



COLKINS MILL CHURCH

...part of God's family in Mayfield

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Aim and purposes

Colkins Mill Church is a local family congregation that seeks to follow Jesus Christ in the village of Mayfield, East Sussex.

The Trustees, who form the Church Leadership Team, aim to welcome all into a church community that enables people to embrace and grow in the Christian faith. The charitable purposes of the Church are met by a range of activities that include public worship, prayer and teaching, and also living out faith in outreach, practical care and relief of hardship, both in the local community and other parts of the world.

Objectives and activities

The Church Leadership is committed to enabling as many people as possible to join in the life and activities of the Church. In planning these activities the Leadership Team has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit. The main activities of Colkins Mill Church can be summarised as follows:

- Public worship has taken place each week in the Church, with a congregation of between 30 and 50 people, together with a small Sunday School for children.
- Three mid-week groups have met regularly in homes, to worship and learn together from the Bible, and to support one another in prayer and fellowship.
- Sunday evening meetings focused on worship and prayer have been held regularly.
- During school term-times two mid-week youth clubs are run, open to all local young people of appropriate ages, providing a fun environment for games and social interaction, and including teaching from the Bible and discussion of relevant issues from a Christian perspective.
- A monthly celebration is held for people with learning difficulties from a number of care homes in the area with Bible stories, singing, craft and tea.
- The Church maintains active relationships with mission partners and Christian organisations working elsewhere in the UK and the world, and provides financial and prayer support.
- The Church building is made available to clubs and societies in the village for a small hourly rent.

Achievements and performance

Sunday services have continued through the year and are live-streamed for anyone unable to attend in person through absence or illness. The shape of the services was reassessed during the year, with all services now led by a member of the Leadership Team ensuring a more consistent approach. The pattern of serving a buffet breakfast before the service has become part of the Church rhythm, and is a valuable opportunity for connection and support.

Sunday services during the month of August are usually more relaxed, and this year a creative approach was adopted involving group discussions as part of the services, and the opportunity for people to use some imaginative prayer spaces that had been created.

The year was characterised by many situations of sadness and ill-health within the Church, which drew on internal resources of pastoral care. Care and support is also an important

component of the three small groups meeting weekly in homes, though the primary focus of these is on personal discipleship.

For the first time for many years the Church held an 'Away Day' at a local retreat centre. This was a refreshing day of relaxed fellowship, worship, teaching and creativity, and was enjoyed by all.

A significant development during the year was the commencement of regular 'Worship Nights'. These Sunday evenings – focused exclusively on worship – were enjoyed by all who came, and drew in a number of friends from surrounding Churches, including other musicians who helped to lead.

The Church initiated and sponsored an ambitious open-air Passion Play in the village for Palm Sunday in 2024. This complex project involved all three main Churches in Mayfield, together with a local drama group and was directed by a local professional actor. The play moved up and down Mayfield High Street, powerfully depicting the Easter story with a cast of 40 people. It was watched by more than 350 people and received very positive feedback.

Our monthly celebrations for people with learning difficulties continue to be enjoyed by around 30 people from local care homes. During the year the leadership of this group was transferred to a younger team, thereby safeguarding the longevity of this valuable work.

The work with young people in the village has continued, with strong attendance of around 40 children each week across the two mid-week club nights that are offered. Another successful weekend camp was run, taking 24 young people away to a Christian outward-bound centre.

The Church was able to continue to give regular support and make financial grants to a number of Christian organisations and initiatives, after careful review and consideration of available reserves. Support and grants provided by the Church to individuals and charities are determined after discussion and agreement at meetings of the Leadership Team. All grants made by the Church are reported to members of the Church.

Other achievements during the year included:

- A three-evening training programme in evangelism for Church members.
- A 'Jesus party' for children and parents on a Sunday afternoon in April 2023.
- 'Bible and craft' sessions run for children in the summer holidays.
- Monthly 'Bring and Share' lunches were continued, open to people outside the Church.
- New signage for the Church was implemented – more modern and attractive.

Many members of the Church are involved in the activities of the Church on an informal voluntary basis, and the Trustees are very appreciative of the contribution that every one makes, without which so much less would be accomplished. In the case of individuals who are involved in the children's and vulnerable adults' activities, appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures are in place.

Financial review

Regular donations and gifts to unrestricted reserves increased on prior year by some 17% as new people joined the Church. However, the recovery of Gift Aid in 2022/23 was not repeated in 2023/24 so overall income to unrestricted funds reduced. The lack of Gift Aid recovery was the principal cause of reduction in income to restricted funds also. A Gift Aid recovery is expected in 2024/25.

With no employed staff, the running costs of the Church are relatively low and the Church is able to make substantial grants to Christian organisations and mission partners.

Missionary support was given to long standing partners working in a deprived community in Johannesburg, South Africa, and amongst trafficked women in both India and a Native American Reservation in the USA. Grants to organisations included the projects these individuals work for, together with organisations involved in Bible translation, Church growth in urban London, and broader Christian outreach.

The grants made in the current year have given rise to a planned deficit for the year which has helped to moved free reserves towards their target level.

All funds are held in cash.

