

# PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1200307

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2022-09-08

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Paulsgrove Baptist Church  
1 Woofferton Road  
Portsmouth  
PO6 4DW

**Phone** 02392385047

**Email** [pbcadmin@paulsgrove.org.uk](mailto:pbcadmin@paulsgrove.org.uk)

**Website** [www.paulsgrove.org.uk](http://www.paulsgrove.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 3.1 THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH ARE:3.1.1 THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAPTIST PRINCIPLES AND THE BASIS OF FAITH PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN PAULSGROVE AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD; AND3.1.2 SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS SHALL, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHARITY TRUSTEES, PUT INTO PRACTICE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIS OF FAITH, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: THE PREVENTION AND RELIEF OF NEED, HARDSHIP AND SICKNESS; THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION; AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE;PROVIDED THAT THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUCH PURPOSES MUST BE UNDERTAKEN IN A MANNER THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DOCTRINAL DISTINCTIVES AS MAY BE ADOPTED AND AMENDED BY THE CHURCH FROM TIME TO TIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHURCH HANDBOOK.

**Activities:** The church advances religion by the preaching of the Gospel, public worship within the church building,organised Bible studies, prayer meetings, children's and youth groups, evangelistic events, seasonalevents and services, and meeting needs within the community. The activities are carried out from the church's premises in Paulsgrove, Portsmouth to the surrounding community.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Portsmouth City

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£164,141	£106,047	-	-
2023-12-31	£1,405	£0	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
DAVID JOHN AARONS	Chair	2022-09-08
Robert Joseph MILLIKEN		2022-09-08
STEPHEN JOHN MOUNTAIN		2022-09-08

**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1200307

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# Accounts

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# Paulsgrove Baptist Church (1200307)

Report and Accounts  
Year ended 31 December 2024

Stewardship   
*Active generosity*

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB  
[www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)

**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	1 Woofferton Road Portsmouth PO6 4DW
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution dated 8th September 2022
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1200307
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	David Aarons Stephen Mountain Robert Milliken
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Sarah Crispin Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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## Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

### **Objects of the charity**

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution and is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation. The charity's principal objects, as set out in its governing document, are:

- the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with Baptist principles and the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Paulsgrove and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

### **Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements**

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!' (Mark 1:15). Jesus sets out a new vision for our lives and calls us to follow him and experience life in the Kingdom of God. This is the calling of every Christian, not those who are particularly keen or gifted – all those who trust in Jesus are to shape our lives around his agenda. There is no way to be blessed by God or transformed into His image without faith and following. Our hope and prayer at Paulsgrove Baptist Church is that Christians new and old would catch the vision of Jesus for their lives and experience life in all its fullness, now and forever!

Our Sunday services are the special weekly gathering of the whole church to praise our great God, and there is so much investment that takes place in making them full of worship to the Lord, a place to grow in faith, and opportunities for people to serve Christ and his body:

- We've established a prayer time prior to the service each Sunday, which is very encouraging (see below).
- We've been working with a small group of volunteers to establish a Welcome Team – a ministry looking to welcome newcomers and help them settle into church life.
- We begin our services all together for singing and prayer, before our children and young people go to their groups (apart from our monthly all-age Lord's Supper celebrations where we all stay together).
- Our music team has been developing very much over the past year which has been a joy, and we're thankful to the ongoing work by our tech team.
- Our Sunday Bible teaching is central to our times together, as we listen to God speaking to us through His Word, that we might live for Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our sermon series over the year have been:
  - 📖 Spring: Part 2 of our series on the life of King David: "Seeking after God's own heart"
  - 📖 Post-Easter miniseries: "Where is Jesus now?"
  - 📖 Summer: Part 3 of our series on the life of King David: "Seeking after God's own heart"
  - 📖 August: An all-age series on "Journeys" as we develop our journeys of faith.
  - 📖 Autumn: "Following Jesus – learning to be apprentices of the Master"
  - 📖 Lord's Supper: Our all-age celebration on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month – "Big words that end in shun"
  - 📖 Our Easter weekend, as well as Advent and Christmas services, are special times in the life of our church – and we noted how many guests came along to services and heard the good news of Jesus!
- We're grateful to those who clean the building, set the heating, put out the chairs, buy and serve refreshments each week.

