

# 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](http://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**

		Unrestricted Funds				
		General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
Notes		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income receipts</b>						
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
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>42,297</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,674</b>	<b>62,683</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
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
		<b>45,910</b>	<b>15,916</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61,826</b>	<b>47,678</b>
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	1,399
		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,399</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>45,910</b>	<b>15,916</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61,826</b>	<b>49,077</b>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(3,614)	(15,539)	-	(19,152)	13,606
Transfers between funds	4	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(3,614)</b>	<b>(15,539)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(19,152)</b>	<b>13,606</b>
Cash funds as at last year end		25,008	28,349	-	53,357	39,751
<b>Cash funds at this year end</b>	A	<b>21,395</b>	<b>12,810</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,205</b>	<b>53,357</b>

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**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted funds	2022	2021
		General funds	Designated funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>A Cash funds</b>						
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>B Other monetary assets</b>						
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>
<b>C Liabilities</b>						
<b>Falling due within one year</b>						
Fee for Independent Examination		840	-	-	840	840
Accrued expenses		-	-	-	-	534
		<u>840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>1,374</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>1,374</u>
<b>D Assets retained for charity's own use</b>						
					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.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>				
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly</b>					
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
	<u>43,710</u>	<u>15,916</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,626</u>	<u>45,808</u>

**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
	<u>28,349</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>(15,915)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,810</u>
 Total funds	 <u>53,357</u>	 <u>42,674</u>	 <u>(61,825)</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>34,205</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.