



Christ Church Fareham

(Charity Reg. no. 1186046)

www.christchurchfareham.co.uk

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023

"... that we may declare the praises of Him who called *us* out of darkness into
His wonderful light." 1Peter 2:9b

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Trustees' report	3
Independent examiner's report	9
Financial statements	
Receipts and Payments Account	10
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	11
Notes to the Financial Statements	12

TRUSTEES REPORT

AIM AND PURPOSES

Christ Church Fareham exists to bring the hope, joy, truth, and love of Jesus in the Fareham area and surrounding regions. We seek to live out the Great Commission, given by Jesus Christ to his disciples to make disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all of Jesus' commands. As part of this, we seek to grow a Bible-believing, Gospel-proclaiming, Spirit-filled Church in Fareham for today and future generations.

We have four charitable aims, defined in our governing document.

- 1) To advance the Christian faith
- 2) To relieve persons in conditions of need or hardship
- 3) To advance education in accordance with Christian principles
- 4) To provide community facilities and opportunities

The trustees are committed to encouraging as many people as possible to worship Jesus Christ and to be part of our community. Our activities take into account the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit including guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We want to help ordinary people to live out their faith in Jesus every day, encouraging and supporting one another, and being led by the Holy Spirit. Our activities comprise:

- Loving God: worship and prayer; preaching the Gospel; and deepening our faith in Jesus Christ
- Loving one another: caring for people who live in and around Fareham, helping those who are in need or hardship
- Loving the world: mission and outreach work

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Worship and prayer; preaching the Gospel; and deepening our faith in Jesus Christ

- We preach from the Bible every Sunday at our weekly meetings. During 2023, we have preached sermon series from the Old Testament, including Genesis 1-3 and Isaiah 13-30; and have preached through a large portion of Matthew's Gospel, Acts 1-4 and all of 1 John from the New Testament. In 2023, Jeff Moss preached a thematic sermon series on marriage. Visitors to the Church have often commented appreciatively on the Bible teaching we provide.
- Throughout 2023, we ran Life Groups that met weekly. These groups encouraged time together in one another's homes to build friendships, pray together and learn together in discipleship. By the end of 2023 we were running 5 Life groups.
- We also ran some successful Focus Groups in 2023, focused on the person and work of the Holy Spirit and a Foundations course for women in the Church. Both groups received excellent feedback.
- The whole Church meets together to pray each month, supporting one another's needs, as well as praying for our town and the World.
- Each Sunday we offer Children's Work for children under 11. There have been games, crafts, videos and teaching from the Bible to help our children grow in understanding of who God is and the salvation offered in Jesus Christ.
- The youth, at secondary school age, in the Church take part in the adults meeting one week and have age-specific teaching in a classroom the other week. There are also midweek activities, learning more about Jesus.
- Jason Manning continues to lead our Under 18s ministry, bringing leadership and greater theological input for our under 18s and support for the parents in the Church. We have also funded him to study a graduate diploma at Union Bible College, which he will complete in 2024
- In 2023 we took a group of 6 teenagers to NewDay. They had a fantastic time worshipping God and reported positive experiences of God in their lives

Caring for people

- We ensure church members are well provided for and no one goes without; and also use our finances to bless people outside the church – including people who visit us and others we make contact with as a Church
- Sadly, we conducted one funeral this year, but were able to offer end of life pastoral care and support to those who are grieving. We also gave financial support to help with funeral costs.
- Over Christmas, we prepared 16 Christmas hampers in partnership with local schools and charities and blessed needy families in the area
- We now have 61 people on our mailing list and overall over 100 people with whom we are in ongoing relationship through various means of communication, who regularly receive offers of help and support, and who themselves join in with the work of caring for those less fortunate.
- In addition to caring for the people in the church and local area, we have a partnership with an individual missionary in East Africa to help alleviate poverty there. We continue to look for local partners, working to care for people in Fareham and the surrounding region.

