

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST,
BOURNEMOUTH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

harrisons

chartered accountants

4 Brackley Close
Bournemouth International Airport
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 6SE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

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FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mr A C Duits
Mrs V C Reed
Mrs C J Jackson
Mr P B Jackson (Resigned 28 October 2024)
Mrs A P Smart (Appointed 28 October 2024)

Charity number

237556

Principal address

4 Carbery Row
Spouthbourne Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH6 3QR

Independent examiner

Harrisons Chartered Accountants
4 Brackley Close
Bournemouth International Airport
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 6SE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 charity is to provide a platform within our community to discover the teachings of Christian Science by providing for the public Church Services, a Sunday School, free lectures and a Reading Room. The activities of the church are guided by the Manual of The Mother Church but the branch church shall have its own form of government which is distinctly democratic. We adhere to the principles of equal rights for all, equality of the sexes and rotation in office. Its Charity Trustees are the Executive Board which acts according to the instructions of the church membership in quarterly or special meetings and in accord with the Church By-Laws. The Executive Board is elected annually in accordance with the Church By-Laws.

All general expenses of the charity are usually met by collections at Sunday Services, by Gift Aid donations, legacies and interest from investments.

The trustees believe that the charity meets the public benefit requirements and have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Act.

Achievements and performance

The main focus of our work for the community is in giving spiritual inspiration and support through our church services and meetings to which all are welcome, and in providing a haven of rest in our Reading Room where people may come to learn about God's care and guidance in their lives.

Our church is well situated amongst a busy parade of shops in the community. This year we have continued to hold regular services and meetings in our church where everyone is welcome, and have continued to transmit online via zoom to enable people from all over to tune in. A Sunday school for children and teenagers is also available in the church building at the same time as the Sunday service. We are grateful to reach not only our local congregation but many others around the country and internationally.

Our Reading Room has been open to the public five days a week either in the morning or the afternoon. Church members and visitors alike have been able to call in to read, borrow or purchase inspiring books and literature, or to sit and talk to the librarians about any questions or any problems they may have, to seek support and to gain a better understanding of God and His love for us all. Even our lovely window displays have attracted attention from passers-by.

Every year we hold a Christian Science lecture as a gift to the community to which all are invited. This year the lecture was held in person and live streamed and could be accessed via our website by our members, families, friends and individuals. The lecture was held in a local community hall and everyone was welcome. The lecture was widely advertised and the live broadcast and the subsequent recording were enjoyed by a large number of people, both here and abroad.

Financial review

The charity made an overall surplus of £33,696 (2023: £25,697).

The unrestricted funds are in surplus by £861,627 (2023: £827,775). The general fund is available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. The majority of the reserves have been invested in income bonds to be used when appropriate replacement premises are located.

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

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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.

Structure, governance and management

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bournemouth 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. 237556. The charity is governed by the By-Laws of the Church as amended on 19 January 2008 and 10 January 2015.

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

Mr A C Duits

Mrs V C Reed

Mrs C J Jackson

Mr P B Jackson

(Resigned 28 October 2024)

Mrs A P Smart

(Appointed 28 October 2024)

To facilitate the activities of the Church, other officers and sub-committees are appointed annually by the Executive Board from the membership, and include:

Clerk to the Church: Mrs V C Reed

Treasurer: R.H.Couling

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

Andrew Duits

Mr A C Duits

Trustee

Dated: *28 April 2025*

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bournemouth (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

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 Charities Act 2011.
- 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 financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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: 02.05.2025

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Notes							
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	11,172	2,936	14,108	10,992	2,633	13,625
Charitable activities	4	4,249	-	4,249	4,532	-	4,532
Investments	5	41,003	-	41,003	35,635	-	35,635
Total income		56,424	2,936	59,360	51,159	2,633	53,792
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	22,572	3,092	25,664	25,253	2,842	28,095
Total expenditure		22,572	3,092	25,664	25,253	2,842	28,095
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		33,852	(156)	33,696	25,906	(209)	25,697
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		827,775	1,261	829,036	801,869	1,470	803,339
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		861,627	1,105	862,732	827,775	1,261	829,036

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, BOURNEMOUTH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		9,079		9,982
Current assets					
Stocks	12	1,627		2,254	
Debtors	13	11,105		8,702	
Investments	14	831,456		793,599	
Cash at bank and in hand		12,522		17,638	
		856,710		822,193	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(3,057)		(3,139)	
Net current assets			853,653		819,054
Total assets less current liabilities			862,732		829,036
Funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	16		1,105		1,261
Unrestricted funds	18		861,627		827,775
			862,732		829,036

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

28th April 2025

Andrew Duit

Mr A C Duit
Trustee

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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 4 Carbery Row, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth, BH6 3QR.

