

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st Jan. 2023 – 31st Dec. 2023

CHURCH INFORMATION

Address: Scott Drive, Exmouth, EX8 3LF

Trustees: Lee Emerson, Steve Owen, Ian Margeson, Gurjit Malli, Gary Currie, Iain Randall, Jonathan Hughes

Charity Number: 1195047

Bankers: TSB bank plc, PO Box 373, LS14 9CG

Independent Examiner: Mr David Simms, 58 Moormead, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6PU

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and accounts for the period ended 31st December 2023.

1 Objectives and Activities

The purposes of the church are:

1 The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Exmouth and the surrounding neighbourhood;

and

2 Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life;

provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Doctrinal Distinctives and Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

2 Public Benefit

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance in the exercise of their powers and duties, and consider that the activities undertaken in pursuance of the church's objectives fulfil the requirements of the Charity Commission's public benefit disclosure.

3 Structure, Governance and Management

The church is a registered charity. Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) number 1195047 registered on 8th July 2021 and governed by its Constitution dated 2nd July 2021

The trustees who served in the period 1st Jan. 2023 to 31st Dec. 2023 were:

Lee Emerson – 1st Jan. – 31st Dec. 2023 inclusive (Pastor & elder)

Jonathan Hughes – 1st Aug. – 31st Dec. 2023 inclusive (Assistant Pastor & elder)

Steve Owen – 1st Jan. – 31st Dec. 2023 inclusive (elder)

Ian Margeson – 1st Jan. – 31st Dec. 2023 inclusive (deacon)

Gurjit Malli – 1st Jan. – 31st Dec. 2023 inclusive (deacon)

Gary Currie – 1st Jan. – 31st Dec. 2023 inclusive (deacon)

Iain Randall – 1st Jan. – 31st Dec. 2023 (elder)

Governance of the church is in the hands of the elders & deacons (the Trustees), who met at least quarterly in person. Day-to-day oversight of the congregation is exercised by the elders who met weekly. Major decisions are made by the members at Church Members' Meetings held as required and normally not less than four times a year. During 2023 the AGM was held on 20th April.

4. Review of activities

4.1

Meetings for worship, prayer and the ministry of God's word were held at the church's premises in Scott Drive on every Sunday throughout 2023. For those who were unable to attend in person, services could be followed live on Zoom. Morning services were recorded and available on the church website.

In addition to services, the church met midweek, alternately either for corporate prayer in a single venue, or for Bible study & prayer in homes (there were five such groups meeting in both Exmouth & Budleigh Salterton). Other regular meetings included the *Ladies' & Men's Breakfasts*, and the *First Saturday Games Afternoon*, to which members of the public have been warmly welcomed. A *Ladies' Bible Study* group has also met weekly in term-time on the premises during 2023, and *Christianity Explored* courses have been run for several newcomers to the church.

The church grounds have continued to operate as a community garden, open to all local residents. Outside groups who used the premises also often made use of the garden, especially in the summer months.

Door-to-door visiting of homes in the area continued with Mark Perkins until the end of May. Mark's marriage and subsequent move to Lapford in Mid-Devon brought an end to his work with the church, which has brought us many new contacts and helped the church to be outward-looking.

Three new members joined in the course of the year, bringing the total membership to 26. Two of these were Jon & Katie Hughes, who came to Exmouth with their three children in order for Jon to take up the position of Assistant Pastor, from 1st August. This has significantly increased the scope of the church's ministry. Besides the three new members, a number of others joined the congregation, bringing the average total on Sunday mornings to around 50.

Three outside groups use the church premises: the WI meet in the building monthly; *Bosom Buddies* (a breastfeeding support group) meet weekly; as do the *Esteem Team*, a group which supports parents & carers of children with SEN.

In August the church staged its first-ever Holiday Bible Club, which was enjoyed by all who attended. In December the church buildings were again transformed into a series of middle-eastern sets from the 1st century in order to facilitate a 'Walk to Bethlehem' event, enabling members of the public to engage with the Christmas story; and later in December church members helped with the Exmouth Christmas Village event in the Strand.

Members of the church also led meetings at a local care home (Resthaven) and the church also provided preachers for other local churches, such as Dawlish Baptist Church, Topsham Gospel Hall, Honiton Congregational Church and New House Baptist Church in Smeatharpe.

Meetings on a Sunday evening at the Church on the Green in Budeigh Salterton continued through the year. In September it was decided to hold formal services on every Sunday evening, rather than just once a month. Numbers attending have been fairly steady (normally around 15-20). Prayer meetings and home groups have also used the building regularly, and a church awayday was held there in March. The building was also made available for the Budleigh Literary Festival and the Budleigh Music Festival. The long-term goal remains to establish a separate congregation at these premises, and eventually help this congregation to form a new independent church – provided this is justified by numbers attending. In the course of the year, the church meeting agreed to hold a review of its tenure of the Church on the Green in Jan. 2026.

4.2 Involvement of the congregation

Members of the congregation are involved in all aspects of the work of the church; examples include taking part in services, prayer meetings and home groups; helping with garden maintenance & social activities; church cleaning. The church would be unable to function without their aid.

4.3 Risk Assessment

Four main areas of risk have been identified, and the following mitigation procedures have been put in place:-

a) The trustees review the finances at their quarterly meetings to ensure that funds are available for ongoing support of its objectives.

- b) A new Safeguarding policy was been adopted at the January church meeting. DBS checks are made for all those who work with children or other vulnerable groups as part of the charity's activities, using the services of *Christian Safeguarding Services*.
- c) Appropriate insurance is in place to protect the charity.
- d) Fire safety inspections are conducted by an outside agency on an annual basis.

