

Rye Baptist Church (CIO)

Trustees' Annual Report on 2022

Aims & Purposes

The Trustees of Rye Baptist Church work together to advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination; to promote the whole mission of the church, through worship and pastoral care; evangelism; social care and ecumenical involvement; to advance education and carry out charitable purposes both in the UK and in other parts of the world; and as the overseeing charity for Rye Foodbank, to promote the alleviation of poverty and relief of need in the local area.

The Trustees are also responsible for the maintenance of the Rye Baptist Church building and the manse at 86 Udimore Rd, Rye, East Sussex.

Objectives & Activities

The Trustees are committed to enable as many people as possible to be part of the RBC worshipping community, and also to provide service and support to the wider community of Rye and District, through our various groups and activities.

When planning our various activities, the Trustees have considered the Commission's advice on public benefit and in particular, the specific advice for charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we endeavour to enable people to live out their faith through:-

- Worship & Prayer, Bible study and Teaching
- Baptism and Holy Communion
- Offering and Encouraging Pastoral Care
- Nurture of Christian disciples
- Missionary Outreach and Evangelism, locally, nationally, and internationally
- Welcome, inclusion and Christian nurture of young people
- Supporting and encouraging Christian Social Action in the UK and beyond
- Education & Training for Christian Community Service

To facilitate this work, it is essential that we maintain the fabric of the RBC church building and the manse at 86 Udimore Road.

Achievements & Performance:-

Worship & Prayer

During 2022, Sunday worship services have been able to continue without any enforced pauses for Covid 19. As people's confidence has improved in going out and mixing with others, post-pandemic, church attendance has increased with a number of new people becoming regular attenders. Numbers on a Sunday averaged from 35-50.

The new (in 2021) seating layout of semi circles of chairs around coffee tables, giving a much more relaxed and informal feel to the worship service, has continued to be appreciated by regulars and visitors alike.

Preaching Series during 2022 included The Minor Prophets; Jesus' Discourse from the Upper Room; a Selection of the Psalms; and the Epistle of James.

In addition to our regular Sunday worship, in mid 2022 we also returned to holding "Encountering God" - a monthly midweek informal praise and prayer gathering.

An "Exploring Baptism" course was begun in May for those who had expressed an interest, with all five attenders deciding to be baptised and applying for church membership. This led to two very

uplifting and well attended baptismal services - one in August and one in October – where all five baptismal candidates were also received into Church Membership. Two further new members were welcomed in during December.

Other worship highlights during 2022 included a Covenant New Year service; a Reflective Service for Good Friday and a Family Celebration of Easter; a live-streamed service from the Baptist Assembly; a Platinum Jubilee service to coincide with our Church Anniversary and Pentecost; a Harvest celebration; a Remembrance Service; a Christingle Service; Carols by Candlelight and a Family Christmas celebration.

Prayer is recognized as a very important element in the life of the church, and hence prayer takes place at almost all of the church's services, events and activities. The church's four well-populated house-groups all focus on prayer, as well as worship, Bible study and fellowship. Our main church prayer meeting is the monthly "Saturday Prayers" which takes place via Zoom. R4P (Request for Prayer)– our text/email prayer service has been used and appreciated increasingly during 2022. Some 20 people are on the prayer team, responding to texts and messages about prayer needs, and have been greatly encouraged by the results.

In January 2022 members of the Church participated in the local "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity", which was held via Zoom, and led by the committee of Churches Together in Rye & District. RBC also hosted in March 2022 the local meeting of churches for the World Day of Prayer.

BU & SEBA Membership

Rye Baptist Church is part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and a member church of the South Eastern Baptist Association.

Church Buildings

It is the responsibility of the Trustees to ensure the church buildings are well maintained.

Thanks to a church member's legacy, we were able to replace a further 3 windows on the upper floor of the church building. The lighting was renewed in the church lounge. In August 2022, the crèche room at the rear of the sanctuary was redecorated and supplied with new toys, books and furniture, and was completed just in time for a baptismal service attended by several visiting families. Some repainting has also been carried out on the outside of the lower hall windows.

Sadly, in November 2021 some cracking was noticed in the manse, which was later diagnosed by the insurance company's structural engineer to be caused by subsidence. This was monitored regularly during 2022, with drain repairs being carried out in August. With movement settling by the end of the year, the final repairs and refurbishment are expected to be carried out early in 2023.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care of the church fellowship is overseen by the Minister, assisted by the team of Trustees, and the house-group leaders. In addition to this, the church family are encouraged to look out for, and care for one another, and this has worked very well.

