

The Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

Charity Registration Number: 1196793

Trustees' Annual Report 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Objectives and Activities:

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

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:

The year 2024 began with the parish preparing to move, yet again, returning to St John's in Canton, as the new service-schedule in Nazareth House made our own Sunday routine impossible.

A very positive meeting with the incoming ministry leader for West Cardiff, offered a very positive partnership with the Anglican congregation at St John's, with a reduced weekly rent.

However, with the institution of the new incumbent it became clear that the positivity plans discussed and agreed in Llŷs Esgob in December 2023, had little prospect of being fulfilled. The first indicator was a doubling of weekly rent, placing an unsustainable financial burden on the parish. As a result, the weekly booking slot had to be reduced, with ad hoc extensions for baptisms and special occasions.

The change in Anglican administration, also resulted in the cessation of weekday and Saturday evening services in Canton, for which we were not previously charged, given their duration and the lack of utilities used, particularly in the summer months.

Through the generosity of the Sisters of Nazareth and the Oratory of St Philip Neri, weekday confessions and services were celebrated in Nazareth House and the church of

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St Alban on the Moors, supported by parishioners from the west of England, as well as those living locally.

The parish schedule changed to have services on Thursday, Friday, Saturday (sometimes mission Liturgies) and Sunday, and for much of the year Monday saw a clergy pastoral presence in Cardiff, and in Wessex on the fourth Monday and Tuesday of the month.

Due to lack of clergy accommodation, this has continued to require hotel stays, financed by the parish, and continued commuting between Llanelli, Cardiff and Wessex.

Sunday worship, in Cardiff, continued to draw thirty to forty adults, with faithful travelling from across South Wales, from the Marches, and the west of England. The lunch after Liturgy gave ample opportunity for parishioners to spend time with one another, and as a much-needed time for our Ukrainian refugees to socialise, and to organise ongoing material aid to send to war-torn Ukraine, as well as involving parishioners in charitably supporting summer youth activities for Ukrainian children.

The geographical dispersion of the parish and its missions saw the continued peripatetic ministry develop, and in addition to serving the Gloucestershire faithful March saw the first monthly Liturgy in the Chapel of St Lawrence in Warminster, serving Cardiff parishioners living in Wessex.

This Liturgy provides a service in addition to an evening service and supper established in January as a chance for those living in Bath and Avon, Wiltshire and Somerset to come together for prayer and worship.

Most months of the year saw pilgrimages at on the first Saturday of the month, catering for those in South Wales and the west of England, and regular visits to the Serbian Orthodox parish, in Birmingham, continued to strengthen the relationship between our communities.

The year saw at least one weekly social meeting with our students and young people, whose number had increased with 2023 student intake, though our baptism number was low compared to past years, with only two young adult baptisms and one infant baptism in St John's, Canton.

The most significant parish change was the priestly ordination of its deacon in the London cathedral on the feast of the Royal Martyrs: July 17, 2024.

This development greatly eased Sunday time pressures, allowing flexibility for confession and for priestly assistance in the choir when needed.

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A further result has been a greater linguistic balance in the Liturgy, more representative of the composition of the parish.

After divergent views regarding parish governance, the diocesan bishop appointed the parish's church warden at the time of Father Mark Fisher's ordination, and the appointed warden worked closely with the senior sister in the administration and organisation of parish life.

September saw a sadly anticipated notice from the Anglican parish council of St John's, tightening our conditions, cancelling our rolling tenancy, and stating that unless we joined local ecumenical bodies, the ministry area could not and would not allow us to worship in St John's: reversing the discussions held before our move back to Canton, contradicting agreements and making our position untenable: starting our long and difficult search for an alternative building for worship.

November saw a visit of the Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon, bringing together the faithful of our various South Wales Orthodox parishes, also visiting Chippenham on its way to the midlands. This was a significant occasion for all involved.

The year ended with the parish having made no progress in securing a new worship space and the prospect of leaving St John's in January, with nowhere to go - but the parish remained positive and focussed on its mission and service.

Financial Review:

For the year ended 31st December 2024, our receipts exceeded payments by £5,320 (£864 in 2023).

Total receipts increased by 23% to £44,641. However, receipts from our parishioners decreased by 5% to £34,458, although this was more than offset by the receipt of gift aid claims relating to prior years of £10,183.

Expenses increased by 11% from 2023 to £39,321 primarily due to increased rent and general Parish purchases.

The charity's financial position at year end was £50,454 representing cash & bank balances and a 12% increase from the end of 2023.

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

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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 £50,454.

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

Structure, Governance and Management:

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

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Trustees' Annual Report 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

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. Alexander Zaivej	1 st January to 31 st December
Mrs. Karen Evans	1 st January to 31 st December
Mrs. Olga Evdochimova	1 st January to 31 st December

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: *Homk Markhell*

Full name: The Reverend Hieromonk Mark (Underwood)

Position: Rector Cardiff ROCOR Parish & Chair Trustees

Date: 14th August 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

1196793

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1st January 2024

To

31s December 2024

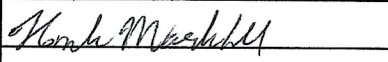
Section A Receipts and payments

	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	13,352	-	-	13,352	14,686
Special Fund (Building/ Other)	-	1,937	-	1,937	2,308
Flowers/ Beautification Fund	-	220	-	220	86
Stipend Fund	-	17,316	-	17,316	17,921
Diocesan Special Collections	-	1,388	-	1,388	847
Assistance Fund	-	245	-	245	486
Gift Aid Claims	-	10,183	-	10,183	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	13,352	31,289	-	44,641	36,334
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,352	31,289	-	44,641	36,334
A3 Payments					
Rent	3,035	-	-	3,035	1,500
Clergy Salary & Pension Contributions	-	20,639	-	20,639	20,207
Professional costs - Accountants	720	-	-	720	350
Clergy, Servers & Volunteers Travel	8,469	-	-	8,469	8,845
General Parish purchases & expenses	2,845	-	-	2,845	841
Altar & Liturgical purchases	891	-	-	891	394
Flowers & beautification expenses	-	20	-	20	349
Assistance Funds distributed	-	11	-	11	810
Diocesan dues	1,469	-	-	1,469	1,307
Diocesan collections distributed	1,222	-	-	1,222	867
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	18,651	20,670	-	39,321	35,470
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,651	20,670	-	39,321	35,470
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,299	10,619	-	5,320	864
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 5,299	10,619	-	5,320	864

Henrik Marshall
14/8/2025

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	1,242	4,962	-
	Bank	2,280	41,970	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,522	46,932	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	169	
	Diocesan dues for 2024	Unrestricted	1,135	
	Accountancy fees for 2024	Unrestricted	504	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		HIEROMONK MARK UNDERWOOD	14/8/25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

The Cardiff Russian Orthodox Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1196793

Set out on pages

6 to 7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2024**.

**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:

N. Davies

Date:

15 August 2025

Name:

Nicholas Davies

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

Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants

Address:

Cross & Bowen, Certified Chartered Accountants

Riverside House, Normandy Road

Swansea SA1 2JA

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.