4.4 Charitable giving

4.4.1 The church supports a number of missionaries, Christian workers, Christian organisations and charities both financially and in prayer.

In the period 1st Jan. – 31st Dec. 2023, these included the following, who were financially supported from church funds:

Crosslinks (Bernie & Rachael Muluuta)
The ministry of FIEC
Good News for Everyone (formerly The Gideons)
The Christian Institute
Barnabas Fund
Open Doors
Passion for Life (a nation-wide mission to be held in 2022)
Mark Perkins (an outreach worker with Outreach UK)
Slavic Gospel Association (for Ukraine)
UCCF (Universities' & Colleges' Christian Fellowship)
MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)
PGP (The Peninsula Gospel Partnership)
EPW (Equipping Pastors Worldwide)

5 Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds amounted to £49,447.03. The great majority of this came from the personal giving of members of the congregation. We are deeply grateful to God for this commitment and generosity at a time of financial hardship in the country as a whole. Overall, there was a surplus of £1,300.51 over expenditure.

Outgoings include just under £12k for the employment of an Assistant Pastor for the last 5 months of the year. This latter figure will increase significantly next year when a full year's salary will be paid. The trustees are confident that this salary will be met out of donations, but in any case, there are still considerable reserves that have built up during the period when the church has been without a salaried employee. A significant proportion of this will be needed to cover the re-surfacing of much of the driveway over the next 12 months. Two major items of expenditure are unique to this year; one is a sum of £10k which had been designated to help with accommodation expenses for a new Assistant Pastor – this was accordingly used to pay moving expenses when the Hughes family relocated from Braintree in Essex. The second sum is one of just over £5k under 'Pastoral Support'. The great majority of this was used to support the Hughes family during Jon's final year of study at London Seminary, as the income they had been receiving from rent for their property in Braintree had ceased when the tenants had left (in preparation for the sale of the property and the family's relocation to Exmouth).

The church operates a policy whereby 10% of donations are transferred to a Mission Fund for distribution to mission agencies. In total, £4,900 was made available during this period for mission work at home or abroad.

There is also, separately, a sum of £2,000 which was paid to Mark Perkins for his help with the Church's evangelism. As Mark's work for the church came to an end in May, this expenditure will also not be repeated next year.

SCOTT DRIVE CHURCH CIO
RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNTS
For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

	General Fund	Missionary Fund (Designated)	Housing Fund (Designated)	Children & Youth Fund (Designated)	Pastoral Support Fund (Designated)	Hospitality (Designated)	TOTAL	2022
RECEIPTS								
Offerings, Donations, Gifts	£10,183	£200		£1,754	£1,754		£13,890	£47,827
Covenant Gift Aid	£26,080				£500		£26,580	£16,160
Stewardship	-						-	£900
Hire of Hall	£648						£648	£848
Gift Aid Tax Refund	£7,863						£7,863	£12,399
Interest Income	£467						£467	£137
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£45,240	£200	-	£1,754	£2,254	-	£49,447	£78,271
PAYMENTS								
Accountancy Fees	£819						£819	£350
Building Repairs & Maintenance	£3,528						£3,528	£2,032
Staff Costs	£11,717		£10,000				£21,717	£13,153
Other Expenses	£2,033	£4,900		£1,107		£229	£8,269	£9,575
Utilities	£4,192						£4,192	£3,281
Insurance	£1,895						£1,895	£1,271
Pastoral Support					£5,291		£5,291	£1,606
Publicity	£448						£448	£142
Conference Fees	£1,988						£1,988	£1,506
Leagal Fees							-	£2,484
Mark Perkins Support							-	£7,200
Gifts Distributed							-	£3,374
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£26,620	£4,900	£10,000	£1,107	£5,291	£229	£48,147	£45,974
Excess Income over Expenditure	£18,620	(£4,700)	(£10,000)	£647	(£3,037)	(£229)	£1,301	£32,297
Transfer of Funds: 10% Offerings & Gift Aid	(£3,300)	£3,300						
Balances as at 31/12/2022	£50,838	£2,386	£10,000	-	-	-	£63,224	£30,927
Balances as at 31/12/2023	£66,158	£986	-	£647	(£3,037)	(£229)	£64,524	£63,224

SCOTT DRIVE CHURCH CIO
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
At 31 December 2023

	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	£515,779	£515,779
Current Assets		
Bank accounts	£65,047	£63,224
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	<u>(£522)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>£64,524</u>	<u>£63,224</u>
Net Assets	<u><u>£580,303</u></u>	<u><u>£579,003</u></u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____
Lee Emerson, Trustee

Date _____

SCOTT DRIVE CHURCH CIO
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

Sundry	<u>£40,470</u>
	<u>£40,470</u>

3. Trustees' remuneration

No trustees received any remuneration during the year to 31 December 2023.

4. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Land & Property	Furniture, fittings & equipment	Total
Cost or valuation			
At 31 December 2022	<u>£472,095</u>	<u>£43,684</u>	<u>£515,779</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>£472,095</u>	<u>£43,684</u>	<u>£515,779</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2023	<u>£472,095</u>	<u>£43,684</u>	<u>£515,779</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>£472,095</u>	<u>£43,684</u>	<u>£515,779</u>

5. Guarantees & debts

The charity has not provided any guarantees, nor does it have any debts subject to a charge on its assets, during the year to 31 December 2023.



**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
Scott Drive Church CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1195047

Set out on pages

3 to 5

(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 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 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:

David Simms

Date:

21/10/24

Name:

David Simms

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

FCCA

Address:

58 Moorhead

Budleigh Salterton

Devon, EX9 6PU

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).