

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

England & Wales · Charity number 1186867

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-12-10

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

Contact

Address 32 Homewood Avenue
Sittingbourne
ME10 1XW

Phone 07918788982

Email info@hopesittingbourne.org

Website www.hopesittingbourne.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN SITTINGBOURNE, KENT AND IN SUCH OTHER AREAS AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE

Activities: Hope Church Sittingbourne exists to grow & multiply the HOPE of Jesus in the hearts of everyone, everywhere, everyday. We aspire to reproduce disciples who; Honour Jesus, Obey His Word, Pray beyond themselves, Everyone a witness. We gather in homes & public places as well as weekly on Sundays to hear & obey the Word of God. We engage with local social justice & poverty issues.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£72,217	£70,715	-	-
2024-12-31	£65,910	£71,571	-	-
2023-12-31	£55,254	£64,971	-	-
2022-12-31	£63,516	£48,803	-	-
2021-12-31	£48,220	£50,125	-	-
2020-12-31	£46,517	£38,365	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christine Monica Willmott	Chair	2019-07-04
Elizabeth Ruth Gregory		2022-04-28
Emmanuel Ayodele Ukachi Samuel		2022-11-24
Jite Ufuoma Idowu		2019-07-04

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186867

Accounts

Registered Charity No: 1186867

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025



Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants



HOPE CHURCH
SITTINGBOURNE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

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HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Trustees' Report
for the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

The Trust & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the UK Charity Commission (#1186867).

Hope Church Sittingbourne was officially registered as a CIO on 10th December 2019 and continues to function as a local church within the Relational Mission family, part of the wider Newfrontiers network.

The Trustees of the Hope Church Sittingbourne CIO during this reporting period were:

- Christine Monica Willmott – Chair of Trustees
- Jite Ufuoma Idowu – Trustee & Safeguarding Lead
- Elizabeth Gregory – Trustee
- Emmanuel Samuel – Trustee & Treasurer

In August 2025, Emmanuel Samuel undertook the role of Treasurer, alongside his role as a Trustee.

We remain incredibly thankful for the consistent and prayerful service of our trustees. Their wisdom, pastoral sensitivity, and governance oversight continue to be invaluable in this season of growth and development. All current trustees have been DBS checked, and we are actively exploring formalising procedures for future appointments in line with best practice and Charity Commission guidance.

Trust Objectives

The object of the CIO is for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne, Kent, and in such other areas as the charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Hope Church Sittingbourne exists to grow & multiply the HOPE of Jesus in the hearts of everyone, everywhere, every day.

We aspire to reproduce disciples who: Honour Jesus, Obey His Word, Pray beyond themselves, and live as Everyone a Witness. We gather in homes and public places as well as weekly on Sundays to hear and obey the Word of God. We seek to bring the light and love of Jesus to our town through worship, discipleship, mission, and community engagement.

Premises

Hope Church Sittingbourne does not lease or own any property. Our church office and registered CIO address remains the home of Gordon Watson, the church leader, and is used for administrative purposes.

For the accounting year, we continued to host our primary Sunday gatherings at Meadowfield School, Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 4NL. We are thankful for the partnership and provision of this great venue.

Membership

We do not currently operate a formal membership structure. However, we continue to foster a strong sense of belonging and shared mission among those who regularly participate in the life of the church. Our current regular attendance stands at approximately 65 adults, including approximately 20 children and young people under the age of 18.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Finances

Gordon Watson remained our sole employee throughout 2025, serving both Hope Church Sittingbourne and the wider Relational Mission family, in particular as part of Stef Liston's apostolic support team.

We made no major capital investments this year and continued our regular monthly giving to Relational Mission as in previous years.

We continued to support the Spocchia family as part of their ongoing ministry with Good News Church Sheppey. We also continued to support our local CAP Debt Centre, Swale Foodbank, and Sittingbourne Street Pastors.

We were privileged to support overseas mission with one-off gifts to:

- Carmel Ministries, India.
- Enabling delegates to engage with a conference hosted in the 10/40 window.
- Raising funds for our ID students overseas mission trips.

In the autumn of 2025, we had three Gift Days, aiming to raise funds towards:

1. Releasing Emmanuel Samuel into vocational employment with the church (initially 1-day per week).
2. Purchasing equipment for our Worship & Tech Teams.
3. Supporting those participating in LEAD training.
4. Investing in new Sunday facing resources (roller banners, A-frames, welcome packs, printed literature).

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has established a policy to maintain sufficient reserves to cover short-term cashflow and any immediate liabilities, including in the event of a sudden drop in income or the closure of the charity. Our current reserves target remains at £5,000.

Overview of Church Life and Activities

ID Interns: Our two ID interns, Lily Bays and Troy Hudson, completed their ID year in the summer of 2025. Highlights included mission trips to North Africa and Scandinavia, where they had the privilege of serving the wider church and experiencing global mission firsthand. We are thankful for their wholehearted commitment to the local church during their internships.

Elders Appointment: On Sunday, 13th April 2025, we reached a significant milestone with the appointment of our first eldership team. Supported by the church family and guests Adam Voke and Stef Liston, this moment established a firm New Testament foundation for Hope Church Sittingbourne, marking our transition from a church-plant to a church.

Lily Bays: Following the completion of her ID year, Lily Bays has stayed on to serve the church in a voluntary capacity one day per week. In a similar arrangement to her internship year, Lily is assisting with church administration, systems, and communications, while also providing emerging administrative support to Gordon Watson.

Midweek Training: Our autumn training season provided a fruitful season of equipping for the church family. Short courses on theology (Emmanuel Samuel), prophetic ministry (Natalie Watson), and evangelism (Ade Samuel) were delivered, and it was incredibly encouraging to see people being equipped and stepping out in their giftings with increasing confidence.

Alpha Course: The Alpha Course in September 2025 was a significant highlight. It was a joy to see this small group come alive in their faith, with every delegate making a personal decision for Jesus. We continue to pray for them as they begin their journey as disciples. We give thanks to Ade and Emmanuel Samuel and Rob Fletcher for facilitating the Alpha Course.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Youth & Young Adults: We began preparing to multiply our youth and young adults into two age-appropriate groups (ages 10–17 and 18–30) to create dedicated age-appropriate contexts which helps us appropriately safeguard. A leadership team for the Young Adults has been established, and we aim for a Hope Youth team to form in 2026.

Training

We invested in leadership development through:

- Releasing & hosting Lily Bays and Troy Hudson as interns via the Intentional Discipleship year-long training programme, delivered by Relational Mission.
- Sending Leslie Moyo & Gill Hope on the Relational Mission LEAD 2-year training course (October 2025 to July 2027).
- UP: The Urban Planting School (4th – 6th October 2024, Camden), with 40 students from across 3 nations. Gordon Watson serves as the UP Course Director, with Natalie Watson participating both as a support to Gordon and as a student.
- Sending Gordon Watson, Adam Gregory, and Emmanuel Samuel together onto the Shepherd training programme (October 2024 to June 2026), as part of our preparation to appoint our first eldership team in 2025.

Local Mission

Sittingbourne: We remained actively engaged in local compassion and justice initiatives through our ongoing partnership with Swale CAP Debt Centre, Swale Foodbank, and ACTS435. This includes regular financial contributions and the involvement of several volunteers from within the church family to support these ministries. We also began to support and serve the new Street Pastors initiative, which launched in 2025.

Swale: We are encouraged by the deepening friendship and meaningful partnership forming between the three Relational Mission churches in our local area of Swale: Hope Church Sittingbourne, Good News Church Sheppey, and Faversham Community Church.

Overseas Mission

We had the joy of hosting visiting international guests, including Ebenezer & Isaac Sastry (India), and Paul Wichterman (USA), each of whom encouraged the church and contributed to our vision for local and global mission.

Partnership with Relational Mission

We continued to deepen our relationship with Relational Mission in 2025. Key highlights included:

SENT 2025: Several of our young adults attended Sent 2025 in Ipswich. This annual gathering continues to be a wonderful time of encouragement, providing our young people with a vision for revival and radical discipleship.

RM Globally Fruitful: Gordon and Natalie Watson were invited to the inaugural RM Globally Fruitful gathering. This event brought together trans-local ministries serving the Relational Mission family across the UK, Europe, and the nations for encouragement and equipping.

ELF2025: Gordon Watson was invited as part of a Relational Mission delegation to serve at the European Leadership Forum, hosted in Wisla, Poland between 17th-22nd May 2025. Gordon was responsible for developing an 8-session advanced training stream on leadership and urban mission, primarily delivered by Stef Liston.

Newday: Our Youth & Young Adults attended Newday 2025, the national youth event held each summer at the Norfolk Showground. Over 15 young people and leaders from Hope Church Sittingbourne joined with friends from New Life Church Tunbridge Wells to share a camping village and journey through the week together.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
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More Together: A group of around 20 from our congregation attended the More Together Festival at Trinity Park, Ipswich. It was a joy to share our site with our three Swale churches, whilst gathering with over 1,000 others from the wider Relational Mission family for worship, teaching, and time together. It was a joy to have several of our party serving the wider event; stewarding, offering First Aid support, delivering seminars and hosting main meetings.

Pioneer Europe Conference: Gordon Watson and Lily Bays attended the Relational Mission Pioneer Europe conference in September. This was a key component of Lily's 'Called 2 Go' year, and it was a privilege for Gordon to support Lily's development while connecting with the wider Relational Mission family from across Europe.

God's Light Church, Lublin: Gordon first met Pastor Igor Bubin at ELF2025, and was subsequently invited in October 2025 to visit God's Light Church in Lublin, Poland. It was a fruitful time of connection and ministry with this beautiful Ukrainian national church. Gordon was able to serve their church community over the weekend and forge meaningful relationships with their leadership and congregation.

Summary & future outlook

2025 has been a foundational year for Hope Church Sittingbourne, marked by significant leadership maturation and spiritual growth. The appointment of our first eldership team in April established a vital New Testament structure for our governance and future development, while our midweek training and Alpha courses saw individuals deepened in their faith and others making first-time commitments to Jesus. With a stable core attendance of approximately 65 adults and the successful completion of our ID internship programme, the church has demonstrated a vibrant commitment to its primary object: the advancement of the Christian faith and the reproduction of disciples who honour Jesus and serve their community.

Externally, the charity has extended its impact through robust partnerships with Relational Mission and local compassion initiatives, including the Swale Foodbank and CAP Debt Centre. Our financial stewardship remains healthy, bolstered by successful Gift Days in the autumn that will enable us to invest in vocational staffing and worship technology upgrades in 2026.

As we look toward 2026, the Trustees are encouraged by the church's generosity and the deepening of our international mission connections. We remain committed to our strategic vision, praying for continued growth and the multiplication of *hope* across Sittingbourne and beyond.

Christine Willmott

23/05/2026

Signed.....

Dated

Trustee

Christine Willmott

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

CHARITY INFORMATION

<u>Address</u>	32 Homewood Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1XW
<u>Charity number</u>	1186867
<u>Charity trustees</u>	C Willmott E Samuel E Gregory J Idowu
<u>Bankers</u>	Nat West Bank plc PO Box 209 Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4AU
<u>Independent examiner</u>	J R Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE Caladine Limited Chartered Certified Accountants Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope Church Sittingbourne

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hope Church Sittingbourne for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

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 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 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 respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.
- (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.