Additional to Sunday mornings, on Sunday evenings, our older teens and young adults meet to socialise and for discipling, as they seek to live for Jesus in their daily lives.

We've seen lots of ways that people in our church have grown in Jesus over the past year, and we occasionally have testimony times for people to share how God is working in their lives.

We also had the joy of baptising xxxxxxxxx in May – xxxxxxxxx was able to give testimony to the turning point in putting his faith in Jesus and his growing confidence in God’s plan for his life!

Our midweek “Growth Groups” complement Sunday mornings, as we meet to open the Bible, read, discuss and pray through what we’ve heard preached on the Sunday. The idea of growing *together* is key in our discipleship agenda as a church and we encourage people to be involved in these groups. We’re exploring expanding these groups for those who are unable to make the Tuesday centralised sessions.

In growing our church’s prayer life, we made several developments over the year:

- As in previous years, we encouraged our church at the start of the year to clear some time to seek God for His priorities for each one personally but also for us as a church for the year ahead. However, rather than setting up a prayer room in January, instead we hosted some led prayer times during the week – some for reflection, some to pray for others, and a session for children and families – to equip people in prayer as well as encouraging people to fast as part of their reliance on God.
- We decided to host an additional prayer week during Holy Week, in the lead up to Easter. A planning team devised a prayer room based on the events of the week leading up to the cross, and we opened the room at various times of the week for people to use to pray for themselves, our church, our witness, and our world. It was a fantastic resource and better used than our previous January prayer room, probably because it’s a more inviting time of year to come out of the house!
- We’ve produced a prayer diary for a number of years, on a monthly basis, to highlight events in the life of the church and listing the names of our church family that they might be prayed for each month. However, we’ve now added an insert with prayer pointers for good things to pray for those in our church. It’s easy to get into a rut in our praying or wonder what we can pray for if we don’t know what is going on for people personally, so these pointers are designed to help people to pray biblically for what God might want to do in our lives.
- During the year, we also developed prayer on Sunday mornings. We opened up a prayer time at 10am, not just for those serving formally that morning, but for anyone who wishes to come and pray for the service and the ongoing life of the church. This has been going very well, with an increasing number of people coming along and enjoying praying together.

In 2024, a group of volunteers set up a gardening team to look after our grounds more lovingly – weeding, mowing, and planting – that our outside grounds are well-kept and a more positive witness to our community. As the team met on Saturday mornings from Spring to Autumn, they built up camaraderie between them and also had opportunities to chat to people passing-by.

We encourage our church family to build relationships with neighbours and connect with people in the community, to show the love of Christ and to share him in Paulsgrove. A few people in our church were also able to link in with community initiatives over the year – there is a Healthy Living Project aimed at healthier lifestyles which a few of our folk got involved with, and we also had a stand at the annual Paulsgrove Carnival offering a listening ear and the opportunity to pray for people. As well as this, our pastor continues to be involved at Victory Primary School to be a support and a witness. In whatever way we might be a presence for Christ, we are called to be his hands and feet in this world.

In practical ways, we’re grateful to xxxxxx for coordinating the maintenance of the church building. There’s always something that needs doing, and we’re thankful for those within the church who can do some tasks, but also for the financial giving of our congregation that allows us to fix and maintain the church to a standard

As you can see there’s a lot going on in the life of PBC! But we’re certainly not fixated on business – far from it. We’re determined in our mission to “Grow lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ, by being a Christian, Caring, Community.” Everything we do is filtered through this aim, so that we seek to invest in people for spiritual growth rather than being contented with running activities.

In planning the activities, the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

## Organisational structure

Paulsgrove Baptist Church has transferred the unincorporated charity Paulsgrove Baptist Church (charity number 1130799) to the CIO Paulsgrove Baptist Church (charity number 1200307). The CIO was initially registered with the Commission in August 2022, however the assets and activities were transferred during 2024.

## Governance

Trustees oversee the governance of the charity and meet quarterly to monitor the activities of the charity. Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rest with the trustees.

Elders have spiritual oversight and direction of the ministries of the church and meet monthly. They are assisted in the practical outworking of these ministries by deacons, with the combined Leadership Team (elders and deacons) meeting quarterly.

As per our governing document, all church elders are also trustees while others other trustees are elected to the role.

