



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	14	01	2022		31	3	2023

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name Sussex Gospel Partnership

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1197506

Charity's principal address 14 Pasture Hill Road

Haywards Heath

West Sussex

Postcode

RH16 1LX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Jonathan Noel Alan Hobbs			
2	Mark Jonathan Ventham		Resigned 8 June 2022	
3	Rory Graham			
4	Thomas Iain Robson		Resigned 8 June 2022	
5	Mark David Redhouse	Chairman		
6	Roger James Barden			
7	Adam John Thrift			
8	Samual Nicholas Cato Carter		Appointed 14 Sep 2022	
9	James Russel Knowles		Appointed 14 Sep 2022	

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	CIO constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	New Trustees are elected from the charity's Steering Group by resolution of the Trustees for the time being

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charity also operates in accordance with its Foundation Document.

The organisational structure consists of a Steering Group that provides strategic leadership and exercises operational oversight of the Partnership plus a number of Geographical Cluster Groups and Operational Task Groups that report via their Chairmen to the Steering Group. The Steering Group is appointed at an Annual General Meeting of the Partnership and normally consists of the Trustees plus a full-time Director who is an *ex-officio* member of the Steering Group. The Partnership is served by a small staff team comprising a full-time Director, part-time Administrator and part-time Associate Trainer. Church leaders and others from the Partnership churches serve voluntarily as Trustees/Steering Group members and on the Operational Task Groups.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the charity's Statement of Beliefs in Sussex and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit by means of the establishment of a partnership of Bible-centred churches in Sussex working together to train Christian leaders to strengthen and plant churches and to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the trust.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Sussex Gospel Partnership (SGP) seeks to provide training, advice and support to existing local churches and their leaders; and to promote and support the foundation of new churches. The aim is that local churches (old and new) should be better equipped to help their members live out their Christian faith in word and deed in the context of their families, workplaces, churches and local communities. In planning the activities of the charity, the trustees have had regard to the charity commission’s guidance on public benefit, in particular the guidance for charities for the advancement of religion.

In particular, the SGP runs one and two-year, part-time Bible Training Courses in Haywards Heath and other locations in Sussex. A wide range of men and women of all ages from a large number of churches in East and West Sussex and neighbouring counties enrol on these courses. Through these courses participants are taught the Bible and equipped to live out their Christian faith in their churches and local communities. Many individuals who attend the courses have their fees paid by their local church; the SGP also operates a welfare fund which is used to provide subsidies to those who might otherwise be denied access to the courses through lack of funds. The courses are open to all those who are in sympathy with the evangelical ethos of the training on offer.

The SGP also arranges other specific Christian ministry training events with a similar aim, particularly in relation to Christian children’s and youthwork, evangelism and training of Church leaders. The SGP also helps churches to work together in evangelism, encouraging and equipping Christians to share their beliefs with others in an engaging but non-coercive manner.

The SGP promotes ministry training placements in local churches and provides bursaries to support trainees financially. These training placements enable individuals to gain experience of serving in the local church in Bible teaching and practical ministry; and test their aptitude and desire for different sorts of Christian ministry.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During the period covered by this report, the life and work of the Sussex Gospel Partnership continued to be impacted by the aftermath of the COVID-19 global pandemic. In particular, it was recognised by the Steering Group that many church leaders were weary and to varying degrees downhearted by the ministry challenges created by the pandemic and the leadership burden they had carried. With this in mind, the Trustees planned a restful and restorative 24-hour retreat entitled 'Refresh' for SGP ministers at Ashburnham Place near Battle. The aim of the retreat was to provide encouragement and restoration through fellowship together and listening to the preaching of God's Word; as well as to strengthen relationships after a period of isolation. The event went ahead in May with excellent expository ministry from Christopher Ash. The event was so well received that the Steering Group resolved to make this sort of event an annual fixture. A similar event for ministers' wives was run in October, proving to be an equally well-received event by the women who attended. It is envisaged that this too will become an annual event.

