



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

The Rock Church Stratford-upon Avon

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 March 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1195784

Set out on pages

1-7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 March 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 (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:

30/1/2024

Name:

Colm McGrory

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

ACA

Address:

Ormerod Rutter Limited

The Oakley, Kidderminster Road,

Droitwich WR9 9AY

# **THE ROCK CHURCH STRATFORD UPON AVON**

## **CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1195784**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023.**

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The Charity's Objects are for the public benefit, to advance the Christian faith, but not exclusively, by providing worship, prayer and Christian teaching in Stratford-upon-Avon and such other parts of the United Kingdom; and the relief of persons who are in need.

The charity was incorporated as a CIO with the Charities Commission on the 10th of September 2021, Charity registration number 1195784. Its website is [www.therockchurchstratford.org](http://www.therockchurchstratford.org).

The Rock Church Trustees have served the vision of the church since its inception and at the time of writing this report are:

Anne Lowe from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021  
Angus Eagles from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021  
Claire Banner from 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022  
Rachel Franklin from 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

#### **The Elders are:**

Arvel Lowe - Lead Pastor.  
Angus Eagles  
Paul Davies

#### **The Elders were formally appointed on the 27th of March 2022.**

The Elders oversee the spiritual direction of the church. The Trustees are appointed by the Charity and share the ultimate responsibility for governance and operational management.

The Trustees and Elders are volunteers, each serving within the requirements of a signed volunteer's agreement, with all necessary 'safer recruitment' checks being undertaken.

All Trustees are aware of the requirements of being a Trustee and have all signed the Trustee Eligibility Declaration form at the inception of the charity and subsequently the annual conflict of interest form.

Since the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, the church has met for their weekly Sunday services in person at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 0PY.

Trustee and Elders monthly meetings have been managed virtually.

Monthly prayer meetings have been held in person monthly at Foundation House in Stratford Upon Avon.

The charity does not own any property currently. It is looking for a building within the geographical area of Stratford Upon Avon.

We are keen to grow and raise the profile of the charity within the community of Stratford upon Avon and Warwickshire, to demonstrate Christian values and provide relief for persons who are in need through the demonstration of 'love' both practically and spiritually.



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### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023.**

#### **Public benefit**

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission and consider all the activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes to be of public benefit.

#### **Use of volunteers**

We have expanded the number of voluntary supporters during the reporting period to 19. They are a diverse group of people serving the vision of the Rock Church and who bring a wide range of valuable skills and knowledge to the church. They are instrumental in the development and delivery of the services we are currently undertaking. The charity is incredibly grateful to all the supporters and volunteers who support the Rock Church who visit the homes for the elderly, vulnerable and lonely as part of the pastoral team. Our volunteers also actively help with the contributions from the Church/wider community to the local food bank. All have been managed within the 'safer recruitment' remit and all checks are verified.

#### **Achievements and performance**

- The charity has grown and extended its reach significantly during the reporting period.
- Given our desire to purchase our own building, a 'church building fund' was set up in August 2022. It is envisaged that these sums will rise significantly during the next reporting period.
- We have moved our IT platform to Office 365 to ensure our commitment to securely holding data and being GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) compliant.
- Our website is on a secure hosting server and all contact forms send messages directly to our [info@therockchurchstratford.com](mailto:info@therockchurchstratford.com) email address. No messages or personal information is captured and stored on the website itself.
- We have attracted more visitors to our website.
- We provide a weekly offering to the local food bank in partnership with the Trussell Trust. During the reporting period we donated 3172 food items.
- We purchased brand new toys for needy families for the local Childrens Services team in Stratford upon Avon in readiness for Christmas throughout November 2022.
- Bring and share food events which are a great way to visit the church and get to know what we are all about, all are welcome as we seek to reach out to our local community.
- Virtual Fortnightly Bible studies for all.
- We had one baptismal service held with 5 being baptised in water.

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### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2023.**

- We run 6 biweekly home groups. Home Groups are an important way of nurturing friendships within a church where we gather in congregations' homes across our geographical area to nurture friendships, connection, bible study and prayer. Visitors are always encouraged to attend and very welcome.