The expenditure of large sums of money, major policy decisions and the appointment of trustees, elders and deacons require the approval of the church membership. The members ('partners') meet quarterly, to discuss and pray through decisions and review church life together.

We added one more deacon to our Leadership team in 2024 – with Cheryl Bowen being appointed as 'Deacon for Mission Partners', recognising Cheryl's role in supporting and liaising with PBC's Mission Partners and drawing her into the team. Steve Mountain was re-elected as a deacon – an action needing to be taken every 6 months for non-elders. In 2025 we planned to amend the constitution to allow deacons to be trustees without the need for a regular vote.

Dave and Rob, our elders, meet monthly, to pray and think through the oversight of the church (Acts 20:28). Our deacons, Steve Mountain, Rosemary Seddon and Cheryl Bowen, meet with Dave and Rob four times over the year, talking and praying through various practical issues and how to equip our church in their service for Christ (Philippians 1:1).

We welcomed 4 people into membership, called "Partnership": xxxxxxxxxx had previously been a member before briefly moving away but on returning wanted to join formally as a partner. xxxxxxxxxx grew up at PBC and since being baptised and becoming a young adult he wanted to explore partnership as part of his commitment to PBC. xxxxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxxxx have been attending PBC in the last couple of years and wished to commit to PBC through partnership. We worked through the Partnership Course together and all four were voted in as Gospel Partners, with each of them exploring the best ways they might serve the body of Christ with their time, treasure and talents. One person, xxxxxxxxxx, was removed as a Partner, due to his non-attendance at PBC, despite attempts by the elders to draw him back. We pray on for xxxxxxxxxx to recognise the importance of being part of a church, for growth and accountability.

We have four Partners Meetings per year and seek to use our time to discuss and pray through important Gospel issues for our church, that we might truly work together for the glory of God. In addition to this, our elders began visiting each of our Partners to review how their connection and gospel partnership going and how they might be supported in growing in Christ and serving him. This process will continue in 2025, so that all Partners will have received a visit over this time. We're encouraging and equipping our partners to intentionally pray for and look out for those they may invest in spiritually, that we might create a church of discipling relationships.

Safeguarding is an important Gospel priority for us at Paulsgrove Baptist Church – seeking to protect the vulnerable from harm is close to God's heart (Psalm 68:5), and we desire to reflect Him in our policies and practices.

We made a number of developments in 2024:

- A new Safeguarding Policy was finalised in January, using advice and support from our affiliation with Christian Safeguarding Services. A meeting was arranged for all volunteers in February, to highlight key areas and changes from the previous policy.
- Ella Milliken joined as deputy Safeguarding Coordinator, working alongside Dave Aarons as lead Safeguarding Coordinator, and they will meet each term for a review, along with any other necessary communication.
- As Paulsgrove Baptist became a new charity in 2023, it was important to run Safeguarding training for our workers and volunteers to make the charity compliant. This was delivered by Christian Safeguarding Services in November, with most volunteers attending – those unable to make it are joining Zoom sessions run by CSS to cover the relevant topics and information.
- Do pray for God's protection on our church as we look to love and care for all and protect those who might be at risk of harm.

### **Financial Review**

During 2024 the cash held in our bank accounts for charitable purposes increased, from £100,297 at the start of the year to £158,391 at the year end. £120,392 at year end is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose. £38,000 of the increase, which has been allocated to a restricted fund, was to support the salary of an additional worker, not yet appointed; and reduced expenditure was partly the result of allowing for six months' salary for this second worker in-year, and not expended due to not appointing to that role in 2024.

### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £30,000 (which equates to about three months of unrestricted expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £120,392 and the charity is complying with its reserves policy, as well as holding additional funds for the purpose of engaging the services of a second worker.

