

Charity registration number 239123

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE  
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

---

<b>Trustees</b>	I. Christophersen S. McGrath J Webb	(Appointed 27 November 2022)
<b>Executive Board</b>	I. Christophersen S. McGrath J.Webb M. Thomas	
<b>Chairman</b>	I. Christophersen	
<b>First Reader</b>	L. Mitchell	
<b>Second Reader</b>	S. McGrath	
<b>Clerks</b>	S. McGrath I Christophersen	
<b>Treasurer</b>	S. McGrath	
<b>Librarian</b>	J.M. Welsz	
<b>Charity number</b>	239123	
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Friend-James Limited 4th Floor, Park Gate 161-163 Preston Road Brighton East Sussex BN1 6AF	
<b>Bankers</b>	Royal Bank of Scotland P.O. Box 300 Brighton East Sussex BN1 9TE	
<b>Solicitors</b>	Griffith Smith LLP 47 Old Steyne Brighton East Sussex BN1 1NW	Molra Protant Limited 72 Woodbourne Avenue Brighton BN1 8EJ

---

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## CONTENTS

---

	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' report	1 - 2
Independent examiner's report	3
Statement of financial activities	4
Balance sheet	5
Notes to the financial statements	6 - 13

---

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

---

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

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's bye-laws, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in October 2000.

### **Objectives and activities**

Article VII Of the Bye Laws states that: -

(i) a Sunday School shall be maintained in accordance with Article XX of The Mother Church Manual.

(ii) A Reading Room shall be maintained by the Church for the use by the public. It shall be under the control of the Librarian and Reading Room Committee who shall act subject to the Executive Board.

These were the church's main objectives for the year, along with holding Sunday services and Wednesday testimony meetings.

### *Public benefit*

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

### *Grant making policy*

The Board makes Charitable Donations as and when they deem appropriate.

### **Achievements and performance**

*Significant activities and achievements against objectives*

### **Financial review**

The Church's financial position is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 4, and net outgoing resources for the year amounted to £6,891 (2022: net outgoing resources of £15,625).

### *Reserves policy*

It is the policy of the Church that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level of at least 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 Church'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.

### *Major risks*

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

### **Plans for future periods**

The Church plans to continue its activities as described above.

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

---

### Structure, governance and management

This Church was inaugurated on 29th September 1987, for charitable purposes only, by the consolidation of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Brighton with Christian Science Society, Hove in accordance with Section 6 of Article XXIII of the Manual of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

The Church is governed in accordance with the By-Laws issued by The Mother Church.

This Branch Church is known as First Church of Christ, Scientist, Brighton and Hove. It acknowledges the supremacy of The Mother Church and is obedient to its By-Laws relating to Branch Churches.

Its members earnestly desire to live in accordance with the inspired word of the Bible as interpreted in 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures', and other writings by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, and to be loyal to their Leader and her teachings.

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

I. Christophersen

L. Mitchell

S. McGrath

J Webb

(Resigned 27 November 2022)

(Appointed 27 November 2022)

In August 2021 the Trustees had the land and property vested with the 'Official Custodian for Charities', a service provided by the Charity Commissions that holds land and property on behalf of charities rather than in the name of individual trustees.

The company's current policy concerning the payment of trade creditors is to follow the CBI's Prompt Payers Code (copies are available from the CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU).

The company's current policy concerning the payment of trade creditors is to:

- settle the terms of payment with suppliers when agreeing the terms of each transaction;
- ensure that suppliers are made aware of the terms of payment by inclusion of the relevant terms in contracts; and
- pay in accordance with the company's contractual and other legal obligations.

### Organisational structure

The officers of this church shall comprise of an Executive Board (up to five in number), a First Reader, Second Reader, Clerk, Treasurer, Librarian and Superintendent of the Sunday School. These officers are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Church on behalf of the Trustees.

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

  
.....  
I. Christophersen

Chairman

Date: .....

29.10.23

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

---

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Brighton and Hove (the Church) for the year ended 31 May 2023.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Church 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 Church'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

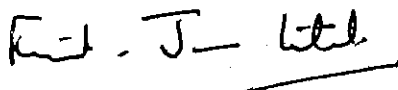
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

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 Church 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.



