



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

**READING HEBREW CONGREGATION**

On accounts for the year  
ended

**31 DECEMBER 2023**

Charity no  
(if any)

**220098**

Set out on pages

**1 to 3**

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

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed:

Date:

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Name:

Mr M Cooper-Smith

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

Address:

C/o Reading Synagogue

Goldsmid Road

Reading RG1 7YB

**Section B****Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

# Reading Hebrew Congregation - Statement of Financial Activities

	Income & Expenditure 2023			Comparison 2022		
	RHC Community Funds	RHC Burial Society	RHC Consolidated Total	RHC Community Funds	RHC Burial Society	RHC Consolidated Total
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Income from Membership &amp; Assets</b>						
Membership Contributions	19,300	5,805	25,105	21,249	5,703	26,952
Donations Received to RHC	2,707		2,707	3,249		3,249
Koll Nidre Donations Received	2,641		2,641	1,680		1,680
BOD, CRT & Other Donations Received	921		921	922		922
Gift Aid Membership & Dons to RHC	4,671		4,671	5,283		5,283
Gift Aid On all Other Donations	705		705	0		0
Investment Income	8,880	7,510	16,390	8,352	6,038	14,390
Interest Income	6,509	1,730	8,239	771	845	1,616
<b>Total from Membership &amp; Assets</b>	<b>46,334</b>	<b>15,045</b>	<b>61,379</b>	<b>41,506</b>	<b>12,586</b>	<b>54,092</b>
<b>Income from Activities</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Costs</b>				
Food/Judaica Shop	3,064	(2,842)	222	222		222
Golden Mazel	2,230	(1,650)	580	390		390
Fund Raising & Events	18	(604)	(586)	0		0
Welcome Days	0	(396)	(396)	0		0
Luach Fax®	790	(309)	481	556		556
Gollancz Hall Receipts	557		557	500		500
Sabbath & Festivals	1,594		1,594	530		530
Miscellaneous	518		518	469		469
<b>Total Income from Activities</b>	<b>8,771</b>	<b>(5,801)</b>	<b>2,970</b>	<b>2,667</b>		<b>2,667</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>49,304</b>	<b>15,045</b>	<b>64,349</b>	<b>44,173</b>	<b>12,586</b>	<b>56,759</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Judaica			(3,900)			(3,900)
Donations to Other Charities	Note 4		(4,266)	(2,752)		(2,752)
Legal Fees			(494)	0		0
Cleaning			(3,919)	(3,902)		(3,902)
Maintenance - General			(2,569)	(1,721)		(1,721)
Light, Heat, Water			(6,928)	(4,110)		(4,110)
Buildings Insurance			(8,032)	(6,236)		(6,236)
Admin Expenses			(590)	(1,157)		(1,157)
Telephone			(150)	(173)		(173)
Newsletter			(101)	(72)		(72)
Publicity			(55)	(55)		(55)
Board of Deputies Affiliation			(150)	(150)		(150)
Security			(1,863)	(3,346)		(3,346)
Miscellaneous Expenses			(789)	(1,797)		(1,797)
Service Assistance & Expenses			(7,520)	(4,786)		(4,786)
Welfare			(329)	(273)		(273)
Burial Society Expenses						
Funerals			(7,305)		(3,390)	(3,390)
US Affiliation Fees			(969)		(1,007)	(1,007)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>(41,655)</b>	<b>(30,530)</b>	<b>(4,397)</b>	<b>(34,927)</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>			<b>7,649</b>	<b>13,643</b>	<b>8,189</b>	<b>21,832</b>
<b>Gain or (Decline) on Investment Assets</b>			<b>(2,767)</b>	<b>(10,405)</b>	<b>(14,166)</b>	<b>(24,571)</b>
<b>Net Surplus or (Deficit) for the Year</b>			<b>4,882</b>	<b>3,238</b>	<b>(5,977)</b>	<b>(2,739)</b>

**Reading Hebrew Congregation - Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023**

ASSETS	Balance Sheet - 2023			Investment Asset Movements 22-23	Comparison - 2022		
	RHC Community	Burial Society	RHC Total		RHC Community	Burial Society	RHC Total
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>							
Land and Buildings      Note 2	525,000		525,000		525,000		525,000
<b>Investments</b> Note 3							
Charibond	20,000	90,389	110,389		20,000	90,389	110,389
Unrealised Gain (Decline) on Asset	(2,192)	(7,159)	(9,351)	(3,189)	(2,755)	(9,785)	(12,540)
Charibond Net Value	17,808	83,230	101,038		17,245	80,604	97,849
Charifund	60,000	70,000	130,000		60,000	70,000	130,000
Unrealised Gain on Asset	78,350	6,080	84,430	5,159	81,679	7,910	89,589
Charifund Net Value	138,350	76,080	214,430		141,679	77,910	219,589
<b>Total Investment Assets</b>	156,158	159,310	315,468	1,970	158,924	158,514	317,438
<b>Cash</b>							
HSBC Current account	24,762		24,762		45,061		45,061
HSBC Golden Mazel Club	376		376		35		35
Bath Building Society	30,175		30,175		0		0
Cambridge & Counties	82,000		82,000				
United Trust Bank	28,668	55,367	84,035		0		0
Nationwide Building Society	88,205		88,205		85,721		85,721
Teachers Building Society	0		0		84,750		84,750
Virgin Money	0		0		35,882	48,596	84,478
Total Cash	254,186	55,367	309,553		251,449	48,596	300,045
<b>Debtors</b>							
Debtors	8,619		8,619		4,784		4,784
Total Debtors	8,619	0	8,619		4,784	0	4,784
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	943,963	214,677	1,158,640		940,157	207,110	1,147,267
<b>Less: Current LIABILITIES</b>	(1,707)		(1,707)		(2,783)		(2,783)
Provision for Extraordinary Cost	(4,855)		(4,855)		(4,855)		(4,855)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	937,401	214,677	1,152,078		932,519	207,110	1,139,629
<b>MEMBERS EQUITY</b>							
Land and Buildings Valuation Reserve	525,000		525,000		525,000		525,000
Accumulated Reserves b/f	407,519	207,110	614,629		404,281	213,087	617,368
Current Year Surplus	7,649	6,771	14,420		13,643	8,189	21,832
Gain or (Decline) on Inv Assets	(2,767)	796	(1,971)		(10,405)	(14,166)	(24,571)
Accumulated Reserves c/f	937,401	214,677	1,152,078		932,519	207,110	1,139,629

