

Hope City Church Southampton

Registered Charity Number 1207762

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Period 8 April 2024 to 31 March 2025



CONTENTS

Church Information	1
Trustees' Report	2
Independent Examiner's Report	3
Receipts & Payments Account	4
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 - 7

CHURCH INFORMATION

Trustees

Angus Lyon
Mark Swift
Rev Daron Medway
Dilhani Goonesekera
Dr Andrew Johnston PhD

Charity number

1207762

Address

The Hope Centre
Drayton Close
Weston
Southampton
SO19 9JN

Independent Examiner

J R Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Trustees' Report

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and accounts for the period 8 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

1 Objectives and activities

The charity is established for the following purposes:

(1) To advance the Christian religion in the community of Weston and the surrounding areas of Southampton for the benefit of the public by means of, but not exclusively, the holding of public meetings of prayer and worship, running educational courses, promoting global mission, and producing and/or distributing messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.

(2) To benefit the residents of Weston and the surrounding areas of Southampton, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power:

To establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

2 Structure, governance and management

Hope City Church Southampton is a CIO governed by its Constitution registered with the Charity Commission commencing on the 8 April 2024.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Angus Lyon (Chair)
Mark Swift (Treasurer)
Rev Daron Medway
Dilhani Goonesekera
Dr Andrew Johnston PhD

The trustees are the sole members of the CIO. Trustees are appointed by existing trustees in accordance with the constitution with no fixed term of appointment.

The trustees are collectively responsible for governance, strategy, compliance and oversight. The day-to-day operations of the Charity are carried out by volunteers, reporting to the trustees. The quorum for trustee meetings is two trustees or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, which ever is greater. Trustees meet monthly and no trustee received any remuneration.

Report of the Trustees (continued)

3 Review of Activities

Main Activities Undertaken During the Year

3.1 Worship and Faith-Based Activities

- Regular weekly Christian worship services in local school premises with an average attendance of around 60.
- Prayer meetings, home or community centre based small groups and pastoral support.

3.2 Community Centre and Outreach Activities

Operating from the community centre, the church provides a wide range of community-focused services, which have included:

- Drop-in cafe-type sessions providing a safe and welcoming space.
- Community meals and emergency food provision via a weekly food bank.
- Referral links with a long term non-emergency food bank ('The Marketplace' run by the local parish church).
- Support groups (e.g. language cafe for those for whom English is not their first language, knitting group, parent and toddler group, after school club)
- Activities for children, young people and older adults.
- Signposting to local services and agencies.
- Facilitating use of the centre by local groups whose aims include supporting wellbeing, reducing isolation, supporting carers and strengthening community resilience.

3.3 Achievements and Performance during the first year of operation

This reporting period represents the charity's first year of operation following registration as a Foundation CIO.

During the reporting period, the charity has:

- Successfully established itself as a new church and registered charity within the area.
- Launched regular Christian worship and prayer activities open to the public.
- Opened and operated a community centre as a base for outreach and community services.
- Built initial partnerships with local residents, volunteers and community organisations.
- Provided early-stage support to individuals and families, particularly those experiencing disadvantage.

As a first-year charity, the focus has been on establishing governance, safeguarding, policies and sustainable delivery models alongside frontline activities.

4 Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning the charity's activities.

The charity provides public benefit by:

- Offering open and inclusive Christian worship services accessible to the local community.
- Providing practical support, services and activities that address social, economic and emotional needs in a deprived area.
- Operating The Hope Centre, a community centre that is open to people of all backgrounds, beliefs and circumstances.

Report of the Trustees (continued)

Public benefit (continued)

The charity offers a range of activities including worship meetings, groups for a range of ages and interests (eg language cafe, youth group, knitting group, toddler group, community cafe/hub/warm space), a food bank, social evenings (eg bingo, comedy nights) and occasional seasonal events for the wider community. The Centre is also rented to local support groups and individuals, eg mental health support group, a dementia support group, slimming group and private hire for children's parties. The activities take place mainly at or near the Hope Centre, Weston.

5 Financial Review

5.1 Financial Position

The charity prepared receipts and payments accounts for the year, in accordance with Charity Commission guidance for smaller charities.

Total receipts for the period were £90,066, total payments for the period were £16,896 leaving cash funds at period end of £73,170.

5.2 Principal Sources of Income

- Voluntary donations from individuals and church members
- Grants from trusts, foundations or local bodies
- Fundraising activities

5.3 Expenditure

- Community centre running costs (utilities, maintenance, insurance)
- Programme and outreach costs
- Worship and ministry-related expenses
- Staff, sessional worker or volunteer support costs (if applicable)
- Governance and compliance costs.

5.4 Reserves Policy

The trustees recognise the importance of building reserves during the charity's early years.

The policy is to hold free reserves equivalent to at least six months of core operating costs, in order to:

- Manage cash flow effectively
- Meet ongoing commitments in the event of income fluctuation
- Support the continuity of worship and community services

At the year end, free reserves stood at £72,576, representing 51 months of operating expenditure.

Restricted funds are excluded from free reserves.

6 Plans for Future Periods

In the next year, the charity plans to:

- Develop and expand community services in response to local need. Awareness of and attendance at the various community based activities has grown over the year and continues.

