

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023

harrisons
chartered accountants

4 Brackley Close
Bournemouth International Airport
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 6SE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs A H Evans	
	Mr B Roberts	
	Mr C Fleming	(Appointed 24 April 2023)
Charity number	236171	
Principal address	2A Church Road	
	Lower Parkstone	
	Poole	
	Dorset	
	BH14 0NN	
Independent examiner	Harrisons Chartered Accountants	
	Bournemouth International Airport	
	Christchurch	
	Dorset	
	BH23 6SE	

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 2
Independent examiner's report	3
Statement of financial activities	4
Balance sheet	5
Notes to the financial statements	6 - 11

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The object of the Church is to provide religious services in accordance with the Church Manual of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

For much of 2020 and 2021 Church services were held on Zoom due to Government restrictions. In October 2021 equipment was installed in the Church building to enable the services to continue to be transmitted on Zoom. Since reopening the Church building hybrid services have been held with congregations both in the building and online, enabling more people to access Church services from the local community and further afield in the UK.

In 2021, members also agreed to the design of a new website to enhance our outreach and this was launched in April 2022. In 2022 we also increased our support for UK Christian Science activities including donations towards the UK Summit 2022 and a lecture at the Commonwealth Games.

From 2019 to 2022 the Reading Room was open to the public 3 and a half days a week (except when Government restrictions prevented it) and during 2023 it has been open 3 days a week. The displays and screen in the window can be viewed 24/7 and are regularly refreshed.

In August 2023 the flat above the Reading Room became vacant and members agreed to invest some £20,000 on refurbishment. This included renewing the kitchen, toilet and bathroom, renewing much of the carpeting, redecoration throughout, renewal of the fencing and some minor repairs. A water leak in the ground floor came to light during building works which was repaired but it is now clear that complete rebuilding of the floor of the Reading Room will be needed. Funding from our insurance company has been received towards the cost of renewing the damaged carpet in the Reading Room. It is intended that an application will be prepared for funding from the Trustees Under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy for refurbishing the Reading Room to bring it up to date and improve its utility and attractiveness to the public, which will include renewal of the flooring. It is also proposed that the application include the upgrading of the audio equipment, including hearing loop, in the Church auditorium.

Financial review

The trustees wish to draw attention to the decrease in donations received this year and the charity making an overall deficit of £7,968 (2022: £10,648) and are grateful in particular to the Dagny Raymond Trust for the generous donation of £37,358

The unrestricted funds are in surplus by £295,402 (2022: £303,370) of which £175,600 is made up of freehold property. The general fund is available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

The designated freehold property fund represents restricted funds utilised at the discretion of the trustees for the purpose of purchasing and improving the freehold property and other assets. Freehold property purchases and improvements, together with revaluation gains and losses on this property, are retained as part of this fund.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Structure, governance and management

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Poole is an unincorporated organisation founded in 1916 as a branch of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, (The Mother Church), and is registered with the Charity Commission as Charity No. 236171.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs A H Evans

Mrs D Howell

Mr B Roberts

Mr C Fleming

(Appointed 24 April 2023)

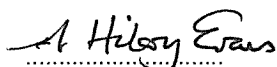
It is with regret that the trustees report the passing of Mrs D Howell on 22 January 2023.

New trustees are selected by the members in General Meeting and a majority vote of those present is necessary to make the selection.

There is an Executive Board consisting of three to five members elected annually by the Church membership. Officers in addition to this consist of :-

- a) First and Second Readers
- b) President
- c) Librarian
- d) Sunday School Superintendent
- e) Clerk
- f) Treasurer

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mrs A H Evans

Trustee

Dated: 29th July 2024

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Poole (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the 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 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 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.


Harrisons Chartered Accountants

4 Brackley Close
Bournemouth International Airport
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 6SE

Dated: 13.08.2024

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	49,077	25,711
Charitable activities	4	3,256	3,131
Investments	5	13,583	15,564
Total income		65,916	44,406
Charitable activities	6	73,884	55,054
Net expenditure and movement in funds		(7,968)	(10,648)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		303,370	314,018
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		295,402	303,370

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

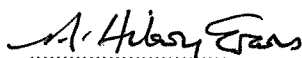
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		179,647		186,834
Current assets					
Stocks	11	1,930		1,747	
Debtors	12	6,854		2,140	
Investments	13	70,577		112,587	
Cash at bank and in hand		41,999		2,052	
		<u>121,360</u>		<u>118,526</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(5,605)</u>		<u>(1,990)</u>	
Net current assets			115,755		116,536
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>295,402</u>		<u>303,370</u>
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			295,402		303,370
			<u>295,402</u>		<u>303,370</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 29.7.2024



Mrs A H Evans
Trustee

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is 2A Church Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0NN.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	10% straight line
Equipment	5% straight line

Freehold land is not depreciated.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell.

1.9 Financial instruments

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations and collections	40,616	19,730
Covenants and gift aid	8,461	5,981
	<u>49,077</u>	<u>25,711</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Reading room	Reading room
	2023	2022
	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	<u>3,256</u>	<u>3,131</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Rent receivable	10,150	15,488
Interest receivable	3,433	76
	<u>13,583</u>	<u>15,564</u>

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Charitable activities

	Church activities 2023 £	Reading room 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Church activities 2022 £	Reading room 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Charitable activities	4,888	7,309	12,197	8,013	7,527	15,540
Share of support costs (see note 7)	53,705	6,072	59,777	30,035	7,789	37,824
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	1,910	-	1,910	1,690	-	1,690
	<u>60,503</u>	<u>13,381</u>	<u>73,884</u>	<u>39,738</u>	<u>15,316</u>	<u>55,054</u>

7 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £
Website costs	-	-	-	1,123	-	1,123
Church Activities	59,777	-	59,777	37,824	-	37,824
Legal and professional	-	1,910	1,910	-	1,690	1,690
	<u>59,777</u>	<u>1,910</u>	<u>61,687</u>	<u>37,824</u>	<u>1,690</u>	<u>39,514</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>59,777</u>	<u>1,910</u>	<u>61,687</u>	<u>37,824</u>	<u>1,690</u>	<u>39,514</u>

Governance costs includes independent examiners fees of £1,710 (2022- £1,690).

8 Trustees

None of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, POOLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	355,676	21,688	9,348	386,712
Additions	-	524	-	524
At 31 December 2023	355,676	22,212	9,348	387,236
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 January 2023	173,142	17,388	9,348	199,878
Depreciation charged in the year	6,934	777	-	7,711
At 31 December 2023	180,076	18,165	9,348	207,589
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2023	175,600	4,047	-	179,647
At 31 December 2022	182,534	4,300	-	186,834

11 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Total stock	1,930	1,747

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	4,420	2,140
Prepayments and accrued income	2,434	-
	6,854	2,140

13 Current asset investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Short term deposits	70,577	112,587

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals and deferred income	5,605	1,990