

The Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

Charity Registration Number: 1196793

Trustees' Annual Report 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

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.

Achievements and Performance:

(SORP Para 1.20)

The beginning of 2023 saw our second month back in Nazareth House, with mixed feelings amongst parishioners, some of whom were very glad to return to a more obviously sacred setting and enjoying worship in the convent church, but with others missing St John's and its amenities, with kitchen, eating area and toilets adjacent to worship space.

With Nativity and Theophany celebrations at the beginning of the civil year, we experimented at having an informal bring-and-share lunch at the back of the church, and though reticent, it seemed a necessary concession for feasts, given its importance for sharing time together and welcoming a constant stream of new people in a more relaxed and conversational setting.

We resumed this as standard weekly practice later in the year. Limitations on permitted food and drink prompted some parishioners to suggest that this was a reason to explore an alternative setting more conducive to the needs of the parish, given the importance of a shared meal in the life of the community with parishioners making long journeys from the west of England as well as the breadth of South Wales. We were fortunate to have a

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friendly and welcoming café close at hand and also gathered there after our services, subsidising our students and young people week by week, so that they would not be excluded by financial concerns.

After the festal season, we welcomed Bishop Irenei, who visited us in January, with the faithful from across South Wales - including the Llanelli parish - and from Wessex gathering back in St John's for the hierarchical Liturgy, and a celebratory meal organised by our sisterhood. His Grace spoke on the pressing need for us to find our own building, reflecting on the number of different places he has celebrated in Cardiff.

The parish also relocated back to St John's for Holy Week and Easter, due to the need for external processions and catering facilities.

In addition to Sunday worship, we celebrated vespers or compline in Nazareth House on Saturdays when we were not serving elsewhere and enjoyed the use of the chapel for weekday liturgies on Great Feasts. Being able to celebrate the feasts on their calendric day has been important, even though numbers are limited due to work commitments. Fridays have seen discussion-group and book-club alternating, and Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays also saw prayer services and confessions.

The year saw continued interest in the parish, with many enquirers and new visitors, with more than half a dozen of them becoming established parishioners - some of them being baptised, others still as catechumens soon approaching baptism. Our proactive media presence, with sustained posting on Facebook and WhatsApp has been beneficial, and the wealth of homilies and catechetical videos from our weekly sessions in St Mary's (until the summer months, when there was a break) have been popular with those exploring the Faith and preparing for baptism.

We continued to welcome Ukrainian refugees, who clearly feel at home in our diverse and multi-national community and have collected material/financial aid for Ukraine throughout the year, with the collected items transported by lorry. One of our refugee parishioners has been highly organised in facilitating this, with a local parishioner being able to access a sustained source of warm bedding for the winter. As part of the diocese, our parish has also been generous in financial aid, to be used by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to support those in need.

The parish also continued to contribute to the ROCOR Western European Diocese, to the mission in the Holy Land and to Holy Trinity seminary in Jordanville, as well as contributing to the Order of St Lazarus's collection for leprosy and collections specifically for the financially struggling Orthodox School in Bethany.

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Commencement of the new university year in September, saw an influx of students, and the reinvigoration of youth activities in our parish after a year with few students, and we saw the emergence of a tightly knit group of students from the University of Cardiff and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Our students and young people have brought a great amount of energy and enthusiasm to the parish and have been well received by the community.

Pilgrimage continued to be an important part of parish life throughout the year, involving parishioners of all ages, and making contacts with other communities and Orthodox Christians in the places we visited. They have prompted cooperation and teamwork, with car-sharing, planning accommodation when further afield, coordinating meals and hospitality. The year saw us visit Llandaff Cathedral, Llanthony and Capel-y-ffin, Mathern and Tintern, Glastonbury, Pennant Melangell, Walsingham, St Anthony's Well in the Forest of Dean, Llanilltud Fawr, Llancarfan, and the beautiful church of St Lazar in Bournville. We very much hope that interest in pilgrimage will continue in our parish, and that we can encourage more people to visit our holy places and venture further afield!

We were very happy that a group of parishioners - including young people - linked up with the South Wales Anglican pilgrimage to Walsingham and joined those of us who have been a Welsh Orthodox presence on this summer visit to Norfolk. Additionally, a significant group of parishioners were part of the diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The question of our parish location became pressing in September with the announcement that the Oratorians would relinquish the chaplaincy of Nazareth House in September. The evening mass had already moved to the morning, placing some time constraints on us, but the replacement of the Oratorian chaplains with visiting parish clergy, the doubling of the length of mass, and being no longer able to hear confessions at the back of the church during the service made it clear that parish life was no longer feasible in Nazareth House, and that our circumstances demanded a move as soon as possible.