The Sussex Ministry Training Course (SMTTC), the Saturday Morning Bible Training Courses (SMBTC) and the fortnightly Study Group continued to be run throughout the period covered by this report. For the midweek SMTTC course that started in September 2022, numbers were lower than normal and it was not viable to run a second-year group. Other regional gospel partnerships across the UK have seen a similar drop off in numbers in the wake of the pandemic. However, the Saturday Course that started in Eastbourne, also in September 2022, was oversubscribed, with around 45 people enrolling; and good numbers were maintained on the Hove-based course that continued with its second and final year.

It was an unusual feature of the period covered by this report that there were no applications for Ministry Training Bursaries. Once again, this is most likely due to the effects of the pandemic. It has not been a good time for churches to plan new initiatives.

At the Autumn 2022 Partnership Meeting a refreshed vision for the Partnership was presented and feedback invited which has helpfully refined the statement of vision and purpose. A few weeks later, our Annual Conference was a sell-out event. Andrew Bunt from Living Out was an excellent main speaker at the conference which was attended by over 300 adults plus around 70 children. The conference addressed the theme of identity, especially in relation to issues of human sexuality and gender identity.

In the Spring 2023, Partnership Meeting, the theme was 'Transforming Leadership' with a focus was on the Bible book of Titus and ministry themes arising from this part of Scripture. This was part of a plan to work through Titus in the course of 2023 at the main ministers' gatherings.

In addition to the above, Partnership Training Days were run in the Summer term of 2022 and the Spring term of 2023. The first of these was a book-in-a-day event which was particularly well-attended. This is an indication of the appetite for events that help believers to get to grips with particular Bible books.

The SGP's Director, Nick McQuaker continued to give an average of one day per week to a UK-wide role as *Development Officer* for the Regional Gospel Partnerships (RGPs). His work has led to the formation of two new RGPs, one in England and one in Scotland and the relaunch of at least one dormant RGP. In respect of Nick McQuaker's wider role, the SGP is receiving appropriate financial contributions from a number of the other RGPs.

The Trustees are grateful to the Lord for his sustaining of the Sussex-based ministry of the SGP in the wake of the pandemic; and for the opportunity to serve the advance of the gospel across the UK through Nick's work in his national role.

Section E**Financial review****Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The charity's policy is to hold in reserve, as a minimum, sufficient funds to pay three months of staff employment costs (currently £18,000).

Details of any funds materially in deficit**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity's main sources of funding are:

- donations from the Churches which are Partners of the Partnership
- donations from Individual Partners
- grants or donations from Charitable Trusts and Individual Supporters
- fees charged for the training courses and other events

Section F**Other optional information**

The predecessor to this charity was a Charitable Trust (Registered Charity Number 1121873) of the same name. The Trustees of the predecessor charity resolved that the interests of the Sussex Gospel Partnership would be better served by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is a corporate form of business that only became available to charities in 2013 (the SGP was formed in 2006). A new CIO of the same name (this charity) was registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales in January of 2022, assigned the charity number 1197506. The trustees of the predecessor charity were appointed as the first trustees of the new CIO.

As of 31 March 2022, all employees of the predecessor charity together with its financial reserves, assets and liabilities were transferred to the new CIO (this charity). At that date, all the ministry and activities of the Sussex Gospel Partnership became the responsibility of the new CIO.

Section G**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Mark Redhouse</i>	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Jon Hobbs</i>
Full name(s)	<small>A3ABC85CC399433...</small> Mark Redhouse	<small>4DDAA1E84638402...</small> Jonathan Hobbs
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Trustee
Date	31 December 2023	