During 2022 four house-groups met regularly, maintaining a strong level of mutual pastoral care. Mindful of continuing Covid concerns, and lack of space in people's homes, three of these groups met in the church lounge, and just one in the leaders' home which has plenty of space. One of the evening groups continued to meet via Zoom for the colder and darker months of the year.

Church Membership etc.

RBC has a membership roll of people who have been baptised by immersion and who, after an interview process, have covenanted to support and serve the church here. During 2022, two members sadly passed away, but we were delighted to have 5 baptisms and to welcome 7 new members. This brought our total membership numbers at the end of the year to 47 members. The congregation also includes a number of 'fringe' folk and committed non-members who are very much part of the church family.

Mission & Evangelism

- **Coffee Plus** – from Easter to December 2022 – our Coffee Plus outreach activity re-opened. Selling low priced refreshments and cakes in a comfortable welcoming environment, the friendly volunteers also offer opportunities for prayer and pastoral conversation if this is desired. Many positive contacts in the community have been made through this outreach.
- **Butterfly Club** – Throughout 2022 our Carer and Toddler group opened from 9.30 to 11am on Fridays during school term-times and welcomed up to 20 carers and toddlers each week. Our welcoming and caring helpers, and the comfortable and safe environment we provide, has created positive connections and outreach opportunities with a good number of families in the community.
- **The Foodbank** operating from our building is also run with a Christian ethos, by a Christian manager, and a number of our church folk are on the team of volunteers. Prayer is offered and a listening ear, and signposting to agencies that can help with clients' problems with benefits, heating, housing and so on. During 2022, discussions with Hastings CAP (Christians Against Poverty) have led to the appointment of a CAP Debt Advisor to work in Rye one day a week alongside Foodbank from January 2023.
- **Online Services:** -During 2022 as more and more people have returned to attending church in person, the number of people accessing our online worship services decreased significantly. After much discussion and consideration, it was decided to cut back the weekly recordings from a full worship service to a simple reading, sermon and prayer, thus still taking opportunities to present a clear Gospel message in an online presence, and for people to be able to make a Christian commitment. This message is supported by clear information on our website.
- **Personal Witness** - It has always been our practice to encourage our congregation to witness personally to their faith to friends and neighbours.
- **Connect and Engage** – Our monthly fellowship gatherings in a local pub (Connect for Ladies and Engage for men) provide an enjoyable evening out for church folk, and also serve as an opportunity for gentle evangelistic outreach.
- **R4P (Request for Prayer)** – this text/email prayer service has been greatly utilised by church folk and others outside the church who would like our prayer team to pray for particular needs or concerns. Many have been helped by this, and again it is a means of witness to the power of prayer and the God who cares for all.
- **Council Prayers etc** – During 2022, our minister Fiona was invited to be involved in the Mayor Making ceremony; to lead prayers at one of the Town Council Meetings; and to preach at the Civic service marking the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – all great opportunities.
- **School Assemblies** – We continue our connections with the local primary School via school assemblies. In the early months of 2022, when there were still some Covid concerns, Fiona could not go into schools to take assemblies, so instead she produced a number of filmed

assemblies which were much appreciated by staff and children alike. During the autumn months, however, she returned to going in to school to do some assemblies 'in person'.

- **Rye Bonfire** – This is a big event in the community life of Rye, and RBC joined in again this year by opening our building, selling hot drinks, and allowing use of our toilet facilities, which was much appreciated by the public.
- **Rye Street Pastors** -a number of our members also serve as Street Pastors in Rye and District, reaching out to the night-time economy to listen, help and care. We are pleased to provide our church hall as the town centre base for their operations and prayer.
- **Rye Homes for Ukraine** – Since the war began in the Ukraine RBC has sought to offer what support we could for Ukrainian guests and those hosting them in our area. To that end, since May, we have hosted regular meetings for Ukraine guests, hosts, and support services to network and socialise together, which have been much appreciated.
- **Rye Arts Festival** – During this two week event in September we hosted several talks, attended by good numbers from the community. Our facilities were much appreciated by both the organisers and attenders, and some good connections made. .
- **Overseas Mission Support** - Through our tithes and various special collections during the year, we have supported a number of overseas mission agencies and ministries e.g. Hope Home in Thailand; the BMS Harvest Appeal; Tearfund; and Samara's Aid Appeal. Helping those in need is also part of our mission, so when Russia invaded Ukraine, we had a special collection for the needs of the Ukrainian people, and also sent money to a church we had connections with in Poland, who were seeking to support a huge number of Ukrainian refugees as they passed through.

