



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

The Rock Church Stratford-upon-Avon

**On accounts for the year
ended**

30 April 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1195784

Set out on pages

1-6

(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 30 April 2024.

**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:

15/1/25

Name:

Mark Skellum.

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

FCA

Address:

Ballards LLP

Oakmoore Court, Kingswood Road, Hampton

Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 0QH

THE ROCK CHURCH STRATFORD UPON AVON

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1195784

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st April 2023 - 31ST MARCH 2024.

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.

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 1st January 2021
Claire Banner from 22nd February 2022
Rachel Franklin from 22nd August 2022

The Elders are:

Arvel Lowe - Lead Pastor.
Angus Eagles
Paul Davies

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

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 33. 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. All have been managed within the 'safer recruitment' remit.

Achievements and performance

The past year has been one of growth and community impact. As we continue to expand our outreach and serve both our congregation and the wider community, we are encouraged by the increase in participation and the addition of new ministries, the key highlights of our programs, initiatives, and services are detailed below.

THE ROCK CHURCH STRATFORD UPON AVON

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st April 2023 - 31ST MARCH 2024.

1. Worship and Bible Studies:

Rock Solid Bible Studies: Held bi-weekly on Tuesdays, excluding August and December. Attendance has grown significantly, with over 50% of the congregation joining on Zoom.

Home Group Meetings: Taking place every other Wednesday, we have seen an increase in group numbers from 6 to 8 groups, with a potential ninth group by October 2024, supporting the community practically and spiritually.

Monthly Prayer Meeting: These are held on the third Thursday of each month where the church gathers for collective prayer, fostering unity and intercession for the community's needs.

2. Outreach and Community Involvement:

Food Bank Contributions: Our support for the Fred Winter Centre's food bank has grown, with 2,703 items delivered this year.

Youth Outreach Events: We hosted an outreach event in February at Compton Verney, Warwickshire, drawing in youth for a memorable evening of faith and fun. Another youth meeting structure launched in April, meeting bi-weekly on Sundays.

Community Partnerships: Rock Church joined Stratford Churches Together in March, allowing for collaborative efforts and shared outreach initiatives.

Prayer Walk and Leafleting: Outreach was conducted at Ettington Community Centre, where volunteers prayed for the community and distributed information leaflets to explain how we wanted to serve and help the community.

3. Ministry Expansion and Special Events:

Men's and Women's Ministries: Both ministries were launched this year with events at Henley Baptist Hall and Wroxall Abbey, respectively.

New Groups and Special Ministries: The Companions Group and the Rock Blossom Group (for widows and widowers) were introduced, holding regular meetings with attendance increasing.

Youth Leadership Transition: We have appointed 2 new Youth Leaders. Children can meet for Rock kids, age 3-8. Rock Squad for ages 9 – 13 years. There is also Youth for 14 +

4. Significant Church Services and Celebrations:

Good Friday and Easter Services: Held on Zoom and in person at Henley Baptist Church, with a special baptismal service attended by over 100 people, 12 people were baptised.

Annual Carol Service, Remembrance Service, and Toy Offerings: These anticipated events provide both solemn remembrance and celebration. The Toy Offering is scheduled for November 17th where gifts are bought by the church and members of the congregation and presented to Social Services to give to children who are in care and needy families. Our Carol Service is scheduled for December 22nd.

THE ROCK CHURCH STRATFORD UPON AVON

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1195784

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st April 2023 - 31ST MARCH 2024.

5. Facility and Location Updates:

New Worship Venues: After nearly three years at Stratford Manor Hotel, we held our final service there in July. We are now meeting at The Playhouse, Stratford-Upon-Avon, and have also initiated services at Ettington Community Centre and Charlecote Pheasant Hotel to accommodate growth.

6. Financial Overview and Contributions:

Building Fund and Financial Support: Monthly contributions to our Building Fund have increased, reflecting the congregation's commitment to establishing a lasting church presence.

Charitable Contributions: Rock Church supports Samaritan's Purse through the Shoe Box Appeal, with congregants donating toys and essential items for children globally.

7. Leadership:

Trustee Changes: AE, after four years of dedicated service as a trustee, has stepped down due to increased work commitments. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his contributions and service.

Future Plans include (but are not limited to):

- We will continue to 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 continue to extend our bring and share (food) events where we can connect with the community showing them love and compassion.
- We will 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.
- We will ensure we give 10% of our income through tithes to international, national and local charities.

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 2024 meet this requirement. The Trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves and ensure it is managed being mindful of the FSCS requirements.

THE ROCK CHURCH STRATFORD UPON AVON

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1195784

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st April 2023 - 31ST MARCH 2024.

Additional information

The charity's principal source of funding is through donations from its congregation and 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 10th September 2021.

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.

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.

Anne Lowe

Mrs A Lowe.

Chair of the Board of Trustees
6.1.25.



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/04/2023

To

31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £		
A1 Receipts					
Donations-Other	106,526	41,289	-	147,815	110,962
Bank Interest	1,747	-	-	1,747	211
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	108,273	41,289	-	149,562	111,173
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	108,273	41,289	-	149,562	111,173
A3 Payments					
Gift payments	2,105	65	-	2,170	-
DBS checks	137	-	-	137	60
Ministry costs	600	-	-	600	623
Donations	16,492	-	-	16,492	16,450
Event costs	981	-	-	981	1,105
Insurance	528	-	-	528	520
Legal fees	2,020	-	-	2,020	42
Room Hire	20,553	-	-	20,553	22,561
Subscriptions & registration fees	3,043	-	-	3,043	1,377
Telephone	120	-	-	120	120
Speaker fees	1,575	-	-	1,575	1,500
Christmas lunch	1,560	-	-	1,560	-
Sundry costs	854	-	-	854	2,304
Wages	22,178	-	-	22,178	-
Office supplies	2,173	-	-	2,173	-
Mileage expenses recharged	828	-	-	828	-
Expenses claims recharged	4,021	-	-	4,021	-
Advertising	-	-	-	-	96
Independent examination fees	-	-	-	-	1,056
Computer/IT	-	-	-	-	550
Sub total	79,768	65	-	79,833	48,364
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Microphone and transmitter	-	-	-	-	1,238
DAX portable lectum	-	-	-	-	511
Portable sound desk and fixtures	1,793	-	-	1,793	-
Portable speaker	530	-	-	530	-
Sub total	2,323	-	-	2,323	1,749
Total payments	82,091	65	-	82,156	50,113
Net of receipts/(payments)	26,182	41,224	-	67,406	61,060
A5 Transfers between funds A6 Cash funds last year end	-1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	141,562	1,000	-	142,562	81,502
	166,744	43,224	-	209,968	142,562

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

Categories	Detail	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank- 49973568	8,654	140	-
	Bank-54090968	154,895	-	-
	Bank-54470360	3,010	-	-
	Bank-55348768	185	43,084	-
	Total cash funds	166,744	43,224	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

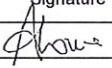
	Details	Un res	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Fixtures and equipment	2,548	-	-
	Computer equipment	9,776	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional) (optional)	Current value
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities	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
	Anne Lowe	13/01/25