J R Caladine FCCA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 2 June 2026

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
Receipts & Payments Account - Year Ended 31 December 2025

RECEIPTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Giving (Gift Aided)	54,659.09	47,403.75
Giving (Non Gift Aided)	724.34	2,872.00
HMRC Gift Aid repayment	13,299.24	12,488.88
Financial Support	-	300.00
ACTS 435 income	400.00	755.00
Refunded expenditure	387.85	174.09
Other income	40.35	116.40
Sunday offering	651.02	-
Special offering	2,055.00	1,800.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	72,216.89	65,910.12
PAYMENTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Employee wages and salaries	33,414.60	33,406.80
Pension	2,527.20	2,527.20
Travelling	4,579.15	1,969.05
Hotel and Accomodation	852.88	1,445.39
Printing & Marketing	-	102.95
Office Stationery & Admin	94.39	215.55
Internet Charges	503.05	369.57
Computer & software	835.21	868.17
Mobile Charges	246.15	413.62
Business Insurance	416.88	399.04
Equipment	329.20	896.72
Books bought	50.21	-
Sunday Costs	716.47	867.30
Food & drink	961.92	348.06
Tithe to Relational Mission	2,400.00	2,400.00
Crisis/Family Fund	41.85	126.78
Gift (visiting speakers)	980.00	1,130.08
Gift (missional support)	3,220.00	2,320.00
Gift (special offering)	2,810.00	2,652.50
Gift (pastoral reasons)	200.00	57.50
Gifts (Thank you)	59.40	523.66
CAP Life Skills	720.00	720.00
Miscellaneuos expenses	526.40	954.50
Subscriptions	318.20	183.00
DBS/Safeguarding	192.30	265.84
Training Costs	4,689.00	7,352.50
Conference tickets	1,327.67	669.50
Venue/Hall hire	4,297.50	5,243.50
Storage	-	556.51
Independent examiner	720.00	220.00
ACTS 435 expenditure	398.96	620.00
Office Equipment and IT - cost	-	-
Events	2,286.61	1,745.83
TOTAL PAYMENTS	70,715.20	71,571.12
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	1,501.69	(5,661.00)
General Fund Balance brought forward	5,581.81	11,242.81
General Fund Balance carried forward	7,083.50	5,581.81

Hope Church Sittingbourne
Statement of Assets and Liabilities - As At 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Monetary Assets		
Bank Balances		
- #1 Main Account	2,447.16	2,144.51
- #2 Hope CAP Funds	839.80	689.80
- #3 Training & Future Staffing	1.00	2,250.00
- #4 Reserve Fund	3,332.50	497.50
- #5 Crisis/Family Fund	463.04	-
	<u>7,083.50</u>	<u>5,581.81</u>
 Non-Monetary Assets		
Assets		
Office Equipment and IT - cost	1,286.38	1,286.38
PA Equipment	2,452.93	2,452.93
	<u>3,739.31</u>	<u>3,739.31</u>
 Debtors		
HMRC Gift Aid claim - December 2024	<u>1,900.59</u>	<u>1,048.11</u>
 Liabilities		
Creditors		
Independent Examination	<u>756.00</u>	<u>720.00</u>

Christine Willmott

23/05/2026

.....
Signed on behalf of Hope Church Sittingbourne

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186867

Accounts



HOPE CHURCH
SITTINGBOURNE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

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Trustee Report

for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

The Trust & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the UK Charity Commission (#1186867).

Hope Church Sittingbourne was officially registered as a CIO on 10th December 2019 and continues to function as a local church within the Relational Mission family, part of the wider Newfrontiers network.

The Trustees of the Hope Church Sittingbourne CIO during this reporting period were:

- Christine Monica Willmott – Chair of Trustees
- Jite Ufuoma Idowu – Trustee & Safeguarding Lead
- Elizabeth Gregory – Trustee
- Emmanuel Samuel – Trustee

We remain incredibly thankful for the consistent and prayerful service of our trustees. Their wisdom, pastoral sensitivity, and governance oversight continue to be invaluable in this season of growth and development. All current trustees have been DBS checked, and we are actively exploring formalising procedures for future appointments in line with best practice and Charity Commission guidance.

The Spiritual Leadership consisting of the pastors and elders who are responsible for the spiritual leadership of the Church Fellowship.

Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a meeting of the Spiritual Leadership. In selecting individuals as trustees the Spiritual Leadership must have regard to the skills knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity and appoint people who subscribe and adhere, in belief and lifestyle, to the Statement of Faith.

Trust Objectives

The object of the CIO is for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne, Kent, and in such other areas as the charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Hope Church Sittingbourne exists to grow & multiply the HOPE of Jesus in the hearts of everyone, everywhere, every day.

We aspire to reproduce disciples who: Honour Jesus, Obey His Word, Pray beyond themselves, and live as Everyone a Witness. We gather in homes and public places as well as weekly on Sundays to hear and obey the Word of God. We seek to bring the light and love of Jesus to our town through worship, discipleship, mission, and community engagement.

Premises

Hope Church Sittingbourne does not lease or own any property. Our church office and registered CIO address remains the home of Gordon Watson, the church leader, and is used for administrative purposes.

A significant transition occurred on Sunday, 16th June 2024, as we moved our Sunday gatherings to Meadowfield School, Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 4NL. This new venue has been a real answer to prayer—offering improved accessibility, better facilities for children and families, and on-site storage for our PA and hospitality equipment. It has also allowed us to increase our missional visibility in the heart of the community.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Membership

We do not currently operate a formal membership structure. However, we continue to foster a strong sense of belonging and shared mission among those who regularly participate in the life of the church. Our current regular attendance stands at approximately 50 people, including around 15 children and young people under the age of 18.

We continue to be encouraged by new people joining and by the depth of relationships being formed across generations.

Finances

Gordon Watson remained our sole employee throughout 2024, serving both Hope Church Sittingbourne and the wider Relational Mission family, in particular as part of Stef Liston's apostolic support team.

We were privileged to support overseas mission with the following one-off gifts:

- £1,000 to Carmel Ministries, India (Ebenezer Sastry).
- £1,152.50 to Romklao Baan Naraideiyw Church, Thailand (Rob & Phung Fletcher's home church).
- £500 to Relational Mission Bolivia (following an in-person ministry visit from Isaac Butcher).

We made no major capital investments this year and continued our regular monthly giving to Relational Mission as in previous years.

We continued to directly support the Spocchia family financially as part of their ongoing establishing of Good News Church Sheppey.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has established a policy to maintain sufficient reserves to cover short-term cashflow and any immediate liabilities, including in the event of a sudden drop in income or the closure of the charity. Our current reserves target remains at £5,000.

Overview of Church Life and Activities

2024 marked a year of steady growth and strategic development. We were particularly excited to launch Hope Kids on Sunday, 27th October 2024—a fortnightly ministry serving children aged 5–10. All team members were safely recruited and DBS checked, and our safeguarding policy was reviewed and updated in line with this new provision. This ministry has already begun to bear fruit, and we are praying and planning for it to become a weekly provision in 2025.

Midweek Households remained a vital part of church life, offering space for fellowship, mission, and discipleship in homes and neighbourhoods. In May 2024, we launched a second Household in Teynham, led by Adam and Lizzie Gregory. This Household has a vision to serve the village of Teynham and the east side of Sittingbourne and reflects our wider vision to multiply localised communities of grace and mission across Sittingbourne and the surrounding area.

We hosted various outreach and social events throughout the year, including watch parties for England's Euro 2024 matches which were especially fruitful in drawing in wider friendship groups and strengthening bonds among the men in the church.

We celebrated three baptisms during 2024—Troy Hudson on Easter Sunday at Fulston Manor School, and Lewis Watson along with a refugee friend on 1st September at Sheppey beach, in partnership with Good News Church Sheppey. These moments of public witness remain highlights of our year. This is why we exist!

Gill Hope ran a well-received small group series, Revealing Jesus, based on her forthcoming book on Revelation (And the King Will Come). Each session was supported with podcast reflections, and it significantly enriched the spiritual life of those who participated in the monthly small group.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Local Mission

We remained actively engaged in local compassion and justice initiatives through our ongoing partnership with Swale CAP Debt Centre, Swale Foodbank, and ACTS435. This includes regular financial contributions and the involvement of several volunteers from within the church family to support these ministries. We also began to support the development of the new Street Pastors initiative, which plans to launch in 2025.

In December, we took part in the national Shine Your Light initiative, working with churches across the UK to share the Gospel with over 1,000,000 people. This included street evangelism, times of prayer, and a family-friendly Gospel Sunday on 15th December. It was a joy-filled weekend of personal invitation and bold proclamation.

We are also encouraged by the deepening friendship and meaningful partnership forming between the three Relational Mission churches in our local area: Hope Church Sittingbourne, Good News Church Sheppey, and Faversham Community Church. Together, we have supported one another in mission, prayer, and leadership, and have hosted shared events, including our joint gathering on Sunday, 24th November with apostolic input from Maurice and Rachel Nightingale. We sense God knitting together something significant in the Swale region and are hopeful for future collaboration and Kingdom fruit.

Overseas Mission

We were honoured to support ministries in India, Thailand, and Bolivia this year. Each gift was a response to relational connection and tangible need, embodying our value of partnering in mission globally as well as locally.

We also had the joy of hosting visiting guests including Todd Morr (USA), Jay Eastman (Berlin), Isaac Butcher (Bolivia) and Ebenezer Sastry (India), each of whom encouraged the church and contributed to our vision for local and global mission.

Partnership with Relational Mission

We continued to deepen our relationship with Relational Mission in 2024. Key highlights included:

On 5th - 6th January 2024, several members of Hope Church Sittingbourne's young adult community participated in Sent 2024, a two-day gathering held at the Hope Centre in Ipswich. Organized by Sent Generation—a movement of students and twenties within Relational Mission—this event brought together young adults hungry for revival and eager to pursue the radical call of Jesus.

A significant moment in our year was attending Newday 2024, the national youth event held each summer at the Norfolk Showground. Over 15 young people and leaders from Hope Church Sittingbourne joined with friends from New Life Church Tunbridge Wells to share a camping village and journey through the week together. For many of our young people, this was their final year attending as delegates, with growing excitement about returning to serve on team in 2025. The week was filled with powerful worship, deep teaching, and moments of encounter with God. We are grateful for the friendships formed and the hunger for God it cultivated across the group.

A group of around 15 of us attended the More Together Festival at Trinity Park, Ipswich, from 23rd–26th August 2024. It was a joy to gather with over 1,000 others from the Relational Mission family for worship, teaching, and time together. With sessions on church planting, parenting, and abiding in Christ—alongside dedicated youth and kids programmes—it was a rich and encouraging time. We're hopeful to return with a larger group in 2025 if the event continues.

Hope Youth & Young Adults attended a powerful evening on 24th October 2024 hosted by Cornerstone City Church Medway, hearing from a missionary couple preparing to return to Vietnam with their young family. It was a valuable moment of mission awareness and relational connection with the young adults at CCC.