Mission and outreach

- A huge highlight in 2023 was baptising 8 people! One person completed the Alpha Course, became a Christian and was baptised. Three people, after a longer journey finding faith, chose to be baptised this year. Two teenagers were baptised, after declaring faith in Jesus. Two others were baptised as believers, after joining the church from other denominations.
- Another person who completed Alpha would like to be baptised in 2024!
- Numbers on a Sunday have increased. On average, 69 people gathered each Sunday, up 53% versus 45 people gathering in 2022. Most of this growth came in the early part of the year and plateaued a little towards the end of 2023. Our building only really has room for 90 people, so we need to find a bigger venue with more space.
- In 2023, we continued to support a missionary in East Asia. His work alleviates poverty and shares the Gospel with people who have never heard it before.
- We started supporting a Church plant and CRY project in Albania to care for children and see the Gospel proclaimed there
- We have also been regularly supporting Commission, the family of churches we are part of. They use their funds to spread the Gospel across the UK, India, Spain, Portugal and USA and into new regions. They also help alleviate poverty in those regions
- Our Pastor, Duncan Sills, uses some of his employed time serving Commission (part of New Frontiers) who seek to preach the Gospel and reach out across nations. On a monthly basis, he has been teaching theology to people across the South of England. This was the fourth year the course has run and Duncan is responsible for leading the course, as we take our first steps as a charity into a more formal education setting.

We are so grateful to all our members and volunteers in the Church, who enable all this work to take place. Thank you to everyone who has played even a small role in what we did in 2023.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

2023 was another very encouraging year for us. Baptising 8 people really was a wonderful celebration. We saw good growth and continued to impact the lives of people in Fareham in greater ways than in previous years. We have significant plans moving forward.

- We will run the Alpha Course again in 2024, combined with a Missions Weekend, designed to spur our people into a bolder missional lifestyle sharing Jesus with others around them.
- We have already started the search for a new Sunday meeting venue, so we can provide additional room to grow as a Church
- We are looking to build deeper relationships with people in the community, looking for ways to help people in need across our town. One school, who may become our future Sunday venue, have been positive about us participating in their community events and projects
- Our under 18s work will continue to grow and expand. We have a number of plans to help train our volunteers better and run youth socials and events during the year
- In August the Church will attend the Commission Festival in Shepton Mallett, camping and learning about God all together.
- Most importantly, we are steadily growing our congregation and are excited for new people joining us in the future.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees consider that principal risks faced by Christ Church Fareham have been:

Safeguarding

We are members of 31:8 and ensure all our Children's Workers are DBS checked to work with children. Our pastor, Duncan Sills, is also certified to work with vulnerable adults.

Financial

We are grateful to God for his generous financial provision. The trustees protect the charity by preparing budgets each year; monitoring actual receipts and spend against budget; ensuring we have the funds to continue running the charity appropriately; and having the accounts independently checked each year. Three different people have access to the accounts and so ensure each other person is using finances appropriately.

Employment Policies

Since taking on a new member of staff, CCF have adopted a number of employment policies designed to protect our employees. These will need to grow and adapt over time.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVES POLICY

£93,063 income has been received in 2023 (£72,051 in 2022) and payments made of £99,051 (£62,570). This brought total reserves to £56,376 all of which was being held in the bank. This is well above the required 3-month operating cost requirement.

Our giving increased 29% in one calendar year, which has enabled us to be more generous and do significantly more in the mission field. The overall loss in 2023 was budgeted, as we employed 2 full time employees for the whole calendar year for the first time, and planned to be more generous in supporting mission around the World (which increased 136% in 2023). We are encouraged by our financial position and give praise to God for the real generosity of church members.

There is a monetary asset of £1,872 of gift aid, which we will claim from the HMRC in 2024.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Christ Church Fareham is a Registered Charity (No 1186046).

Christ Church Fareham is affiliated to Commission, part of the New Frontiers family of churches.

The trustees are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to Christ Church Fareham including deciding on how the funds of the charity are to be spent.

The trustees met 3 times during the year with an average attendance of 100%. Wendy Clark was appointed a trustee in September 2023.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Christ Church Fareham now meets on Sunday mornings at Orchard Lea Junior School, Kennedy Ave, Fareham PO15 6BJ. The correspondence address is 63 Hilson Drive, Fareham, PO15 6NP.

Trustees who have served at any time from the date of registration to the date of this report was approved are:

	<u>Date</u> <u>Appointed</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Resigned</u>
Duncan Sills	Oct 2019	
Jonathan Simmonds	Oct 2019	
Jeff Moss	Oct 2022	
Wendy Clark	Sept 2023	

Pastor: Duncan Sills

Independent Examiner: Knight Goodhead Limited
7 Bournemouth Road
Chandler's Ford
Eastleigh, Hampshire
SO53 3DA

Bank: HSBC Fareham
71 West St,
Fareham
PO16 0AN

The trustees are hugely appreciative of the many volunteers who work so hard to make our church a lively and vibrant community.

