

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date
From Day 01 Month 09 Year 2022 To Day 31 Month 08 Year 2023

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Pershore Community Church

Other names charity is known by

N/A

Registered charity number (if any)

1190476

Charity's principal address

PO Box 2048

Pershore

Postcode

WR10 9EY

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|----|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | M. Hornby | Chair of Trustees | | |
| 2 | Scott Andrews | | | |
| 3 | Iain Bailey | | | |
| 4 | Andrew Stephens | Treasurer | | |
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| 20 | | | | |

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small> | Constitution |
| How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small> | Charitable Incorporated Organisation |
| Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small> | Appointed by leadership team |

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objectives of the church are for the benefit of the public to advance the Christian Faith in accordance with the Statements of Beliefs in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom and the World as the Trustees from time to time may think fit and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Activities

This report will mirror Pershore Community Church Trust Charity no. 1144119. During the reporting period application was made to transfer the 'workings' and assets from the unincorporated charity to this CIO.

Charity Commission approval was received 11 October 2023 (outside of this reporting period) and it is expected that the two charities will merge during 2023/24 reporting period.

The report and details below relate to Pershore Community Church

Following the departure of the former senior pastor and his wife, the reduced spiritual leadership team of 4 people began to lead the church in the summer of 2022. They have committed to leading the church, initially, for a period of 2 years, before review.

The new leadership sought to build on the foundations of Pershore Community Church laid over more than 10 years. The three key principles of 'Connecting with God' 'Connecting with each other' and 'Connecting others with God' have remained firmly in focus but, our mission statement was changed to 'To be vibrant followers of Jesus committed to making a difference in our communities'

Our church 'branding' was refreshed with a new logo incorporating the three key principles detailed above. These were incorporated onto banners and display boards to help advertise the location of our Sunday morning services and 'personalise' our spaces, as we are reliant on hiring rooms and halls for our meetings

Our offering of refreshments has been upgraded to enhance our welcome on Sunday mornings, including purchase of coffee making equipment and supplies through Kingdom Coffee Company.

Alpha & Outreach

We successfully ran an Alpha course in September 2022 which resulted in two of our church newcomers firmly establishing their faith in God. One of these also asked to be baptised in water which was completed at a special service at Pershore Baptist Church at the beginning of August 2023.

We held further 'bridge building' events to engage with those on the periphery of the church and connect with friends and family members who we would like to come to know God. These included an Italian themed quiz night and a skittles and pizza night at a local restaurant and sports club

We supported the local Plum Festival, Bike Nite event and annual 10k race in August by way of volunteering/stewarding. Our support was much appreciated by the respective organisations and continues to build our good reputation in the local community.

Sunday and Other Meetings

The church continued to meet at Abbey Park Middle School on Sundays through the duration of 2022 and 2023. Different locations were considered during autumn 2022 but the leaders decided that the school detailed above, provided the best option in the short term. The Church still has aspirations of owning its own meeting space but this was not actively pursued in the reporting period apart from making general enquiries about the availability of a plot of land in Pershore.

We continued with our pattern of meeting three Sundays per month at the school with the fourth used for 'Connecting' with the community and others. Meetings at the school reflected a typical Christian worship service with a variety of speakers including, the core leaders, wider leaders and invited guests. Children and Youth would stay in for part of the service with a tailored session held for them separately later.

From time to time we had more 'relaxed' Sunday service called 'café church' where the format was more interactive and involved the whole church including children and young people.

Our 'Connect' Sundays were varied to engage in a variety of activities to build bridges with people in the community and those on the periphery of the church. They included stewarding at the Pershore Plum Plodders 10K race, helping tidy up at a local 'care' farm, a treasure hunt, BBQ's, and filling 'shoeboxes' for 'Operation Christmas Child'

Easter was celebrated in the school in 2023 and a reflective Good Friday service held at the local library.