Friend-James Limited

4th Floor, Park Gate  
161-163 Preston Road  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN1 6AF

Dated: 11 December 2023

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	3	3,048	2,906
Charitable activities	4	739	648
Investments	5	36,045	35,655
<b>Total income</b>		<u>39,832</u>	<u>39,209</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	<u>42,833</u>	<u>52,580</u>
Net losses on Investments	8	<u>(3,890)</u>	<u>(2,254)</u>
<b>Net expenditure and movement in funds</b>		<u>(3,001)</u>	<u>(13,371)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Fund balances at 1 June 2022		<u>1,811,863</u>	<u>1,827,488</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 May 2023</b>		<u><u>1,804,972</u></u>	<u><u>1,811,863</u></u>

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, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MAY 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	10		1,660,853		1,660,852
Investments	11		58,266		62,156
			<u>1,719,119</u>		<u>1,723,008</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	12	700		700	
Debtors	13	147		120	
Cash at bank and in hand		86,656		91,828	
		<u>87,503</u>		<u>92,648</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	1,650		3,793	
		<u>1,650</u>		<u>3,793</u>	
Net current assets			85,853		88,855
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>1,804,972</u>		<u>1,811,863</u>
<b>The funds of the Church</b>					
Unrestricted funds			1,804,972		1,811,863
			<u>1,804,972</u>		<u>1,811,863</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on .....

*I. Christophersen*

I. Christophersen  
Trustee

29. 10. 23



# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

---

### **1 Accounting policies**

#### **Charity information**

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Brighton and Hove is a private company by guarantee

#### **1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church's Trust deed dated 07 October 1960, 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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Church is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Church 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 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Church. 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 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.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Church.

#### **1.3 Income**

Income is recognised when the Church 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 Church 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 Church 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.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business.

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.4 Expenditure

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.

#### 1.5 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:

Land and buildings

Nil depreciation is provided as the charity has a policy of regular revaluation.

Fixtures, fittings & equipment

All charity equipment is fully maintained on a regular basis so no depreciation is provided.

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.

#### 1.6 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.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Church 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. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

#### 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, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.10 Financial Instruments

The Church 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 Church's balance sheet when the Church 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 Church's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Church'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.

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Donations and gifts	3,048	2,906

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Sale of goods	739	648

### 5 Income from Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Rental income	34,920	34,500
Income from listed Investments	1,243	1,036
Interest receivable	(118)	119
	36,045	35,655

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

### 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Reading Room	Donations Made	Overheads	Total	Reading Room	Donations Made	Overheads	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct costs</b>								
Reading room & donations	3,470	3,005	-	6,475	3,453	2,502	-	5,955
Light & heat	-	-	4,598	4,598	-	-	5,324	5,324
Repairs & maintenance	-	-	113	113	-	-	3,992	3,992
Telephone	-	-	369	369	-	-	490	490
Lecture expenses	-	-	3,913	3,913	-	-	850	850
Insurance	-	-	2,884	2,884	-	-	2,769	2,769
Cleaning, gardener & caretaker	-	-	7,038	7,038	-	-	6,545	6,545
Postage, printing & stationary	-	-	544	544	-	-	535	535
Sundry	-	-	213	213	-	-	397	397
Bank charges	-	-	(1,723)	(1,723)	-	-	135	135
Rates	-	-	209	209	-	-	173	173
Legal & professional	-	-	2,160	2,160	-	-	4,955	4,955
Accountancy	-	-	(150)	(150)	-	-	2,280	2,280
Computer expenses	-	-	300	300	-	-	1,365	1,365
	<u>3,470</u>	<u>3,005</u>	<u>20,468</u>	<u>26,943</u>	<u>3,453</u>	<u>2,502</u>	<u>29,810</u>	<u>35,765</u>
<b>Support</b>	-	-	15,890	15,890	-	-	16,815	16,815
	<u>3,470</u>	<u>3,005</u>	<u>36,358</u>	<u>42,833</u>	<u>3,453</u>	<u>2,502</u>	<u>46,625</u>	<u>52,580</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>								
Unrestricted funds	<u>3,470</u>	<u>3,005</u>	<u>36,358</u>	<u>42,833</u>	<u>3,453</u>	<u>2,502</u>	<u>46,625</u>	<u>52,580</u>

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

### 7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 8 Gains and losses on Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	(3,890)	(2,254)

### 9 Taxation

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

### 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 June 2022	1,550,000	110,853	1,660,853
At 31 May 2023	1,550,000	110,853	1,660,853
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 May 2023	1,550,000	110,853	1,660,853
At 31 May 2022	1,550,000	110,852	1,660,852

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

### 11 Fixed asset Investments

	Listed Investments £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 June 2022 & 31 May 2023	62,156
<b>Impairment</b>	
At 1 June 2022	-
Impairment losses	3,890
At 31 May 2023	3,890
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 May 2023	58,266
At 31 May 2022	62,156

### 12 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	700	700

### 13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Prepayments and accrued income	147	120

### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	-	493
Accruals and deferred income	1,650	3,300
	1,650	3,793

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

### 15 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 June 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	At 31 May 2023 £
General funds	1,811,863	39,832	(42,833)	(3,890)	1,804,972
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 June 2021 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Gains and losses £</b>	<b>At 31 May 2022 £</b>
General funds	1,827,488	39,209	(52,580)	(2,254)	1,811,863
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).