



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From 1 January 2024 Period start date to 31 December 2024
Period end date**

Charity name: Linton Road Free Church

Charity registration number: 1194688

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The object of the charity is for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Kent and such other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Charity Trustees may from time to time decide.
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.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The charity (church) provides the following services and activities: - Regular worship services to which all are welcome. Regular group meetings with prayer and Bible studies Carrying outreach work both in the UK and abroad to include but not limited to- Providing gifts to "Friends of Helper" for children in Tanzania, providing education for local children and family support; Supporting the work of Starfish Malawi in caring and educating street children and those in poverty in Malawi; Supporting Viva, in Uganda, an international Christian children's charity passionate about releasing children from poverty and abuse. Coffee Stop – Once a month for fellowship, everyone welcome. From December 2024, we decided to offer a warm space for people in need, as an extension of our coffee stop, and on the 3rd Tuesday in the month.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees of the charity have had regards to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in regard to the activities of the Charity.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Not Applicable
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not Applicable
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Following the passing of Pastor, Andrew Parfitt in June 2023, Garry Shoebrook took over as Ministry Leader, elected by the membership in 2024. Along with his wife Nicky, our Safeguarding Officer, they have made the primary contribution, supported by Sandra Parsons the Administrator, Treasurer and Trustee. He has led the church faithfully, adhering to Andrew's hopes and plans for the church, and ministers to the fellowship twice a month at the present time. We have several visiting speakers, which contribute highly to the worship services which we provide each week. We also have two people from outside our church who give their time to come and lead the worship service. The number attending is holding steady, despite illness and disability, and our finances reflect this. In addition, volunteers assist in the running of the charity and in the regular church services, prayer meetings and Bible studies. We also have times of gathering for meals and fellowship, such as a Ladies Breakfast recently, and a Christmas meal. We also have a Fire Officer, Malcolm Thwaites, and with others help to maintain and upkeep the property.
Other		Communion is led by various members of the fellowship besides the minister.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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.	Para 1.20	<p>The numbers attending have remained steady following Garry's appointment as Ministry Leader, which is a great comfort to all attending. The church has benefitted from their commitment, and other visiting speakers in the teaching ministry of the church. Our services are also supported by the presence of worship leaders, which adds an area of interest in the methods of worship, and which most of the fellowship are used to. This has led to an improvement in the wellbeing of members and attendees at the church with good times of fellowship, worship friendship and pastoral care. Contact with those away from the church through illness is mainly through Nicky Shoebrook, and those prevented from attending church are visited weekly by Sandy and Nicky. We keep in touch with each other, and assist where possible with all manner of issues. Sandy provides cd's of the services for those unable to attend. We are very much a small family, and our church focus is Prayer, Care and the Word.</p> <p>In October 2024, we registered with the Warm Welcome Space initiative, to provide two days each month in which to serve the community. We are registered with our local council and it is mentioned on our web site.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	

Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity falls under the £500,000 turnover for detailed financial accounting being a requirement. The financial position has improved so that the balance in hand as at 31 December 2024 was £11,931.20.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves are held to enable unforeseen payments and bills to be paid and to pay for maintenance of the church building.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£12,755.53
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None, as with our new leader the church is now stable again, and we are always using opportunities to advertise our presence, and encourage members of the public living locally around us to attend, by posting fliers and notices through letterboxes. We are making plans for our Bi-Centennial Celebration in April 2025, and have a local MP and her husband planning to attend. Garry is very committed to the church, and the need for the Word of God to be preached. He also has the support of Elders from other churches, who advise and encourage him in his mission to keep this church going forward for many years to come. He is a blessing to this church, and his vision for our future standing in the wider community.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The principal source of funds is through members and attendees giving through bank accounts on a regular basis and freewill offerings at church services. Of course, as a charity, we now claim Gift Aid where possible from HMRC, which adds to our fiscal situation.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Not applicable

