

First Church Of Christ, Scientist, Altrincham
Annual Report and unaudited Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Legal and administrative information

Trustees	There are no trustees
Charity number	239015
Principal address	55 Ashley Road Altrincham Cheshire WA14 2LS
Independent examiner	DJH Business Advisers Limited Bridge House Ashley Road Hale Altrincham WA14 2UT
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc 48/50 George Street Altrincham Cheshire WA14 1RH
Investment advisors	James Brearley & Sons Unit 6 The Gallery Furness Avenue Formby Merseyside L37 3NP

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

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FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Trustees' report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Following the death of the final trustee the trust currently exists with no trustees and therefore the trustees report and trustees responsibilities have been presented by the President, Lucille Haire. Throughout these financial statements any reference to the 'trustee' or 'trustees' should be considered as exchanged with 'President'.

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 objective of the charity is for the general purpose of a church and provision of a reading room, for the public benefit.

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

Activities of the Charity:

The church held its annual Thanksgiving Service on 25th November 2023.

The church members did not sponsor a free public talk on Christian Science in 2023 nor hold its annual Christmas Celebrations.

The church maintains a Christian Science reading room on the church premises with facilities for study of the Bible, the Christian Science text book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy and other Christian Science literature. These items may also be borrowed or purchased. A warm welcome is extended to the public to attend church services and to make use of the reading room and lending library.

In July 2022, with a three year grant from the Westminster Fund for this purpose, the church started the employment librarian to manage the Reading Room. 2023 was the first full year for this Librarian.

Donations by the Charity:

There were none given in 2023, due to the costs involved in staffing the reading room.

Achievements and performance

As noted above, 2023 was the first full year with an employed librarian for the church's Reading Room. As noted below, the church's income was less than its expenditure.

Financial review

The charity had excess expenditure over income of £4,727 during the year in regard to its charitable activities. This is due to the electricity rate quadrupling at the beginning of the year. A change of meter type in 2023 has brought a much reduced rate. The investments decreased in the year by £1,056.

The church has one restricted fund, being a provision of soloists from a legacy in 2014 of £2,000.

The church has kept sufficient funds for the next financial year, to meet the needs of the charity and its statutory obligations.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Trustees' report (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year. At 31 December 2023 the charity's level of free unrestricted reserves, excluding the church building was £56,292 and restricted reserves were £2,000 which is considered sufficient in accordance with the charity's reserves policy.

Risk management

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, Altrincham is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts.

The charity was established under a trust deed dated 29 April 1924. The charity's constitution and by-laws were revised in 1972, 1974, 1982, 1984, 2004, 2005, 2010 and 2014. The church was registered as a charity on 8th April 1965. There is a subsidiary charity; number 239015-1, being the trust property at 1 Peter Street, Altrincham which was sold in December 2015.

The trustees who served during the year were:

K Mason	(Resigned 1 January 2024)
K N Harvey	(Appointed 1 January 2023 and resigned 1 January 2024)
K Vernon	(Appointed 1 January 2023 and resigned 1 January 2024)
M Whittaker	(Appointed 1 January 2023 and deceased 21 February 2024)

Other key officers who served during the year were:

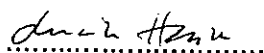
Clerk	- K N Harvey
Treasurer	- S N Brearley
President	- L Haire (Appointed 1 January 2022)
First reader	- A rota of deputy readers
Second reader	- J Hudson

The trustees who hold the deed to the property are S N Brearley, K Harvey, K Mason & S Nicholson.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are elected from the members of the church and introduced into the role and responsibilities of being a trustee.

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



L Haire

President

Dated: 01/12/2024

First Church Of Christ, Scientist, Altrincham

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (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.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Independent examiner's report

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of First Church Of Christ, Scientist, Altrincham (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.

DJH Business Advisers Ltd.

Candice Beynon FCCA
DJH Business Advisers Limited
Chartered Accountants
Bridge House
Ashley Road
Hale
Altrincham
WA14 2UT

Dated:*11/12/24*.....

