

**THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Registered Charity Number: 236033

EDMUND CARR LLP

Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
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CM2 0AW

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
TRUSTEES (THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

Chairman	Mr H.M. Stuchfield, M.B.E., J.P., D.L., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.	
Vice-Chairman	Mrs R.A. Grainger	
Hon Secretary	Mr J.E.J. Pickthorn	
Hon Treasurer	Canon H.A. Marsh	Resigned 12 September 2022
	Mrs J. Pimblett	From 12 September 2022
Other Trustees	Mr J.W. Beale	
	Dr F.J.A. Bettley, J.P., D.L., M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.	
	Mrs G.J. Jones	Resigned 28 January 2023
	Mrs C. Ford	Appointed 19 May 2022
	Mrs C. Leeder	

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST

OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE ASSOCIATION

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Patrons Rt Rev Dr. G. Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford
Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, H M Lord-Lieutenant of Essex
Rt Rev A. Williams, Bishop of Brentwood

President Rt Rev Thomas McMahon

Holding Trustees Mr J.W. Beale
Mr H.M. Stuchfield

Registered Office

Pentlow Hall, Pentlow, Essex C010 7SP

Charity Commission Registration Number

236033

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, 40-41 High Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1DE

Shawbrook Bank, Lutea House, Warley Hill Business Park, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3BE

Virgin Money, Jubilee House, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 4PL

Investment Manager

M & G Securities Ltd, Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0HH

Independent Examiner

Ray Crace FCA, Edmund Carr LLP, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 which have been the subject of an independent examination.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal objects of the Trust are the promotion of public interest in the history of the Christian Churches in the area of the Diocese of Chelmsford and assisting in the preservation, repair and restoration of their fabric, through grant giving. From January 2015 grants are also made for work to improve church buildings.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Grant making policy

The charity invites applications for the funding of repair and restoration projects, and from 2015 also for improvements to churches. Applications are reviewed against specific criteria by the Grants Committee which meets quarterly. Grants are allocated based on the highest priority and the funds available.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The 2022 grant allocations for maintenance and improvements were £177,500 (2021: £114,500).

19 grants were offered to a total of 18 Churches and ranged in amount from £2,000 to £30,000. Grant cheques of £177,350 (2021: £120,500) were paid in the year for completed projects.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 are set out on pages 7 to 13. The Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet, together with the accompanying notes, provide a detailed review of the charity's performance for the year.

Our total income received decreased from £294,461 in 2021 to £164,820. Both figures including the gross receipts from the Ride+Stride event. The decrease was largely due to an decrease of £130,429 in legacies received.

During a normal year a number of fundraising events are held at which volunteers provide support. These events, of which a principal one is Ride+Stride, have generated income in 2022 of £49,027. A proportion of the money raised by Ride+Stride, net of gift aid, is returned to the participating churches and this figure is shown in the notes.

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES *(Continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Investment Policy

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest. The investment strategy is set by the trustees and takes account of recent demand for funds and the grant making policy set out above. Since 2014 the only stock investment has been in M&G Charifund income units. The performance of this investment will continue to be monitored by the Trustees.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level consistent with enabling the charity to provide sufficient funds to meet the agreed grants allocation for the year plus expected outgoings and a provision for contingencies.

The agreed grants allocation for the year will be constrained by the previous year's income less expected outgoings plus any reduction in reserves adopted by the Committee from time to time.

The reserves policy is reviewed annually and a range of options consistent with prudent investment policy considered.

The trustees consider the current level of reserves is just enough to meet this policy.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Friends of Essex Churches Trust is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The affairs of the Trust are governed by its Constitution which was originally adopted on 29 January 1983 as amended most recently on 13 May 2015. The Constitution was previously amended on 23 July 1987, 7 May 1991, 11 May 1999, 15 May 2007 and 15 May 2014.

Trustees

The trustees of the Trust both during 2022 and at the date of signature are set out on page 1.

The Executive Committee (trustees) consists of the honorary officers and not less than 5 and not more than 11 members elected at the annual general meeting, who hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

The honorary officers, being the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, are elected by the members from amongst themselves at the Annual General Meeting.

Other Executive Committee members are nominated by members of the Charity in writing to the Secretary of the Executive Committee at least 14 days before the annual general meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, elections are by ballot.

When a new trustee is appointed appropriate training and induction are provided.

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (*Continued*)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Approved by the trustees on 20 March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
J Pimblett

Hon Treasurer

.....
H.M. Stuchfield

Chairman

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

.....

R Crace FCA

146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

.....