Our midweek 'life' groups (small group) continued. A quarterly midweek meeting for the whole church was established to help engage more in worship and prayer, respectively, at a deeper level. The third month was reserved for outreach, to help emphasize the importance of sharing our Christian faith, using 'bridge building' events.

Youth and Children's work

Our youth and children's work continued with new leaders involved in the latter.

The youth meet once a fortnight for social activities and meet once a month in a local Youth club. Some of the youth also play regularly in our worship band and have led and helped to lead several Sunday services.

Churches Together In Pershore (Ecumenical) and Wider Connections

We have continued to be an active member of Churches Together in Pershore and contribute to the leadership meetings held approximately bi monthly.

We hosted the annual joint service in January 2023 which was very well represented from most of the local churches.

We continued to support the annual 'Lent' outreaches which include the provision of member made soups and pancakes to raise funds for various charities and support other local Easter CTIP outreach activities

We continue to support Pershore Foodbank based at the local Anglican church by way of individual volunteers and also have 1 active member of the workplace chaplaincy scheme.

We have also financially supported Pershore Community Cupboard, located at Pershore Baptist Church, which works similarly to the Foodbank, but on a more flexible basis.

Links with and support of church mission workers in Spain, North Africa and Ukraine continued.

Synergy

Our involvement with 'Synergy' group of churches has continued with regular contact between both parties by way of quarterly 'cluster' (churches within a similar geographical area), meetings, attendance at the annual conference, attendance of Leaders retreat and fostering a good relationship with the former Synergy head, who lives in Worcester.

Miscellaneous

Following the departure of our paid senior leader in the summer of 2022, with no plans to replace him with another paid leader in the short term, it was decided to allow the lease on our office space to lapse without renewing it. Instead, a storage unit has been rented to store church equipment. As the office was used as our correspondence address, it was changed in September 22 to a PO Box number as detailed above.

The Church contact telephone number has been retained (attached to an internet based system) and remains accessible by one of the trustee/leaders

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Church activities are significantly reliant on the contribution and service from our volunteers/regular attenders, for which we are very grateful. The church has relied completely on volunteers during the reporting period with no paid staff.

A key strategic aim, established in early 2023, was the need for a key person to work with those aged in their twenties and thirties, and their families. It was considered appropriate by the leaders and Trustees this position should be paid, full time or part time, initially for a period of two years.

A role specification, designed to be flexible was developed and advertised within local church networks. As at the end of the reporting period and time of writing, the position remains unfilled but will be further promoted in 2024.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the activities of the church as described above provide significant public benefit.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- Weekly, in person Church meetings held, with a 'Connect' Sunday once a month to help 'reach' out into the community.
- Midweek small group meetings continued throughout the year with monthly whole church gatherings.
- Face to face Alpha course held in Autumn 2022 attended by two people who had recently become Christians.
- Full involvement and leadership in the local Churches Together In Pershore group.
- Continued involvement and links with Synergy our family of Churches organisation
- Community engagement continued with 'bridge building' outreach events. These included an Italian themed quiz night, Pizza and skittles evening, significant involvement in The Pershore Plum Festival, annual 10K race, Bike Nite, Care farm support, English lessons and other support for the new Ukrainian refugee Community
- We have continued to attract new people to our services during the period with some deciding to become part of the Church
- One person baptised
- We continued to support overseas missionaries with whom we have a relationship
- Helped local Ukrainian refugees to learn and improve their English language through lessons run by church volunteers
- Active engagement and encouragement of the young people in church demonstrated through participation in Sunday services and our worship band.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our current policy on reserves is to maintain at least £5000 in cash deposits at our bank. This was easily achieved during the reporting period. Funds maintained in restricted funds are excluded from the aforementioned figure

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None/N/a

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Pershore Community Church continues to be fully funded by monthly and other gifts from its members.