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	24,953	-	24,953	12,948	-	12,948
Charitable activities	4	9,768	-	9,768	10,102	-	10,102
Investments	5	1,533	-	1,533	1,403	-	1,403
Total income		<u>36,254</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,254</u>	<u>24,453</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,453</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	<u>40,981</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,981</u>	<u>36,222</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,222</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	<u>(1,056)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,056)</u>	<u>(8,398)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,398)</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(5,783)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,783)</u>	<u>(20,167)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,167)</u>
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		<u>677,075</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>679,075</u>	<u>697,242</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>699,242</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		<u><u>671,292</u></u>	<u><u>2,000</u></u>	<u><u>673,292</u></u>	<u><u>677,075</u></u>	<u><u>2,000</u></u>	<u><u>679,075</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

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, ALTRINCHAM

Balance sheet

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13	615,000		615,000	
Investments	14	52,488		58,544	
		<u>667,488</u>		<u>673,544</u>	
Current assets					
Debtors	15	4,836		3,848	
Cash at bank and in hand		6,684		5,784	
		<u>11,520</u>		<u>9,632</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(5,716)		(4,101)	
Net current assets			5,804		5,531
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>673,292</u>		<u>679,075</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17	2,000		2,000	
Unrestricted funds		671,292		677,075	
		<u>673,292</u>		<u>679,075</u>	

The financial statements were approved on 01/12/2024

L. Haire

L Haire
President

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Notes to the financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

First Church of Christ Scientist is a charity established under trust deed.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 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 accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. 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.

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.

All funds are unrestricted funds, other than a donation received in 2014 of £2,000, for the provision of soloists.

1.4 Incoming resources

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, ALTRINCHAM

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Resources expended are accounted for when paid. Expenditure is attributed to cost categories based on the amount expended during the year. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expenses to which it relates.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

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.

Freehold property and assets in the course of construction are 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 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 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).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 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, ALTRINCHAM

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 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Donations and gifts	12,753	7,298
Grants	12,200	5,650
	<u>24,953</u>	<u>12,948</u>
Donations and gifts		
General donations	12,753	7,298
	<u>12,753</u>	<u>7,298</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Church collections	8,652	9,506
Reading room sales	1,116	596
	<u>9,768</u>	<u>10,102</u>

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Income from listed investments	1,533	1,403

6 Net movement in funds

	2023 £	2022 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):	-	-

7 Trustees

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

No trustees expenses were incurred during the current or prior year.

8 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Reading room	1,837	1,479
Church maintenance	14,364	11,009
Church activities	-	2,570
Church administration	6,758	10,641
	22,959	25,699
Share of support costs (see note 9)	16,272	8,832
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	1,750	1,691
	40,981	36,222

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Church administration	16,272	-	16,272	8,832	Wages attributable to the administrative support staff
Accountancy	-	1,350	1,350	1,330	Governance
Independent examination fee	-	400	400	361	Governance
	<u>16,272</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>18,022</u>	<u>10,523</u>	

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Church administration	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

All employee time was spent providing either support to the governance of the charity or support services to charitable activities.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The following staff costs, included within charitable activities, were incurred during the year:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	<u>16,272</u>	<u>8,832</u>

11 Taxation

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

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Revaluation of investments	<u>(1,056)</u>	<u>(8,398)</u>

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Notes to the financial statements (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

(Continued)

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	615,000
At 31 December 2023	615,000
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	615,000
At 31 December 2022	615,000

Freehold property consists of the church buildings at 55 Ashley Road, Altrincham, valued by Thomas Willmax Limited in July 2021. The valuation at 31 December 2023 is not expected to be significantly different, therefore this value has been used at the balance sheet date.

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 31 December 2022	58,544
Valuation changes	(6,056)
At 31 December 2023	52,488
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	52,488
At 31 December 2022	58,544

By the trust deed, the investments are not subject to the limitations of the Trustees Investment Act.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	4,836	2,426
Prepayments and accrued income	-	1,422
	<u>4,836</u>	<u>3,848</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	-	350
Trade creditors	3,966	2,071
Accruals and deferred income	1,750	1,680
	<u>5,716</u>	<u>4,101</u>

17 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.

	At 1 January 2023	At 31 December 2023
	£	£
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	At 31 December 2022
	£	£
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ALTRINCHAM

Notes to the financial statements (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	677,075	36,254	(40,981)	(1,056)	671,292
	<u>677,075</u>	<u>36,254</u>	<u>(40,981)</u>	<u>(1,056)</u>	<u>671,292</u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	697,242	24,453	(36,222)	(8,398)	677,075
	<u>697,242</u>	<u>24,453</u>	<u>(36,222)</u>	<u>(8,398)</u>	<u>677,075</u>

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	615,000	-	615,000
Investments	52,488	-	52,488
Current assets/(liabilities)	3,804	2,000	5,804
	<u>671,292</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>673,292</u>

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the current or prior year.