

Hope Community Church – Biddenden – Trustees Annual Report

Aims & Purposes

Hope Community Church (HCC) is a new church in Biddenden, Kent that started in January of 2020. Our aim is to be another source of the Gospel, not just for Biddenden, but the surrounding area and beyond.

We are a Bible-centred, family church looking to serve our community. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that His death and resurrection are good news for everyone who trusts in him.

Following a detailed selection process, the membership appointed Dave Stone as the church Pastor in 2021.

HCC is a member of the Kent Gospel Partnership and of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. The church also has close ties with the Ministry Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

Objectives & Activities

We aim to live out our faith in Christ in the community around us and we welcome new people to join in any of our regular activities regardless of belief or background. In particular, we do this through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people in the congregation
- Outreach work
- Partnerships with churches abroad

Achievements & Performance

Worship & Prayer

We offer a regular, Sunday morning service throughout the year together with special events such as a Christmas carol service, a stall at the annual village fete, a Summer Celebration meal and hosting special guest speakers such as Rory Stein who was once Nelson Mandela's bodyguard but now travels around delivering a message of hope and redemption. Communion is integral to the Sunday morning service on a monthly basis and

we hold three separate mid-week Home Group meetings where Bible passages are discussed in detail.

We also have a monthly prayer meeting which follows the Sunday morning service and, a bi-monthly coffee morning called “Coffee Plus” for older members of the congregation and the local community.

We hold regular membership meetings where votes are held on important issues.

Pastoral Care

HCC has a WhatsApp group for anyone who wishes to join it. This serves as a useful tool to keep those involved informed of specific requests for prayer or practical assistance with, for example, providing meals to those who, for whatever reason, are not able to cook for themselves.

We also have a “Fellowship Fund” which aims to assist members of the congregation who find themselves in a difficult financial position. This has been particularly relevant in the recent cost of living crisis.

Apart from a break in the summer, our regular Sunday morning service also includes provision of a Sunday School for school age children and a supervised creche for babies and toddlers.

During the pandemic when physical attendance at church services was not permitted, sermons were streamed into people’s homes and, now that normal attendance at church has resumed, we continue to stream Sunday morning services so that those who cannot, or prefer not to attend, can see and hear the service and still feel part of the proceedings.

Outreach Work

- School assembly talks

Our pastor has a regular engagement to take assemblies at the local village primary school. This runs once a month and involves teaching about 100 children between reception and year 6. He would usually lead a song and then teach a story from the bible with as much interaction as possible, finishing with short prayer.

- Christian Adventure Holidays

Our pastor is involved in leading and speaking at a summer camp in the Lake District (Christian Adventure Holidays). It is attended by 40 young people from both church and non-church backgrounds. The camp aims that finances should not be a barrier to any young

people attending and a number of the young people are from families of very limited resources. 25 leaders volunteer their time to allow the young people to attend. The young people take part in activities such as sailing, canoeing, hill walking and climbing followed by an evening meeting with songs, interaction and a bible-based talk.

- Petrovaradin Evangelical Church

Hope Church has a partnership with Petrovaradin Evangelical Church (PEC) in Serbia. This is a small church plant with a similar theological outlook to Hope Church. Our partnership with PEC involves a commitment to regular prayer, seeking to grow relationships between PEC members and Hope members, and helping Hope Church to expand our involvement in global mission. We also give financial support to PEC which is channeled through the UK charity Grace Baptist Mission (GBM)

- Village Fete

This summer the church was able to run a stall at the village primary school fete. This was an especially significant as we were able to have a “dummy” plane as an exhibit from Ministry Aviation Fellowship (MAF) for people to look at. We offered crafts, a bran tub and crazy golf. The stall was well attended and we strengthened existing contacts with village residents and engaged with some new people. Lots of our church members volunteered in one capacity or another.

- Coffee plus

This Autumn we have begun a new Our bi-monthly coffee morning for older people has been particularly successful. This is a free event to connect with and support older people in and around the Biddenden community. Coffee plus is run in the village hall and we offer drinks and an opportunity to chat and play games. Each event has a short ‘epilogue’ type talk to engage visitors with the Christian faith.

- MacMillan Coffee Morning and Quiz Night

This year has seen us hold our second MacMillan Coffee Morning and our first MacMillan Quiz Night. Both events were extremely successful with a total amount donated to MacMillan of just over £1000. These are further examples of how we are trying hard to engage with the residents of Biddenden and the surrounding areas. Once again, a short “epilogue” type talk was given at both events to engage visitors with the Christian faith.

Financial Review

To be provided by Adam

Hope Community Church

Statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2024
and Bank Reconciliation

By income and donations received

Collections		4,916.56
Direct collections		33,627.00
Other - Appeals incl Fellowship fund		3,256.00
HMRC - Gift Aid		<u>10,541.30</u>
		52,340.86

Expenditure

IT & Equipment	3647.50		
Rental / Insurances	3960.05		
HCC Kidz -Teaching Material	507.03		
Stationary / Books	120.07		
Guest Speakers	130.00		
Mission / Fellowship Fund	6432.01		
Safeguarding	<u>41.70</u>	<u>14,838.36</u>	
<u>Stipend - Employment, Travel, Disbursements</u>			
Salary	22381.07		
HMRC / NI	7639.57		
Pension	5287.26		
Books	438.28		
Conference	885.80		
Travel / Hotels Expenses	343.00	<u>36974.98</u>	
<u>Outreach Team - Functions</u>			
Biddenden Fete	110.00		
Anniversary event	2462.50		
Coffee Plus	210.00		
One off events	2865.01		
Publicity - Design & Printing	1735.39		
Consumables - Sunday catering	514.85		
Sundry items - Consultants / Other	<u>1406.12</u>	<u>9,303.87</u>	<u>61,117.21</u>
<u>Excess of Expenditure over income</u>			<u>8,776.35</u>

Bank Reconciliation

<u>Opening balance 01-04-2023</u>	35395.44
Less excess of income over expenditure	<u>8776.35</u>
Balance as at 31-03-2024	<u>26619.09</u>

Represented by

Balance at bank 31st March 2024	<u>26619.09</u>
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Hope Community Church

Statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2024
and Bank Reconciliation

Roger A Hughes
ICPA
Wayside
Aldington
Ashford Kent
TN25 7DT



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

Charity Name

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH BIDDENDEN

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2024

Charity no
(if any)

11668449

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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:

Date: 30-01-2025

Name:

Roger Ashley Hughes

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

ICPA

Address:

Wayside

Aldington Ashford Kent

TN25 7DT

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.