

St Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church

Charity No: 1193731

Trustees' Annual Report & Statement of Financial Activity for the period 2nd April 2021 to 1st April 2022

Trustees

Father Peter Farrington

Dr. Bishoy Dmitri

Salwa El-Raheb-Booth

Mary Hanna

Wassim Armanious

31st January 2023

Trustees' Annual Report & Statement of Financial Activity for the period 2nd April 2021 to 1st April 2022

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Trustees Annual Report & Statement of Financial Activity for the period 2nd April 2021 to 1st April 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 Charitable Objects

The charity organises public services of worship and engages in the pastoral support of members and enquirers, and promotes the understanding and practice of the Coptic Orthodox faith through publications and meetings as arranged.

1.2 Overview (Executive Summary)

St Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church has established a regular public service of worship at Christchurch Church of England in Cobridge, and has been providing services every Saturday as far as possible. Covid restrictions applied during some of this period and prevented some services being held and other activities being restricted. A weekly online meeting was organised to provide some contact between Church members across the region. Funds continued to be received towards the purchase of a prospective church centre as the basis for activities in the future.

2. Activities & Achievements

2.1 Outputs & Outcomes

During the period April 2021 to March 2022, St Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church was able to establish a regular Saturday service of worship according to the traditions of the Coptic Orthodox Church. This was subject to national restrictions on group sizes and during some periods it was not possible to meet at all, especially if the Christchurch Church of England was also applying its own restrictions.

A student group continued through this period providing support to students at several universities in the area. Face to face and online meetings provided spiritual, pastoral and mental health support during the difficult periods of lockdown.

St Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church investigated the purchase of several redundant church buildings in the area as a centre for our activities in the future. None of these were entirely suitable or the price associated with them was raised so that it no longer was a suitable investment of charity funds. Funds continued to be received for the general operation of the Church, and for the purchase of a property in the future.

Visitors have attended the public services of the Church, and those with immediate needs have been supported in appropriate ways including making contact with homeless services in the area.

2.2 Policies on Grant-Making and/or Social Investments

The charity does consider making small personal grants at the discretion of the Trustees, and does consider making grants to other charities with similar aims according to the discretion of the Trustees. No such grants were made in this period.

2.3 The Roles & Contributions of Volunteers

The charity relies on members of the Church to serve in a variety of capacities to maintain the services and activities which have been organised in this period. This includes service in the church

services, but also in hospitality and pastoral support, and in practical service to those in need who come into contact with the Church.

2.4 How the Public Have Benefitted

The public benefit requirement of the charity is fulfilled through its organisation of public services to express the Coptic Orthodox spiritual tradition, and for the public to encounter the Coptic Orthodox community in these public services and other activities which have been organised. The charity provides online materials to explain and describe the life and practice of the Coptic Orthodox community. Visitors are welcome at all public services and activities and the services are advertised in the local community and through Christchurch, Church of England.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Position

At the end of this period St Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church was in a healthy financial position and had received substantial contributions towards the potential purchase of a church centre, and also towards the running costs of the Church.

3.2 Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

The Charity has no funds which are materially in deficit.

3.3 Policy on Reserves

At present the operating costs of the charity are very low and consist of rent for the use of Christchurch Church of England, Cobridge. Contributions over £150 are committed to the Church Fund and are considered committed to the future purchase of a centre for charity activities. It is not expected that operating costs will exceed general fund contributions.

3.4 Principal Sources of Funding

Funds have been raised from members of the Church locally, and from members of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the region.

3.5 Description of the Principal Risks Facing the Charity

The principal risk to the charity is diminished support from the members of the Coptic Orthodox Church so that services and activities became difficult to organise. A steady and sometimes increasing attendance at the services and activities indicates that this is not a pressing risk at present and activities to increase attendance and participation in the services and activities are being applied.

3.6 Remuneration of Trustees

All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration or other material benefits from their services to the Charity.

Out-of-pocket expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by Trustees in promoting the purposes of the Charity are reimbursed at cost.

4. Reference and Administration Details

4.1 Charity Name & Registration

Name of the Charity:

St Mary and St Cyril Coptic Orthodox Church

Charity No: 1193731

4.2 Charity's Principal Address

264 Upper Fant Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8BX

e-mail: contact@copticstoke.com

website: www.copticstoke.com

4.3 Names of the Trustees Who Manage the Charity

<i>Name</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Appointed</i>
Fr. Peter Farrington	Chair	1 December 2020
Dr. Bishoy Dmitri	Treasurer	2 January 2022

4.4 Bank

Barclays, 166 The Parade, The Mall Shopping Centre, Sutton Coalfield, B72 1PH

4.5 Independent Examiner

Dalia Alfred, 5 Woodbank Close, Liverpool, L16 2LX

5. Structure, Governance & Management

5.1 Type of Governing Document

Trust Deed

5.2 Charitable Objects

The charity organises public services of worship and engages in the pastoral support of members and enquirers, and promotes the understanding and practice of the Coptic Orthodox faith through publications and meetings as arranged.

5.3 Statutory Declaration

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

5.4 Trustee Selection Methods

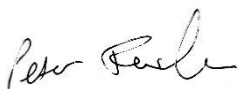
There must be at least three charity trustees. The maximum number of trustees is 6.

In accordance with the Constitution, Trustees are appointed or re-appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In appointing Trustees due consideration is given to ensuring that the Trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

31 January 2023



Fr. Peter Farrington (Chair)

St Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church

Charity: 1193731

Statement of Financial Activities
For the period 3 March 2021 to 1 April 2022

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total	2021 Total
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary Income	7564.24	71605.76	79170.00	97400.00
Total incoming resources	7564.24	71605.76	79170.00	97400.00
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Premises Rent	-650.00			
Total resources expended	-650.00			
NET RESOURCES				
Net Resources	6914.24	71605.76	78520.00	97400.00
Total Funds brought forward	1600.00	95800.00	97400.00	
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	9164.24	167405.76	175920.00	

The financial statement was approved by the Trustees on 31st January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Father Peter Farrington (Chair)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

ST MARY AND ARCHANGEL MICHAEL COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

2022

Charity no
(if any)

1193731

Set out on pages

Attached

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **01/04/2022**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

Signed:

Date:

1 / 2 / 23

Name:

Dalia Alfred

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

Address:

5 Woodbank Close
L16 2LX

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.