

MOW COP COMMUNITY CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

OBJECTIVES

Mow Cop Community Church is a CIO registered with The Charity Commission for England and Wales (registration number 120773).

The church purposes, set out in its Constitution, are:

1. the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Mow Cop and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
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.

ACTIVITIES

The church seeks to fulfil the above objectives by means of:-

- Weekly corporate gatherings for worship, preaching, prayer and mutual encouragement.
- Weekly corporate gatherings for Bible Study and prayer.
- Weekly age-appropriate Christian teaching for primary school children.
- Bi-weekly Saturday afternoon Craft Club.
- Monthly (approximately) after church communal lunches and fellowship time on a Sunday.
- Monthly mums and tots group.
- Visits to local primary schools to share in their school assembly and/or lessons as and when invited by the school.
- Regular financial giving to individuals and charities with the same objectives

All of the activities are provided by volunteers who are either members or attendees of the church and the Trustees are grateful for their dedication and commitment to their work. Volunteers are given appropriate training and are DBS checked where necessary.

All of the above activities are accessible free of charge to members of the general public and are promoted through notices outside the church, the church website, local social media postings, and via word of mouth by members and attendees of the church.

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PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have regard to the requirement for the charity to have public benefit.

In addition to the public benefit noted above, the Trustees make the church premises available to:-

- The Mow Cop Killer Mile organisation as the HQ for the race, usually involving several hundred competitors.
- PCSO for 'beat surgeries'
- Local and National Government for use as a Polling Station.
- A local home education group for group teaching and recreation sessions.
- Home Educators as an accredited Exam centre for the Cambridge International Exam Board facilitating O Level, GCSE and IGCSE examinations.

No charge is made for use of the premises but donations to cover running costs are gratefully accepted.

ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The Trustees have been encouraged to see an increase in attendance at regular meetings, with new people from the community becoming involved and benefitting spiritually and practically.

The bi-weekly craft club has continued to see good attendance and involvement. Thanks are given to those who run the club.

The church members benefitted from a weekend away in Shropshire, subsidised by church funds.

There was collaboration with the local Methodist Chapel for worship on Easter morning, and a family club in Autumn.

The bi-weekly 'Criss-Cross' club concluded at the end of 2024 due to dwindling numbers and key volunteers moving on.

The traditional Christmas Eve carol service and choir concert were aimed at village attendance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2024 the Church completed the project to change its charitable status from a Charitable Unincorporated Association (CUA), registered charity number 1052515, to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered charity number 1207731. The CIO was registered by the Charity Commission on 4 April 2024 and granted permission to transfer the assets from the CUA on 23 September 2024. The closing accounts for the CUA were thus prepared for the period 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024, examined by our Independent Examiner, and uploaded to the CUA's account on the Charity Commission website. The opening accounts for the CIO were prepared for the period 4 April 2024 to 31 December 2024, examined by our Independent Examiner, and uploaded to the CIO's account on the Charity Commission website. Both sets of accounts are available for public examination.

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The Church maintains its financial records on a Receipt and Payment basis in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

The Church holds three accounts, a current account, an instant access savings account and a 5 year savings bond. During the year new accounts were opened with the Coop Bank (current account) and Kingdom Bank (savings accounts) and the old accounts in the name of the CUA were closed.

The financial records are kept in a simple PC-based accounting package supplemented by a spreadsheet workbook to enable public reporting, and paper records of all transactions. The records are reconciled to the bank accounts on a monthly basis and are scrutinised annually by an Independent Examiner.

INCOME

Apart from the transfer of funds from the old CUA, over 75% of the Church's income in 2024 came from donations made by church members, and those attending church services and other church activities.

The Church does not engage in fund raising from the general public.

The Church premises are not hired out but are occasionally used by individuals or groups on a donation basis provided such use does not conflict with or compromise the Church's objectives.

The church is greatly encouraged by receiving several gifts from neighbouring churches, and considerable donations from church members, and an increase of people. We are grateful for God's goodness in providing adequate funds to enable the Church's ministry to continue.

EXPENDITURE

The church pastor has taken on part time employment to supplement his reduction in Pastoral fees

Expenditure on direct ministry to fulfil the church objectives was 55% of total expenditure, with the remaining 45% of expenditure covering running costs for the church building and compliance with legal obligations.

CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The year- end balance in the current account to £13,723.