- Those who enable meetings to run smoothly – getting rooms ready, AV equipment, welcoming, serving refreshments, etc
- The musicians who play, sing, and record songs to help us worship
- Those who lead services, lead prayers, share or who read and preach from Scripture at services
- Those who prepare, teach and help with our children and youth on Sundays
- Those who host and lead midweek meetings and the various social and outreach events
- Those who give – often sacrificially
- Those who cover everything going on at Christ Church Fareham in prayer – in prayer meetings and in private prayer
- Those who take the time to thank and encourage one another here.

It is astonishing how much is being done, and by so many. We thank each one of you – and give thanks to God for you.

Approved in principle by the Trustees on 16 September 2024 and signed, on its behalf, by Jonathan Simmonds (Chair of Trustees) on 11 October 2024.



STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year, and its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements, the Trustees seek to:

- Follow best practice and guidance provided by the charity commissioners
- Use suitable accounting policies consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable
- State and apply applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice, and explain any areas of concern or deviation
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to assume that the Charity will not continue its operations.

Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring the Charity has appropriate systems of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper records which disclose and explain with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the 2011 Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to ensure that:

- The Charity is operating effectively and efficiently
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition
- Proper records are maintained
- Financial information used within the Charity or for publication complies with relevant laws and regulations

As far as the Trustees are aware, there are no relevant examination information (information needed by the Charity's independent examiner ("Examiner") in connection with preparing this report) of which the Examiner is unaware. Each Trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant examination information and to establish that the Examiner is aware of that information.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHRIST CHURCH, FAREHAM

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Christ Church Fareham for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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 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 respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 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.



Name	Chris Goodhead
Firm	Knight Goodhead Limited
Address	7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire
Postcode	SO53 3DA

Date: 10th Oct 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

for the twelve months ended 31 December 2023

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary receipts				
Planned giving	69,269	0	69,269	52,731
Collections/One-off giving	2,478	1,150	3,628	6,104
Gift aid recovered	19,941	225	20,166	13,216
	91,688	1,375	93,063	72,051
Total receipts	91,688	1,375	93,063	72,051
PAYMENTS				
Church activities				
Staffing costs	(57,084)	0	(57,084)	(34,486)
Church running expenses	(33,621)	0	(33,621)	(24,544)
Mission giving and donations	(6,971)	(1,375)	(8,346)	(3,540)
	(97,676)	(1,375)	(99,051)	(62,570)
Total payments	(97,676)	(1,375)	(99,051)	(62,570)
Excess of receipts over payments	(5,988)	0	(5,988)	9,481
Transfers between funds	0		0	0
	(5,988)	0	(5,988)	9,481
CASH AT BANK				
1 January	62,364	0	62,364	52,883
31 December	56,376	0	56,376	62,364

All 2022 figures are unrestricted. The restricted funds in 2023 were part of a specific collection to support one church member with funeral costs.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Bank current account	56,376	0	56,376	62,364
Other monetary assets				
Gift Aid recoverable	2,313	0	2,313	7,205
Liabilities				
Global Giving	0	0	0	0
Independent examiner	1,224	0	1,224	1,710
HMRC	0	0	0	701
Staff pension contributions	0	0	0	487
Other costs	0	0	0	0
	1,302	0	1,302	1,110

Further information on liabilities

£1,224 liability for independent examination (covering both 2022 and 2023) will be paid in 2024.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

- Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	51,215	32,588
Contribution to pension scheme	5,869	1,898
	<u>57,084</u>	<u>34,486</u>
Average number of employees	2	1.33

- Further analysis of Receipts and Payments Account

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
a) Church running expenses				
Venues and gathering costs	(11,881)	0	(11,881)	(8,698)
Operating costs	(16,492)	0	(16,492)	(12,909)
Publicity	(1,319)	0	(1,319)	(559)
New equipment	(3,929)	0	(3,929)	(2,378)
	<u>(33,621)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(33,621)</u>	<u>(24,544)</u>
b) Mission Giving and Donations				
Commission gift	(2,400)	0	(2,400)	0
Other giving	(4,571)	(1,375)	(5,946)	(3,540)
	<u>(6,971)</u>	<u>(1,375)</u>	<u>(8,346)</u>	<u>(3,540)</u>

- One trustee, Duncan Sills, received remuneration and benefits totalling £29,700 during this year.