### **Risk Statement**

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

### **Approval**

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

  
S J Mountain (Oct 21, 2025 10:18:53 GMT+1)

S Mountain

Date: Oct 21, 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Paulsgrove Baptist Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 on pages 7 to 10 following.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

*Sarah Crispin*  
Sarah Crispin (Oct 21, 2025 14:16:37 GMT+1)

Sarah Crispin (ACA)  
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales  
Stewardship  
1 Lamb's Passage  
LONDON  
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Oct 21, 2025

**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2024
		General Funds	Designated Funds		
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income receipts</b>					
Donations		62,027	-	43,615	105,642
Gift aid receipts		10,520	-	-	10,520
Income from letting of facilities		46,088	-	-	46,088
Interest		1,871	-	-	1,871
Other		20	-	-	20
		<u>120,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,615</u>	<u>164,141</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>120,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,615</u>	<u>164,141</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	85,506	-	8,821	94,327
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	11,520	-	200	11,720
		<u>97,026</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,021</u>	<u>106,047</u>
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>97,026</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,021</u>	<u>106,047</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		23,500	-	34,594	58,094
Transfers between funds	5	(2,405)	-	2,405	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>21,095</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,999</u>	<u>58,094</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		99,297	-	1,000	100,297
<b>Cash funds at this year end</b>	A	<u>120,392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,999</u>	<u>158,391</u>

The cash funds as at last year end comprise £98,892 held by the CUA and £1,405 held by the CIO.  
See Note 1 Accounting policies for further details.

The notes on pages 9 - 10 form part of these accounts.

**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted funds	2024
		General funds	Designated funds		
		£	£	£	£
<b>A Cash funds</b>					
Cash at bank with immediate access		120,392	-	37,999	158,391
Notice deposits		-	-	-	-
		<u>120,392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,999</u>	<u>158,391</u>
<b>B Other monetary assets</b>					
Gift aid due to charity		2,458	-	-	2,458
Other debtors		1,199	-	-	1,199
		<u>3,657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,657</u>
<b>C Liabilities</b>					
<b>Falling due within one year</b>					
Fee for Independent Examination		1,260	-	-	1,260
Accrued expenses		3,868	-	-	3,868
		<u>5,128</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,128</u>

<b>D Assets retained for charity's own use</b>		Current value
		£
Land and buildings		
	Paulsgrove Baptist Church Building	2,991,352
	Manse [Woofferton Road]	395,610
Contents		135,333
		<u>3,522,295</u>

Current insurance values have been used as the current values above.

**E Guarantees and secured debts**

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

S.J Mountain  
S J Mountain (Oct 21, 2025 10:18:53 GMT+1)

Stephen Mountain

Date: Oct 21, 2025

The notes on pages 9 - 10 form part of these accounts.

**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**1 Accounting policies**

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

During the year the unincorporated charity Paulsgrove Baptist Church (charity number 1130799) transferred its assets and activities to the CIO Paulsgrove Baptist Church (charity number 1200307) and the unincorporated charity was closed. This has been treated as merger accounting with the brought forward cash balances comprising both the CUA and CIO year end balances as at 31 December 2023.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	2024
	General funds	Designated funds		
	£	£	£	£
<b>2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly</b>				
Employment costs (see note 4)	50,274	-	-	50,274
Ministry expenses	1,968	-	3,697	5,665
Youth and children's work	1,051	-	5,123	6,175
Cleaning & Catering	1,480	-	-	1,480
Maintenance of buildings & equipment	8,958	-	-	8,958
Utilities	9,853	-	-	9,853
Insurance	3,090	-	-	3,090
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Office costs	6,355	-	-	6,355
Other costs	2,476	-	-	2,476
	<u>85,506</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,821</u>	<u>94,327</u>

**3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others**

Grants for:	Purpose:				
UFM Worldwide	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,800	-	-	1,800
Counties H R F	UK Evangelism Support	1,800	-	-	1,800
European Christ	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,800	-	-	1,800
Frontiers	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,800	-	-	1,800
Latin Link	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,830	-	-	1,830
Open Doors	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,800	-	-	1,800
Other small grants to organisations		690	-	200	890
		<u>11,520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>11,720</u>

**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**4 Transactions with related parties**

David Aarons served as church leader and was paid £43,248 for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

During the year the charity received donations totalling £10,321 from related parties.