Ecumenical relationships

Rye Baptist Church is part of Churches Together in Rye & District, and our minister, the Revd. Fiona Gill, is currently Chair of the Executive Committee of CTRD. Now that Covid concerns have receded, the churches in Rye have returned to their practice of engaging in worship and outreach activities together. Representatives from all the congregations participated in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Three congregations joined together for a United Morning Service in May at the Anglican church and in September at RBC. In July we celebrated Sea Sunday with a picnic and service at Rye Harbour Church led by our minister Fiona. We also joined together in a series of Zoom prayer and discussion Meetings during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in May. Throughout the year the committee and church leaders have also kept in touch via regular Zoom meetings.

Rye Foodbank

Since November 2021 Rye Foodbank has operated within the franchise of the Trussell Trust, and under the charitable oversight of Rye Baptist Church CIO, on behalf of Churches Together in Rye & District. Rye Baptist Church therefore owns all Foodbank assets, and the church Trustees are responsible for the governance and oversight of the financial affairs and operations of the Rye Foodbank. Rye Foodbank operations are carried out from the Rye Baptist Church building by a team of volunteers, headed up by the Foodbank manager, Robert Harper, who supplied the following report:-

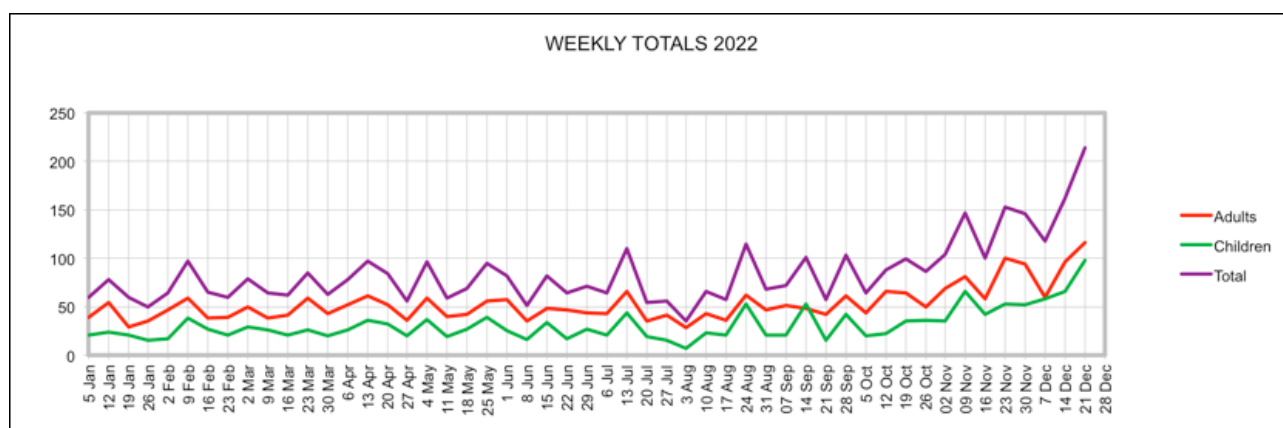
Rye Foodbank Operations, January to 31st December 2022

1. HEADLINE CHANGES

Rye Food Bank became an independent Food Bank in November 2021 and is no longer operating as part of the Bexhill and District Food Bank. It remains a charitable organisation and is overseen by Rye Baptist Church CIO, operating under the authority of their Trustees. It is ultimately guided by Churches Together in Rye and District.

As at this date it is operating as a franchisee of the Trussell Trust, but in 2022 we started the process of stepping away from Trussell. Rye is a very different community from that which most Food Banks operate in, and we found it increasingly difficult to operate within Trussell's mould. We use literally none of Trussell's services, and don't follow their very bureaucratic methods of working - though we have been entering all our activity data into their systems. This takes many hours each week with no benefit to us. We are developing new branding and our systems need review – see para 4 overleaf.

We have appointed a volunteer deputy manager, Penny Downes, and she has been a tremendous asset to the Food Bank. An ex head teacher in a London secondary school, she has brought team building and management skills of a high order, and she has embraced and improved the systems we operate. In addition the volunteer team has expanded. We do not take on volunteers who are unable to commit to working at least once every fortnight, and we have built two teams (to give resilience in the event of illness), both of which are



awesomely capable and dependable and fun to work with. Since there are 26 volunteers it is impossible to name them all, but what an asset and a blessing they all are. They are all familiar with the tasks that need to be done, and do them cheerfully and supremely well.

