snapdragons	208	50	-	-	258
Coffee Pot	300	45	-	75	420
	<u>15,252</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>- 7,073</u>	<u>20,075</u>	<u>28,349</u>
Total funds	<u>39,751</u>	<u>62,683</u>	<u>- 49,077</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,357</u>

Betchworth special projects fund is set aside for the kitchen refurbishment and possible employment costs in the future.
Local Evangelical Legacy is set aside for livestream facility and development of unisex toilets
Snapdragons fund represents money held for the toddler group
Coffee Pot fund represents money held for this activity.

5 Accounting periods

The new Solent Evangelical Church CIO was formed on 18 December 2018. The existing Solent Evangelical Church CUA continued to operate and hold the assets of the church until 30 September 2019. At this point the assets were transferred to the CIO. All income and expenditure from that point were received and paid out from the CIO. The accounts for the CIO for the previous reporting period therefore reflect this reality and are for a 5 month period only.