The church continues to aspire to purchase a building in the near term future to provide a more permanent and flexible meeting space to help meet its key objectives. We continue to maintain a restricted fund for a donation of £6250 received in 2020 towards the aspiration of buying a building. The donor has confirmed they are happy for the donation to be retained by the church for the time being.

Section F



Other optional information

At the end of the reporting period, the Charity was at an advanced stage of merging the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity Reference No. 1190476) and Charity Trust (Charity reference no 1144119) awaiting Charity Commission approval.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Signature(s) |  |  |
| Full name(s) | ANDREW STEPHENS | SLOTT ANDREWS |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | TREASURER | TRUSTEE |
| Date | 17/1/24 | |



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Pershore Community Church

1190476

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/09/2022

To

31/08/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| General Gifts | 33,479 | 122 | - | 33,601 | - |
| Gift Aid Refund | 7,375 | 31 | - | 7,406 | - |
| Fundraising | - | - | - | - | - |
| Interest | 54 | - | - | 54 | - |
| Other Income | 675 | - | - | 675 | 40 |
| Transfer from Charity | 43,061 | 6,300 | - | 49,361 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 84,644 | 6,453 | - | 91,097 | 40 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 84,644 | 6,453 | - | 91,097 | 40 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Training/Conferences | 295 | - | - | 295 | - |
| Professional Fees | 863 | - | - | 863 | - |
| Insurances | 475 | - | - | 475 | - |
| Subscriptions & Memberships | 604 | - | - | 604 | - |
| Events | 47 | - | - | 47 | - |
| Room Hire | 3,660 | - | - | 3,660 | - |
| Church Office/Meeting Room | 500 | - | - | 500 | - |
| Travel & Parking | 98 | - | - | 98 | - |
| Postage | 516 | - | - | 516 | - |
| Books, CDs & Resources | 167 | - | - | 167 | - |
| Computer Expenses | 232 | - | - | 232 | - |
| Equipment | 111 | - | - | 111 | - |
| Church Giving | 5,833 | - | - | 5,833 | - |
| Outreach Expenses | 747 | - | - | 747 | - |
| Safeguarding | 145 | - | - | 145 | - |
| Guest Speakers | 809 | - | - | 809 | - |
| Storage | 1,820 | - | - | 1,820 | - |
| Church Meeting Refreshments | 639 | - | - | 639 | - |
| Publicity | 823 | - | - | 823 | - |
| Youth & Children's Work | 83 | - | - | 83 | - |
| Sub total | 18,467 | - | - | 18,467 | - |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| Equipment | 1,914 | - | - | 1,914 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 1,914 | - | - | 1,914 | - |
| Total payments | 20,381 | - | - | 20,381 | - |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 64,263 | 6,453 | - | 70,716 | 40 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 40 | - | - | 40 | - |
| Cash funds this year end | 64,303 | 6,453 | - | 70,756 | 40 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Current Account | 34,233 | 6,453 | - |
| | 32 Day Notice Account | 30,054 | - | - |
| | Petty Cash | 16 | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 64,303 | 6,453 | - |

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



| | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | Accrued Gift Aid August 23 | 754 | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B3 Investment assets | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Misc Equipment | General | 1,914 | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| B5 Liabilities | Prof Fees - Independent Examiner | General | 264 | |
| | Prof Fees - Book-keeper | General | 12 | |
| | Room Hire - Apr-Aug 23 | General | 493 | |
| | Restricted fund for Refugees | Other Restricted | 153 | |
| | Community Fund to pass on | Community Fund | 50 | |

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

| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|---|-------------|------------------|
|  | A. STEPHENS | 17/1/24 |
|  | S. ANDREWS | 17/1/24 |



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**

Pershore Community Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 August 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1190476

Set out on pages

CC16a pages 1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2022.

**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 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:

S Stansfield

Date:

1/2/2024

Name:

Sarah Stansfield

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

ACA

Address:

2 Fountain Place

Worcester

WR1 3HW

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.