The other cash assets in the savings account and 5 year bond amount to £12,922, giving a grand total liquid asset of £26,645.

In the view of the Trustees these funds give adequate reserves for the charity to continue fulfilling its objectives for the next 12 months.

The value of the church building in the accounts has been shown as £490,000.

BUDGET FOR 2025

A budget for 2025 has been set and agreed by the Trustees and was presented for approval of the church members at the church AGM in April.

The budget has been drawn up based on the current level of regular donations and as a continued measure focuses on non-discretionary items of expenditure. This means that the ministry of the church will major on low-cost options to fulfil

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the church's objectives, building up on the previous year's net surplus, enabling some fiscal relaxation.

The budget can only reflect known or anticipated circumstances and it is therefore managed on a monthly basis, by curtailing discretionary expenditure if income falls short of the budgeted amount.

The new Constitution adopted by the CIO now enables the church to employ the Pastor. As from 1 January 2025 the Pastor is a part time employee of the church.

SAFEGUARDING

The church has an up to date safeguarding policy and appointed Safeguarding Co-Ordinator and Deputy Co-ordinator. Advice and guidance on safeguarding matters is taken from the advisory group Thirty-one:Eight (Charity number 1004490).

There were no safeguarding incidents in the period 01-01-2024 to 31-12-2024 which required reporting to the Charity Commission.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

This year, Mow Cop Community Church transitioned from being a CUA charity (registration 1052515) to a CIO (registration 1207731).

With the services of Edward Connor Solicitors, a new Church Constitution and Handbook were created, these being adopted at a members' meeting on 17th March 2024.

The new CIO was established on 4th April 2025. The church members voted (23rd June 2025) and trustees resolved (14th July 2025) to transfer all the CUA's assets into the CIO once given approval by the Charity Commission, which took place on 23rd September 2024.

The members and trustees of CUA charity became first members and trustees of CIO charity.

The CUA charity was deregistered on 22nd November 2025.

Thanks are given especially to Chris Brook for leading the work on changing our charity structure.

Pastor Matthew Coster is to be taken on as an employee of the Church, commencing 1st January 2025.

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Matthew Coster	Pastor / Chair	Whole duration	Church Council
Christopher Gordon Brook	Elder / Assistant treasurer	Whole duration	As Above
Sheila Walton	Treasurer	Whole duration	As Above

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Sheila Walton took over the Treasurer's role in 2024.

Christopher Brook will be moving out of the area in 2025, but has agreed to remain in his capacities for up to one year until a replacement has been found.

The Church are eager to appoint a suitable replacement in role of Elder and Trustee.

The church is a member of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC), charity number 1168037.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	Mow Cop Community Church
Other name the charity uses	Until 2004 known as 'Mow Cop Pentecostal Church'
Registered charity number	1207731 (Formerly 1052515)
Charity's principal address	Top Station Road Mow Cop Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire ST7 3NY

DECLARATIONS

The trustees declare that they approve the above Trustees' Report

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Signature	Signed by:  53E804579689412...	
Full Name	SHEILA WALTON	
Position	Treasurer	
Date	02/07/2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Mow Cop Community Church

1207731

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

04/04/2024

To

31/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Tithes & Offerings	1,271	-	-	1,271	-
Covenants & Gift Aid Donations	5,435	-	-	5,435	-
Tax Reclaim	1,308	-	-	1,308	-
Interest Received	19	-	-	19	-
Grants and Restricted Donations	-	815	-	815	-
Sundry and Room Use Donations	1,040	-	-	1,040	-
Transfer from Mow Cop Church	22,574	-	-	22,574	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,647	815	-	32,462	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,647	815	-	32,462	-
A3 Payments					
Pastoral Expenses	2,780	-	-	2,780	-
Ministry Payments	330	-	-	330	-
Missionary Gifts & Outreach	412	65	-	477	-
Building Costs	1,343	-	-	1,343	-
Compliance & Insurance	449	-	-	449	-
Accounts	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	237	-	-	237	-
Sundry	201	-	-	201	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	5,752	65	-	5,817	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,752	65	-	5,817	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	25,895	750	-	26,645	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	25,895	750	-	26,645	-

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	Bank current account	12,973	750	-
	Bank deposits & bonds	12,922	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	25,895	750	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Church Building		165,418	490,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Sheila Walton</i>	Sheila.walton	25/06/25