#### **Future Plans include (but are not limited to):**

- We will continue to raise awareness of the power of the gospel and its impact on people's lives.
- Extend the growth of congregation members.
- We will continue to work closely with those who engage with us to further develop our strategy.
- We will have a building in the heart of Stratford which can support and help the community, raising funds through a building offering (for the congregation), external grant funding and through financial institutions.
- We will expand our networking activities, build relationships and partnerships so that we can work with the community to offer a wider range of services and resources.
- We will continue to extend support to overseas missions, national and local charities.
- We will continually enhance our communications strategy and social media church profile so that we can extend our reach to those we seek to serve.
- We will further enhance our support to the many complex issues people experience.
- We will explore the potential to grow a network of further volunteers and 'friends' who are committed to supporting in the local communities.
- We will launch a men's ministry to help them grow in their faith, develop healthy relationships with other men and be better leaders in their church and community.
- We will launch a women's group to provide women with opportunities to lift one another up, pray together, and grow in godliness.
- We will continue to extend our bring and share (food) events where we can connect with the community showing them love and compassion.
- We will increase the number of baptismal services we run.
- We will support Samaritans Purse an evangelical Christian humanitarian aid organisation that provides aid to people in physical need as a key part of its Christian missionary work. The organisation's president is Franklin Graham, son of Christian evangelist Billy Graham. The church will commit to supporting their Christmas shoebox appeal. Since 1990, Operation Christmas Child – an initiative of the Christian relief and development agency Samaritan's Purse – has been blessing underprivileged children around the world with gift-filled shoeboxes wrapped and packed by children and adults in the UK.
- Continue to extend our local help to Stratford's Childrens Service each Christmas buying age-appropriate toys for families in need.
- We will pray on the streets of Stratford Upon Avon for those in need and for the leaders and community members of the town.
- Appoint a youth leader to offer support and advice to our young people.

#### **Financial Review**

The Rock Church grew during the reporting period in terms of income. Our balance as of the 31st of March 2023 stands at:



# **THE ROCK CHURCH STRATFORD UPON AVON**

## **CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1195784**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2023.**

Crisis fund  
£4,010.00

Current account  
£8,219.03

Savings Account  
£129,330.34

Building fund  
£1,001.83

This includes a £500 as a donation from HSBC to recognise the time spent by one of our volunteers on church activities.

#### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees consider that general unrestricted funds should be targeted at a level equal to six month's expected expenditure to ensure that the charity has sufficient reserves to meet costs as they fall due. Such reserves as of 31st March 2023 meet this requirement. The Trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves and ensure it is managed being mindful of the FSCS requirements.

#### **Additional information**

The charity's principal source of funding is through donations from its congregation, visitors.

#### **Structure, Governance, Management**

The charity is governed by its Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its Charity Trustees dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Trustees are appointed by Elders based on their skills.

#### **Induction and training of new Trustees**

New Trustees are provided with information as to their duties and responsibilities, the terms of their engagement as a Trustee and details of the charity's key principles and aims for its work. Each Trustee is also provided with a copy of the constitution.

#### **Organisational structure**

The Trustees are responsible for managing the charity. Responsibilities for some functions are delegated to individuals as they see fit.

#### **Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each budget year which give a true and fair view of the situation of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that year.

# **THE ROCK CHURCH STRATFORD UPON AVON**

## **CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1195784**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023.**

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**Mrs A Lowe.**

Chair of the Board of Trustees

4.1.24.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Rock Church Stratford-upon-Avon

## Receipts and Payments Accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/04/2022

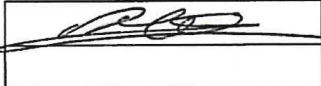
To

31/03/2023

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations - transfer of funds	-	-	-	-	37,690
Donations - other	99,840	11,122	-	110,962	68,282
Bank interest	211	-	-	211	1
<b>Sub total (Gross income)</b>	<b>100,051</b>	<b>11,122</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>111,173</b>	<b>105,973</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>100,051</b>	<b>11,122</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>111,173</b>	<b>105,973</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Advertising	96	-	-	96	254
Independent examination fees	1,056	-	-	1,056	-
Gift payments	-	-	-	-	1,300
DBS checks	60	-	-	60	104
Ministry costs	623	-	-	623	-
Donations	7,288	9,162	-	16,450	-
Event costs	1,105	-	-	1,105	-
Insurance	520	-	-	520	-
Computer/IT	415	135	-	550	-
Legal fees	42	-	-	42	-
Room hire	21,211	1,350	-	22,561	8,473
Subscriptions & registration fees	1,377	-	-	1,377	1,478
Telephone	120	-	-	120	520
Speaker fees	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Christmas lunch	-	-	-	-	3,031
Sundry costs	2,304	-	-	2,304	1,060
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>37,717</b>	<b>10,647</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,364</b>	<b>16,220</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Asset purchases from bank :</b>					
Audio visual equipment	-	-	-	-	8,251
Microphone & transmitter	1,125	113	-	1,238	-
DAX portable lectern	511	-	-	511	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,749</b>	<b>8,251</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>39,353</b>	<b>10,760</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,113</b>	<b>24,471</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>60,698</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61,060</b>	<b>81,502</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>80,864</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,502</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>141,562</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>142,562</b>	<b>81,502</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank 1 49973568	8,219		-
	Bank 2 54090968	129,330	-	-
	Bank 3 54470360	4,010	-	-
	Bank 4 55348768	3	1,000	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>141,562</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Fixtures & fittings	2,548	-	-
	Computer equipment	7,453	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			ANGUS EAGLES	29/1/2024