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The number of members over the age of 70 shows that this church is serving a need within the community, for worship within a quieter setting than most family churches. With the addition of the younger Ministry Partner and his wife, the church is aiming to expand and develop.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Constitution of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The existing Trustees elect volunteers who must subscribe and adhere to, in belief and lifestyle, the Statement of Faith. We now have 4 Trustees of which 2 have been re-elected for a further three-year term. The other two to re-new their position in 2025 and 2026.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	The Trustees are encouraged to have regard to the guidance for Trustees published by the Charity Commission and courses available for their ongoing training. Sandy Parsons and Nicky Shoebrook follow the Charity Commission webinars, as they become available, in particular for Trustees, Financial government, cyber and local protection, and managing Media risks.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The church is an independent Free Church and is a member of the Evangelical Alliance.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	It has an established relationship with the Staplehurst Free Church for mutual support and 2 of our Trustees are members of the Staplehurst Free Church. We partner Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath in the Annual World Day of

		Prayer service, and host the programme alternate years.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Linton Road Free Church
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1194688
Charity's principal address	157 Linton Road, Loose, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0AL

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	Sandra Rose Parsons	Treasurer/Administrator		Trustees of Linton Road Free Church
2	Terence Robert Hawgood	Chairman		Ditto
3	Clive Jones			Ditto
4	Nicky Shoebrook	Safeguarding and Policies officer	From 30/03/23	Ditto
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
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Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this fall within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Linton Road Free Church Annual Accounts for 2024

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

General Fund	2024	P/Cash	2023
Bank balance at 01/01/2024	£13,574.34	£1.12	£11,175.96
Net Income 2024	£27,516.48		<u>£33,806.88</u>
Dec money paid in Jan 24	<u>£1,326.95</u>		£44,982.84
Income for 2024	£42,417.77		
Expenditure 2024	<u>£30,486.57</u>		<u>£30,081.55</u>
Book Balance at 31/12/2024	£11,931.20		£14,901.29
Dec 23 money paid in Jan 24			<u>£1,326.95</u>
Bank Balance at 31/12/2024	£11,931.20	£1.12	£13,574.34

Business Money Manager A/C	2024	2023
Bank balance at 01/01/2024	£6,552.04	£1,501.62
Income 2024	<u>£6,203.49</u>	<u>£5,150.42</u>
Total assets for 2024	£12,755.53	£6,652.04
Expenditure 2024	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£100.00</u>
Balance at 31/12/2024	£12,755.53	£6,552.04

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INCOME

Analysis

In dark red - Gasds	2024	2023
General		
Donations from Coffee Stop	£293.60	£285.03
Donations from cards	£216.55	£219.80
Donations for meal	£140.00	£22.00
Gasds offerings (Bag)	£4,410.30	£6,155.70
Gift Aid (Electronic and hand)	£16,203.00	£16,512.00
Other Income HMRC	£5,533.03	£6,687.65
Donation from P Ledger	£250.00	£250.00
Donation from M Gladwin		£50.00
Donation from GNFE (Gideons)		£245.00
Donation for new door		£1,512.00
Donations from Thanksgiving	£420.00	
Donation from BM & S Lloyd	£30.00	
Donation to Sponsorship	£20.00	

EDF Refund Gas		£1,390.05
EDF Refund Elec		357.65
Test Bmm a/c		<u>£100.00</u>
Total General	£27,516.48	£33,786.88

Missions

MCWS		£20.00
Total Missions		£20.00

Outreach	£0.00	£0.00
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Total Income	£27,516.48	£33,806.88
Gain/ Loss	£6,290.40	£8,835.62

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EXPENDITURE

General	2024	2023
Advert - Find a Church	£22.00	£22.00
Account Charges	£115.96	£132.63
Catering/Commodities	£797.19	£1,185.89
CCLI Fees & Licences	£395.72	£377.30
DBS checks/Membership	£181.75	£181.75
EE Broadband	£248.72	£217.28
EA Membership	£90.00	£90.00
Garage Rent	£803.34	£705.78
Insurances Bldg & Contents)	£1,141.45	£1,006.06
Land Registry	£100.00	
Ministry Gifts	£2,595.00	£1,575.00
Sponsorship	£480.00	£80.00
Stationery	£313.11	£147.05
Tfr to Bmmm Account	£6,000.00	£5,100.00
Utilities/Elec/gas/water	£5,120.55	£5,588.16
Unpaid cheques	£40.00	
Wix Website costs	<u>£208.68</u>	<u>£172.68</u>
	£18,653.47	£16,581.58