No expenses were paid to, or for, the trustees other than the reimbursement of expenses

**5 Movement of funds**

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
<b>General funds</b>	99,297	120,526	(97,026)	(2,405)	120,392
<b>Designated funds</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Missionary Donations	-	200	(200)	-	-
Food Bank	1,000	255	(3,697)	2,442	-
Funds for youth worker salary	-	38,000	-	-	38,000
Youth Camp	-	5,160	(5,123)	(37)	-
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>43,615</u>	<u>(9,021)</u>	<u>2,405</u>	<u>37,999</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>100,297</u>	<u>164,141</u>	<u>(106,047)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,391</u>

**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1200307

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# Accounts

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# PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charitable Incorporated Organisation: Charity Registration 1200307

1 Woofferton Road

Paulsgrove

PORTSMOUTH

PO6 4DW



[www.paulsgrove.org.uk](http://www.paulsgrove.org.uk)

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

<b>Address</b>	<b>1 Woofferton Road Paulsgrove PORTSMOUTH PO6 4DW</b>
<b>Trustees</b>	<b>David John Aarons Robert Joseph Milliken Stephen John Mountain</b>
<b>Governing Document</b>	<b>Constitution dated 24 July 2022</b>
<b>Property Trustee</b>	<b>The Baptist Union Corporation Limited Baptist House 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT [Governed by the Fairbairn Trusts]</b>
<b>Bankers</b>	<b>CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling KENT ME19 4JQ</b>

**PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and accounts for the year to 31 December 2023.

**Structure and Governance**

The process of transitioning to a new charity, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which began in 2021, took longer than expected, but was complete by the end of 2023, whereby the old charity (1130799) was closed. A new Constitution and Rules is now in place, and a new membership system called 'Partnership' is also in operation (see below).

Trustees oversee the governance of the charity and meet quarterly.

Elders have spiritual oversight and direction of the ministries of the church and meet monthly. They are assisted in the practical outworking of these ministries by deacons, with the combined Leadership Team (elders and deacons) meeting quarterly.

The expenditure of large sums of money, major policy decisions and the appointment of trustees, elders and deacons require the approval of the church membership. The members ('partners') meet quarterly, to discuss and pray through decisions and review church life together.

**Summary of the Charity's Main Activities and Achievements**

Paulsgrove Baptist Church is committed to helping people, particularly in its local community, to know and follow Jesus Christ, through our Vision: "Growing lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ, by being a Christian, Caring, Community." A leadership team of elders and deacons oversee the ministries of the church and seek to equip people in their various roles.

Our new membership system is called 'Partnership' as we seek to engage our members in actively partnering together to fulfil the aims of the church to grow disciples of Jesus. We met as a group for the first time under the new charity in early 2023, and for the remainder of the year, we have been asking our partners to prayerfully consider the specific ways in which each one will play their part in growing the church. Within their area of service, we asked each partner to seek God as to which people they could invest in over the next period of time. This could be within a formal group, such as children's and youth work, or it could be mentoring an individual who might be younger in the faith. The partners are encouraged not to see some activities as 'practical' and some as 'spiritual' – whilst leading a formal Bible study might require a teaching gift, getting alongside someone through serving in a practical task (such as serving tea and coffee) could build a relationship whereby spiritual conversation, prayer and encouragement could develop and meaningfully grow another person's faith. The elders intend to visit each partner in 2024 to discuss and pray together, and work out what support might be needed in equipping the partners in their discipling investment.

We began the year in the same way that we have for the past few years, with a prayer and fasting week. We encouraged our church to clear some time during the first full week of the year, to spend time with God, seeking His purpose and priority for them as individuals, but also to pray for the work of the church for the year ahead. Fasting can be a helpful way of depending on God, and many people take the opportunity to fast in appropriate ways for them. We also set up and a prayer room that was open for certain hours of the week, with various prayer activities available to help those of all ages engage with God and enjoy growing their reliance on their Heavenly Father.

In terms of our regular programme, our Sunday morning gatherings and Tuesday discipleship groups are at the heart of our activity as a Christian church.

On Sundays we started the year with a Spring Sunday series called “One in Christ.” We discovered from the Gospel stories how Jesus met people from all sorts of backgrounds and stages of life, bringing transformation to them as they turned to him in faith. As we discovered that Jesus favours no particular type of person but the good news is there for all, we can appreciate the value each of us has in Jesus eyes, which should lead to a unity between us as believers. A major prayer for us as a church in 2023 was for unity so that we can move forward together in our mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Our midweek discipleship times continued to meet on Tuesdays, meeting centrally at the church in the morning and evening, and breaking into groups to further explore the Sunday teaching – discussing, applying to our lives, and praying for each other. This has been invaluable for relationship building and being able to support each other’s walk with Jesus. Some who are unable to meet on a Tuesday have met online on a different day of the week, and we encourage all from our church to be involved in a discipleship group as springboard to serving the church in other ways – Sundays and Tuesdays, with Bible and prayer, are the foundation on which we build everything else.

