



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

READING HEBREW CONGREGATION

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2024

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 2024.

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:

4th March 2025

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 2024			Comparison 2023		
	RHC Community Funds	RHC Burial Society	RHC Consolidated Total	RHC Community Funds	RHC Burial Society	RHC Consolidated Total
Income						
Income from Membership & Assets						
Membership Contributions	16,467	6,700	23,167	19,300	5,805	25,105
Donations Received to RHC	2,434		2,434	2,707		2,707
Koll Nidre Donations Received	4,085		4,085	2,641		2,641
BOD, CRT & Other Donations Received	1,556		1,556	921		921
Gift Aid Membership & Dons to RHC	3,841		3,841	4,671		4,671
Gift Aid On all Other Donations	938		938	705		705
Investment Income	9,457	8,418	17,875	8,880	7,510	16,390
Interest Income	9,805	2,484	12,289	6,509	1,730	8,239
Total from Membership & Assets	48,583	17,602	66,185	46,334	15,045	61,379
Income from Activities	Gross	Costs				
Food/Judaica Shop	4,077	(3,732)	345	222		222
Golden Mazel	2,025	(1,650)	375	580		580
Fund Raising & Events	15		15	(586)		(586)
Welcome Days	0		0	(396)		(396)
Luach Fax®	855	(338)	517	481		481
Gollancz Hall Receipts	1,115		1,115	557		557
Sabbath & Festivals	1,616		1,616	1,594		1,594
Miscellaneous	244		244	518		518
Total Income from Activities	9,947	(5,720)	4,227	2,970		2,970
Total Income			52,810	49,304	15,045	64,349
Expenditure						
Judaica			(817)	(3,900)		(3,900)
Donations to Other Charities	Note 4		(6,575)	(4,266)		(4,266)
Legal Fees			0	(494)		(494)
Cleaning			(4,038)	(3,919)		(3,919)
Maintenance - General			(2,555)	(2,569)		(2,569)
Light, Heat, Water			(7,591)	(6,928)		(6,928)
Buildings Insurance			(7,944)	(8,032)		(8,032)
Admin Expenses			(965)	(590)		(590)
Telephone			(157)	(150)		(150)
Newsletter			(8)	(101)		(101)
Publicity			(92)	(55)		(55)
Board of Deputies Affiliation			(150)	(150)		(150)
Security			(2,397)	(1,863)		(1,863)
Miscellaneous Expenses			(517)	(789)		(789)
Service Assistance & Expenses			(10,601)	(7,520)		(7,520)
Welfare			(368)	(329)		(329)
Burial Society Expenses			0			
Funerals			(11,760)		(7,305)	(7,305)
US Affiliation Fees			(931)		(969)	(969)
Total Expenditure			(44,775)	(41,655)	(8,274)	(49,929)
Surplus/(deficit)			8,035	7,649	6,771	14,420
Gain or (Decline) on Investment Assets			2,979	(2,767)	796	(1,971)
Net Surplus or (Deficit) for the Year			11,014	4,882	7,567	12,449

Reading Hebrew Congregation - Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

ASSETS	Balance Sheet - 2024			Investment Asset Movements 23-24	Comparison - 2023		
	RHC Community	Burial Society	RHC Total		RHC Community	Burial Society	RHC Total
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Land and Buildings Note 2	525,000		525,000		525,000		525,000
Investments Note 3							
Charibond	20,000	90,389	110,389		20,000	90,389	110,389
Unrealised Gain (Decline) on Asset	(2,820)	(10,091)	(12,911)	(3,560)	(2,192)	(7,159)	(9,351)
Charibond Net Value	17,180	80,298	97,478		17,808	83,230	101,038
Charifund	60,000	70,000	130,000		60,000	70,000	130,000
Unrealised Gain on Asset	81,957	8,063	90,020	5,590	78,350	6,080	84,430
Charifund Net Value	141,957	78,063	220,020		138,350	76,080	214,430
Total Investment Assets	159,137	158,361	317,498	2,030	156,158	159,310	315,468
Cash							
HSBC Current account	20,228		20,228		24,762		24,762
HSBC Golden Mazel Club	211		211		376		376
Bath Building Society	44,515		44,515		30,175		30,175
Cambridge & Counties	82,000		82,000		82,000		82,000
United Trust Bank	28,127	60,279	88,406		28,668	55,367	84,035
Nationwide Building Society	86,061		86,061		88,205		88,205
Total Cash	261,142	60,279	321,421		254,186	55,367	309,553
Debtors							
Debtors	9,803		9,803		8,619		8,619
Total Debtors	9,803	0	9,803		8,619	0	8,619
TOTAL ASSETS	955,082	218,640	1,173,722		943,963	214,677	1,158,640
Less: Current LIABILITIES	(1,812)		(1,812)		(1,707)		(1,707)
Provision for Extraordinary Cost	(4,855)		(4,855)		(4,855)		(4,855)
NET ASSETS	948,415	218,640	1,167,055		937,401	214,677	1,152,078
MEMBERS EQUITY							
Land and Buildings Valuation Reserve	525,000		525,000		525,000		525,000
Accumulated Reserves b/f	412,401	214,677	627,078		407,519	207,110	614,629
Current Year Surplus	8,035	4,911	12,946		7,649	6,771	14,420
Gain or (Decline) on Inv Assets	2,979	(948)	2,031		(2,767)	796	(1,971)
Accumulated Reserves c/f	948,415	218,640	1,167,055		937,401	214,677	1,152,078

**Reading Hebrew Congregation
Notes to 2024 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 2024.

NOTE 4

Donations for Other Charities	£
Magan David Adom (inc Gift Aid)	4,764 Collected and paid in 2024
Board of Deputies (inc Gift Aid)	1,206 Collected and paid in 2024
Board of Deputies	2 To be paid in 2025
Chief Rabbinate Trust (inc Gift Aid)	406 Collected and paid in 2024
Jewish Childs Day	197 Collected in 2024 and paid in 2025
Total	<u>6,575</u>

The donations to JCD and BOD (£2) were held as part of Current Liabilities in the RHC Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

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	2024	To	31	12	2024

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	Board Member H O		
2	David Clarke	Board Member		
3	Mark Drukker	Board Member H O		
4	Alan Benn	Board Member H O		
5	Michael Fuhr	Board Member		
6	Sarah Firsht	Board Member H O		
7	Maurice Lawson	Board Member		
8	Anthony Woolf	Board Member H O		
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	to 14 th April 2024
Jack Album	to 14 th April 2024

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

--

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.

--

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 the annual open day for the public at the Synagogue. Our members of the community also go out to schools to give talks on a variety of subjects, which links with national curriculum requirements.

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 grant making;
- 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.

We continue to have visits from schools, youth groups and other organisations. Members also visit schools and other groups 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	29 th June 2025	