

# **The Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church**

Charity Registration Number: 1196793

## **Trustees' Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

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### **Objectives and Activities:**

(SORP Para 1.17):

The purposes of the charity as set out in our governing document - the Trust Deed are:

1. The promotion of the Orthodox Christian faith in accordance with the statement of faith by:
  - (a) providing Liturgical services of the Russian Orthodox Church according to the principles of One Holy Catholic Orthodox and Apostolic Church.
  - (b) Providing pastoral care, information services, religious and other charitable work of the church for the benefit of the Community in Cardiff

(SORP Para 1.17 and 1.19)

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes were as described above – Regular Liturgical services were held at St. John's Church in Canton, Cardiff and pastoral care was provided by The Reverend Hieromonk Mark (Underwood) on an ongoing basis by phone, by email and in person, as permitted by the prevailing Welsh Government COVID-19 Regulations.

### **Achievements and Performance:**

(SORP Para 1.20)

2022 was a challenging year, starting in St John's Church, Canton, and ending with a long-anticipated return to Nazareth House and the parish relocation back to Cathays.

Friendship with the clergy, parish officers and parishioners of St John's developed greatly during the year, and it was with a heavy heart that the parishioners took leave of them at the end of November, after the Sisters of Nazareth proactively sought the parish's return to Nazareth House: this being paused until the beginning of advent.

Our return to Nazareth House after several years away was very well received. Though being able to share a post-Liturgy meal together has been missed, parishioners have been glad to return to dedicated liturgical space and the prayerful solemnity of the church.

Nazareth House offers the possibility of greater flexibility for parish activities, given the very positive attitude of the new senior sister and her openness to weekday services in the church.

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However, we face the reality that the three sisters, other than the senior sister, are all in their eighties, and that without any addition to the sisterhood there is a very real chance that the conventual presence at Nazareth House could cease within the next few years. Where this would leave our parish regarding a home in the city is a matter of concern.

After previous discussions regarding accommodation, no progress was made on this issue, and Autumn 2022 continued to be season of clergy journeys across South Wales.

Before our return to Nazareth House, feast day Liturgy's in the Church of St Mary, Butetown, became a regular fixture of the year, and parishioners greatly enjoyed celebrating there, with the community-hall having an important role in parish life throughout the year, particularly for meals after weekday Liturgies and for confessions and catechisms classes on Fridays. Core parishioners and I have been very pleased to build upon our existing relationship with Father Dean and the St Mary's community, and during the summer, the Parish priest was very pleased to able to go to Walsingham with the South Wales Anglican pilgrimage, cementing this connection even more.

The parish and clergy also continued to receive support from the Oratorian Fathers, with confessions and prayers being possible in the Oratory Church most weeks until the end of 2022.

The year saw the continued trickle of non-Russians interested in Orthodoxy and seeking to find a spiritual home, as well as the arrival of Ukrainian refugees who were welcomed, supported and assisted in their temporary period in Cardiff. Virtually all remained in Cardiff or the west of England during the year, and we were pleased that the parish could be a source of stability for them.

Given the interest shown by so many friends and people exploring Orthodoxy, social media has continued to be used to teach, instruct those wishing to deepen their knowledge and explore Orthodox Christianity. Homilies and talks have continued to be posted on our YouTube channel.

We are very happy that 2022 saw the baptism of adult catechumens, who have shown great enthusiasm and dedication, having supported the parish in concrete ways through their labours, and demonstrating sound understanding of the Faith in lives of prayer and spiritual labour. Baptisms were performed at the Old Church Hall in St Nicholas and in Chippenham, though child baptisms continued to be performed in church. Catechism classes continued in St Mary's until the summer holiday period, and were well attended, with Deacon Mark filming them for use by future catechumens.

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On the return to Nazareth House, clergy have been meeting the students and young people of the parish outside church to discuss matters of life and Faith, and to pastorally support them in student life.

Our dedicated parishioners continued to make their journeys from Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Somerset for services in Cardiff, introducing other West of England Orthodox to the Cardiff parish and the traditions of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. During the summer, Hieromonk Mark was able to visit parishioners across the Severn in England, meeting them, blessing their homes and making local pilgrimages with them.

The resumption of Swansea services in the autumn 2021 meant that we no longer had a second Parish priest to assist in Cardiff at weekends, and this made the logistics of Sundays challenging, particularly regarding confessions. This challenge was exacerbated by a period of ill health for the Parish priest in the autumn, with ongoing health issues. This required a change of liturgical services for a few weeks, and some reduced activities, whilst health issues were dealt with, but weekend services continued, without interruption.

The lack of local accommodation and a clergy base in the city, has had a major impact upon clergy life during the year, with every day spent in Cardiff demanding an average of six hours on public transport: three in either direction. In most weeks in Cardiff, this meant that the Parish priest spent the equivalent of a whole day, or more, in transit. Our church warden and his wife showed great kindness and hospitality in this period, but the ongoing pressures raise serious questions regarding the sustainability of this situation, particularly given clergy health issues, and the physical toll of so much travelling in the winter.

The autumn saw our parish annual general meeting in St John's, with the election of our church warden and senior-sister, both converts and relative newcomers to the parish, and both demonstrating energy and vision, and appreciating the new path the parish is taking in bringing Slavs and local British people together in the Russian Orthodox Church. This was a positive sign of the parish's engagement with the local community, and a reflection of the changing demographic resulting from our mission.