Report of the Trustees (continued)

6 Plans for Future Periods (continued)

- Increase community engagement and partnerships. The charity is an active member of So:Linked, a Southampton based charity which facilitates connection between a large number of non-profit organisations whose aim is to benefit the local community.
- Strengthen volunteer recruitment and training. The charity is currently run by volunteer staff, assisted by two part time staff who are funded by a separate church-based charity. Approximately 35 adults have worked as part time volunteers for the charity during the year.
- Ensure long-term financial sustainability.
- Take over the long lease of the Hope Centre. The centre is currently leased by Southampton City Council to Kings Community Church Southampton (KCC) with approximately 50 years remaining on the lease. The premises at the Hope Centre are held under licence from KCC by the charity. KCC will transfer the lease in the near future on completion of ongoing building works.

The 2025 review of the English Indices of Deprivation placed the postcode in which the Hope Centre is situated at 135th out of 33,755 areas. This places the area in the top 0.004% of areas of deprivation in England. Or, to put it more clearly, over 99.99% of English postcodes are less deprived than the area which the charity serves.

7 Risk Management

As a first-year charity, the trustees have focused on identifying and managing risks associated with start-up and growth.

The trustees regularly review the major risks to which the charity is exposed, including:

- Financial sustainability
- Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults
- Health and safety within the community centre
- Volunteer capacity and burnout

Appropriate policies and procedures are in place to mitigate these risks (including Safeguarding, Unaccompanied or uncollected children, Offenders, Health & safety, Lone working, Risk management, Emergency plan, Financial management, Equality in employment, Complaints, Whistleblowing, Data protection and privacy, Social media). Other policies and procedures are set out in the charity's constitution (eg trustee conflicts of interest).

There are no serious incidents to report this year.

8 Safeguarding Statement

The charity is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk.

During its first year of operation, the trustees have:

- Adopted safeguarding policies consistent with current legislation and statutory guidance in England.
- Appointed designated safeguarding leads.
- Ensured that trustees, staff and key volunteers are aware of safeguarding procedures and DBS registered. Standard and enhanced DBS checks have been obtained for all eligible roles, as appropriate.

Report of the Trustees (continued)

8 Safeguarding Statement (continued)

Safeguarding policies are reviewed regularly (at least yearly, but in practice more often) and updated as required.

There are two safeguarding leads (Matthew Cranston and Ruth Hughes) supervised by a trustee (Dilhani Goonesekera)

On behalf of the Trustees



Angus Lyon

Trustee

Date: 23rd January 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope City Church Southampton

I report to the trustees of the church on my examination of the accounts of Hope City Church Southampton ('the CIO') for the period 8 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J R Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 26 January 2026

Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2025</u>
	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>			
Gifts and donations	50,026	24,836	74,862
Gift Day	-	14,097	14,097
Gift Aid Tax Repayments	-	-	-
Deposit Interest	744	-	744
Other income	363	-	363
Total receipts	51,133	38,933	90,066
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenses - travel	134	-	134
Conference - Catalyst and Jubilee+	1,815	450	2,265
Ministries - Food Centre	-	439	439
Ministries - Other	-	3,334	3,334
Hope Centre - Repairs and maintenance	-	1,338	1,338
Hope City Office - rent, consumables and phone	1,305	-	1,305
Insurance	518	-	518
Subscriptions	1,358	-	1,358
Sunday - Other costs	1,821	-	1,821
Sunday - venue hire	2,100	-	2,100
Training, development and welfare costs	1,034	-	1,034
Charitable donations	-	1,250	1,250
Accountancy & IE	-	-	-
Total payments	10,085	6,811	16,896
Net receipts/(payments)	41,048	32,122	73,170
Cash funds at 8 April 2024	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	(3,284)	3,284	-
Cash funds at 31 March 2025	37,764	35,406	73,170

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Cash funds

2025

£

CafCash Account	70,534
CafCash Giving Account	2,141
CafGold Account	495
	<u>73,170</u>

Non monetary assets

Furniture and Equipment	-
Rent deposit - Church Property	-

Debtors

Gift Aid recoverable	<u>13,206</u>
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Liabilities

Accruals - Accounts and Independent Examination	<u>1,140</u>
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Approved by the Trustees on 23 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by



Angus Lyon
Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives, unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

3 Trustees

No trustee received any remuneration during the period.

Trustee donations during the year were £14,756.

4 Debtors

The charity has outstanding Gift Aid claims totalling £13,205.

5 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transaction in the period.

6 Funds

	Brought forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
KCC	-	594.00	-	-	594.00
Charitable Fund	-	6,742.00	(1,250.00)	-	5,492.00
Infrastructure Fund	-	7,355.00	(1,337.68)	-	6,017.32
Ministries Fund	-	500.00	(3,784.35)	3,284.35	-
Ministries Fund (Food Centre)	-	1,150.00	(439.40)	-	710.60
Holy Trinity Fund	-	22,592.00	-	-	22,592.00
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>					
General Fund	-	51,133.49	(10,085.30)	(3,284.35)	37,763.84
	-	90,066.49	(16,896.73)	-	73,169.76

Notes to the Financial Statements

6 Funds (continued)

Restricted Funds

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| KCC Funds | - represents donations specifically to cover the costs of a Fire Risk Assessment due in May 2025. |
| Charitable Fund | - represents specific donations raised on a Gift Day for charitable purposes. |
| Infrastructure Fund | - represents specific donations raised on a Gift Day for Hope Centre Building costs. |
| Ministries Fund | - represents donations for non-Sunday ministry activities. |
| Ministries Fund (Food Centre) | - represents donations given specifically for Food Centre supplies. |
| Holy Trinity Fund | - represents donations for the Hope Centre refurbishment. |

Unrestricted Funds

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| General fund | - represents unrestricted donations available for general purposes at the discretion of the trustees. |
|--------------|---|