

CHAPEL OF UNITY

THE CHAPEL OF UNITY COVENTRY CIO

A Charitable Incorporated Organization

Registered Charity No. 1183207

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the 12 months ending 30 April 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	3
Reference and Administrative Information	7
Report of the Independent Examiner	10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Notes to the Accounts	14

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the 12 months ending 30 April 2023

The trustees present the fourth annual report of the CIO along with the financial statements of the charity for the 12 months ending 30 April 2023.

The Chapel of Unity is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) which was created in 2019 with a view to assuming all the functions, assets and liabilities of the Joint Council, Chapel of Unity Coventry Cathedral, registered charity 248422. It took over those responsibilities on 1 June 2020 and simultaneously, with the approval of the Charity Commission, revised its financial year to end on 30 April.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the charity is to use the combined power of the Church of England and the Free Churches to strengthen their life and work among the people of the County of Warwick within the Diocese of Coventry. It will seek: -

- To deepen, widen and intensify the corporate Christian life of the people in the Christian congregations.
- To encourage the Church in its work of evangelism.
- To relate the life of the Church to every aspect of society
- To strengthen the co-operation between Christian churches.
- To support and work towards the complete reunion of all Christian communions.

Governance and Management

The Chapel of Unity is administered by a body of trustees made up of individuals nominated by a variety of specified local and regional religious organizations including lay people, ministers and priests.

Newly appointed trustees are familiarized with trustee responsibilities by reference to the publications of the Charity Commission and to the latest Annual Report of the Trust.

The CIO trustees elect three persons to act jointly as co-chairs. One shall be an Anglican, normally not a member of the Coventry Cathedral Chapter, and two non-Anglicans, one of whom shall normally be a Roman Catholic. Subject to the approval of the trustees they shall mutually determine the specific period for which each shall be the lead Chairperson.

The trustees have examined the major risks which the charity faces and confirm that through a combination of internal financial controls and prudent investment policy exposure to those risks are to be minimized.

Public Benefit

The CIO will continue to pursue the objects and spirit of its predecessor charity which was set up in the wake of national conflict to create reconciliation between Christian churches and to model reconciliation between all people. The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular,

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES continued

the specific guidance to charities on the advancement of religion. It will be achieved through hosting a space that is available to people of all faiths, and none, for prayer, discussion, meetings and exhibition.

Achievements and Performance

This year has continued with the process of consolidation following the COVID pandemic and the restoration of some normality to the life of the Chapel of Unity. The Tuesday service meets without Zoom and the Wednesday congregation continue to meet in person and on Zoom. A growing familiarity with this virtual meeting platform has enabled members to communicate and collaborate remotely and as a means of online learning, discussion and social interaction. This is particularly so, during the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent (see below). We continue to be grateful to Veronica Carroll who continues to ensure that there is a leader for the Wednesday meeting. The Trustees meet bimonthly, the Officers and Communications Committee also bimonthly on Zoom.

The dominant themes during the last year have been a significant turnover in the membership of the Chapel of Unity, reflection about the nature and purpose of the Chapel of Unity, its relationship with the Cathedral, and the creation of further opportunities to meet for prayer and discussion.

We were sorry that because of health issues John Lloyd has stepped down from his role as Anglican Co-chair of the Chapel and his place was taken by Mark Bratton. Happily, John is able to continue as a trustee and in the course of the year took on the role of minutes secretary to the Trustees. In the autumn Kirsty-Ann Mabbott had emergency spinal surgery and as a result had to resign as both Co-chair (Free Church) and trustee and lead of the newly formed Communications Committee. We are extremely grateful for the impetus and energy Kirsty brought to their roles in the Chapel and wish them well. As a result of the vacancy Kai Thierbach has taken on the role of Co-Chair. Janet Ward continued as lead chair until the new year to allow Mark Bratton time before taking on that role in the new year.

The longest serving Trustee Jane Pudsey also had to resign because of family commitment but maintains her interest in the work of the Chapel.

We are very pleased to welcome Methodist representation on the trustee body once more, Penny McLoughlin and Rev Ian Coates.

Dexter Bracey and Sam Margrave resigned as Anglican Trustees, and we are seeking to find replacements.