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. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors 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, BOURNEMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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% per annum
Equipment	3 years 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.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and collections	8,102	2,880	10,982	7,656	2,633	10,289
Covenants	1,041	-	1,041	1,249	-	1,249
Gift aid income	2,029	56	2,085	2,087	-	2,087

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Sale of goods	4,249	4,532

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Other income	10,163	10,311
Interest receivable	30,840	25,324
	41,003	35,635

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6 Charitable activities

	Church activities 2024 £	Reading room 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Church activities 2023 £	Reading room 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable activities	2,429	8,137	10,566	3,174	7,878	11,052
Share of support costs (see note 7)	7,949	5,565	13,514	9,147	6,384	15,531
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	1,584	-	1,584	1,512	-	1,512
	<u>11,962</u>	<u>13,702</u>	<u>25,664</u>	<u>13,833</u>	<u>14,262</u>	<u>28,095</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	11,962	10,610	22,572	13,833	11,420	25,253
Restricted funds	-	3,092	3,092	-	2,842	2,842
	<u>11,962</u>	<u>13,702</u>	<u>25,664</u>	<u>13,833</u>	<u>14,262</u>	<u>28,095</u>

7 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2024 Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £
Church activities	13,514	-	13,514	15,531	15,531
Legal and professional	-	1,584	1,584	-	1,512
	<u>13,514</u>	<u>1,584</u>	<u>15,098</u>	<u>15,531</u>	<u>17,043</u>
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	13,514	1,584	15,098	15,531	17,043
	<u>13,514</u>	<u>1,584</u>	<u>15,098</u>	<u>15,531</u>	<u>17,043</u>

Governance costs includes independent examination fees of £1,584 (2023- £1,512).

8 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	1,584	1,512
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	903	1,084
	<u>2,487</u>	<u>2,596</u>

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Taxation

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

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	25,376	2,612	27,988
At 31 December 2024	25,376	2,612	27,988
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2024	16,633	1,373	18,006
Depreciation charged in the year	284	619	903
At 31 December 2024	16,917	1,992	18,909
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2024	8,459	620	9,079
At 31 December 2023	8,743	1,239	9,982

12 Stocks

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stock	1,627	2,254

13 Debtors

	2024	2023
Other debtors	2,036	1,878
Prepayments and accrued income	9,069	6,824
	11,105	8,702

14 Current asset investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Short term deposits	831,456	793,599

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	3,057	3,139

16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund - Westminster	-	2,880	(2,880)	-
Restricted Fund - Reading Room	1,261	56	(212)	-
	<u>1,261</u>	<u>2,936</u>	<u>(3,092)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,261</u>	<u>2,936</u>	<u>(3,092)</u>	<u>-</u>

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund - Westminster	209	2,633	(2,842)	-
Restricted Fund - Reading Room	1,261	-	-	-
	<u>1,470</u>	<u>2,633</u>	<u>(2,842)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,470</u>	<u>2,633</u>	<u>(2,842)</u>	<u>-</u>

Westminster fund. A restricted fund for the purpose of funding the Reading Room wages.

Reading Room fund. A restricted fund for the purpose of helping to maintain the Reading Room.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 December 2024:			
Tangible assets	9,079	-	9,079
Current assets/(liabilities)	852,548	1,105	853,653
	<u>861,627</u>	<u>1,105</u>	<u>862,732</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 December 2023:			
Tangible assets	9,982	-	9,982
Current assets/(liabilities)	817,793	1,261	819,054
	<u>827,775</u>	<u>1,261</u>	<u>829,036</u>

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BOURNEMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

18 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
Designated Fund - Youth Fund	300	-	-	300
Designated Fund - Freehold Property Fund	586,302	-	(284)	586,018
General Fund	241,173	56,424	(22,288)	275,309
	<u>827,775</u>	<u>56,424</u>	<u>(22,572)</u>	<u>861,627</u>

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
Designated Fund - Youth Fund	300	-	-	300
Designated Fund - Freehold Property Fund	586,640	-	(338)	586,302
General Fund	214,929	51,159	(24,915)	241,173
	<u>801,869</u>	<u>51,159</u>	<u>(25,253)</u>	<u>827,775</u>

The designated freehold property fund represents unrestricted funds utilised at the discretion of the trustees for the purpose of purchasing and improving the freehold property.

The designated youth fund represents unrestricted funds utilised at the discretion of the trustees for the purpose of funding activities for the youth members of the church.

19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).