

Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship
Annual Report for period 15th December 2022 to 31st December 2023

05.08.2024

Trustees

Trustee name	Office	Name of body entitled to appoint trustee
Margaret Cook		Board of Trustees of the Charity
Christopher Paul Walker	Church Treasurer	
Graham Charles Fuller		
Keith Martin		
Philip Charles Sparkes	Chairman of Trustees	

Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees, and in accordance with the qualifications listed in the constitution.

Church Property

Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship (The Church) is located at White Elm Road, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. IP30 9SQ.

The property consists of the main building, Chapel House (which is a residential property attached to the main church building), outbuildings known as "Mary-Anne's" and the graveyard.

Church Governance

Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1199793) on 26th July 2022 and is governed by 'The Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship CIO Constitution'.

Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship has a Statement of Beliefs which are incorporated in the Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship Church Rules

Objectives

The charity's objectives are set out in the constitution. This sets it out to advance the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Basis of Faith, primarily, but not exclusively, within Woolpit and the surrounding neighbourhood.

The trustees are aware and conscious of the statutory obligations placed upon them to ensure that the charity is run for the public benefit, and consider the guidance given and published by the Charity Commission.

Church Activities in 2022 and 2023

These included

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Sunday

Morning Service (including Communion)

Monday

Monday Meet

Easter Tea, Summer Tea, Christmas Tea

Tuesday

Bible Study & Prayer

Missionary Prayer Meeting monthly

Thursday

House group monthly

Friday

Monthly event: either Girls' Night, Coffee & Deserts, Quiz Night

We believe that Christianity and the church is good news for society and this is evidenced very much in the objectives and activities of Woolpit Room. The central activity is the weekly meetings for worship, prayer and explanation of the Bible's beneficial relevance to everyday life.

All these meetings are open to all who wish to attend, Christians and non-Christians alike.

Our Sunday morning services have continued throughout the year. These are led either by our church leaders or people who have been invited to come to speak to us. We also held our regular Carols by Candlelight service in December. It was good to have such a good attendance in 2022 – especially as the Football World Cup Final was being played at the same time!

Monday meet continues to be popular with about 20 people regularly attending. A variety of speakers are invited to talk for 15-20 minutes on their chosen topic, and after a break for refreshments and chats, a short Bible-based talk, often connected to the earlier topic, is then given. They enjoyed an afternoon tea at Easter, July, and Christmas.

For our Bible and Prayer Time on Tuesdays, we take a more in-depth look into a book or a character of the Bible, and then pray together. This is usually led by a member of our congregation, although we occasionally invite a visiting speaker. Once a month we focus on a Christian mission organisation.

Our Thursday evening monthly housegroup meeting attracts a smaller group where we informally discuss a Biblical topic. This is a more relaxed, evening which concludes with refreshments. This is usually held in people's homes.

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In most months, we have held an event, usually on a Friday, which is widely publicised in Woolpit, and has been appreciated by many of our residents. Events included a Cookery Demonstration, Quiz Night (in support of Tear Fund), Dog Display, Harvest Supper, Card-Making Workshop, and Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop.

We have purchased a defibrillator which has been fitted on the outside wall. This is a good facility for people living in the vicinity of our building. A grant from Mid-Suffolk Council has covered a majority of the cost. Due to medical emergencies, it has been taken on 3 occasions, although, thankfully it was not used.

The increase in the cost of living prompted us to provide a "Friendly Warm Space" during the winter of 2022 and 2023. We opened twice a month on a Friday and provided soup & a roll, cakes and hot drinks free of charge. We also offered free transport for those who would like it. Uptake was not as high as we had expected, but was really appreciated by those who came.

Throughout the year, Phil & Jan, members of the church, looked out for people who have moved into the village, and took them a welcome pack which includes tea, biscuits and information about our services and events at The Room. 81 packs were delivered in 2022/2023 as there is quite a lot of new housing development in Woolpit, which is a real opportunity to show Christian outreach to newcomers to our village.

Support for Christian charities

- We hosted, what has now become, our annual coffee morning in March, to support the Marie Curie charity.
- We have links with some Christian-based organisations and individuals, and we make financial gifts to help with their activities in accordance with our objectives.
- We have a particular link with some Christians abroad, and our "Monday Meet" group regularly support them financially.
- We also support the Stowmarket Food Bank with donations of food items. We also made a cash donation when Hazel Smith, from the Stowmarket Food Bank, came to talk about their work.

Restructuring of our Church Governance

Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship was governed by a CUA trust document of 1st June 1894. The purposes and assets of the CUA have been incorporated into the new CIO with the approval of the Charity Commission

Financial report

See also attached financial report. Notable expenditure this year included:

- Edward Conner Solicitors fees
- Building Maintenance costs

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We are very grateful to God for the financial donations from our regular church attenders, a legacy from a former church attender, gifts from visitors and rental income from Chapel House which has enabled us to meet our expenses for this year.

We have set a reserves figure of approximately £6000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.C Sparkes', written in a cursive style.

P.C Sparkes.
Chairman

09/08/2024

WOOLPIT ROOM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT****For the period 15 December 2022****to 31 December 2023****2023**

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
INCOME			
<u>Church Income</u>			
Donations	14,143	1,406	15,549
HMRC Gift Aid Receipt	1,788	-	1,788
	15,931	1,406	17,337
<u>Other Sources of Income</u>			
Bank Interest	149	-	149
Donation for use of hall	350	-	350
Legacy from Joy Mulley	9,375	-	9,375
Rent from house	6,900	-	6,900
	16,774	-	16,774
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	32,705	1,406	34,111
EXPENSES			
Insurance	3,219	-	3,219
Speaker Expenses	1,907	-	1,907
Donations to other causes	1,389	1,751	3,140
Utility Costs	4,354	-	4,354
Sundry Expenses	1,773	-	1,773
Cleaning	742	-	742
Window Cleaning	540	-	540
Church Maintenance	272	-	272
Large repairs:			
Windows	2,000	-	2,000
Wi-fi heating controls	478	-	478
D Wilding - Electrical	406	-	406
New Notice Board	1,461	-	1,461
Landscaping	840	-	840
Roof repair	474	-	474
Solicitor costs - conversion to CIO	1,289	-	1,289
	21,144	1,751	22,895
<u>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</u>	11,561	(345)	11,216
			-
<u>BALANCE INTRODUCED</u>	15,817	345	16,162
<u>FUND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</u>	<u>£ 27,378</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 27,378</u>

WOOLPIT ROOM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 December 2023

2023

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Bank Balances	27,379	-	27,379
Gift Aid to be Reclaimed	936	-	936
	<u>28,315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,315</u>

Other Assets - Church Building

The main asset used by the charity is the church building. This was transferred to the charity by the way of a deed, drawn up by the Charity Commission, from the trust on which it was held. This deed was agreed on 14 December 2022.

The church building is estimated to have a value of £650,000, which includes a Chapel House, from which the charity derives a rent.

Initial Funds

On 14 December 2022 the charity received the amount of £16,162 following the deed of transfer from the unincorporated charity, also known as Woolpit Christian Fellowship.



Approved by:-

09/08/2024

Independent Examiners Report to
the Trustees of Woolpit Room Christian Fellowship Annual Report for period
15th December 2022 to 31st December 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 December 2023.

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 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

MAW

Mark Wallace TEP CTA FCA
Walter Wright
Chartered Accountants
89 High Street
Hadleigh
IP7 5EA

09/08/2024