The Communications group, now committee, has continued to meet, recruited additional people, and is beginning to address the inherent challenges.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES continued

The Chapel has gradually resumed 'normal' activities as we came out of the shadow of Covid. The Wednesday morning service is now hybrid, in person and online. In the course of Covid several people who live at a distance joined our Zoomed service and have continued to attend. The Tuesday service too has resumed, and we are glad to have Ian Coates as a link to that group.

Our speaker at the July AGM was Mark Bratton who spoke energetically of his pilgrimage to Compostela. The AGM in July 2022 was largely devoted to discussion of the 60th anniversary Thanksgiving service for the Chapel of Unity scheduled for September 2022.

In September we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Chapel of Unity inviting representatives from many churches and we were pleased so many were able to attend. Particularly moving was the point at the service at which Church representatives rededicated themselves to work for the Unity of Christ's Church.

We held the Advent reflections on Mondays on Zoom using Janet Morley's book 'Haphazard by Starlight' again and inviting a variety of people to lead. Similarly in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January there were nightly reflections using the World Council of Churches material. The main service on Sunday afternoon was also based on their booklet. We were pleased to welcome Novette Headley, Birmingham Methodist District Chair to preach. Again, the service was well attended.

In Lent, as in Advent, we returned to Zoom to reflect on a poem weekly.

Kai Thierbach devised a monthly service of Taizé worship to be held on the late afternoon of the first Sunday of every month, and at the time of writing, two services have been held. The first meeting of the Julian prayer group occurred in February.

There are continuing difficulties with the new under floor heating system due to water ingress. The Trustees are cooperating with the Chief Operations Officer at the Cathedral to resolve the problem which has proved difficult to diagnose and address.

Plans for the future:

We will

- Consider the nature, purpose and identity of the Chapel of Unity, including its relationship with the Cathedral
- Explore how the Chapel of Unity might help the Church relate the life of the Church to every aspect of society, perhaps providing a forum where 'difficult' issues might be discussed in liaison with the Cathedral

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES continued

- Promote the Chapel of Unity as a visitor site for local ecumenical groups by giving guided tours of the Chapel including explanations of its history and purpose.
- For small-group worship and prayer, e.g., Taizé and the Julien group.
- Improve the Chapel of Unity's communications and public profile by enhancing the website and better utilisation of social media, e.g., Facebook and Twitter
- Clarify the policy and criteria for the use of the Chapel of Unity as an exhibition space.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Financial Review

Bracketed figures are the comparative amounts reported in the statement of accounts for the previous year

The net result for the year was a reduction of funds of £ £2,476 (reduction £1,481) made up of net cash expenditure £1,865 (£2,338) and an unrealized loss in market value of the investment £611 (gain £857).

Total income was £2,927 (£3,617) made up of donation receipts £1,191 (£1,920) and dividends received on the investment £1,724 (£1,674). Building society interest added £12 (£23). The donations are detailed on the face of the accounts statement.

Total expenditure amounted to £4,792 (£5,955) accounted for mainly by the annual service charge payable to Coventry Cathedral under a peppercorn lease agreement £4,100 (£4,100). The remaining expenditure was on routine expenses of running the Chapel, detailed on the face of the accounts statement £692 (£689). The prior year also saw a one-off expense for equipment to stream Chapel services to the internet £1,111.

In addition to the net cash spend the market value of the investment fell by £611 (gain £857).

The year closed with funds of £60,795 (£63,271) made up of the investment in Church of England CBF Income shares £59,719 (£60,330) and net current assets of £1,076 (£2,941). The net current assets are detailed on the face of the balance sheet. It will be noted that the cash is down to £2,100. Assuming that historic levels of dividend income and collection box donations are maintained in the coming financial year ending April 2024, the closing cash will meet a normal level of annual spend. However, in the absence of an unexpected source of income it is inevitable that in year ending April 2025 some of the investment shares will need to be sold to top up cash reserves.

Reserves policy and Investment policy

The major purpose of the charity is to ensure the continued appropriate use of the Chapel of Unity located at Coventry Cathedral, to promote it among the local

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES continued

community and support its maintenance. The predominant asset underlying its reserves is an investment acquired as part of the transfer of assets from the predecessor charity. Its prime purpose is to yield as much income as possible in order to offset the cost of amounts payable under a lease agreement with Coventry Cathedral. The capital is to be held on a contingency basis to enable the trustees to meet any obligations which may arise to assist Coventry Cathedral in maintaining the Chapel of Unity.