2. ACTIVITY

The Food Bank experienced on-going increase in demand through 2022. Though activity levels in individual weeks varied widely, the trend was strongly up. Please see the graph of activity levels below.

Rye Foodbank succeeded in providing food as required throughout the year, with no shortfalls in stock. It distributed over £10,000 worth of food vouchers in lieu of the one week in the year we were closed – 28th December 2022.

(Please Note : The graph shows the total number of people who have benefited from the Food Bank, *not* the number of food parcels given out

The weekly weight of food given reached a maximum of 1663kg on 21st December, a similar weight of food is brought in each week.)

There has been an almost complete cessation of the use of referral vouchers. If someone is without or is struggling they simply come in and we interview them, provide for them and introduce them to partner advisors as appropriate. It is heart-warming that some people

continue to come in even though they don't need food from us any more, they value the company and the encouragement they receive.

The key partner advisors are the Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC), which gives benefits advice but in fact considerably exceeds that brief, and Rother District Council, who are available to give face to face advice on all council related and housing issues via video link. Both have been extremely successful, especially HARC who have unlocked benefits for many people and released them from dependency.

We greatly look forward to working together with the CAP Debt Centre in Rye, which works under the oversight of Churches Together in Rye and District and was funded by the Food Bank for the first year. We regularly receive requests from other organisations that want to work with us, but we tend not to concede to this unless there is genuine mutual benefit.

3. RESOURCING

The Food Bank enjoys tremendous support from local residents and businesses, due in no small part to the representation in the local Rye News, for which we are very grateful. We collect food donations from several collection points, and have had some huge donations delivered. Financial donations are made directly to our bank accounts and also through the Jempson's Foundation.

We have received sufficient grant funding to purchase and run the delivery vehicle, as well as privacy screens and a premium coffee maker - which has been greatly appreciated by clients and volunteers alike.

The Food Bank utilises Rye Baptist Church premises, and greatly appreciates the wonderful support in so many ways of the Trustees. We have lost the use of the Methodist Store, but perhaps this has made us even more sharp on stock control and ordering, and reduced the workload of warehousing. The majority of our food supplies come from Jempsons, who have proved to be a reliable and valued partner who deliver faithfully and apply significant discounts.

4. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

We are anticipating further increases in demand, which could put a little strain on space, but we are fairly confident we will be able to cope with regular demand rising to 60 clients. Movement away from Trussell demands a new identity and branding. It will then require launch so that all referrers, benefactors and clients understand the change. This is ongoing.

Our systems fall into two functional parts. The first is designed to capture client details, with a particular view to being able to provide the optimum help. The second links with that and is designed to support very accurate stock control and compile data. The stock control and data element remains workable and is in some ways very advanced. However the client systems have reached the limit of what one can realistically do on a spreadsheet running on low powered laptop computers, and we will have to develop an alternative approach. Initial research is being undertaken.

Bob Harper -Rye Food Bank

RBC Financial Review

During 2022, total receipts on unrestricted funds were £158,243. Included in the unrestricted funds are legacies totalling £83,640. We further received restricted funds of £87,964 for the Food Bank activities.

Planned giving by way of bank transfers, standing orders and cheques to the unrestricted funds were up by 8% during this period, and the total income of this fund rose by 151% compared to the previous period due to the legacies received.

From the unrestricted funds Rye Baptist Church spent £65,571 in providing Christian ministry and the upkeep of the church building and the manse. This figure is including contributions to the Baptist Union and the Baptist Missionary Society. There was £78,566 spent by the Rye Foodbank from the restricted funds.

The net result for the year was that our unrestricted fund had an excess of receipts over payments of £92,672. Adding this to the balance brought forward at the beginning of the year of £48,593 gives us a balance of £141,265 carried forward on the 31st December.

In the restricted fund for the Food Bank, the excess of receipts over payments was £9,398. Adding this to the balance brought forward at the beginning of the year of £70,729 gives us a balance of £80,128 carried forward on the 31st December.

The total balance of all funds carried forward at year end was £221,393.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy of Rye Baptist Church is to hold three months of all necessary expenditure plus a further three months staff costs to allow the church to adapt to any changes in the income or expenditure of the church. The trustees currently believe this amount to be £21,800. Currently there is currently sufficient funding in our general account to meet the policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all of the volunteers from our congregation who work so hard to make RBC the loving, lively and vibrant congregation it is. Fiona, our Pastor, would like to also thank our Trustees and house-group leaders for all their hard work. Particular mention should go to Geoff Austin, our Church Secretary; Penny Kingham our Treasurer, Paul Kingham, our Financial Lead, and the ladies who assist him on the Finance team; Geoff Haynes for oversight of the website and recordings; and Ruby Stoodley and Marguerite Kenward for their help in so many areas, of church life. especially pastoral care.