**Reading Hebrew Congregation  
Notes to 2023 Accounts**

**NOTE 1**

The Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**NOTE 2**

The Synagogue was valued in 2022, and is held at the 2022 valuation  
Land and Buildings is now shown on the Balance Sheet from 2022  
No depreciation is provided in respect of freehold land and buildings

**NOTE 3**

Financial investments are valued based on their quoted market prices as at the 31st December 2023.

**NOTE 4**

Donations to Other Charities	£	
Reading Food Bank	3,187	Collected and paid in 2023
Board of Deputies	819	Collected and paid in 2023
Chief Rabbi Trust	260	Collected and paid in 2023
Other	0	
Total	<u>4,266</u>	

**NOTE 5**

The Burial Society is a restricted fund of RHC.



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	01	2023	To	31	12	2023

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Reading Hebrew Congregation
Other names charity is known by	Reading Synagogue
Registered charity number (if any)	220098
Charity's principal address	7 Goldsmid Road
	Reading
Postcode	RG1 7YB

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Susan Clarke	Honorary Officer		
2	David Clarke	Board Member		
3	Mark Drukker	Honorary Officer		
4	Alan Benn	Honorary Officer		
5	Michael Fuhr	Board Member		
6	Sarah Firsht	Honorary Officer		
7	Maurice Lawson	Board Member		
8	Anthony Woolf	Honorary Officer		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Gerald Cowan	
Jack Album	
Richard Collings	To 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at AGM

### 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.

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## Section C Objectives and activities

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

To conduct the affairs of the Society, to provide religious services conducted in the manner authorised by the Very Reverend the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. To maintain a Minister insofar as reasonably prudent financial management permits and to advance the interest of the Jewish community of Reading and the surrounding areas.

**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 Trustees have given consideration to the matter of Public Benefit at meetings of the Board of Management.

In order to fulfill these requirements, we continue our objectives of outreach into the wider community and we contribute to many local interfaith activities and have representation on many groups, as this assists in the advancement of the interests of the Jewish Community.

Additionally, to advance the interest of the Jewish community in Reading we expect to be able to continue to offer open days for schools at the synagogue, which links with national curriculum requirements. Our members of the community also go out to schools to give talks on a variety of subjects.

To provide a place for religious services we maintain a purpose-built Grade 2 listed building, which is mentioned in the Jewish Heritage document entitled "Synagogues at Risk".

**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.



**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

We continued to provide religious services conducted in the manner authorised by the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth.

Following the successful roof repair project on the Synagogue completed in a previous year, we continue to monitor the condition of the roof, and we continue to monitor the building generally, to take care that its condition is maintained appropriately. We ensure that the building continues to serve its purpose as a centre for the Jewish community of the area, and in connection with our charitable purposes. We continued to promote education for adults.

The Welcome Days for schools in support of community cohesion has had to be suspended although we do have visits from schools, youth groups and other organisations. Members visit schools to speak about Judaism.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The trustees are mindful of the need to protect and maintain the primary objects of the charity, namely to provide religious services and to advance the interest of the Jewish community of Reading and surrounding areas, as well as to generally conduct the affairs of RHC in accordance with reasonably prudent financial management for the benefit of its wide community of members.

However, in response to its significantly reduced, and still declining, size of community the charity takes care to mitigate its ongoing annual operating costs, in order to ensure that it can responsibly continue to promote those objects into the foreseeable future and ultimately for as long as the need exists for its charitable services.

Having regard to the longer term need to maintain its central synagogue premises, which is a listed building in excess of one hundred years old, the Trustees are mindful of potentially substantial maintenance and renewal expenditures which may be required at short notice and of unknown amounts. This circumstance creates a substantial additional risk which the Trustees are vigilant to ensure that they can cover from reserves when and if the need should arise.

As well as the need to hold substantial protection for unknown and unquantifiable synagogue building issues, RHC ultimately may have the need to contribute a sum to finalise burial arrangements. Again, the actual amount required and the timing of that cannot be known with accuracy at this time. Reserves may also be used to support religious services and modestly improve the infrastructure of the synagogue, subject to continual review of the reasonable needs of the declining community.

The reserves will be held partly as cash deposits generating interest income, and partly invested in suitable professionally managed funds generating investment income. The relative mix of these reserves will be reviewed and adjusted by the Managing Trustees as they judge most suitable from time to time, but always subject to the need to maintain adequate cash resources to deal with unpredictable short-term needs, as well as maintaining adequate total reserves to deal generally with longer term plans and requirements. The overall level of reserves will be kept under review each year, having regard to the factors mentioned, and also having regard to the continually rising level of maintenance and renewal costs as impacted further by levels of inflation generally.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Anthony Larry Woolf	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Hon Treasurer	
Date	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	