Any other income raised during a financial year is applied without undue delay to the purposes for which they were raised.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration details: The charity is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Chapel of Unity Coventry CIO registration number 1183207.

Trustees: The names of trustees who served for any period up to the time of signing the report are as follows. Members of the clergy are indicated by (c)

NAME	NOMINATED BY	APPOINTED	TERM EXPIRES
Dorothea Beasley	The German Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in the Midlands	9 December 2020	8 December 2023
Mark Bratton	(c) The Bishop of Coventry	1 May 2022	30 April 2025
Ian Coates	(c) Methodist Church	30 January 2023	29 January 2026
John Lloyd	The Chapter of Coventry Cathedral	1 May 2022	30 April 2025
Su McLellan	(c) The Chapter of Coventry Cathedral	7 September 2021	6 September 2024
Andrew Marsh	The Friends' Meeting House (Co-opted)	1 January 2020	31 December 2023
Penny McCulloch	Methodist Church	16 February 2023	15 February 2026
Leo Poole	(c) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham	7 July 2020	6 July 2023
David Sutcliffe	(c) The Heart of England Baptist Association	1 June 2022	31 May 2025
Kai Thierbach.	(c) The German Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in the Midlands	26 January 2022	25 January 2025
Janet Ward	The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.	1 May 2022	30 April 2025

THE CHAPEL OF UNITY COVENTRY CIO

<i>Dexter L Bracey</i>	<i>(c) The Coventry Diocesan Synod</i>	<i>14 November 2020</i>	<i>Resigned 12 January 2023</i>
<i>Kirsty Ann Mabbott</i>	<i>(c) United Reform Church</i>	<i>7 September 2021</i>	<i>Resigned 31 March 2023</i>
<i>S Jane Pudsey</i>	<i>The Heart of England Baptist Association</i>	<i>1 May 2022</i>	<i>Resigned 31 March 2023</i>

Honorary officers

Kate Hughes, Secretary

Michael Perry BA FCA, Treasurer

Registered Address

1 Beechwood Croft
Kenilworth CV8 1GX
Warwickshire

Independent Examiner

Deryck Horton
8 Styvechale Avenue
Coventry CV5 6DX

Bankers

Beverley Building Society
57 Market Place
Beverley HU17 8AA

Solicitors

Towns Needham Solicitors
Brook House
64-72 Spring Gardens
Manchester M2 2BQ

Website: <http://chapelofunity.org.uk> [under construction]



@chapelofunity



<https://www.facebook.com/chapelofunity/>

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Although the charity is small enough to be exempt this annual report and statement of financial activities have been prepared on an accruals basis.

The trustees

- have selected suitable accounting policies and intend to apply them consistently
- have made judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent
- confirm that the attached statement of accounts has been prepared on a going concern basis and complies with applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended accounting practice

The financial statement has been independently examined; it has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 on page 14 and comply with the charity's Constitution and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud or other irregularities.

Approved on behalf of the trustees

_____ *Mark Bratton*

Date 11th August 2023

Canon Dr Mark Bratton, trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHAPEL OF UNITY**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the 12 months ended 30th April 2023, which are set out on page 11 onwards.

Respective responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.


I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 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:

- accounting records were not kept by the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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





D. Horton

Date 12 Aug 2023

THE CHAPEL OF UNITY COVENTRY CIO

Registered charity number 1183207

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
Income & Expenditure Account
for the year ending 30 April 2023

Year ending 30 April 2022			TOTAL
£			£
	INCOME		
	Donations:		
510	Chapel collection box contents	Note 3	836
-	Plate collections: 60 th Anniversary & Week of Prayer services		270
60	Other donations		85
900	<i>German Lutheran Congregation, Birmingham & Coventry</i>		-
450	<i>Coventry Cathedral</i>		-
1,920	Total donations received		1,191
1,674	Dividends received		1,724
23	Interest received		12
3,617	TOTAL INCOME		2,927
	EXPENDITURE		
4,100	Service charge, Coventry Cathedral		4,100
117	Chapel expenses: annual copyright licence		123
276	Chapel expense: mobile data streaming monthly charges		234
296	Chapel expenses: other including exhibition materials		335
1,111	<i>Internet streaming equipment</i>		-
55	<i>Retirement gift and other tributes</i>		-
5,955	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4,792
(2,338)	NET REALIZED EXPENDITURE BEFORE CHANGE IN VALUE OF SHARES		(1,865)
857	Unrealized (fall) / gain in market value of shares	Note 2	(611)
£(1,481)	NET DECREASE IN FUNDS during the year		£(2,476)

