



HOPE CHURCH
SITTINGBOURNE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

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HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

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.

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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.

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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

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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

Address

32 Homewood Avenue
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 1XW

Charity number

1186867

Charity trustees

C Willmott
E Samuel
E Gregory
J Idowu

Bankers

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

Independent examiner

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

HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounts basis

The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments basis in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

2. Funds Movement Note

	Brought Forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	1,145.22	71,323.74	(70,324.45)		2,144.51
Hope CAP Funds	64.80	1,345.00	(720.00)	-	689.80
Training & Future Staffing Fund	716.00	7,694.39	(6,160.39)	-	2,250.00
Reserve Fund	9,237.76	8,582.60	(17,322.86)	-	497.50
ACTS 435/Crisis/Family Fund	79.03	755.00	(834.03)	-	-
	11,242.81	89,700.73	(95,361.73)	-	5,581.81

3. Related Party Note

None of the Trustees, or any persons connected to them, received any remuneration or benefits from the charity (2023: nil).

4. Trustee Donations

During 2024, the serving trustees contributed a combined total of £15,941.35 (2023: £15,776.40) in financial giving, which we gratefully acknowledge.

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>