

Registered charity number
1192993

Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended

31 December 2023

Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol
Report and accounts
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Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol Charity Information

Trustees

Fr. C I Moldovan
Mr T A Prelici
Mr M Sulugiuc

Independent examiner

Alexander Accountancy
12 Granary Wharf Business Park
Wetmore Road
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 1DU

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
4-5 Soutgate Street
Bath
BA1 1QA

Contact address

St. Thomas Church
Thomas Lane
Bristol
BS1 6JG

Registered charity number

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Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol

Registered charity number: 1192993

Report of the Trustees

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Aim and purposes

The Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol (ROCB) was registered in January 2021 as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (C.I.O.). The incorporation of the charity into a C.I.O. was to formalize the previous charitable activities into a more structured framework. The bank balance from the previous organization was transferred into the new C.I.O.

ROCB has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent priest, Father Ioan Claudiu Moldovan in order to advance the Orthodox Christian religion in Bristol and the surrounding area, in accordance with our objectives, by providing a place for regular worship and prayer, raising awareness and understanding of Orthodox Christian beliefs and practices, and carrying out religious services, pastoral and outreach work.

Objectives

As set out in Charity's governing document our objectives are:

- To advance the Orthodox Christian religion in Bristol and the surrounding area for the benefit of the public in accordance with the doctrines and the canons of the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate and with the statutes of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of Western and Southern Europe, particularly, but not exclusively, by providing a place of worship, raising awareness and understanding of Orthodox Christian beliefs and practices, and carrying out religious acts, missionary and outreach work
- To advance such other charitable purposes (according to the law of England and Wales) as the trustees see fit from time to time, in particular but not limited to the preservation of Romanian cultural traditions, the advancement of children's and adult education in a Christian spirit, and the relief of those in need.

When planning our activities, the incumbent and the trustees are mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of the religion. In particular we aim to enable members of the public to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Providing a regular place for parishioners to gather in worship and prayer and to strengthen their faith and place within the Romanian Orthodox Christian Family
- Providing pastoral care (visiting sick, bereaved or vulnerable) for people living in the parish and surrounding area
- Providing missionary and outreach work within the community
- Providing youth education in a Christian spirit
- Advance charitable purposes (according to the laws of England and Wales) as trustees see fit from time to time

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Report of the Trustees

Achievements

The parish has held regular Sunday morning Liturgies as well as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, in St Thomas Church. All services are open to all member of the public. These services were celebrated in a mixture of English and Romanian (the traditional language of the Romanian Orthodox Church). During 2023 we held 121 baptisms, 9 weddings and 1 funeral.

We are using WhatsApp Group for the community to provide mutual spiritual support and attend evening prayers via Zoom.

January: Bristol Parish priests visited more than 100 households for blessing of parishioners' houses.

May: We celebrated Annual Parish Festival.

In his activity of archpriest, Fr. Ioan Moldovan is supported by parish members in identifying and deploying new parish communities where necessary in South-West.

The parish through priests and councillors is involved in charity initiatives at local level as well as in Romania and at the time being for Ukraine.

Fundraising

Funds raised come from Sunday collections, private donation, fundraising events, online and Facebook fundraising. We continued to use the ChurchSuite platform for online donations and encouraged members of the community to donate small amounts on a monthly basis. In 2023 we had 58 new givers and 132 monthly contributors. The general donation fund is primarily used for paying rent and additional expenses as well as build a reserve to allow us to purchase a worship place in the future.

In the addition to the above, in 2023 we fundraised for financial support for families in desperate need.

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Report of the Trustees

Youth education (Scoală Bucuriei)

February: Annual Pilgrimage to Saint David's site in Llanthony, Wales, where we met again with our English Orthodox community from Bristol. We participated to Divine Liturgy, had a "bring and share" lunch and a hiking activity.

April: Children were involved with singing in the church during Palm Sunday celebration. The children have visited the Big-Pit Museum in Wales, where they have learnt a life lesson about the hardship of people and children from that time who were working in mines.

June: Camping at Mendip for two days. Children were involved in lots of activities, such as team games, portrait competition, organizing meals and hiking.

September: Visit to The Model Village, Burton on the Water, followed by a bring and share lunch.

December: A Christmas concert was prepared and presented in the church to gather funds for people in need. All the funds collected were used to help homeless people from St Julian's Trust (food, sleeping bags, warm clothing)

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of ROCB trustees is set out in the Constitution of Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The board of trustees consist of the incumbent (Father Claudiu Ioan Moldovan) and another two appointed members.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Fr. C I Moldovan

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
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.

Wayne Penlington FCCA
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12 Granary Wharf Business Park
Wetmore Road
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 1DU

20 September 2024

Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	134,855	10,000	144,855
Total	134,855	10,000	144,855
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	20,667	-	20,667
Administration costs	28,191	-	28,191
Governance costs	984	-	984
NET INCOME	85,013	10,000	95,013
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	113,493	10,000	123,493
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	198,506	20,000	218,506

Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol
Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	3	181	-	181	271
		<u>181</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>271</u>
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		199,243	20,000	219,243	124,104
		<u>199,243</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>219,243</u>	<u>-</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	(918)	-	(918)	(882)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		<u>198,325</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>218,325</u>	<u>(882)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>198,506</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>218,506</u>	<u>123,493</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>198,506</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>218,506</u>	<u>123,493</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	7	198,506	-	198,506	113,493
Restricted funds	7	-	20,000	20,000	10,000
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>198,506</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>218,506</u>	<u>123,493</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20th September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Fr. C I Moldovan
Director

Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	over 5 years
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Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost is determined using the first in first out method. The carrying amount of stock sold is recognised as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recognised.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

During the course of the year the trustees have been reimbursed for expenses incurred whilst performing duties for the charity.

3 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2023	452	452
At 31 December 2023	<u>452</u>	<u>452</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	181	181
Charge for the year	90	90
At 31 December 2023	<u>271</u>	<u>271</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	<u>181</u>	<u>181</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>271</u>	<u>271</u>

Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors and accruals	918	882
	<u>918</u>	<u>882</u>

5 Reserves Policy

It is ROCB policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds of £5,000 (if possible) to cover rent and emergency situation for 6 months. Funds are also being increased towards the eventual purchase of the charity's Church.

6 Income

Donation income during the year included £13,702 (2022 - £28,023) from a previous organisation known as "Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol" which was used prior to the formation of this charity.

7 Funds	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	181	181
Current Assets	20,000	199,243	219,243
Creditors	-	(918)	(918)
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>198,506</u>	<u>218,506</u>

Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Plate Collections	59,529	55,198
Other Donations	61,624	43,834
Donation from Romanian Orthodox Church Bristol	13,702	28,023
Restricted income - Church purchase	10,000	10,000
	<u>144,855</u>	<u>137,055</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities:		
Purchases	6,677	8,689
Events	4,572	9,093
Donations	9,418	10,889
	<u>20,667</u>	<u>28,671</u>
Administration costs:		
Rent	6,666	8,500
Repairs and maintenance	-	4,390
Bank charges	548	589
Stationery and printing	16	488
Telephone and internet	234	204
Subscriptions	-	502
Software	239	1,198
Light and heat	85	41
Cleaning	145	36
Travel and subsistence	6,793	486
Sundry expenses	13,375	12,248
Depreciation	90	90
	<u>28,191</u>	<u>28,772</u>
Governance costs:		
Accountancy fees	984	954
	<u>984</u>	<u>954</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>49,842</u>	<u>58,397</u>
NET INCOME	<u>95,013</u>	<u>78,658</u>