Structure, Governance & Management

The Board of Trustees is currently made up of the Minister, the Church Secretary and the Treasurer, plus three other Trustees, all elected by the membership in accordance with the procedures detailed in our Constitution. The Trustees are authorised by the church meeting to make decisions on smaller matters relating to the running of RBC, whilst larger matters, and larger items of expenditure are brought to the Church Meeting for approval.

During 2022, Church Members' Meetings were held in January, April, July and November, to update members on general church business, and to discuss and agree plans for the immediate future. The January meeting was held via Zoom Video Conferencing due to bad weather and Covid

concerns, but the rest were held in person. At the AGM in April, our Church Secretary, Geoff Austin was re-elected to serve a further term as Trustee. Following the AGM and CM in April, a Special Church Meeting was held to approve the change to our Constitution to enable church meetings to be via Zoom in future should special circumstances make that necessary (as had been the case during the pandemic).

Throughout 2022, The Trustees met monthly on Zoom, for church business, and also regularly, in person, throughout the year for pastoral prayer meetings. .

Administrative Information

Rye Baptist Church is situated in Cinque Ports Street, Rye, East Sussex. It is part of the South Eastern Baptist Association within the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales with the Charity Number 1188057

The Trustees, serving at least until the date this report is approved, are as follows:-

Chair - Revd. Fiona Gill, Minister

Secretary – Geoffrey Austin

Treasurer – Penny Kingham

Trustee – Geoffrey Haynes

Trustee - Marguerite Kenward

Trustee – Ruby Stoodley

Approved by the RBC Annual Church Meeting on 24th April 2023



Receipts and payments account

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2022

To

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts			
UIO funding passed to CIO	-	-	-
Foodbank funding passed to church	-	-	-
Donations	53,063	-	-
Gift Aid Refund from HMRC	12,023	-	-
Sales coffees/teas	5,234	-	-
Miscellaneous	1,750	-	-
Legacies	83,640	-	-
Interest	32	-	-
Fellowship Fund	2,500	-	-
Foodbank grants	-	24,887	-
Donations to foodbank	-	63,077	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	158,243	87,964	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-
Total receipts	158,243	87,964	-
A3 Payments			
Ministry	34,450	-	-
Mission	586	-	-
Manse	5,666	-	-
Upkeep of Church	8,016	-	-
Administration	1,370	-	-
Miscellaneous	4,230	-	-
Fellowship Fund	2,525	-	-
Away Giving (Tithe)	8,727	-	-
Foodbank purchases	-	78,566	-
Sub total	65,571	78,566	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-
Total payments	65,571	78,566	-

Net of receipts/(payments)	92,672	9,398	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	48,593	70,729	-
Cash funds this year end	141,265	80,128	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC (RBC)	141,265
	Barclays Bank (Foodbank)	-
		-
	Total cash funds	141,265

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs
B3 Investment assets		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

		-
		-
		-
		-

B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates
	Manse Insurance Excess	Unrestricted fund

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print N
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o (if any)
188057

ounts

CC16a

Period end date
12/31/2022

Total funds	Last year
to the nearest £	to the nearest £

-	47,855
-	58,392
53,063	54,726
12,023	8,608
5,234	2,684
1,750	3,084
83,640	
32	30
2,500	-
24,887	7,181
63,077	9,530
246,207	192,089

-	-
-	-
-	-

246,207	192,089
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34,450	34,150
586	1,123
5,666	6,708
8,016	15,441
1,370	2,131
4,230	1,302
2,525	50
8,727	7,487
78,566	4,374
144,137	72,767

-	-
-	-
-	-

144,137	72,767
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102,070	119,322
-	-
119,322	-
221,393	119,322

the period

Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £

-	-
80,128	-
-	-
80,128	-

OK

Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
------------------------	---------------------------------

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
------------------------	---------------------------------

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

**Amount due
(optional)**

**When due
(optional)**

1,000

-
-
-
-

lame

Date of
approval



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

RYE BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2022

Charity no
(if any)

1188057

Set out on pages

122

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

J. Anstead

Date:

28/04/2023

Name:

J. ANSTEAD

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

46B, CULVERDEN DOWN, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT
TN4 956

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE