



The Hope Trust Oxford

Financial Statements and Trustees' Annual Report

1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024

Charity registration number: 1190127 (England and Wales)

The Hope Trust Oxford
Financial Statements and Trustees' Annual Report
For the year ended 30th June 2024

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**The Hope Trust Oxford
General Information**

Registered charity name	The Hope Trust Oxford
Charity number	1190127
Principal and registered office address	1-2 Roger Bacon Lane Oxford OX1 1QE
Trustees	Rebecca Pillar (Chair) James Paterson Georgina Prineppi Andrew Turnbull Andrew Butterworth
Independent Examiner	SPX Oxford Ltd Peace House 19 Paradise Street Oxford OX1 1LD

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report and accounts for the period ending 30th June 2024.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

The purposes of The Hope Trust Oxford are the advancement of the Christian faith in the UK or abroad, with a primary focus in Oxford, in accordance with a Basis of Faith including, but not limited to, the support of charitable or other organisations which, or individuals who, are involved in any of the activities set out in the following clauses as an expression of the Christian life and faith:

- the relief of those in need, hardship or distress;
- the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life;
- the promotion of Christian education and faith through evangelism, preaching, Bible teaching or training.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

The trust's main means of relieving poverty and supporting the advancement of the Christian faith in Oxford currently is its sponsoring of St Ebbe's Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre. At the beginning of the 2023-24 financial year, the staffing of the Debt Centre consisted of a Debt Centre Manager who worked for three days a week, a Life Skills Manager and Debt Coach who worked for four days a week, and a Life Skills Coach who worked for one day a week. We give a monthly contribution of £600 to CAP.

The CAP Debt centre underwent some personnel changes this year. In September 2023, the Debt Centre Manager took on a new role at St Ebbe's Church, so she phased out her work with the Hope Trust, going down to 1-2 days per week until February 2024 to allow for handover to the new Debt Centre Manager, and finishing completely with the Trust in February 2024. She continues to be a valuable volunteer. The existing Debt Coach and Life Skills Manager took over as Debt Centre Manager during this time and went up to working for five days per week. In January 2024, the Life Skills Coach handed in her notice to finish at the end of March 2024 as she went full time in her other job. The Trust advertised for replacements, but the roles were not filled this year.

The CAP ministry's expenses for this financial year included the costs of continuing to run a community café and providing a weekly hot lunch for the Life Skills group members.

The community café continues to run weekly. It is a hub for clients and people interested in the work of CAP to socialise and talk through debt issues in a more informal setting, as well as find out a bit more about church and Christianity if they would like. The café is based at a church in Oxford called Grace Church Cowley.

As well as the Debt Help service, we were able to run three Life Skills Courses this financial year. These are 8-10 week courses which aim to support and empower people living on a low

income by equipping them with many practical money saving techniques, such as cooking on a budget and making their money go further.

The Hope Trust has continued its two-year pledge to support a local community worker on the staff of St Ebbe's church which will finish in August 2024. The local community worker has a two-year contract at St Ebbe's, and The Hope Trust gives monthly gifts to St Ebbe's for this purpose, given the shared aims between the two charities in the St Ebbe's parish. THTO's support is intended as seed funding in hopes that the church will be able to fund the role after the initial two years.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

All trustees have read and had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Contribution made by volunteers

The Debt Centre has a team of 8 befriender volunteers. They accompany the Debt Coach on visits and focus on the non-debt related needs of the client, such as facilitating bringing the client into the community and helping with practical tasks. There are also 2 volunteers who assist with Life Skills, befriending and supporting the group members, and helping with practical tasks.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

The CAP Debt Centre has made a huge difference to people's lives in the way that the Debt Centre Manager, Life Skills Manager and Life Skills Coach, as well as the volunteers, have shown practical care, empathy and a listening ear, and worked hard to strengthen community relationships. Many clients have made significant progress on their journey towards becoming debt free. Life Skills and CAP Money Course members have learned new ways to lift the pressure of life on a low income, as well as gained valuable benefits from being in community with each other.

The Debt Centre and Life Skills Course has had referrals from all over Oxford - Cowley, Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys, Jericho, Barton, Marston, Headington and from St Ebbe's parish. Referrals come from the JobCentre, Turning Point, Crisis, Edge Housing, social services, GP Social Prescribers, the church, and word of mouth. There is a mix of employed, unemployed and retired people, as well as those unable to work due to poor physical or mental health. There is a mixture of ages and ethnicity. With the debt clients is a variety in debt: some only have debt from one source, some have debts from several. The amount of debt varies from a few thousand pounds to many thousands of pounds.

Most debt clients are on repayment plans or going through a Debt Relief Order. While a major aim of the centre is to help clients with their finances so that they might become debt free, the Christian motive behind the charity is made explicit right from the start. Clients are asked if they would like prayer and the Centre's links with churches are made known. Clients and Life

Skills members are invited along to church events and several have shown interest, attended services, and have gone further into discipleship courses.

The Life Skills Courses continue to be a valuable support to those struggling with life on a low income, as well as providing a warm community to those struggling with loneliness and isolation. Life Skills is an 8-10 week course and consists of three components: the Course itself, which includes sessions on budgeting, shopping on a budget, eating healthily, staying on top of home energy bills, and maintaining healthy relationships during stressful times; Community - each session includes a lunch where members can chat, make friends, learn from each other and support each other; and Coaching - each member is encouraged to set personal goals and work towards them with one-to-one support from the Life Skills Manager and Life Skills Coach. A great sense of community has developed through each of the courses, and we have held periodic reunions to catch up with former members. Members have commented *"The community and social aspect of this course has been really good for me. I had become quite isolated but coming every week I'm seeing people, I'm getting out, I'm making friends. I really needed that."* and *"I feel much more in control of my life - I am taking control, not just letting things happen to me"*.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The final sum in the bank account at the end of our financial year (30th June 2024) was £41,462.02 (2023: £48,328.36).

Total income was mostly in the form of both restricted and unrestricted donations, grants, gift aid and interest and amounted to £65,892.63 (2023: £71,778.95). As part of this figure, a seed donor gave £25,000 and a Harvest fund from St Ebbe's Church raised just over £21,240. The remaining income came from trusts and foundations, individuals, gift aid and interest.

Total expenditure was £72,758.97 (2022: £66,171.05).

At the end of the financial year, the Trust held £41,462.02 of reserves (2023: £48,328.36).

There are no material uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

The type of governing document for The Hope Trust Oxford is a constitution that is based on the Charity Commission foundation model for a CIO. The constitution also includes a 1-page 'Basis of Faith' to which all trustees are asked to agree to on appointment to the trustee board.

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation.

Trustee selection methods

Apart from the first three charity trustees (named in the constitution and the founding members), every charity trustee must be appointed for a maximum of three years by a resolution passed by at least a 75% majority at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

In accordance with the constitution, a charity trustee whose term of office has expired shall be eligible for reappointment for up to two further three year terms, but a trustee who has served nine years in total shall not be eligible for reappointment until at least one full year has elapsed.

Trustees	Date of appointment
Rebecca Pillar	25th May 2020
James Paterson	10th July 2021
Georgina Prineppi	19th July 2022
Andrew Turnbull	25th May 2020
Andrew Butterworth	19 th February 2024


The charity's key management personnel are trustees, who are all volunteers.

The charity entered into a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding with St Ebbe's Church and the congregation leaders of St Ebbe's are invited to recommend individuals who may be considered appropriate for the position of trustee.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full name	Andrew Turnbull
Position eg. secretary, chair etc.	Trustee
Date	24.03.2025

Accounts

1st July 2023 - 30th June 2024

Receipts and payments

<u>Receipts</u>	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds 2024 to the nearest £	Total funds 2023 to the nearest £
Individual donations	2,249	1,440	3,689	25,689
Seed donor	25,000	-	25,000	45,900
Grants	-	15,400	15,400	
St Ebbe's Donation	20,304	939	21,243	
Interest	110	-	110	104
Gift Aid	444	-	444	86
Other	-	8	8	0
Sub total	48,106	17,786	65,893	71,779

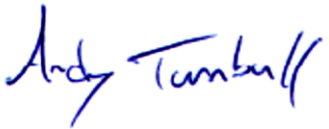
<u>Payments</u>	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds 2024 to the nearest £	Total funds 2023 to the nearest £
Admin support salary	3,407		3,407	6,250
Payroll provider	350		350	420
Bank charges	66		66	75
HMRC	1,330	5,340	6,670	5,899
NEST pensions	3,749	322	4,071	4,209
Insurance	325		325	282
Website		239	239	226
Parish worker salary		10,833	10,833	6,667
Christians Against Poverty debt centre manager salary		14,343	14,343	13,995

Christians Against Poverty life skills manager salary		14,437		13,318
Christians Against Poverty life skills coach salary		3,000	3,000	2,668
Christians Against Poverty contribution		7,200	7,200	7,200
Christians Against Poverty ministry	Hampers, café etc (expenses)	1,300	1,300	1,288
Medhurst Ministries contribution		266	266	2,500
Accountancy fees (incl. Independent Examination)	378		378	360
Marketing	0		0	47
Office supplies	393		393	434
Staff expenses	41	49	90	54
Innovista partnership		0	0	321
Safe Families		5,000	5,000	-
Legal fees	390		390	-
Sub total	10,429	62,329	72,758	66,173

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
Net receipts/payments	37,677	-44,543	-6,866
Cash funds last year end	42,938	5,390	48,328
Transfer between funds	-39,888	39,888	0
Cash funds this year end	40,727	735	<u>41,462</u>

		Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing balance
Unrestricted general funds		42,938	48,106	-10,429	-39,888	40,727
Restricted funds						
R1	Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	5,390	6,711	-46,231	34,130	0
R2	Medhurst Ministries	0	1000	-265	0	735
R3	Parish Worker	0	10,075	-10,833	758	0
R4	Safe Families	0	0	-5,000	5,000	0
Total restricted funds		5,390	17,786	-62,329	39,888	735
Total funds		48,328	65,892	-72,758	0	41,462

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees:

Signature	
Full name	Andrew Turnbull
Position eg. secretary, chair etc.	Trustee
Date	24.03.2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Hope Trust Oxford

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30 June 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1190127

Set out on pages

1-2 of Receipts and Payments accounts

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I 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:

Date:

8 April 2025

Name:

Sheila Parry

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

FCCA

Address:	Peace House, Paradise Street, Oxford OX1 1LD

Section B	Disclosure
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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.

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