On most Sundays, we begin the service all together, but then our children and young people have age specific groups for targeted teaching and learning. We rebranded these groups in 2023 with the theme of a rocket taking off and its journey in space: Sparks (0-4s), Launchpad (4-10s), Explosion (11-16s). Our over 16s stay in the service with the adults, but then meet once a month on a Sunday evening – this group is called Impact (16-18+). We thank God for the committed group of leaders who prepare their sessions, teach faithfully, and care for the children and young people with godly love. The teams of leaders meet once per term for prayer and planning. Our Explosion group also enjoyed occasional social activities and an activity day to build friendship and spiritual investment.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, we continue to celebrate the Lord’s Supper as a whole church family – with all ages together. This is an interactive time, whereby we eat, sing, read the Bible and discuss and pray around tables, and take the bread and juice in remembrance of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Our 2023 theme was “The Vision and Values of PBC” – each month we looked at a different value that we hold as a church <http://www.paulsgrove.org.uk/2020-vision> and ask God to help us grow in these areas. The Lord’s Suppers are important times for us as a church family, as we continue to remember that all we have is because of the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

In mid-April we had the joy of celebrating with a baptism service of two young men from different backgrounds. One grew up in the church and came to an assurance of faith in Jesus, whilst the other had recently become a Christian and is in the early stages of faith. Baptism services are real encouragements as we hear the testimonies of Jesus’ transformation and remember that Jesus is at work in lives today!

From May to July, our Sunday series was called “God’s everlasting wisdom for an everchanging world”. Amongst all sorts of issues that we face in society today, including sexuality, social media interactions, and stewardship of money, we turned to God’s wisdom in the book of Proverbs to see that His ways have always been relevant and that He makes life work best.

In July and August, we studied the small Old Testament book of Jonah, learning how Jonah was transformed “From running to revival” and how we can never run too far away from God without the hope of Him bringing us back and setting us on His path again.

In the Autumn, we began a series which would be split into three seasons over the academic year. It is called “Seeking after God’s own heart” from the life of King David, as we delved into the stories of how God was shaping a

man whose heart was fixed on Him. Rather than compressing David's story into one term, we decided that to do it justice we would spend the best part of a year looking through it, to see how we might have hearts like David's. Ultimately, whilst David was a great king, he was also a flawed man, but we marvel in "David's greater son" Jesus, the everlasting king who sits on the throne forever (Luke 1:32-33).

At the special seasons of the year, we celebrate with particular services and events. At Easter we met on both Good Friday and Easter Sunday, with an extended time of lunch, games and friendship on the Friday. In the lead up to Christmas, our advent series looked at who Jesus is from John Chapter 1. On Christmas eve, we had two services – the first was an all-age service with contribution from our children and young people, and the evening was a carol service, in which various people came from the community. Our Christmas morning service was a celebration of Jesus' birth as a baby but remembering that he grew into the perfect man to die and rise to offer eternal life.

Two long-standing members of our church passed away in 2023. We praise God for their lives and service to Christ, and whilst grieving we have hope that they are now enjoying the presence of their Saviour, and we will be reunited with them in our heavenly home. We continue to support their spouses who remain, encouraging them that their church family is there for them as they need us.

Our men's and women's ministries seek to connect men and women to God and each other with specific foci. We held 2 men's evenings in 2023 – a fish and chip evening with a Christian movie, and a Chinese meal with quiz and testimonies of faith. These evenings were designed for men to enjoy time together and to invite friends along to be introduced to the hope we have in Jesus.

Our women's ministry is currently focusing on how women can slow down and find peace in building their relationship with Jesus. Termly prayer times with various prayer practices are designed to help women deepen their walk with Christ, and therefore have a greater impact in their relationships – in their families, in the church, and with those they are seeking to share the love of Jesus with.

In our families ministry, we ran a Light Party once again in October, for our church families and children to enjoy celebrating Jesus as the Light of the World and equip them to share the good news with their friends. At the beginning of the Christmas holidays, we also ran a Messy Church event, with crafts, activities, songs, food, and a message of hope in Jesus. This again proved popular, as a number of families from our community attended.

