



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.

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.

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
TOTAL RECEIPTS	63,516.32	48,220.48
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	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	48,803.09	50,125.58
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	20,959.82	6,246.59

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
	<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
	<u>6,246.59</u>	<u>67,338.82</u>	<u>(52,625.59)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,959.82</u>