Charity Name	No (if any)
The Sussex Gospel Partnership (CIO)	119750

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	14-Jan-22		31-Mar-23

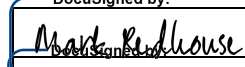
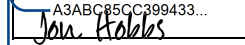
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds (FTW) to the nearest £ note 2	Restricted funds (RGP) to the nearest £ note 3	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £ note 1
A1 Receipts					
Transfer from old charity (note 1)	47,435			47,435	
Church Donations (note 4)	32,528	4,425	0	36,953	
Individual and Trust Donations	23,168	0	0	23,168	
Course and event income (note 5)	34,784	0	0	34,784	
RGP Dev Officer Donations (note 6)	0	12,410	0	12,410	
RGP Fund Income (note 3)	0	0	2,123	2,123	
Other income	729	0	0	729	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	138,645	16,835	2,123	157,603	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
			0	0	
			0	0	
Sub total	0	0	0	0	
Total receipts	138,645	16,835	2,123	157,603	
A3 Payments					
Staff Costs (note 7)	38,540	39,731	0	78,271	
Administration & Publicity	7,144	0	0	7,144	
Course and event costs	19,700	0	0	19,700	
Training Bursaries	0	0	0	0	
RGP Fund Expenditure (Note 8)	0	0	2,329	2,329	
Other expenses	2,533	1,132	0	3,666	
Sub total	67,917	40,863	2,329	111,109	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	
Sub total	0	0	0	0	
Total payments	67,917	40,863	2,329	111,109	
Net of receipts/(payments)	70,727	-24,028	-206	46,494	
A5 Transfers between funds	-24,028	24,028	0	0	
A6 Cash funds last year end		0	0	0	
Cash funds this year end	46,699	0	-206	46,494	

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds (FTW) to nearest £	Restricted funds (RGP) to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	46,699	0	-206
	Petty Cash	0	0	0
		0	0	0
	Total cash funds	46,699	0	-206
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		0	0	0
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		0	0	0
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		0	0	0
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		0	0	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
DocuSigned by:  Mark Redhouse	Mark Redhouse	31-Dec-23
A3ABC85CC399433...  Jonathan Hobbs	Jonathan Hobbs	31-Dec-23
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Notes to the Accounts of The Sussex Gospel Partnership

- These accounts are the first accounts for a new Sussex Gospel Partnership (SGP) Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which was registered in January 2022. At 1 April 2022, the entire cash funds (£47,435) held by the previous Sussex Gospel Partnership charity were transferred to the new CIO. These funds are shown as received funds in these accounts. There are no figures to show for the previous financial year in these accounts.
- As with the previous charity, the CIO continues to receive some donations from churches which are designated for the employment of a Full-Time Worker (FTW) who is the Director of the Sussex Gospel Partnership. These donations are shown as restricted fund (FTW) receipts in these accounts.
- The CIO organises an annual gathering and undertakes some other administrative activities for the benefit of the national network of Regional Gospel Partnerships. The CIO receives monies for this purpose from other Regional Gospel Partnerships. These receipts are shown as restricted fund (RGP) receipts in these accounts.
- The CIO receives regular donations from churches belonging to the SGP which are termed 'Partner Churches' and occasionally from other churches in the region.
- The SGP runs weekly and monthly Bible Training courses, training events for Church leaders and workers and holds an Annual Conference.
- Since July 2020, the SGP's Director has been released to serve the *Regional Gospel Partnerships (RGPs)* nationally in the role of *RGP Development Officer*, giving around one day per week to this role. In the period covered by these accounts, a number of the *RGPs* made donations to the SGP amounting to £12410 to support this ministry financially. These donations are shown as restricted fund (FTW) receipts in these accounts as they are given to fund a proportion of the employment costs of the SGP's Full-time Director who is released for this wider ministry.
- The payments from the Restricted Funds (FTW) are for the employment costs (excluding payments to HMRC) of the Director; those from the Unrestricted Funds are for all other staff costs, including payments to HMRC and the costs of a part-time Administrator and part-time Associate Trainer.
- The CIO organises an annual gathering and undertakes some other administrative activities for the benefit of the national network of Regional Gospel Partnerships. Expenditure on these activities is shown as expenditure from the restricted fund (RGP).

The Sussex Gospel Partnership CIO

Year Ended 31st March 2023

Report of the Independent Examiner to The Sussex Gospel Partnership CIO

I report on the accounts of The Sussex Gospel Partnership CIO for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items disclosed in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts provide a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities act 2011; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011

have not been met: or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date: 4th
December
2023

Signed:

Name: Amy Beecroft

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA

Address: 19 Newton Road

Lindfield

RH16

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