Fellowship

Various love gifts to fellowship	£1,302.71	£734.09
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Miscellaneous

Missions

Total Missions (See page 3)	£4,160.00	£4,910.00
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Outreach

Christmas fliers/invites etc	£122.27	£66.01
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Property**Assets**

Various small purchases	£676.74	£603.69
Tables, chairs/desk	<u>£3,291.78</u>	<u>£1,512.00</u>
	£3,968.52	£2,115.69

Maintenance

Big Mow (Garden)	£720.00	£720.00
County Fire Check	£54.60	£76.20
Domestic Services	£980.00	£920.00
Gas Alliance (Gas service)	£195.00	£185.00
Mike Oliver (Hydroboil)	£80.00	<u>£80.00</u>
J Bashford (Pat Testing)	<u>£100.00</u>	£1,981.20
	£2,129.60	

Repairs

James Bashford (Elec)		
A Hopper (Refurbishment)		
Avaio (Pc)		£60.00
Big Mow (Fence panel)	£150.00	£100.00
Front elevation Refurbishment		£3,510.00
Front door repair		<u>£22.98</u>
	£150.00	£3,692.98

Petty Cash Payments**NIL****NIL****Total Expenditure****£30,486.57****£30,081.55**Gain/**Loss****£405.02**

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MISSION FUNDS**INCOME****2024****2023**

MCWS

£20.00**EXPENDITURE**

British Red Cross		£100.00
Cancer Research UK	£40.00	
Crisis at Christmas		£300.00
Church Army	£250.00	
Family Trust		£250.00
Friends of Helper	£500.00	£750.00
Good News for Everyone		£60.00
Kenward Trust	£250.00	
MADM		£250.00
Maidstone CWS	£250.00	£550.00

Maidstone Street Pastors	3	£250.00	£250.00
Mission Aviation Fellowship		£250.00	
Miriam Friday (Africa)		£1,250.00	£250.00
Premier Radio			£250.00
Royal British Legion		£40.00	
Salvation Army		£60.00	£650.00
Starfish Malawi		£520.00	£750.00
Tearfund Turkey			£500.00
Win Int		£500.00	
Total Missions		£4,160.00	£4,910.00

Linton Road Free Church

HSBC ACCOUNTS SUMMARY 2024

GENERAL FUND

Petty Cash Balance at 01/01/2024	£1.12 ✓
Bank Balance at 01/01/2024	<u>£13,574.34</u> ✓
Total Balance at 01/01/2024	£13,575.46 ✓
Net Income from 2024	£27,516.48 ✓
Dec 23 cash paid to bank in Jan 2024	<u>£1,326.95</u> ✓
Income for 2024	£28,843.43
Total Assets	£42,418.89 ✓
Expenditure for 2024 - ex bank	£30,486.57 ✓
ex cash	<u>£0.00</u> ✓
	£30,486.57 ✓
Balance at 31/12/2024	£11,932.32 ✓
Total balance at 31/12/2024	£11,932.32 ✓
of which - cash	<u>£1.12</u> ✓
of which - bank	£11,931.20 ✓
Bank Statement Balance at 31/12/2024	£11,931.20 ✓

Business Money Manager Account

Balance at 01/01/2024	£6,552.04 ✓
Income for 2024	<u>£6,203.49</u> ✓
	£12,755.53 ✓
Expenditure for 2024	<u>£0.00</u> ✓
Balance at 31/12/2024	£12,755.53 ✓

*These Accounts have been Audited
and found to be correct.*

R. E. Bashford.

R. E. BASHFORD

AUDITOR

18/1/2025.