The autumn saw increasing use of the Oratory Church for weekday activities, and by the end of the year the parish made the necessary decision to leave Nazareth House, having received a very supportive indication that we would be extremely welcome to return to St John's, with the new rector, church warden and Bishop of Llandaff being enthusiastic to see us back in Canton. The Anglican parish very kindly halved our costs for using the church, and December saw us begin to wind down our services in Nazareth House and prepare for a post-Christmas return to St John's, though retaining our links with Nazareth House by continuing to use the chapel for confessions, as needed.

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The Cardiff clergy continued to serve the Cheltenham mission throughout the year, sustaining services in Prestbury United Reformed Church, and glad to see community life settled and our parishioners happy in their worship setting, particularly after being able to collect mission property from All Saints Church in Prestbury.

The year ended with no advance in finding parish accommodation and Hieromonk Mark having to commute to and from Llanelli three or four times a week, with Cardiff stays necessitating the use of hotels, making the solution of this problem a priority for the coming year.

The year ended with us discussing the expansion of our activities to support our parishioners in Wessex and the possible ordination of Deacon Mark, to assist with parish ministry as we prepared for our move back to St John's and the need for greater flexibility to adapt to the circumstances in Canton.

Financial Review:

(SORP Para 1.21)

Net receipts exceeded payments by £864 (£1,127 in 2022).

Total receipts from our parishioners decreased by 9% from 2022 to £36,334 with 12% higher general/ regular giving more than offset by lower receipts for directed/ specific giving parishioners.

Expenses decreased by 9% from 2022 to £35,470 primarily due to a significant reduction in rent which more than offset higher travel expenses driven by increased activity across the parish.

The charity's financial position at year end was £45,174 representing cash & bank balances and an increase of 2% from the end of 2022.

(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 £45,174.

(SORP Para 1.47)

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

Structure, Governance and Management:

(SORP Para 1.25)

The charity's governing document is a signed Trust Deed, effective 21st 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 st January to 31 st December
Mr. Peter Lloyd Griffiths	1 st January to 16 th April
Mr. Alexander Zaivej	16 th April to 31 st December
Mrs. Karen Evans	1 st January to 31 st December
Mrs. Olga Evdochimova	1 st January to 31 st December

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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*

Full name: The Reverend Hieromonk Mark (Underwood)

Position: Rector Cardiff ROCOR Parish & Chair Trustees

Date: *15/09/24*



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

1196793

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01 Jan 2023

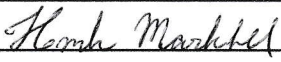
To

31 Dec 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 £
A1 Receipts					
General Donations	14,686	-	-	14,686	13,076
Special Fund (Building/ Other)	-	2,308	-	2,308	3,822
Flowers/ Beautification Fund	-	86	-	86	515
Stipend Fund	-	17,921	-	17,921	18,819
Diocesan Special Collections	-	847	-	847	1,909
Assistance Fund	-	486	-	486	1,664
Other	-	-	-	-	88
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	14,686	21,648	-	36,334	39,894
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	14,686	21,648	-	36,334	39,894
A3 Payments					
Rent	1,500	-	-	1,500	5,530
Clergy Salary & Pension Contributions	-	20,207	-	20,207	18,967
Professional costs - Accountants	-	350	-	350	433
Clergy , Servers & Volunteers Travel	8,845	-	-	8,845	6,128
General Parish purchases & expenses	841	-	-	841	913
Altar & Liturgical purchases	394	-	-	394	613
Flowers & beautification expenses	-	349	-	349	413
Assistance Funds distributed	-	810	-	810	750
Diocesan dues	1,307	-	-	1,307	1,304
Diocesan collections distributed	-	867	-	867	1,813
Special collections distributed	-	-	-	-	1,904
I.T. & communications	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	12,887	22,583	-	35,470	38,767
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,887	22,583	-	35,470	38,767
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,799	- 935	-	864	1,127
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	1,799	- 935	-	864	1,127

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	6,895	4,027	-
	Bank	- 3,745	37,997	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,150	42,024	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Clergy PAYE & NIC	Restricted - Stipend	193	
	Diocesan dues for 2023	Unrestricted	1,469	
	Accountancy fees for 2022	Unrestricted	504	
	Accountancy fees for 2023	Unrestricted	504	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Hieromonk Mark Underwood	15/09/24	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

THE CARDIFF RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST December 2023

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 for the year ended 31/12/2023.

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 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 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:

26/09/2024

Name:

Nicholas Davies

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

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

Address:

Riverside House, Normandy Road, Swansea SA1 2JA

Section B

Disclosure

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.