We were also blessed to release Gordon Watson to support apostolic mission within Relational Mission. During Stef Liston's sabbatical in late 2024, Gordon was entrusted with oversight of the work in Liverpool and

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

asked to input into the early review stages of the London Calling initiative. We believe that this wider involvement enriches and strengthens our local mission.

We invested in leadership development through:

- Sending Gordon Watson, Adam Gregory, and Emmanuel Samuel together onto the Shepherd training programme (Autumn 2024 – Summer 2026), as part of our preparation to appoint our first eldership team in 2025.
- Hosting Lily Bays and Troy Hudson as interns via the Intentional Discipleship year-long training programme, delivered by Relational Mission.
- Participating in the launch of UP: The Urban Planting School (4th – 6th October 2024, Camden), with 40 students from across 3 nations. Gordon Watson serves as the UP Course Director, and Natalie and Lewis Watson are students among the first cohort. We are privileged to play a formative role in this exciting initiative.

Summary

We give thanks to God for a fruitful year of gospel faithfulness and growth. From new households and ministries, to deepening partnerships and baptisms, 2024 has been marked by God's grace and the commitment of a growing community. As trustees, we look ahead to 2025 with hope and expectancy, praying for further multiplication, maturity, and mission in Sittingbourne and beyond.

Christine M Willmott

Signed
Trustee

25/06/2025
Dated.....

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

CHARITY INFORMATION

<u>Address</u>	32 Homewood Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1XW
<u>Charity number</u>	1186867
<u>Charity trustees</u>	C Willmott E Samuel E Gregory J Idowu
<u>Bankers</u>	Nat West Bank plc PO Box 209 Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4AU
<u>Independent examiner</u>	J R Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE Caladine Limited Chartered Certified Accountants Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope Church Sittingbourne

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hope Church Sittingbourne for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

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 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 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 respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.
- (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.



J R Caladine FCCA

Caladine Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants

Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road

Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 26 June 2025

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE**Receipts & Payments Account - Year Ended 31 December 2024**

RECEIPTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Giving (Gift Aided)	47,403.75	35,261.40
Giving (Non Gift Aided)	2,872.00	3,724.95
HMRC Gift Aid repayment	12,488.88	10,390.96
Financial Support	300.00	1,800.00
ACTS 435 income	755.00	400.00
Refunded expenditure	174.09	391.88
Other income	116.40	314.02
Sunday offering	-	623.08
Special offering	1,800.00	2,347.58
TOTAL RECEIPTS	65,910.12	55,253.87
PAYMENTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Employee wages and salaries	33,406.80	33,457.13
Pension	2,527.20	2,527.20
Travelling	1,969.05	1,005.17
Hotel and Accomodation	1,445.39	490.59
Printing & Marketing	102.95	57.99
Office Stationery & Admin	215.55	233.01
Internet Charges	369.57	268.34
Computer & software	868.17	1,029.42
Mobile Charges	413.62	264.06
Business Insurance	399.04	376.05
Equipment	896.72	29.69
Books bought	-	124.96
Sunday Costs	867.30	734.63
Food & drink	348.06	718.82
Tithe to Relational Mission	2,400.00	2,400.00
Crisis/Family Fund	126.78	302.29
Gift (visiting speakers)	1,130.08	1,660.00
Gift (missional support)	2,320.00	4,070.00
Gift (special offering)	2,652.50	268.00
Gift (pastoral reasons)	57.50	131.50
Gifts (Thank you)	523.66	-
CAP Life Skills	720.00	720.00
Miscellaneuos expenses	954.50	294.85
Subscriptions	183.00	177.00
DBS/Safeguarding	265.84	238.65
Training Costs	7,352.50	3,450.00
Conference tickets	669.50	140.00
Venue/Hall hire	5,243.50	2,161.15
Storage	556.51	-
Independent examiner	220.00	220.00
ACTS 435 expenditure	620.00	411.03
Office Equipment and IT - cost	-	4,354.68
Events	1,745.83	2,654.67
TOTAL PAYMENTS	71,571.12	64,970.88
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	(5,661.00)	(9,717.01)
General Fund Balance brought forward	11,242.81	20,959.82
General Fund Balance carried forward	5,581.81	11,242.81

Hope Church Sittingbourne
Statement of Assets and Liabilities - As At 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Monetary Assets		
Bank Balances		
- #1 Main Account	2,144.51	1,145.22
- #2 Hope CAP Funds	689.80	64.80
- #3 Training & Future Staffing	2,250.00	716.00
- #4 Reserve Fund	497.50	9,237.76
- #5 Crisis/Family Fund	-	79.03
	<u>5,581.81</u>	<u>11,242.81</u>
 Non-Monetary Assets		
Assets		
Office Equipment and IT - cost	1,286.38	1,286.38
PA Equipment	2,452.93	2,452.93
	<u>3,739.31</u>	<u>3,739.31</u>
 Debtors		
HMRC Gift Aid claim - December 2024	<u>1,048.11</u>	<u>832.26</u>
 Liabilities		
Creditors		
Independent Examination	<u>720.00</u>	<u>220.00</u>

Christine M Willmott

25/06/2025

.....

.....2025

Signed on behalf of Hope Church Sittingbourne

This Audit Trail serves as an attestation intended to document the willingness and compliance of the individual(s) included in the Participant section of this document. This is used to link each signatory to the signed document(s). It also provides the repository of collected evidence of each participant.

Definitions of the terms used are provided at the [end of this document](#).

Document evidence and Access

Proposer Name: Gordon Watson

Proposer Email: info@hopesittingbourne.org

Created on: Jun 25, 2025, 10:40:32 AM (UTC)

Completed on: Jun 25, 2025, 4:02:19 PM (UTC)

IP Address: 148.252.157.48

Request Identifier: 1343A7C9-C961-4750-9112-C1C429379C74

Digital Signature: No

Delivery Mode: Parallel

Number of Validators: 0

Number of Signers: 1

Number of Witnesses: 0

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS HASH (SHA256):

Hope Church sttingbourne - Final Accounts 31.12.2024.pdf (10 pages)

73940e00556e9bc8f2e37b28fa71f4277bd383b5c4a0a06119863f35a52917db

SIGNED DOCUMENTS HASH (SHA256):

Hope Church sttingbourne - Final Accounts 31.12.2024_signed.pdf (10 pages)

d981fa653f12a35689a4f3b0e3c0980aba24d7ad6e817e48846412d2a0218114

Participants

Tables below show the major events of every participant - Information on each role and action is available in the [Terms Definitions](#) presented on the last page of this document.

Gordon Watson

Role: Proposer

Email: info@hopesittingbourne.org

Verification checks: Email, Account Authentication

ACTION	IP	TIMESTAMP
Created	148.252.157.48	Jun 25, 2025, 10:40:32 AM (UTC)

Christine M Willmott

Signature:

Role: Signatory

Email: bobandchris.willmott@gmail.com

Verification checks: Email

Christine M Willmott

Signature format: Text

Signer Identifier: 204C9A59-67D0-4AF7-A4D6-

ADBF89DA6089

ACTION	IP	TIMESTAMP
Sent	-	Jun 25, 2025, 10:40:34 AM (UTC)
Viewed	80.43.111.6	Jun 25, 2025, 11:48:12 AM (UTC)
Signed	80.43.111.6	Jun 25, 2025, 4:02:19 PM (UTC)

Terms definitions

Audit Trail: Also referred to as an "Attestation", an Audit Trail is a document which details specific information relating to each individual involved in the signing process of the uploaded document(s). This is to be used as a record of legal evidence in any juridical proceeding if required.

Request: The process of preparing a document to be signed by one or more people.

Proposer: The person (Name and email address) who prepared the document and initiated the signature request.

IP Address: A unique address that identifies a device on the internet or a local network and can provide more information as to the whereabouts of the signer.

Request Identifier: The unique reference number of the signed document. With this ID, one can search for the document on our website and can validate its authenticity, as well as obtain access to this audit trail and the original document.

Signatory Identifier: The unique identifier of the individual who has signed the document. The UUID (Universally Unique Identifier) is linked only to the signature in the document being referenced by the Request ID on this Audit Trail.

Digital Signature: An additional layer of authenticity which adds a certificate to the signed document. If a document contains a certificate, this indicates that it is embedded with an eIDAS Qualified Timestamp. The signature validity is revoked if the document is tampered with after signing.

Verification check: The requester may provide additional guarantees of integrity for each individual signer. These may include:

- **Email:** The Recipient's email address is validated by sending them a unique link that gives them access to the document.
- **Access Code:** The signer is given a distinct code by the Requester, which they must use in order to open and sign the document.
- **SMS:** A code is automatically generated and sent to the Signer via text message prior to signing.
- **ID Verification:** A code is automatically generated and sent to the Signer via text message prior to signing.

Signature format: The visual style of signature which was used on the document. It can be a typed ('Text'), hand-drawn ('Draw'), or uploaded ('Upload') signature.

Events: Major actions taken by each participant. They include:

- **Sent:** The email request has been sent to the participant.
- **Viewed:** The participant has accepted the Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy, and viewed the document for the first time.
- **Signed:** The Signer has signed the document.
- **Validated:** The Validator has validated the document.

Participant: Anyone involved in the signing process. They have one of these roles:

- **Signatory:** The person who has been required to sign the document.
- **Validator:** A person who has been given authority to read, and can validate or reject, a document before finalizing the signature process.
- **Witness:** Someone who is asked to acknowledge that the agreement took place. Although they do not interfere in the signing process, they can track and download it at any time.

Qualified Timestamp: A technological instrument which validates that a document was created before a certain date and that has not been modified since then. It is issued by an eIDAS Trusted Service Provider.

Hash (SHA256): It is a combination of letters and numbers which are generated by a cryptographic algorithm to establish a unique value which depends on the contents of the file. SHA256 is the cryptographic algorithm selected to generate the hash.

More information can be found here:

iLovePDF Signature User Guide - <https://signature.ilovepdf.com/help/guides>

iLovePDF Signature Terms and Conditions - <https://www.ilovepdf.com/help/terms>

iLovePDF Signature Privacy - <https://www.ilovepdf.com/help/privacy>

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186867

Accounts



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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Trustee Report

for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

The Trust & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the UK Charity Commission (#1186867).

Hope Church Sittingbourne was officially registered as a CIO on 10th December 2019, and this is our second submitted annual report.

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a church-plant connected to Relational Mission within the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees of the Hope Church Sittingbourne CIO during this reporting period were:

- Christine Monica Willmott – Chair of Trustees
- Jite Ufuoma Idowu – Trustee & Safeguarding Lead
- Elizabeth Gregory – Trustee
- Emmanuel Samuel - Trustee

We are thankful for these men and women who have faithfully and diligently served the church in serving and governing as trustees.

When considering new Trustees, the existing board intends to invite committed church members, who are well known to us and have the necessary character, experience and skills needed and the time to give to this role, with the existing board all having to agree on the appointment.

All current Trustees have been DBS checked. The Trust are formulating new procedures regarding background checks on prospective trustees according to the Charity Commission guidelines.

The serving trustees gave a total of £15,776.40 during this accounting period.