THE CHAPEL OF UNITY COVENTRY CIO

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**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
BALANCE SHEET
at 30 April 2023**

30 April 2022 £		£	TOTAL £
	ASSETS		
	Fixed Asset		
60,330	CBF Church of England Investment Fund Note 2		59,719
	Current assets		
	Debtors		
	Collection box contents c/o Coventry		
342	Cathedral Note 3	278	
-	Other	100	
4,174	Deposit account: Beverley Building Society	2,100	
-	Cash in Hand	25	
4,516	Total current assets	2,503	
	Current liabilities payable within one year		
1,345	Service charge owing to the Cathedral	1,345	
130	Internet streaming charges	82	
100	Chapel expenses	-	
1,575	Total current liabilities	1,427	
2,941	Net current assets		1,076
£63,271	NET ASSETS		£60,795
	FUNDS - unrestricted	Designated £	General £
64,752	Accumulated fund at beginning of the year	8,000	55,271
(1,481)	Net expenditure during the period		(2,476)
£63,271	TOTAL FUNDS	8,000	52,795
			£60,795

Mark Bratton

Canon Dr Mark Bratton, trustee

Date *17-7-23* -----

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
12 months ending 30 April 2023

RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

YEAR ENDING 30 APRIL 2022		TOTAL
£	£	£
(12,438)	Operating activities: net cash used (see below)	(3,785)
	Investment activities: cash arising	
1,674	Dividends received	1,724
23	Bank interest	12
1,697	Cash flow arising from investment activities	1,736
(10,741)	Net cash (outflow) / inflow during the period	(2,049)
14,915	Add cash brought forward from previous period	4,174
£4,174	Total cash at end of the period (building society deposit and cash in hand)	£2,125

DERIVATION OF CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

£	£	£
(1,481)	Net expenditure during the year as reported in the Statement of Financial Activities	(2,476)
	Adjustments to eliminate non-operating activities:	
	Investment activities:	
(857)	Unrealized change in value of investment	611
(1,674)	Dividends received	(1,724)
(23)	Bank interest	(12)
(342)	Increase in debtors during the period	(36)
(8,061)	Decrease in creditors during the period	(148)
(10,957)	Total adjustments to eliminate non-operating cash flows	(1,309)
£(12,438)	Net Cash used by operating activities	£(3,785)

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Principal accounting policies

a) Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with *Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland*, with the Charities Act 2011 and with the charity's constitution.

b) Income and expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis inclusive of irrecoverable VAT. Donations received for specific purposes are reported as restricted income. Expenditure of funds arising from restricted income is reported as restricted expenditure.

c) Share valuation

The investment managers, CCLA Investment Management Ltd, trade the shares each week on Tuesday. Shares are valued in the accounts at the bid price ruling on the nearest Tuesday to the end of the reporting period.

2. CBF Church of England Investment Fund – holding of 2,790.01 Income shares

Year ending 30 April 2022			Year ending 30 April 2023	
Bid price per share £	Market value of shares held £		Bid price per share £	Market value of shares held £
21.316	59,473	At the beginning of the financial year	21.623	60,330
00.307	857	(Loss) / gain in value during the year	(00.219)	(611)
21.623	60,330	Market value at the end of the year	21.404	£59,719

3. Collection box contents

Cathedral staff empty the collection box in the Chapel on behalf of the charity and account for it each half-year by offset when invoicing the Cathedral's service charge.

4. Independent examiner

No fees or costs were paid to the independent examiner.

5. Remuneration and staff costs

Trustees received no remuneration and no staff were employed.

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

6. Trustee Expenses

No expenses were claimed or paid to trustees during the year other than to reimburse costs incurred on behalf of the charity.

7. Related Party Transactions

No transactions with related parties took place during the period

8. Designation of funds

A donation received in a previous financial period from Coventry and Warwickshire Churches Together has been designated by trustees to safeguard it from being used for other forms of charitable expenditure. It is intended for specific activities and events that encourage people to pray, learn and grow together, in the spirit of the donor.