Our Cardiff clergy continued to serve the Cheltenham mission, seeking to strengthen parish life after difficulties in 2021, and during the year our parishioners settled into the mission's new home in Prestbury United Reformed Church. We were glad to have Cardiff parishioners visit and support the mission, and to have some of our Cheltenham parishioners in Cardiff for Sunday Liturgy, week by week.

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Throughout the year, Hieromonk Mark retained responsibility as the diocese's Shrine-Priest for the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, in Norfolk, and was able to visit the shrine and minister to the local faithful.

We ended the year hoping that a settled and less peripatetic parish life would bring greater stability, with people knowing where we are, when our services are held, and that increased services and activities would be possible back in Nazareth House.

### **Financial Review:**

(SORP Para 1.21)

The operating income exceeded operating expenditure by £1,127 (£7,565 in 2021).

Donations from parishioners increased by 69% from 2021 to £39,894 primarily in response to appeals for contributions to fund the expense of a full-time Parish priest to providing weekly services at St. John's and much needed assistance to Ukrainian refugees.

Expenses increased by 141% from 2021 to £38,767 primarily due to a full year of employment of a Parish priest, higher rental and travel costs plus replacement IT/ phone equipment to allow for more efficient communication between Parish priest and parishioners.

The charity's financial position at year end was £44,310 representing cash & bank balances and an increase of 3% from the end of 2021.

(See attached Receipts & Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities CC16a)

(SORP Para 1.22)

The charity primarily holds reserves to fund the anticipated future purchase/ construction of own premises, and any short-term deficit of ongoing operating expenditure. At year end, the charity reserves amounted to £44,310.

(SORP Para 1.47)

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) are cash and bank donations from parishioners.

# The Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

Charity Registration Number: 1196793

## Trustees' Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

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### Structure, Governance and Management:

(SORP Para 1.25)

The charity's governing document is a signed Trust Deed, effective 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

The charity is constituted as a Trust.

The charity recruits and appoints new charity trustees in accordance with Clause 9 of the Trust Deed.

### Reference and Administrative details:

Charity name: The Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

Registered charity number: 1196793

Charity's principal address: 21, New Road  
Dafen  
Llanelli  
SA14 8LS

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name:	Dates acted:
The Reverend Hieromonk Mark (Underwood)	1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December
Mr. Peter Lloyd Griffiths	1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December
Mrs. Karen Evans	1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December
Mrs. Olga Evdochimova	1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December

# The Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

Charity Registration Number: 1196793

## Trustees' Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

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### Declaration:

The trustees declare that they approved the trustees' report above, included attached Receipts & Payments and Statement of assets and liabilities (CC16a).

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature: *Hieromonk Mark Underwood*

Full name: *HIEROMONK MARK UNDERWOOD*

Position: *RECTOR CARDIFF ROCOR PARISH  
CHAIR TRUSTEES*

Date: *24/09/23*



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

1196793

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

1st January  
2022

To

31st December  
2022

### 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>					
General Donations	13,076		-	13,076	13,041
Stipend Fund		18,819	-	18,819	6,517
Special Fund (Building/ Other)		3,822	-	3,822	3,424
Diocesan Special Collections		1,909	-	1,909	
Assistance Fund		1,664	-	1,664	
Flowers/ Beautification Fund		515	-	515	640
Other	88		-	88	
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>13,164</b>	<b>26,729</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,894</b>	<b>23,622</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>13,164</b>	<b>26,729</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,894</b>	<b>23,622</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Clergy - Salary & Pension Contributions	-	18,967	-	18,967	5,763
Clergy, Servers, Volunteers Travel expenses	6,128	-	-	6,128	3,613
Rent	5,530	-	-	5,530	2,320
General Parish purchases & expenses	913	-	-	913	490
I.T. and communications	1,904	-	-	1,904	108
Altar & Liturgical purchases	613	-	-	613	249
Diocesan dues	1,304	-	-	1,304	2,164
Diocesan collections distributed	-	1,813	-	1,813	352
Assistance Fund distributed	-	750	-	750	
Special collections distributed	-	-	-	-	540
Flowers & Beautification expenses	-	413	-	413	458
Professional costs - Accountants/ Legal	433	-	-	433	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>16,825</b>	<b>21,942</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,767</b>	<b>16,057</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>16,825</b>	<b>21,942</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,767</b>	<b>16,057</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 3,660</b>	<b>4,787</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>7,565</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>4,754</b>	<b>38,429</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,183</b>	<b>35,618</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>43,216</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,310</b>	<b>43,183</b>

M. Underwood  
24/09/23

## 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 £
B1 Cash funds	Cash	949	1,558	-
	Bank	205	41,598	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>43,156</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Clergy PAYE & NIC	Restricted - Stipend	193	
	Diocesan dues for 2022	Unrestricted	1,308	
	Accountancy fees	Unrestricted	504	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Mark Underwood</i>	MARK UNDERWOOD	24/09/23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

THE CARDIFF RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022

Charity no  
(if any)

1196793

Set out on pages

7 to 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

*N. Davies*

Date:

26/10/2023

Name:

Nicholas Davies

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

Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants ('FCCA')

Address:

11, Calvert Terrace, Swansea SA1 6AT


Section B	Disclosure
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Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None