Trust Objectives

The object of the CIO is for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne, Kent and in such other areas as the charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Hope Church Sittingbourne exists to grow & multiply the HOPE of Jesus in the hearts of everyone, everywhere, everyday.

We aspire to reproduce disciples who; Honour Jesus, Obey His Word, Pray beyond themselves, Everyone a witness. We gather in homes & public places as well as weekly on Sundays to hear & obey the Word of God. We engage with local social justice & poverty issues.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Premises

Hope Church Sittingbourne do not currently lease or own any premises.

Our church office and registered CIO address is currently the home of Gordon Watson, the church-plant leader. This is the office base for administrative purposes.

Since Sunday, 21st October 2018, Hope Church Sittingbourne have gathered every Sunday morning at our local Costa Coffee located in The Forum Shopping Centre.

During this reporting year, on Sunday, 9th July 2023, we moved our Sunday worship service to Fulston Manor Secondary School as we were in need of a larger meeting venue. During the following 5-months we met in 3 different spaces at the school. A drama studio, the Millennium Hall and eventually settling in the Post-16 S-Block café area.

Membership

The Hope Church family continues to grow and develop healthily. We welcomed a number of new people among us over the course of the year. We do not currently have a formal membership.

Finances

Gordon Watson continued to be our sole employee throughout 2023.

We supported and subsidised the costs for a group of 4 delegates to participate in the LEAD training course with Relational Mission.

We continued our monthly support of the Spocchia family who are planting Good News Church in Sheppey.

We continued to tithe a consistent monthly amount to the four distinct accounts that support the mission of our family of churches, Relational Mission.

When we relocated our Sunday morning gatherings in the summer, we took the decision to invest in new PA equipment, as well as hospitality equipment for refreshments, all of which we store securely in a local facility. We also made individual gifts, contributing towards each of our two main worship leaders buying new acoustic guitars.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has established a policy to cover day-to-day cashflow and also any financial liabilities in the event of a sudden and unexpected drop in income, or the closure of the charity.

The Reserves Policy states that a figure of £5,000 should be maintained in this regard.

Overview of Church Life and Activities

We continued to host regular social connection points every month, such as picnics, BBQs, fish & chips nights, brunches and other social events. These connection points were a great opportunity to integrate newcomers to the church and also to invite along people exploring faith and to build relationship and widen community life together.

We were pleased to be able to continue throughout 2023 meeting in person in our mid-week Households. These midweek gatherings help us encourage and support one another towards growing together in our faith and in our daily lives.

We continued to host prayer meetings usually twice a month throughout the year. We find these times a great opportunity to '*pray beyond ourselves*', looking for God to open the way ahead in situations and circumstances.

In July 2023 we brought our 10-month series of 'Emerge Leadership Forum' meetings to a close. This group had been meeting every 6/8 weeks, supported by our church oversight of Adam Voke (Cornerstone City Church, Medway) & Dave King (New Life Church, Tunbridge Wells).

Local Mission

Churches Together in Sittingbourne

The local Sittingbourne Churches Together fraternal continued to meet in-person throughout 2023.

Swale CAP Debt Centre & Swale Foodbank

We continued as a partner church with our local Swale CAP Debt Centre & with Swale Foodbank. We were invited to contribute cakes towards the Christmas Hampers for local CAP clients.

No Place Left UK & Proclaim Training

During 2023 we invited Russell Godward (No Place Left UK) to train and equip our church in becoming more confident and competent in our mission of sharing the good news story of Jesus across our town. We began regularly ministering to local communities across the town, predominantly on Saturday mornings.

As part of Russell's contact with us, we hosted a Proclaim training morning on Sat, 16th September at Holy Trinity Sittingbourne with over 25 people in attendance, representing many local churches from across Sittingbourne.

Baptisms

We had the great privilege of baptising six dear friends on Sunday, 29th October, it was a great celebration of the resurrection life of Jesus.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Supporting Refugees

In September we were put in touch with a local refugee family and were able to welcome them to Sittingbourne. We liaised with other frontline agencies and support groups and over the months were able to support the family in establishing local life, completing paperwork, and supporting the family at key meetings with schools, childcare, Job Centre and other organisations and professionals. One of our members was able to support the family by providing them with free English lessons as a family.

ACTS435

We continued our partnership with ACTS435, providing practical financial support and assistance to local families in need.

Overseas Mission

RM Bolivia

In January, we gave £1,000 to the roof building project of our dear friends the Butcher family who are establishing a mission centre in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Ebenezer Sastry & Carmel Ministries

On the evening of Friday, 2nd June we hired King George V Pavilion and hosted an Evening with Ebenezer. We heard from Ebenezer Sastry of Carmel Ministries of the work they are involved in across India, supporting orphans and widows, building schools, and training and equipping rural and town-based pastors to plant and lead churches and mission projects.

It was an excellent opportunity for the local church family to meet Ebenezer who is a long-term friend of two of our trustees who both served on mission trips independently with Ebenezer many years ago. We took up an offering and gave a love gift totalling £300 to Carmel Ministries.

Partnership with Relational Mission

RMC & Swale Squad

We continued to engage with our local Relational Mission Community, led by Adam Voke. Of note was the involvement of Adam Voke & David King in helping to support and oversee the development (and hopeful appointment) of a local church eldership team in the future.

We also continue to find great encouragement and brotherhood amongst the three Relational Mission churches in Swale. Together we hosted a Relational Mission Swale Sunday at Fulston Manor Secondary School on Sunday, 22nd October, with guest speaker Stef Liston.

Newday 2023

We undertook fundraising to send a team of 10 people (adults and children) to attend the Newday Youth Festival in August 2023 in partnership with our friends at New Life Church Tunbridge Wells, sharing their camping site, their cooking facilities and entrusting our young people to the care of the leaders. Our hope is to partner with them again in 2024.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

UP: The Urban Planting School

Gordon Watson continued to serve alongside Stef Liston in developing a new Relational Mission two-year training initiative called 'UP: The Urban Planting School'. This is due to launch in October 2024.

As trustees, we were happy when Relational Mission offered to pay for 4-hours a week of Gordon Watsons employed time to serve this new initiative on behalf of our family of churches. Gordon works this alongside his 4-days a week employment with Hope Church Sittingbourne. This decision is reviewed at each trustees meeting ongoing. We believe the arrangement will help to enrich the local and global mission of the local church as well as supporting and strengthening the apostolic work of Relational Mission through the UP initiative.

The Call conference

We were able to send Emmanuel Samuel & Gordon Watson to represent Hope Church Sittingbourne at the Relational Mission 'The Call' conference, which was hosted in Ipswich from Wednesday, 25th October through to Saturday, 28th October.

Summary

As a trustees board, we continue to be thankful to God for the ongoing generosity of the local church family in their serving and giving. Together we have been able to achieve many of our aims for the year and look forward in faith for all that God may open up for us in the year ahead.

Hope Church Sittingbourne Information Page

Bankers: Nat West Bank plc
PO Box 209
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4AU

Independent Examiner: Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham
Kent
ME5 0PH

Hope Church Sittingbourne Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Governance & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is governed by its Constitution dated 16th October 2019.

The registered Office is Hope Church Sittingbourne, 32 Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1XW.

The Trustees are:

Emmanuel Ayodile Ukachi Samuel
Jite Ufuoma Idowu
Elizabeth Ruth Gregory
Christine Monica Willmott

Legal Status

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission. Charity Number: 1186867.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of the Church shall be:

- (1) The advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne and in such other areas as the Charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope Church Sittingbourne

This Report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the Act.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 144(5)(b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rob W Trice

25th Jan 2024

Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham, Kent, ME5 0PH

Hope Church Sittingbourne

Receipts & Payments Account - Year Ended 31 December 2023

RECEIPTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Giving (Gift Aided)	35,261.40	33,893.00
Giving (Non Gift Aided)	3,724.95	17,674.07
HMRC Gift Aid repayment	10,390.96	8,268.77
Financial Support	1,800.00	3,500.00
ACTS 435 income	400.00	-
Refunded expenditure	391.88	175.80
Other income	314.02	4.68
Sunday offering	623.08	-
Special offering	2,347.58	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	55,253.87	63,516.32
PAYMENTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Employee wages and salaries	33,457.13	27,003.09
Pension	2,527.20	2,065.05
Travelling	1,005.17	1,265.60
Hotel and Accomodation	490.59	99.00
Printing & Marketing	57.99	226.75
Office Stationery & Admin	233.01	121.88
Internet Charges	268.34	248.02
Computer & software	1,029.42	952.22
Mobile Charges	264.06	255.79
Business Insurance	376.05	300.78
Equipment	29.69	169.00
Books bought	124.96	220.17
Sunday Costs	734.63	509.89
Food & drink	718.82	336.53
Tithe to Relational Mission	2,400.00	600.00
Crisis/Family Fund	302.29	886.74
Gift (visiting speakers)	1,660.00	1,485.00
Gift (missional support)	4,070.00	2,120.00
Gift (special offering)	268.00	150.00
Gift (pastoral reasons)	131.50	324.77
Mission trips	-	300.00
CAP Life Skills	720.00	720.00
Miscellaneous expenses	294.85	161.72
Subscriptions	177.00	229.00
DBS/Safeguarding	238.65	141.25
Training Costs	3,450.00	2,586.00
Conference tickets	140.00	245.00
Venue/Hall hire	2,161.15	3,377.30
Independent examiner	220.00	200.00
ACTS 435 expenditure	411.03	-
Office Equipment and IT - cost	4,354.68	151.98
Events	2,654.67	1,350.56
TOTAL PAYMENTS	64,970.88	48,803.09
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	(9,717.01)	14,713.23
General Fund Balance brought forward	20,959.82	6,246.59
General Fund Balance carried forward	11,242.81	20,959.82

**Hope Church Sittingbourne
Statement of Assets and Liabilities - As At 31 December 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank Balances		
- #1 Main Account	1,145.22	3,951.82
- #2 Hope CAP Funds	64.80	144.80
- #3 Training & Future Staffing	716.00	1,416.00
- #4 Reserve Fund	9,237.76	15,002.00
- #5 Crisis/Family Fund	79.03	445.20
	<u>11,242.81</u>	<u>20,959.82</u>
Assets		
Office Equipment and IT - cost	1,286.38	1,286.38
PA Equipment	2,452.93	-
	<u>3,739.31</u>	<u>1,286.38</u>

Chris Willmott

21/02/2024

.....
Signed on behalf of Hope Church Sittingbourne

Hope Church Sittingbourne

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Funds Movement Note

	Brought Forward £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted Funds	3,951.82	63,527.25	(63,025.10)	(3,308.75)	1,145.22
Hope CAP Funds	144.80	720.00	(800.00)	-	64.80
Training & Future Staffing Fd	1,416.00	3,300.00	(4,000.00)	-	716.00
Reserve Fund	15,002.00	-	(9,072.99)	3,308.75	9,237.76
Crisis/Family Fund	145.20	400.00	(766.17)	-	(220.97)
ACTS 435	300.00	-	-	-	300.00
	20,959.82	67,947.25	(77,664.26)	-	11,242.81

This Audit Trail serves as an attestation intended to document the willingness and compliance of the individual(s) included in the Participant section of this document. This is used to link each signatory to the signed document(s). It also provides the repository of collected evidence of each participant.

Definitions of the terms used are provided at the [end of this document](#).

Document evidence and Access

Proposer Name: Gordon Watson

Proposer Email: info@hopesittingbourne.org

Created on: Feb 21, 2024, 2:06:55 PM (UTC)

Completed on: Feb 21, 2024, 3:36:28 PM (UTC)

IP Address: 81.79.52.27

Request Identifier: 1A436EA0-85C8-47E1-
B045-888DE0E1A548

Digital Signature: No

Delivery Mode: Parallel

Number of Validators: 0

Number of Signers: 1

Number of Witness: 0

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS HASH (SHA256):

HCS Trustees report 2024 FINAL.pdf (12 pages)

9452f47353f8c9726f96f874d4ef5c6e7bfcf9907cf06b3d73c3308d92a21190

SIGNED DOCUMENTS HASH (SHA256):

HCS Trustees report 2024 FINAL_signed.pdf (12 pages)

c16cfad4d24e100e45caa1c7a48343502f408ee4ea768716f7748b132e4168c8



Participants

Tables below show the major events of every participant – Information on each role and action is available in the [Terms Definitions](#) presented on the last page of this document.

Gordon Watson

Role: Proposer

Email: info@hopesittingbourne.org

Verification checks: Email, Account Authentication

ACTION	IP	TIMESTAMP
Created	81.79.52.27	Feb 21, 2024, 2:06:55 PM (UTC)

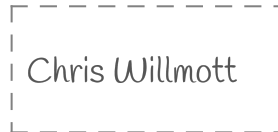
Chris Willmott

Signature:

Role: Signatory

Email: bobandchriswillmott@gmail.com

Verification checks: Email



Signature format: Text

Signer Identifier: A2AED450-2E6B-4542-B360-15EA7D989E44

ACTION	IP	TIMESTAMP
Sent	-	Feb 21, 2024, 2:06:57 PM (UTC)
Viewed	92.18.217.51	Feb 21, 2024, 3:35:00 PM (UTC)
Signed	92.18.217.51	Feb 21, 2024, 3:36:27 PM (UTC)



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Proposer: The person (Name and email address) who prepared the document and initiated the signature request.

IP Address: A unique address that identifies a device on the internet or a local network and can provide more information as to the whereabouts of the signer.

Request Identifier: The unique reference number of the signed document. With this ID, one can search for the document on our website and can validate its authenticity, as well as obtain access to this audit trail and the original document.

Signatory Identifier: The unique identifier of the individual who has signed the document. The UUID (Universally Unique Identifier) is linked only to the signature in the document being referenced by the Request ID on this Audit Trail.

Digital Signature: An additional layer of authenticity which adds a certificate to the signed document. If a document contains a certificate, this indicates that it is embedded with an eIDAS Qualified Timestamp. The signature validity is revoked if the document is tampered with after signing.

Verification check: The requester may provide additional guarantees of integrity for each individual signer. These may include:

- **Email:** The Recipient's email address is validated by sending them a unique link that gives them access to the document.
- **Access Code:** The signer is given a distinct code by the Requester, which they must use in order to open and sign the document.
- **SMS:** A code is automatically generated and sent to the Signer via text message prior to signing.
- **ID Verification:** A code is automatically generated and sent to the Signer via text message prior to signing.

Signature format: The visual style of signature which was used on the document. It can be a typed ('Text'), hand-drawn ('Draw'), or uploaded ('Upload') signature.

Events: Major actions taken by each participant. They include:

- **Sent:** The email request has been sent to the participant.
- **Viewed:** The participant has accepted the Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy, and viewed the document for the first time.
- **Signed:** The Signer has signed the document.
- **Validated:** The Validator has validated the document.

Participant: Anyone involved in the signing process. They have one of these roles:

- **Signatory:** The person who has been required to sign the document.
- **Validator:** A person who has been given authority to read, and can validate or reject, a document before finalizing the signature process.
- **Witness:** Someone who is asked to acknowledge that the agreement took place. Although they do not interfere in the signing process, they can track and download it at any time.

Qualified Timestamp: A technological instrument which validates that a document was created before a certain date and that has not been modified since then. It is issued by an eIDAS Trusted Service Provider.

Hash (SHA256): It is a combination of letters and numbers which are generated by a cryptographic algorithm to establish a unique value which depends on the contents of the file. SHA256 is the cryptographic algorithm selected to generate the hash.

More information can be found here:

iLovePDF Signature User Guide - <https://signature.ilovepdf.com/help/guides>

iLovePDF Signature Terms and Conditions - <https://www.ilovepdf.com/help/terms>

iLovePDF Signature Privacy - <https://www.ilovepdf.com/help/privacy>

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186867

Accounts



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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Trustee Report

for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

The Trust & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the UK Charity Commission (1186867).

Hope Church Sittingbourne was officially registered as a CIO on 10th December 2019, and this is our second submitted annual report.

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a church-plant connected to Relational Mission within the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees of the Hope Church Sittingbourne CIO during this reporting period were:

- Christine Monica Willmott – Chair of Trustees
- Jonathan Hugh Butson – Trustee & Treasurer
- Jite Ufuoma Idowu – Trustee & Safeguarding Lead
- Nathaniel Turner – Trustee
- Elizabeth Gregory – Trustee
- Emmanuel Samuel - Trustee

We had our first changes to our original trustees board since becoming a registered charity:

- 28/04/2022 - Nathaniel Turner stood down as a trustee.
- 28/04/2022 - Elizabeth Gregory was appointed as a trustee.
- 24/11/2022 - Jonathan Butson stood down as a trustee and as treasurer.
- 24/11/2022 - Emmanuel Samuel was appointed as a trustee.

We are thankful for these men and women who have faithfully and diligently served the church in serving and governing as trustees.

When considering new Trustees, the existing board intends to invite committed church members, who are well known to us and have the necessary character, experience and skills needed and the time to give to this role, with the existing board all having to agree on the appointment. All current Trustees have been DBS checked. The Trust are formulating new procedures regarding background checks on prospective trustees according to the Charity Commission guidelines.

The serving trustees gave a total of £29,049 during this accounting period, with a one-off gift of £15,000 given on 29/04/2022.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER 1186867

Trust Objectives

The object of the CIO is for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne, Kent and in such other areas as the charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Hope Church Sittingbourne exists to grow & multiply the HOPE of Jesus in the hearts of everyone, everywhere, everyday.

We aspire to reproduce disciples who; Honour Jesus, Obey His Word, Pray beyond themselves, Everyone a witness. We gather in homes & public places as well as weekly on Sundays to hear & obey the Word of God. We engage with local social justice & poverty issues.

Premises

Hope Church Sittingbourne do not currently lease or own any premises.

Our church office and registered CIO address is currently the home of Gordon Watson, the church-plant leader. This is the office base for administrative purposes.

Since Sunday, 21st October 2018, Hope Church Sittingbourne have gathered every Sunday morning at our local Costa Coffee located in The Forum Shopping Centre. This has proven to be a successful public gathering point for our growing church community.

COVID-19

Thankfully the impact of COVID-19 was less prevalent in 2022, enabling church life to find a *'new normal'* and saw us meeting in person throughout 2022, with less need for online or socially-distanced gatherings and meetings.

We were able to make use of our Family Fund to directly support families and individuals within the church fellowship who were either sick with Covid or in financial need due to Covid related circumstances.

Membership

The Hope Church family continues to grow and develop healthily. We welcomed a number of new people among us over the course of the year.

Finances

Gordon Watson continued to be our sole employee throughout 2022.

We supported and subsidised the costs for a group of 8 people to participate in the LEAD training course with Relational Mission.

We increased our monthly support of the Spocchia family (Good News Church Sheppey) from £100 to £200 per month.

In October 2022 we began giving a consistent monthly amount to the four distinct accounts towards the mission of our family of churches, Relational Mission.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has established a policy to cover day-to-day cashflow and also any financial liabilities in the event of a sudden and unexpected drop in income, or the closure of the charity.

The Reserves Policy states that a figure of £5,000 should be maintained in this regard.

Overview of Church Life and Activities

In 2022 we pioneered a new app which we called the HOPE HUB, using the popular Discord platform. This app has proven to be a really helpful resource in enabling the church to communicate together using several different chat rooms with topics for worship, prayer, events as well as many other aspects of daily church life.

We continued to host regular social connection points every month, such as picnics, BBQs, fish & chips nights, brunches and other social events. These connection points were a great opportunity to integrate newcomers to the church and also to invite along people exploring faith and to build relationship and widen community life together.

We were pleased to be able to continue throughout 2022 meeting in person in our mid-week Households and Running Partners groups. These midweek gatherings help us encourage and support one another towards growing together in our faith and in our daily lives.

We continued to host monthly prayer meetings, alternating between Breakthrough Prayer & Encounter evenings. We find these times a great opportunity to *'pray beyond ourselves'*, looking for God to open the way ahead in situations and circumstances.

In September 2022 we started a new leadership development group called 'Emerge Leadership Forum'. This group meets every 6/8 weeks and is supported by our church oversight of Adam Voke (Cornerstone City Church, Medway) & Dave King (New Life Church, Tunbridge Wells). Our hope is that over the coming month, leaders will emerge with a clear grace and call to serve the church in the New Testament offices of deacons and elders.

We invited Mike & Suzanne McLeister to visit us from Hope Church Borders for a ministry weekend hosted on 21st to 24th October 2022. The McLeisters stayed with the Watsons in their family home and spent their time ministering to the church both together and separately to the men and women. We really valued their input and insight as they lovingly served the church and encouraged us all in our life and mission together.

We had the joy of baptising a young lady in October 2022. It was wonderful to see her make the decision to follow Jesus in this way. It was a great time of celebration for her family and for the wider church family.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER 1186867

Local Mission

The local Sittingbourne Churches Together fraternal continued to meet in-person throughout 2022.

Gordon Watson stood down as a trustee for the local Swale Foodbank from 1st April 2022. He had particular responsibility for negotiating premises contracts, drafting contracts and policies and for developing the financial reporting and auditing infrastructure at the charity. We continue to be a partnership church supporting the ongoing work of the Swale Foodbank.

We continued as a partner church with our local Swale CAP Debt Centre. We were invited to contribute cakes towards the Christmas Hampers for local CAP clients.

During 2022 we invited Russell Godward (No Place Left UK) to train and equip our church in becoming more confident and competent in our mission of sharing the good news story of Jesus across our town. We began regularly ministering to local communities across the town, predominantly on Saturday mornings. Our hope is to continue this partnership into 2023 with further training mornings.

Gordon Watson continued to provide regular contributions to our local Sittingbourne FM radio station for their Word for the Day slot on Sunday mornings along with other local leaders. On 13th October 2022 Gordon stood down from contributing to the radio slot.

Partnership with Relational Mission

RMC & Swale Squad

We continued to engage with our local Relational Mission Community, led by Adam Voke. We also continue to find great encouragement and brotherhood amongst the three Relational Mission churches in Swale.

During the summer of 2022, Gordon Watson was able to support our nearby friends at Faversham Community Church through speaking on Sundays whilst Mike Taylor was on furlough.

Faversham Community Church hosted a ministry weekend with Grantley & Floss Watkins called Naturally Supernatural in July 2022. We were thankful to be invited to attend as a partner church and to contribute a nominal gift towards the costs of the event.

We were able to send two of our young people to attend the Newday Youth Festival in August 2022 in partnership with our friends at New Life Church Tunbridge Wells, sharing their camping site, their cooking facilities and entrusting our young people to the care of the leaders. Our hope is to partner with them again in 2023 and to send a larger group, including a group of supporting leaders.

On 14th October 2022 our RMC hosted an evening worship & prayer meeting in Kings Hill together at a local community centre. We felt privileged to be able to contribute towards this event.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER 1186867

ENOUGH prayer

There were several ENOUGH prayers gatherings online across our family of churches throughout the year. We've loved the opportunity to pray together across nations and time-zones for the same things at the same time.

PLANT UK stopped & Urban Planting School began

On 19th January 2022, Stef Liston (part of the Relational Mission apostolic team) took the decision to bring an end to the PLANT UK team. This was a Relational Mission initiative helping support and encourage those who are pioneering (or exploring pioneering) across the UK.

During this meeting, Stef Liston invited Gordon Watson to serve with him in developing a new Relational Mission training initiative called 'UP: The Urban Planting School'.

As trustees, we were happy to offer 4-hours a week of Gordon Watsons employed time to support and serve this new initiative on behalf of our family of churches. This decision is reviewed at each trustees meeting ongoing.

Summary

Following the challenges that COVID-19 presented over the past two years, we were incredibly encouraged to be able to start to gather momentum in meeting and serving together in-person throughout 2022.

We continued to see the church community grow, this has caused us to consider exploring relocating our Sunday morning meetings in a larger venue, something we will develop in 2023.

We have seen the church serve and give generously, sacrificially and joyfully, something as a trustee's board that we are incredibly thankful for as we make decisions towards how we might steward our collective resources in direction from our church leadership and oversight.

Hope Church Sittingbourne Information Page

Bankers: Nat West Bank plc
PO Box 209
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4AU

Independent Examiner: Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham
Kent
ME5 0PH

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope Church Sittingbourne

This Report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the Act.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 144(5)(b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rob W Trice

15th March 2023

Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham, Kent, ME5 0PH

Hope Church Sittingbourne Receipts & Payments Account - Year Ended 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS	2022	2021
	£	£
Giving (Gift Aided)	33,893.00	32,043.00
Giving (Non Gift Aided)	17,674.07	3,228.50
HMRC Gift Aid repayment	8,268.77	8,147.31
Financial Support	3,500.00	2,000.00
ACTS 435 income	-	1,280.00
Refunded expenditure	175.80	1,373.19
Other income	4.68	14.48
Special offering	-	134.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>63,516.32</u>	<u>48,220.48</u>
PAYMENTS	2022	2021
	£	£
Employee wages and salaries	27,003.09	27,918.87
Pension	2,065.05	1,421.55
Travelling	1,265.60	643.54
Hotel and Accomodation	99.00	1,006.00
Printing	226.75	33.62
Office Stationery & Admin	121.88	156.79
Internet Charges	248.02	350.50
Computer & software	952.22	1,450.32
Mobile Charges	255.79	224.26
Business Insurance	300.78	282.26
Equipment	169.00	703.57
Books bought	220.17	51.55
Sunday Costs	509.89	-
Food & drink	336.53	195.37
Tithe to Relational Mission	600.00	-
Family Fund	886.74	827.77
Gift (visiting speakers)	1,485.00	860.00
Gift (missional support)	2,120.00	1,320.00
Gift (special offering)	150.00	-
Gift (pastoral reasons)	324.77	-
Mission trips	300.00	-
CAP Life Skills	720.00	733.40
Miscellaneuos expenses	161.72	465.53
Subscriptions	229.00	202.00
DBS/Safeguarding	141.25	129.00
Training Costs	2,586.00	6,381.88
Conference tickets	245.00	230.56
Venue/Hall hire	3,377.30	2,726.75
Independent examiner	200.00	200.00
ACTS 435 expenditure	-	1,130.00
Office Equipment and IT - cost	151.98	480.49
Events	1,350.56	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>48,803.09</u>	<u>50,125.58</u>
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	14,713.23	(1,905.10)
General Fund Balance brought forward	6,246.59	8,151.69
General Fund Balance carried forward	<u>20,959.82</u>	<u>6,246.59</u>

**Hope Church Sittingbourne
Statement of Assets and Liabilities - As At 31 December 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank Balances		
- #1 Main Account	3,951.82	3,765.34
- #2 Hope CAP Funds	144.80	204.80
- #3 Training & Future Staffing	1,416.00	1,928.50
- #4 Building Fund	15,002.00	2.00
- #5 Crisis/Family Fund	445.20	345.95
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>20,959.82</u>	<u>6,246.59</u>
Assets		
Office Equipment and IT - cost	<u>1,286.38</u>	<u>1,134.40</u>

Christine Willmott



SIGNED VIA ILOVEPDF

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03/04/2023

.....2023

Signed on behalf of Hope Church Sittingbourne

Hope Church Sittingbourne

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Funds Movement Note

	Brought Forward £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted Funds	3,765.34	63,396.32	(48,209.84)	(15,000.00)	3,951.82
Hope CAP Funds	204.80	660.00	(720.00)	-	144.80
Training & Future Staffing Fd	1,928.50	2,537.50	(3,050.00)	-	1,416.00
Building Fund	2.00	-	-	15,000.00	15,002.00
Crisis/Family Fund	45.95	745.00	(645.75)	-	145.20
ACTS 435	300.00	-	-	-	300.00
	<hr/> 6,246.59	67,338.82	(52,625.59)	-	<hr/> 20,959.82 <hr/>

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186867

Accounts



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

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Trustee Report

for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

The Trust & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the UK Charity Commission (#1186867).

Hope Church Sittingbourne was officially registered as a CIO on 10th December 2019, and this is our second submitted annual report.

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a church-plant connected to Relational Mission within the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees of the Hope Church Sittingbourne CIO during this reporting period were:

- Christine Monica Willmott – Chair of Trustees
- Jonathan Hugh Butson – Trustee & Treasurer
- Jite Ufuoma Idowu – Trustee & Safeguarding Lead
- Nathaniel Turner – Trustee

When considering new Trustees, the existing board intends to invite committed church members, who are well known to us and have the necessary character, experience and skills needed and the time to give to this role, with the existing board all having to agree on the appointment. All current Trustees have been DBS checked. The Trust are formulating new procedures regarding background checks on prospective trustees according to the Charity Commission guidelines.

No Trustees have resigned and no new Trustees were appointed during this reporting period.

Trust Objectives

The object of the CIO is for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne, Kent and in such other areas as the charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Hope Church Sittingbourne exists to grow & multiply the HOPE of Jesus in the hearts of everyone, everywhere, everyday.

We aspire to reproduce disciples who; Honour Jesus, Obey His Word, Pray beyond themselves, Everyone a witness. We gather in homes & public places as well as weekly on Sundays to hear & obey the Word of God. We engage with local social justice & poverty issues.

Premises

Hope Church Sittingbourne do not currently lease or own any premises.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Our church office and registered CIO address is currently the home of Gordon Watson, the church-plant leader. This is the office base for administrative purposes.

Since Sunday, 21st October 2018, Hope Church Sittingbourne have gathered every Sunday morning at our local Costa Coffee located in The Forum Shopping Centre. This has proven to be a successful public gathering point for our growing church community.

COVID-19

The challenges of navigating church life through the ongoing pandemic throughout much of 2021 caused us to experiment with new shapes and ways of communicating and gathering, predominantly online in various groups.

We began the year with our Sunday morning gatherings being online, and in May were able to return to in-person gatherings, returning to Costa Coffee.

We were able to make use of our Family Fund to directly support families and individuals within the church fellowship who were either sick with Covid or in financial need due to Covid related circumstances.

Membership

Despite the obvious Covid related challenges throughout the year, the Hope Church family continues to grow and develop healthily. We welcomed a number of new people among us over the course of the year.

Finances

At the beginning of the new financial year in April, we changed Gordon Watsons employment from self-employed to PAYE. We have entrusted our payroll to the West East Baptist Association (WEBA), they also manage our employee pension arrangements on our behalf.

As a PAYE employee Gordon Watson was able to make use of the Cycle to Work scheme offered by the HMRC.

We continued to support and finance a group of 6 people through the LEAD training course with Relational Mission.

We continued to finance Matthew Spocchia from Sheppey Gospel Plant in his undertaking of the two-year Shepherd training course with Relational Mission.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has established a policy to cover day-to-day cashflow and also any financial liabilities in the event of a sudden and unexpected drop in income, or the closure of the charity.

The Reserves Policy states that a figure of £5,000 should be maintained in this regard.

Overview of Church Life and Activities

Throughout 2021 we continued our regular mid-week activities as a church, but rather than meeting in-person in homes, we migrated these activities to online forums. This included prayer gatherings, bible studies, leadership development with our 'Orchard' group and some social activities.

On 23rd May 2021 we were thankfully able to start to gather again in-person for our Sunday morning worship services at Costa Coffee. These were all conducted in a Covid-safe way. We took guidance from the excellent Church of England guidelines that were freely available.

We helped two households move to Sittingbourne from Margate and from Erith (both in Kent). It has been a pleasure to see these new friends making their new homes in the local area. Our hope is that they will continue to flourish and participate in the life of the local Hope Church family.

In June we launched our new Running Partners groups. These are small groups of 3 to 4 people that meet together fortnightly for mutual friendship, encouragement and accountability. More info can be found via:

<https://www.hopesittingbourne.org/runningpartners.html>

In October we launched our new Households. These are mid-week small groups that are geographically organised. Our hope is that over future years we will see Households birthed across the various neighbourhoods and estates across Sittingbourne, each one taking spiritual responsibility and ownership of their local area.

We were able to occasionally support a member of our congregation in the local Riverbourne Court retirement development. She felt stirred to pray for her local community, so we visited several times to join her and encourage her in her endeavours.

There were numerous social opportunities that took place, both online and in-person (once Covid restrictions lifted). Some of the most notable occasions were a family picnic, a summer BBQ and a winter walk just before New Years eve.

We sadly took the decision to cancel our planned Christmas event as Covid numbers were heightened in Swale and wider Kent in the days before Christmas. As a leadership we didn't want to inadvertently create a platform for germs to spread and for people to possibly get sick and have to isolate, ruining any potential plans for Christmas and New Year.

Local Mission

The local Sittingbourne Churches Together fraternal continued to meet both online and in-person throughout the year as Covid allowed. Over the months several new leaders moved to the town. It is fair to say that there is a fresh feel to the nature of relationships. We are hopeful for the future that this will continue.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Gordon Watson continued to volunteer as a trustee for the local Swale Foodbank. He had particular responsibility for negotiating premises contracts, drafting contracts and policies and for developing the financial reporting and auditing infrastructure at the charity.