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Grants, donations and subscriptions	2	22,829	-	22,829	32,472
Legacies		82,571	-	82,571	213,000
Fundraising activities	3	49,027	-	49,027	40,089
Investment income	4	10,393	-	10,393	8,900
Total income		164,820	-	164,820	294,461
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising activities	5	19,467	-	19,467	16,230
Charitable activities	6	178,115	17,500	195,615	118,682
Total expenditure		197,582	17,500	215,082	134,912
Net gains/ (losses) on investments	8	(10,319)	-	(10,319)	21,860
Net (expenditure)/income / Net movement in funds		(43,081)	(17,500)	(60,581)	181,409
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		469,732	17,500	487,232	305,823
Total funds carried forward		426,651	-	426,651	487,232

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022	2021
	Note	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	8	174,935	185,254
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	9	4,874	43
Cash at bank	10	400,382	459,945
		405,256	459,988
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	11	153,540	158,010
NET CURRENT ASSETS/ LIABILITIES		251,716	301,978
NET ASSETS		426,651	487,232
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted General Fund		426,651	469,732
Restricted Funds	12	-	17,500
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		426,651	487,232

Approved by the Trustees on 20 March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
J Pimblett
Hon Treasurer

.....
H.M. Stuchfield
Chairman

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (SORP 2019) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following SORP 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

General Information

The Friends of Essex Churches Trust is an unincorporated charity which meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The registered office is Pentlow Hall, Pentlow, Essex, C010 7SP.

Fundraising activities

The committee consider directly attributable expenditure on fundraising activities to be material, therefore income is accounted for gross of expenditure. The return payments to local Churches are shown as outgoings.

Income and expenditure

All income and expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that income/ expenditure, it is probable that settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Legacies received

Legacies are accounted for when receivable as long as they are capable of financial measurement.

Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on a received basis.

Interest on bank deposits

Interest is accounted for on a received basis.

Grants Payable

Grants payable are recognised as expenditure when the grant is allocated.

Debtors and Creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(Continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable object at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Taxation

As the Trust is a charity, it is exempt from taxation - other than VAT, which is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities - to the extent that any income and gains are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. Donations and Subscriptions

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations and subscriptions	20,471	-	20,471	29,044
Gift Aid	2,358	-	2,358	3,428
	<u>22,829</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,829</u>	<u>32,472</u>

3. Income from Fundraising Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Ride+Stride - Donations	23,678	-	23,678	16,203
- Gift Aid	2,516	-	2,516	786
Other Events - Donations & Charges	22,833	-	22,833	23,100
	<u>49,027</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,027</u>	<u>40,089</u>

4. Investment Income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Dividends received	9,881	-	9,881	8,809
Interest receivable	512	-	512	91
	<u>10,393</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,393</u>	<u>8,900</u>

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

5. Expenditure on Fundraising Activities

	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Ride+Stride - Expenses	200	-	200	50
- Returned to sponsoring Churches	8,949	-	8,949	6,542
Other Event expenses	10,318	-	10,318	9,638
	<u>19,467</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,467</u>	<u>16,230</u>

6. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Maintenance Grants awarded 13 (2021: 12)	126,500	-	126,500	99,500
Improvement Grants awarded 6 (2021: 1)	51,000	-	51,000	15,000
Grants released	(4,500)	-	(4,500)	-
Grants for gutter clearance	-	-	-	100
	<u>173,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>173,000</u>	<u>114,600</u>
Return of unspent grant to Benefact Trust	-	17,500	17,500	-
Promotion of public interest in churches	2,093	-	2,093	1,500
Governance and support costs (note 7)	3,022	-	3,022	2,582
	<u>178,115</u>	<u>17,500</u>	<u>195,615</u>	<u>118,682</u>

Grants of £30,000 were awarded to St Mary with St Leonard (Broomfield) and All Saints (Brightlingsea)
No other grants awarded in 2022 exceeded £15,000 (2021: None)

7. Governance and Support Costs

	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fees paid to independent examiner:				
Accounts preparation and examination	2,074	-	2,074	1,670
Bookkeeping services	524	-	524	490
Other administration costs	424	-	424	422
	<u>3,022</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,022</u>	<u>2,582</u>

8. Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Market value at 1 January	185,254	163,394
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	(10,319)	21,860
Market value at 31 December	<u>174,935</u>	<u>185,254</u>
Historical cost at 31 December	<u>165,768</u>	<u>165,768</u>

All investments are held in M&G Charifund Income units.

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

9. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gift Aid recoverable	4,874	43
	<u>4,874</u>	<u>43</u>

10. Cash At Bank

	2022	2021
	£	£
Current		
Barclays - 5 various accounts for each section	230,382	289,845
Deposit		
Barclays - easy access	-	100
Virgin Money - easy access	85,000	85,000
Shawbrook - 12 months fixed deposit	85,000	85,000
	<u>400,382</u>	<u>459,945</u>

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Outstanding obligations for grants	151,500	155,850
Accruals	2,040	2,160
	<u>153,540</u>	<u>158,010</u>

12. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/01/2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance at 31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
Benefact Trust	<u>17,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(17,500)</u>	<u>-</u>

The Benefact Trust, formerly known as The Allchurches Trust, provided a grant of £20,000 in 2019 to assist in carrying out the project of encouraging Churches to install roof alarm systems in order to prevent or minimise the theft of lead from churches' roofs. The unspent portion was repaid in the year to the Benefact Trust under the terms of the grant agreement.

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(Continued)*
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Investments	Other Net Assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted funds	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	174,935	251,716	426,651
	<u>174,935</u>	<u>251,716</u>	<u>426,651</u>

14. Trustees Remuneration/ Related Party Transactions

No trustees or connected persons received any remuneration or personal expenses either directly or indirectly (2021: nil).

There were no related party transactions during the financial year (2021: nil).