We remain committed to the community of Paulsgrove, seeking to serve people with the love of God.

Our Food Bank paused from April to September, as our coordinator had to step down and the team were becoming burdened with the heavy lifting of stock. We took a term to pray for God to guide us with a better way forward and are grateful for how He answered. Our partnership with local churches has developed, as a lady from a neighbouring church has taken on the role of Food Bank coordinator. And the Portsmouth Food Bank coordinating church has helped us by delivering pre-packaged food parcels ready for the Thursday sessions. We re-opened in the Autumn, and have been adjusting to the operational changes, as well as being adaptable as things often don't quite go to plan – with people sometimes turning up without knowing the food bank referral procedure as well as agencies getting up to speed with an e-referral system. But praise God that we are able to offer this ministry to a community in which there is much need. We are also mindful that we do want to be a listening ear, and so a couple of people are available each week to sit and talk with clients, share the love of God, and signpost them to where else they might receive help.

Our partnership with Frontline Debt Advice service continued through 2023, and it remained a busy service. At times, capacity was at maximum and there was a need to signpost new people to other debt advice agencies. But we

are grateful that being able to help people take steps to reduce their debt has been a real blessing to move their lives forward.

Our involvement with the charity Hope into Action continued in 2023. The charity exists to house those previously homeless, and provide pastoral support to help the tenants to move forward towards self-sufficiency. Some of our church volunteers help to befriend the tenants, look after the property, and raise funds for this important work.

We continue to pray for and support the work of our local schools. A new Community Schools Hub was being developed in 2023, to help and support families beyond the classroom, and a few parents from our church have been part of the discussions and planning towards the set-up. Our pastor remained on the Governing Body of one of our local primary schools, seeking to be a positive support in its education and standards.

We once again welcomed children, staff and parents from this school, to three carol services in December. This again proved popular, with around 600 people coming into our building for these services. Lots of interest and questions came from children and parents, with some attending our subsequent Christmas services.

Over the year, we have continued to walk through life with those in our church who have faced challenging situations, as well as members of the community known to us who have been in need. Various people moved on from our church, but we were able to welcome new people who joined us.

Various community groups hire our building at different times during the week.

- The Good Shepherd International Mission use the building on a Sunday afternoon.
- Tiny Turtles Preschool use our sports hall from Monday to Friday.
- Slimming World operate on Wednesday evenings.
- And from April, Follow Your Dreamz performing arts group began their hire on Monday and Friday teatimes.

As well as providing additional income to the church, we are pleased that our building is used by groups that build into the quality of life and provide opportunities for those in our community. Please refer to the 'Finance' section below for a discussion of how this funding has been allocated between the CUA and CIO versions of the church's charities during 2023.

### **Mission and Evangelism**

The church commits to donate a minimum of 10% of its income to overseas mission organisations and local charities. In addition to giving financial support, each organisation is highlighted for a month for specific prayer and promotion within the church via our monthly prayer diary. Within the church, our mission coordinator keeps in touch with our mission partners and promotes their work within the church, providing further opportunity for us to pray for and support the work they do for Jesus. Our mission partners serve Jesus in some challenging places, including countries where it is hard to be a Christian, and in places of conflict, including a long-standing ministry in Ukraine in which war has ravaged the country. However, it is been so encouraging to hear stories of God at work, and so we remain committed to support and pray for Gospel work around the globe.

### **Volunteers**

We would like to thank all volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively vibrant community it is. A large percentage of the church membership donate significant time and resources to the work of the church.

## **Public Benefit**

The Trustees have applied the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

## **Finance**

This first full year of operation of the CIO charity (1200307) has resulted in very limited financial activity. The charity was first registered with the Commission on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, but has since operated in a 'shadow' capacity whilst the legal process proceeded to formally transfer and close the old CUA charity (1130799). The bank accounts for the CIO charity were set up only after final confirmation of establishment of all elements of the CIO charity had been received from our legal team (Edward Connor Solicitors) which was in late November 2023, at which point the transfer date between the CUA and the CIO was agreed as being midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

As a result, for the year in question (2023) the financial activity of the CIO charity was for the majority carried out under the auspices of the CUA charity (1130799) as this continued to operate until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the new CIO replacing it on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

The only financial activity directly related to the CIO charity (1200307) was a series of funding transfers from the CUA to the CIO in December 2023, made once the new bank accounts had been established and so that there would be finance available to the new charity to meet its financial obligations to suppliers from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Two voluntary offerings from members were also received in advance of the transfer date.