Reserves policy

Assessment of the current condition of the Church building has indicated that some £25,000 of unrestricted funds should be held for repair work. The Church has made funding commitments that will be fulfilled in future years totalling £6,000 at year end. These amounts are deducted from unrestricted cash reserves when the Trustees assess reserves that are freely available. The Trustees consider that an amount equivalent to at least six months of annual expenditure should be held in free reserves.

At the end of March 2024 there were surplus free reserves above the policy level, assuring the future solvency of the Church and giving scope for future support of people and projects at home and overseas.

Structure, governance and management

Colkins Mill Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed under a CIO Foundation Constitution.

New Trustees are appointed by a resolution of the existing Trustees. There was no change to the Trustees during the year. New Trustees are provided with the constitution of the Church, and the latest Annual Report and Accounts. Induction ensures that they are fully acquainted with the objects, organisation and key activities of the Church, and briefed on current priorities, issues and opportunities, to ensure that they can be effective in their role quickly. New Trustees are required to read Charity Commission guidance on Trustee duties.

The Trustees together form the Leadership Team of the Church, which meets at least monthly, to plan the activities of the Church, to make decisions on matters of general concern, and to determine how funds are spent. Leadership meetings were held in person throughout the year.

One of the Trustees attended on-line webinars organised by the Charity Commission and the Charity Community of the ICAEW.

The Church is led and run by the Leadership Team and Church members on a voluntary basis, with no employed staff. This limits the exposure to financial risk, since the fixed costs to be covered by income are relatively small. In addition, the team approach to leadership and ministry reduces dependency on key individuals and provides accountability to limit reputational risk.

Reference and administrative details

The name of the Charity is Colkins Mill Church. Its location and principal address is Station Road, Mayfield, East Sussex, TN20 6BT. The Church's charity registration number is 1183123.

The Trustees during the year were as follows:

David Jules Steinegger	Senior Leader
Teresa Steinegger	Leader
Stephen John Harland	Leader
Judith Anne Harland	Leader
Kevin Phillip Warner	Leader
Catherine Warner	Leader

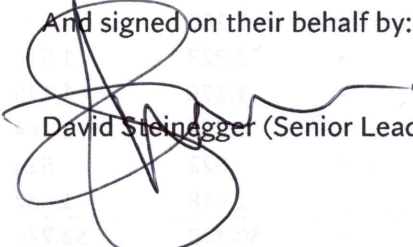
All Trustees acted for the entire year.

Approval

Trustees report approved by the Leadership Team on

15 DECEMBER 2024

And signed on their behalf by:


David Steinegger (Senior Leader)

Colkins Mill Church receipts and payments accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2024

Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2023/24 £	Last Year 2022/23 £
Receipts					
Donations and gifts	24,227	6,769	-	30,996	27,201
Charitable activities (youth camp fees)	1,192	-	-	1,192	1,940
Gift Aid reimbursement	-	-	-	-	12,248
Interest on deposit account	144	-	-	144	27
Hire of hall	2,733	-	-	2,733	2,827
Total receipts	28,296	6,769	-	35,065	44,242
Payments					
Grants to organisations	24,000	3,869	-	27,869	28,653
Missionary support	3,925	5,067	-	8,992	12,951
Financial support to individuals in need	670	-	-	670	400
Memberships	582	-	-	582	582
Building and maintenance	566	-	-	566	2,864
Church preaching and outreach	586	-	-	586	228
Youth, children and special needs work	2,265	-	-	2,265	2,039
Church weekend away	1,160	-	-	1,160	-
Light, heat and water	2,223	-	-	2,223	1,517
Cleaning	1,175	-	-	1,175	1,145
Insurance	1,262	-	-	1,262	1,164
Telephone and internet	622	-	-	622	524
Other	2,318	-	-	2,318	1,682
Total payments	41,354	8,936	-	50,290	53,748
Net of receipts/(payments)	(13,058)	(2,167)	-	(15,226)	(9,506)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	85,211	2,786	-	87,997	97,503
Cash funds this year end	72,152	619	-	72,771	87,997

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2023/24 £
Cash funds				
Barclays Current Account	56,170	619	-	56,789
Barclays Saver Account	11,879	-	-	11,879
Nat West Current Account	4,104	-	-	4,104
Total cash funds	72,152	619	-	72,771
Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	-	-	-	-
Assets retained for Church use (note 1)	30,000	-	-	30,000
Liabilities (note 2)	(6,000)	-	-	(6,000)

Notes:

1. Assets retained for Church use is the freehold property in Station Road, Mayfield that the Church meets in. The property was acquired in 1997 and is held at cost.
2. Liabilities represent funding commitments made by year end to be fulfilled in future periods.

Accounts approved by the Church Leadership Team on
and signed on their behalf by:

15. DECEMBER 2024

David Steinegger (Senior Leader)

Stephen Harland (Leader)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Colkins Mill Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st March 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

Set out on pages

1 to 7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

S. Hadden

Date:

17/12/2024

Name:

Samantha Hadden

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Certified Accounting Technician (CAT)

Address:

Hadden Hall, Framfield Road, Blackboys, East Sussex TN22 5LS

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.