Gordon Watson continued to provide regular contributions to our local Sittingbourne FM radio station for their Word for the Day slot on Sunday mornings. We are thankful to be able to serve our town in preaching and communicating the gospel in a relevant way.

We took the decision in the autumn of 2021 to withdraw our efforts at establishing a Christians Against Poverty Life Skills course in the town. We felt we were best positioned to support and serve an existing work rather than to spearhead something ourselves. We subsequently became a partner church with our local Swale CAP Debt Centre. The Project Manager attended our church one Sunday and was able to share the vision for the project, also recruiting several volunteers to assist as befrienders and serving in the steering committee for the project.

We ran an Alpha Course in a local home in the last quarter of 2021. Three of the guests made first-time confessions of faith and another made a recommitment. We are incredibly thankful for the opportunity to point to Jesus and make Him known in the hearts of local people.

Partnership with Relational Mission

RMC & Swale Squad

We continued to engage with our local Relational Mission Community, led by Adam Voke. We also continue to find great encouragement and brotherhood amongst the three Relational Mission churches in Swale.

ENOUGH prayer

There were several ENOUGH prayers gatherings online across our family of churches throughout the year. We've loved the opportunity to pray together across nations and time-zones for the same things at the same time.

PLANT UK

Gordon Watson continued to serve on the PLANT UK team, a Relational Mission initiative helping support and encourage those who are pioneering (or exploring pioneering) across the UK. There were several online events throughout the year, culminating with an evening conference in October.

Summary

We are thankful for another year of being able to love and serve our town, and also one another well. There have been numerous challenges presented throughout the obvious Covid pandemic, but it has also opened up some beautiful opportunities to reimagine the shape and form of the church community and its daily life, making use of innovative technologies to remain connected with one another and our wider community.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Bankers: Nat West Bank plc
PO Box 209
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4AU

Independent Examiner: Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham
Kent
ME5 0PH

Hope Church Sittingbourne Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2021

Governance & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is governed by its Constitution dated 16th October 2019.

The registered Office is Hope Church Sittingbourne, 32 Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1XW.

The Trustees are:

Jonathan Hugh Butson
Jite Ufuoma Idowu
Nathaniel Turner
Christine Monica Willmott

Legal Status

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission. Charity Number : 1186867.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of the Church shall be:

- (1) The advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne and in such other areas as the Charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope Church Sittingbourne

This Report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the Act.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 144(5)(b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rob W Trice

19th April 2022

Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham, Kent, ME5 0PH

Hope Church Sittingbourne Receipts & Payments Account - Year Ended 31 December 2021

RECEIPTS	2021	First Year 2020
	£	£
Giving (Gift Aided)	32,043.00	22,575.00
Giving (Non Gift Aided)	3,228.50	7,338.25
HMRC Gift Aid repayment	8,147.31	4,965.75
Financial Support	2,000.00	5,427.26
ACTS 435 income	1,280.00	840.00
Refunded expenditure	1,373.19	1,234.85
Other income	14.48	-
Special offering	134.00	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	48,220.48	42,381.11
PAYMENTS	2021	2020
	£	£
Employee wages and salaries	27,918.87	23,656.00
Pension	1,421.55	-
Vehicle Fuel	55.05	-
Travelling	643.54	156.70
Car Hire	100.00	-
Hotel and Accomodation	1,006.00	-
Printing	33.62	158.05
Office Stationery & Admin	156.79	364.02
Internet Charges	350.50	-
Computer & software	1,450.32	798.29
Mobile Charges	224.26	217.96
Business Insurance	282.26	272.82
Equipment	703.57	469.49
Books bought	51.55	92.39
Food & drink	195.37	174.95
Family Fund	827.77	885.67
Gift (visiting speakers)	860.00	1,320.00
Gift (missional support)	1,320.00	3,592.98
Mission trips	-	(30.00)
CAP Life Skills	733.40	804.89
Cleaning	4.50	33.06
Miscellaneuos expenses	255.98	187.51
Subscriptions	202.00	189.00
Clothing Costs	50.00	-
DBS/Safeguarding	129.00	221.25
Training Costs	6,381.88	2,390.00
Conference tickets	230.56	150.00
Venue/Hall hire	2,726.75	817.15
Independent examiner	200.00	-
ACTS 435 expenditure	1,130.00	690.00
Office Equipment and IT - cost	480.49	498.41
Unrecorded payments	-	254.50
TOTAL PAYMENTS	50,125.58	38,365.09
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	(1,905.10)	4,016.02
General Fund Balance brought forward	8,151.69	-
Funds introduced	-	4,135.67
General Fund Balance carried forward	6,246.59	8,151.69

Hope Church Sittingbourne
Statement of Assets and Liabilities - As At 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank Balances		
- #1 Main Account	3,765.34	3,693.89
- #2 Hope CAP Funds	204.80	324.80
- #3 Training & Future Staffing	1,928.50	3,371.00
- #4 Building Fund	2.00	1.00
- #5 Crisis/Family Fund	345.95	761.00
	<u>6,246.59</u>	<u>8,151.69</u>
	-	-
Assets		
Office Equipment and IT - cost	<u>1,134.40</u>	<u>498.41</u>

Jonathan Butson (Treasurer & Trustee)

.....

April 2022

Signed on behalf of Hope Church Sittingbourne

Hope Church Sittingbourne

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Funds Movement Note

	Brought Forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	3,693.89	46,840.48	(42,085.53)	(4,683.50)	3,765.34
Hope CAP Funds	324.80	-	(120.00)	-	204.80
Training & Future Staffing Fd	3,371.00	-	(5,925.00)	4,482.50	1,928.50
Building Fund	1.00	-	-	1.00	2.00
Crisis/Family Fund	611.00	100.00	(865.05)	200.00	45.95
ACTS 435	150.00	1,280.00	(1,130.00)	-	300.00
	8,151.69	48,220.48	(50,125.58)	-	6,246.59

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186867

Accounts



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

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Trustee Report

for the period 10th December 2019 to 31st January 2020

The Trust & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the UK Charity Commission (#1186867).

Hope Church Sittingbourne was officially registered as a CIO on 10th December 2019, and as such this is our first submitted annual report.

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a newly established church-plant connected to Relational Mission within the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees of the Hope Church Sittingbourne CIO during this reporting period were:

- Christine Monica Willmott – Chair of Trustees
- Jonathan Hugh Butson – Trustee & Treasurer
- Jite Ufuoma Idowu – Trustee & Safeguarding Lead
- Nathaniel Turner – Trustee

No Trustees have resigned and no new Trustees were appointed during this reporting period.

Trust Objectives

The object of the CIO is for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne, Kent and in such other areas as the charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Hope Church Sittingbourne exists to grow & multiply the HOPE of Jesus in the hearts of everyone, everywhere, everyday.

We aspire to reproduce disciples who; Honour Jesus, Obey His Word, Pray beyond themselves, Everyone a witness. We gather in homes & public places as well as weekly on Sundays to hear & obey the Word of God. We engage with local social justice & poverty issues.

Premises

Hope Church Sittingbourne do not currently lease or own any premises.

Our church office and registered CIO address is currently the home of Gordon Watson, the church-plant leader. This is the office base for administrative purposes.

Since Sunday, 21st October 2018, Hope Church Sittingbourne have gathered every Sunday morning at our local Costa Coffee located in The Forum Shopping Centre. This has proven to be a successful public gathering point for our growing church community.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic, which started in March 2020, had a hugely detrimental impact, not only on the organised activities and effort of Hope Church Sittingbourne, but indeed across our local community of Sittingbourne and the wider world.

Sunday, 15th March 2020 was our last in person gathering at Costa Coffee as the UK entered it's first lockdown. This caused the church to find new ways of meeting digitally, making use of online services such as Facebook Live and Zoom to replace physical 'in-person' gatherings.

Our midweek Hope Group multiplied from one group to two in February 2020, but when the COVID-19 restrictions came into place we took the collective decision to merge them back together as one and for them to be hosted online via Zoom. This remained the case throughout 2020.

During the short period of freedom between the first and second lockdowns, the church were again able to gather on Sunday mornings on two occasions; Sunday, 6th September and Sunday, 1st October 2020. These two gatherings were held under COVID-19 restrictions with limitations on singing, seating and personal proximity.

Our Family Fund was used to support those in crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial support was extended to individuals, couples and families where income was affected through sickness, unemployment, self-isolation or other direct effects of the pandemic. This additional support was able to provide those in need with money for food, essential bills, car repairs and rent contributions.

Many of the services and projects we had hoped to explore and launch throughout 2020 were frustrated due to this time of uncertainty. Our hope is that as lockdown eases in 2021 we will be able to revisit the needs of our local area through fresh eyes and respond with appropriate provision where possible.

We are thankful that the majority of our church community avoided the adverse effects of COVID-19. The majority remained in good health throughout the year and those in employment avoided job cuts.

Throughout this Trustees Report, many of the things reported on will be in light of this overarching COVID-19 pandemic.

Membership

As the church-plant community continues to establish and evolve we have experienced a steady increase in the number of individuals and families that connect with Hope Church Sittingbourne.

We do not have a formal membership at present, but at the end of the year we had 30+ people, of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds, regularly connecting with us through our midweek and Sunday online gatherings.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Finances

The finances for Hope Church Sittingbourne continue to be in good health. Many of the church community give faithfully, regularly and joyfully to the church. The majority of these donations are able to be gift-aided.

Although we do not pay a rental fee for use of Costa Coffee every Sunday morning, we do pay for the cost of the drinks that the church and any visitor's order. This equates to approx. £200-£300 a month, which we feel is a good investment due to the environment and social nature of the space Costa Coffee provide.

We continue to support the Spocchia family with a monthly gift of £100. They are planting the nearby Sheppey Gospel Plant with Relational Mission. There proves to be an increasing degree of overlap in our local missions together with some families and individuals crossing over from Sittingbourne to Sheppey.

We were able to welcome Jordan Olney (Pioneer 61) to be with us physically in August and September. We continue to see our friendship and partnership with Jordan as a positive thing for the advance of the Gospel, and supporting him as part of our wider global mission. In August 2020 were able to give Jordan a financial gift to aid his next steps as he returns to Melbourne, Australia, and then hopefully Mozambique.

Lily Bays had a planned mission training trip with YWAM in Norway scheduled for September 2020, which was then pushed back to December (due to COVID-19 travel restrictions), and then sadly postponed for a later date in 2021. We were able to gift Lily £607 towards her costs. We hope that Lily is able to finally go to Norway in September 2021.

We were able to financially support and send 6 people from Hope Church Sittingbourne to participate in the 2-year LEAD training programme with Relational Mission. Some of those sent were paid for completely, or had half of their fees paid for from our regular church giving. We trust that in 2 years' time these friends will be better equipped for future ministry, both in the church and in their everyday worlds.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has established a policy to cover day-to-day cashflow and also any financial liabilities in the event of a sudden and unexpected drop in income, or the closure of the charity.

The Reserves Policy states that a figure of £5,000 should be maintained for the above.