These financial transactions are listed in the Notes to the Accounts, section 2, page 11 below.

All other funding relating to the operation of the church was held by the CUA charity (1130799) during 2023, and was transferred to the CIO during 2024. This will therefore feature in the CIO's 2024 Report and Accounts. This transfer procedure includes the assets and liabilities of the CUA charity.

Because the financial activity of the CIO during 2023 was below £25,000, we have taken advice from Stewardship Services who advise that an Independent Examination is not required on this occasion. Because the church's CUA charity has been removed from the Commission's register upon transfer to the church's CIO charity, it is not possible to register a TAR for it for 2023; again, Stewardship Services advise that this situation is routine for transfers between CUA and CIO versions of charities.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have determined that the charity should adopt the Reserves Policy of the previous CUA charity, namely to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £30,000 so that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the CUA charity (1130799) held unrestricted funds of £97,806 and so was complying with its Reserves Policy. This unrestricted funding, plus £1,000 of restricted funding, transferred to the CIO in January 2024 and so the CIO has been also able to comply with the adopted Reserves Policy from a date early in 2024. This will be reported in full in the CIO's 2024 TAR.

## **Risk Statement**

The Trustees have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating with few employees is exposed. Appropriate procedures are in place to identify, monitor and review these risks on a regular basis.

## **Trustees' Responsibilities**

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Stephen John Mountain

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SJM', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
<b>Receipts</b>			
Voluntary receipts	2a	205.00	NIL
Charitable activities		NIL	NIL
Grants		NIL	NIL
Other receipts	2b	1200.11	NIL
Investments		NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>1405.11</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly		NIL	NIL
Governance costs		NIL	NIL
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others		NIL	NIL
Benevolent Payments to Individuals		NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>Net Receipts / (Payments)</b>		<b>1405.11</b>	<b>NIL</b>
Funds at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023		NIL	NIL
<b>Funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>		<b>1405.11</b>	<b>NIL</b>

The notes on page 11 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**ASSETS**

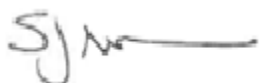
Cash funds (see Receipts and Payments account above) £1405.11

**LIABILITIES**

All liabilities were held by separate CUA charity £NIL

The notes on page 11 form part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 30th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:-  
Stephen John Mountain



**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

As is permitted for charities with income of less than £250,000, the accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis with a statement of assets and liabilities as prescribed by the Charity Commission.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received for the objects of the charity without specified purpose that can be used for the general purposes of the church. Restricted funds are amounts received where the donor has specified the purpose for which they must be used.

2. RECEIPTS

Unrestricted funds £      Restricted funds £

(a) Voluntary Income

Offerings and other gifts	205.00	0.00
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(b) Other Receipts

Transfers from CUA to establish CIO	1200.00	0.00
Interest earned	0.11	0.00

3. PAYMENTS

As explained in the main report in the section titled 'Finance' (page 8), there are no payments made by the CIO charity in 2023. During 2023 the CIO was operating in a 'shadow' form to the earlier CUA charity and the majority of receipts, and all payments, were handled through that route.

The church employed a pastor and a cleaner for the whole of 2023. However this was under the auspices of the previous CUA charity and the two employees did not transfer to the CIO (under TUPE arrangements on their existing terms and conditions) until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. This will be reported in the 2024 TAR which will again be subject to Independent Examination. There are therefore no employee costs falling to the CIO in 2023.

4. FUNDS

All monies held by the CIO as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were held in the General Fund. There were no monies held by the CIO in Restricted Funds.

During 2024, with the transfer of monies from the CUA to the CIO a review by the Trustees of the scope of Restricted Funds has been carried out, resulting in the closing of certain out-of-date Restricted Funds and the setting up of a new Restricted Fund; this was carried out in accordance with the CIO Constitution and will be reported in the 2024 TAR which will again be subject to Independent Examination.

5. RELATED CHARITIES

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635 and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) which is charity number 1168037.