

Ridley Community Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2023

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

RIDLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	94 Upton Lane Forest Gate London E7 9LW
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Constitution dated 5 November 2021
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1196428
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Nigel Parrington Alexander Craig Alastair Steven Martin Oriakhi Kenneth Brownell
BANKERS	Metro Bank
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Archie McDowall BA CA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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RIDLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution and is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation. The charity's principal object, as set out in its governing document, is, for the public benefit, to advance the Christian faith in such ways as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

As we reflect on the past year in the life of Ridley Community Church, we seem drawn to characterise our days by as being extremely busy, fleeting and crowded with many competing demands. Yet in the midst of all our activities, we are conscious that our principal aim as individual members and as a Church is to "know Christ, live Christ and make Christ known". Without our reliance on God and the saving knowledge of Jesus we would not be able to meet our obligations as a Church and a Charity. In the midst of competing demands and pressures we can still say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

We operate in a community that desperately needs Jesus as well as practical support. We are accurately aware of the community needs of the locality in which we are based - the high levels of deprivation; the highest concentration of Muslims in London; the concentration on people on low incomes and the concentration of child poverty. Yet in the midst of this community, we can say "the boundary lines have fallen well for me". We are placed in this area for a purpose and we seek to honour God for placing us here and giving us brothers and sisters in Christ to ensure we "encourage one another"

We have a regular Sunday morning service; a mid-week bible study, a Friday drop in (where we provide help, support and advice to local community – including sign posting to statutory services) as well as outreach work including a book stall on Wednesday evenings at Forest Gate station; door to door evangelism, lunch gatherings and occasionally breakfast as well as one off event such as our street carol services.

Due to the size of RCC we rely significantly upon our Pastor Martin Oriakhi. Pastor Martin is our only employee and is responsible for all the activities that take place at RCC and he is ably supported by the members of the Church who themselves volunteer for certain duties including such diverse areas as maintaining the building; leading services; preaching; providing pastoral support and helping with the book stall.

Our trustees and members have been crucial in ensuring we maintain our charitable obligations and are financially viable. Our finances have proved to be delicately balanced as we do not have the income levels of some Churches however through the giving of members, Trustees and especially other Churches who have supported our work, we have managed to maintain our finances to ensure our obligations are met. As we do not receive a significant income this remains one area where we continue to pray for God's blessing.

At the same time, we are seeking to raise capital funds to enable us to purchase the building where we are based. We are grateful for the support we have received from the London City Mission who have provided us with use of the building over the past 3 years. We are also particularly grateful to East London Tabernacle in terms of providing financial support, visiting preachers and supporting our Pastor Martin Oriakhi. We are blessed to be working with such organisations such as LCM and ELT without which we could not function as a Church.

We are also grateful for the support and help from Stewardship who have provided assistance especially in terms of the construction and organisation of our accounts.

This year the trustees had four formal meeting. The focus of our meetings has always been upon ministry and outreach although this year we have been particularly concerned about financial matters – especially fundraising. Our regular membership meetings also ensure input from members on what the Church is doing and seeking to do within Forest Gate.

Our prayer for the forthcoming year is that as we are under pressure financially, we continue to seek God for his guidance. Whilst our desire is to be financially stable, to purchase the building we use and to expand our work in the community we will “Trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding and in all our ways acknowledge Him for he shall direct our paths”

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

During the year income was £30,028 (2022: £70,298) and expenditure was £32,373 (2022: £52,683) As a result the cash held by the charity at the end of the period was £15,252 (2022: £17,597), all of which is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Reserves policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £7,500 (which equates to about 3 months' of unrestricted expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £15,252 (2022: £17,597) and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees, by a majority vote.

Risk statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

N G Parrington
N G Parrington (Oct 23, 2024 07:58 GMT+1)
NIGEL PARRINGTON
(CHAIR OF TRUSTEES)
Date: Oct 23, 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
RIDLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Ridley Community Church ('the charity') for the period ended 31 December 2023 on pages 6 to 8 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Archie McDowall
Archie McDowall (Oct 28, 2024 12:30 GMT)

Archie McDowall BA CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Oct 28, 2024

RIDLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		
		General		
		Funds	2023	2022
	Notes	£	£	£
<i>Income receipts</i>				
Donations		17,028	17,028	32,158
Gift aid receipts		-	-	-
Legacies		-	-	-
Government grants		-	-	-
Other grants		13,000	13,000	38,140
Income from courses and events		-	-	-
Income from letting of facilities		-	-	-
[List any other significant income]		-	-	-
Other		-	-	-
		<u>30,028</u>	<u>30,028</u>	<u>70,298</u>
<i>Total receipts</i>		<u>30,028</u>	<u>30,028</u>	<u>70,298</u>
<i>Payments</i>				
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	32,373	32,373	52,701
<i>Total payments</i>		<u>32,373</u>	<u>32,373</u>	<u>52,701</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		- 2,345	- 2,345	17,597
Net movement in funds		- 2,345	- 2,345	17,597
Cash funds as at last year end		17,597	17,597	-
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>15,252</u>	<u>15,252</u>	<u>17,597</u>

The notes on page 8 form part of these accounts.

RIDLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		
		General funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£
A Cash funds				
Cash at bank with immediate access		15,252	15,252	17,597
		15,252	15,252	17,597
B Liabilities				
Falling due within one year				
Accrued expenses		67	67	197
Total		67	67	197

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

N G Parrington
N G Parrington (Oct 23, 2024 07:58 GMT+1)

 NIGEL PARRINGTON

Date: Oct 23, 2024

RIDLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		
	General funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly			
Employment costs (see note 4)	29,922	29,922	47,961
Ministry expenses		-	240
Gifts and Hospitality	329	329	604
Outreach activities	-	-	293
Small equipment	-	-	50
Training and Conferences	-	-	455
IT costs	1,046	1,046	888
Utilities	109	109	106
Governance costs	-	-	258
Bank charges	360	360	605
Insurance	377	377	-
Office costs	32	32	131
Other costs	198	198	1,094
	<u>32,373</u>	<u>32,373</u>	<u>52,683</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

Martin Oriakhi served as a church leader and received total employment benefits of £29,922 (2022: £42,676 for 15 months) in the year for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustees; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

(2022: Alastair Steven and Kenneth Brownell, who are trustees of the charity, were trustees of East London Tabernacle Baptist Church (charity number 1128266) at the time that the decision was made to support the charity with a grant of £8,000 per year.)

4 Non-monetary resources

The church uses property for its services and other ministries owned by London City Mission (charity number 247186), for which no rent or other reimbursement of expenses is required.