Leadership and Staffing

Gordon and Natalie Watson continue to lead the church-plant as the pioneering couple sent by our parent church, Cornerstone City Church (Medway), and are spiritually supported by Adam & Susie Voke (Cornerstone City Church, Medway) alongside David and Tricia King (New Life Church, Tunbridge Wells), both of whom are the lead eldership couples for their respective Relational Mission churches.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Throughout 2020 Gordon Watson was employed on a self-employed part-time basis. These hours were revised throughout the year. It is our hope that in April of 2021 the Trust will be in a position to employ Gordon under PAYE.

Natalie Watson volunteered to operate one day a week as our Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Life Skills Manager. A supporting team included Chris Willmott and Teresa Buston, both of whom also underwent training with CAP.

The team were able to deliver an online trial of the Life Skills programme with a handful of friends from Hope Church Sittingbourne. This 8-week course was a great start for our team and helped them to familiarise themselves with the content and its delivery. It is our hope that in 2021 the course will be able to be delivered in-person and in partnership with other local agencies, with referrals from supporting organisations such as local churches, Swale Foodbank and local housing associations.

Adam & Lizzie Gregory continued to lead worship throughout the pandemic, recording short videos which were made available on YouTube with accompanying lyrics to aid those watching in singing along.

Our 6 LEAD delegates started LEAD in August 2020, and although the training was online, they each seemed to benefit from various aspects of the course. As part of LEAD, they are each assigned a local mentor, having regular reviews on their personal experience and development on LEAD. Our hope is that in 2021 the LEAD delegates will be able to meet physically at the local base with others from across Relational Mission.

Overview of Church Life and Activities

Vision of multiplication for 2020

In the run up to 2020 we felt God was speaking to us about a multiplication of faith and disciples across the town of Sittingbourne, and that we were to start preparing ourselves so we were able to walk in step with this spiritual increase.

We multiplied from one midweek group to two new HOPE Groups. These were launched in mid-January and led by Jonathan and Teresa Butson and Adam and Lizzie Gregory. As COVID-19 caused the UK to enter its first lockdown we took the decision to merge these two new groups back together as one single online group.

Swale Foodbank & an appointed trustee

From March 2020 the local Sittingbourne Foodbank became a charity in its own right, renaming as Swale Foodbank to encompass their wider mission to Sheppey and Faversham.

The Hope Church Sittingbourne Trustees agreed for Gordon Watson to serve as a Trustee for this new charity, serving specifically in a role to help develop their new policies and also to develop systems for their finances, including overseeing their premises management and employment contracts.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

Hope Church Sittingbourne became a member church of Swale Foodbank, encouraging at least 5 people from Hope Church Sittingbourne to give a small monthly gift to the Swale Foodbank.

Easter online

Due to COVID-19 restrictions all of our planned Easter services were revised at short notice.

Gordon Watson was able to take a lead for Churches Together in Sittingbourne in helping organise and deliver an online Good Friday service in partnership with other local church leaders on YouTube. This eleventh-hour provision was greatly appreciated and had great representation from across the local body of Christian believers.

Our Easter Sunday Celebration service was hosted on Facebook Live with viewing numbers in excess of 1,000 views. We were very thankful to be able to offer a broad celebration service online to believers beyond our local context. This was during a season when many UK churches were unequipped to offer online provision.

Registered as members with the Evangelical Alliance

On 7th May we were able to register as a member church of the Evangelical Alliance. Their policy is that new churches have to have been established for at least 2 years before they can become members. 7th May 2020 marked 2 years to the day since the Watson family moved to plant Hope Church Sittingbourne.

3 people are baptised

Following a short-message on baptism in water, 3 people responded to the invitation to be baptised. Between 11th – 15th October 2020 we had the privilege of baptising these 3 dear friends in bathtubs in local homes (due to COVID-19 restrictions), videoing their baptisms and sharing the moment with the Hope Church Sittingbourne community afterwards.

A Christmas like no other

On 20th December 2020 we hosted Christmas Unwrapped, an online Carol Service with Rachel Brooke. We had a large number of people connecting in with the service which was a combination of sung carols and engaging video content. We are thankful for Rachel's excellent leading of the event throughout.

We brought 2020 to a close with our HOPE online Christmas Party on Christmas Eve. The evening was a fun social occasion with many of the church in attendance. The evening was a light hearted mix of jokes, Christmas jumpers, highlights from the year passing and hopes for the new year ahead.

Partnership with Relational Mission

2020 presented multiple opportunities for Hope Church Sittingbourne to engage with and foster deeper connection with Relational Mission, our family of churches. Our employment of Gordon Watson enabled us to release a portion of his employed hours (in a season when the local church had less demand) to serve beyond the local context within our family of churches.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

The Swale Squad

We continued to find a growing level of synergy between Hope Church Sittingbourne, Faversham Community Church and the Sheppey Gospel Plant. As three local Relational Mission church families in Swale, we partner together to encourage and spur one another on, both practically, and in prayer. This emerging friendship between the three churches is affectionately known as #swalesquad.

Relational Mission Community

During 2020, Relational Mission birthed 6 new Communities (RMCs) across the UK, primarily as a vehicle towards extending our combined apostolic mission of starting and strengthening churches, as well as fostering more meaningful relationships and connection between the churches within each RMC.

Adam Voke of Cornerstone City Church (our sending church) has been appointed to lead one of these RMCs. It was an easy decision for our church-plant to be aligned within this community. We are thankful that nearby friends Faversham Community Church and New Life Church, Tunbridge Wells are also in this community.

At the future point when elders are appointed to spiritually govern Hope Church Sittingbourne, the decision of which Relational Mission Community we most strongly relate to will be revisited.

ENOUGH prayer

We were privileged to be able to participate in all of the ENOUGH prayer initiatives that were hosted throughout 2020 in partnership with both local and global church families from across the UK, Europe and nations beyond.

The ENOUGH initiative continues to speak into our local and global mission as a family of churches.

Taking Church Communities Online

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March and April 2020, Gordon Watson organised a collaborative group of 6 leaders from across Relational Mission to help deliver 3 webinars. These webinars were specifically aimed at equipping churches from across the spectrum to operate and deliver their services in the new digital space.

A large number of churches from across different networks, streams and denominations took part in the 3 webinars.

Everyone a Witness team

In March 2020, Gordon Watson took on a facilitatory role in leading the Everyone a Witness team. It was felt that the COVID-19 pandemic presented a window of opportunity for local believers to effectively communicate the Gospel message in word and deed.

Gordon spent 9 months gathering a core-team to lead a wider team representing established and pioneering Relational Mission contexts from across the globe. This team,

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

once established, was then entrusted to David Bareham and Steve Dunn to move it into its next season.

The 'Take a Step' initiative

As part of leading the Everyone a Witness team, Gordon helped to develop, co-ordinate and deliver a 10-week online course to help people gain Gospel confidence in their everyday lives.

This course was a combination of written and recorded materials which involved a team of 20 people in its conception, development and production.

The course has in excess of 4,500 views and has served as a great free resource to equip believers in their everyday opportunities to witness to friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and complete strangers.

PLANT UK

As part of the new apostolic vision of Relational Mission, Gordon Watson was invited to join Stef Liston in a small team to help deliver the inaugural PLANT UK event which was hosted online on Friday 20th and Saturday, 21st November 2020.

The event helped to catalyse further the collective vision of multiplying 100 New Testament churches across the UK by 2040. The weekend featured a combination of real-life stories from those who have planted or are planting new church expression, along with inspirational and equipping sessions to help the delegates better understand their next steps in the journey ahead.

It is the hope of the PLANT UK team that this will become an annual event with other touch points throughout the year.

Summary

We are incredibly thankful for all that God has done throughout 2020, even through the seemingly barren season of COVID-19 restrictions.

In many ways this was a year that no one was expecting or had predicted, but through the year there were many highlights as we saw the local church community continue to establish and flourish in new and unexpected ways.

We have many hopes and aspirations together for 2021, but if this year has taught us anything, it is to hold all of our plans loosely and to make the most of the day that we find ourselves in.

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Bankers: Nat West Bank plc
PO Box 209
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4AU

Independent Examiner: Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham
Kent
ME5 0PH

Hope Church Sittingbourne Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2020

Governance & Trustees

Hope Church Sittingbourne is governed by its Constitution dated 16th October 2019.

The Registered Office is Hope Church Sittingbourne, 32 Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1XW.

The Trustees are:

Jonathan Hugh Butson
Jite Ufuoma Idowu
Nathaniel Turner
Christine Monica Willmott

Legal Status

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission. Charity Number: 1186867.

Charitable Objects

The purpose of the Church shall be:

- (1) The advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne and in such other areas as the Charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope Church Sittingbourne

This Report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the Act.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 144(5)(b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rob W Trice

17th May 2021

Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham, Kent, ME5 0PH

Hope Church Sittingbourne

Receipts & Payments Account - Year Ended 31 December 2020

	First Year 2020 £
RECEIPTS	
Giving (Gift Aided)	22,575.00
Giving (Non Gift Aided)	7,338.25
HMRC Gift Aid repayment	4,965.75
Financial Support	5,427.26
ACTS 435 income	840.00
Refunded expenditure	1,234.85
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>42,381.11</u>
PAYMENTS	2020 £
Employee wages and salaries	23,656.00
Travelling	156.70
Printing	158.05
Office Stationery & Admin	364.02
Computer & software	798.29
Mobile Charges	217.96
Business Insurance	272.82
Equipment	469.49
Books bought	92.39
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Gift (visiting speakers)	1,320.00
Gift (missional support)	3,592.98
Mission trips	(30.00)
CAP Life Skills	804.89
Cleaning	33.06
Miscellaneous expenses	187.51
Subscriptions	189.00
DBS/Safeguarding	221.25
Training Costs	2,390.00
Conference tickets	150.00
Venue/Hall hire	817.15
Independent examiner	-
ACTS 435 expenditure	690.00
Office Equipment and IT - cost	498.41
Unrecorded payments	254.50
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>38,365.09</u>
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	4,016.02
General Fund Balance brought forward	-
Funds introduced	4,135.67
General Fund Balance carried forward	<u>8,151.69</u>

**Hope Church Sittingbourne
Statement of Assets and Liabilities - As At 31 December 2020**

	2020 £
Bank Balances	
- #1 Main Account	3,693.89
- #2 Hope CAP Funds	324.80
- #3 Training & Future Staffing	3,371.00
- #4 Building Fund	1.00
- #5 Crisis/Family Fund	761.00
	<u>8,151.69</u>
Assets	
Office Equipment and IT - cost	<u>498.41</u>



May 2021

Signed on behalf of Hope Church Sittingbourne

Jonathan Butson
Treasurer.

Hope Church Sittingbourne

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Funds Movement Note

	Brought Forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	-	40,756.78	(37,058.89)	(4.00)	3,693.89
Hope CAP Funds	-	750.00	(426.20)	1.00	324.80
Training & Future Staffing Fd	-	3,370.00	-	1.00	3,371.00
Building Fund	-	-	-	1.00	1.00
Crisis/Family Fund	-	800.00	(190.00)	1.00	611.00
ACTS 435	-	840.00	(690.00)	-	150.00
	-	46,516.78	(38,365.09)	-	8,151.69