

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Executive board and trustees</b>	Dorothy Plummer	
	Hugh Plummer	
	Mrs W Peters	(Appointed 1 December 2023)
	Ms C McCants	(Appointed 1 December 2023)
	Mr C Churnside	(Appointed 1 December 2023)
<b>Charity number</b>	241112	
<b>Principal address</b>	18 Lansdowne Terrace North Road Gosforth Newcastle Upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE3 1HP	
<b>President</b>	Roger Peters	
<b>Clerk</b>	Dorothy Plummer	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Roger Peters	

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# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

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# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 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 Church'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 demonstrate and publicly present the Truth as set forth in the Bible and interpreted by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science in her book 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures'.

The main activities of the Church are as follows:

To hold Sunday Services.

To hold Wednesday evening Testimony meetings.

To hold a Sunday School for pupils up to the age of 20.

To maintain a Reading Room and Library for the study and sale of Christian Science literature.

All of the above activities with the exception of member meetings, are open to the general public and are free.

#### **Achievements and performance**

Our Church services and Sunday school classes for pupils up to 20 years old have been held every Sunday morning, and a testimony meeting every Wednesday evening throughout the year. These were held in the church building, and the services and evening meetings were also available online via Zoom, which was much appreciated by those who find attending difficult. All these services and meetings were open to the public.

The Reading Room was open for public use 3 days each week, as well as 2 Saturdays each month.

On 15th April a free public lecture on Christian Science entitled "Finding Trust in a Changing World" was held in the church building. The speaker was Lesley Pitts CS, a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

Support was given to other Christian Science activities of care and outreach.

The church building was maintained as necessary, including regular maintenance contracts for the air conditioning, lift, boiler, and fire alarm and extinguishers. A major item was the installation of a safety edge on the lift doors.

#### **Financial review**

The reserves of the Church are invested to provide an income to meet the costs of running the Church.

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

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **Structure, governance and management**

The governing document is the Church Bylaws. The Church is constituted by those members whose names are inscribed on the roll of membership. The executive board members are the trustees and are elected by ballot. Their names are included in the annual report provided to the Charity Commission. The church land is vested in the Charity Commission's Official Custodian.

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

Naomi Churnside	(Resigned 30 November 2023)
Roger Peters	(Resigned 30 November 2023)
Jackie Collins	(Resigned 30 November 2023)
Dorothy Plummer	
Hugh Plummer	
Mrs W Peters	(Appointed 1 December 2023)
Ms C McCants	(Appointed 1 December 2023)
Mr C Churnside	(Appointed 1 December 2023)

There is an annual election meeting held by the Church in which the Trustees and certain other office holders are elected for the coming year.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

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

**Hugh Plummer**

Trustee

Dated: 9 August 2024

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Newcastle upon Tyne (the Church) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### **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 2015.

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.



Joanne Regan FCA

Dated: 21 August 2024

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
	Notes		
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>			
Voluntary income	2	10,036	8,390
Activities for generating funds	3	2,749	2,436
Investment income	4	793	281
<b>Total income</b>		<b>13,578</b>	<b>11,107</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>			
Fundraising costs	5	4,138	4,233
Charitable activities	6	27,078	23,725
Governance costs	9	882	3,472
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>32,098</b>	<b>31,430</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	28,284	8,213
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>9,764</b>	<b>(12,110)</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		715,699	727,809
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>725,463</b>	<b>715,699</b>

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, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		370,181		372,811
Investments	13		283,865		255,581
			<u>654,046</u>		<u>628,392</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	14	1,321		1,214	
Debtors	15	37		35	
Cash at bank and in hand		70,941		86,898	
		<u>72,299</u>		<u>88,147</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	(882)		(840)	
Net current assets			<u>71,417</u>		<u>87,307</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>725,463</u>		<u>715,699</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds			<u>725,463</u>		<u>715,699</u>
			<u>725,463</u>		<u>715,699</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 9 August 2024

Hugh Plummer  
Trustee



# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Newcastle upon Tyne is a Public Benefit Entity.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church'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 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 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, [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 Church 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 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.

#### 1.4 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.

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 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.

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Trust to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The policy for including items within the fundraising and charitable activities is on an accrual basis.

Charitable activities comprise of expenditure associated with promoting the teachings of the Church and include both the direct costs and costs of an indirect nature necessary to support such activities.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees.

#### 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 land and buildings	0%
Organ	10% reducing balance
Computers	10% reducing balance
Refurbishment	1% reducing balance

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 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).

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.9 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.

### 2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Church and Sunday School	2,152	2,304
Gift Aid	4,791	4,107
Tax on Gift Aid	1,261	1,147
Donations	500	-
Disclaimed honoraria	1,332	832
	<u>10,036</u>	<u>8,390</u>

### 3 Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Reading Room sales	<u>2,749</u>	<u>2,436</u>

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **4 Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024 £	2023 £
Barclays Premium	189	114
Virgin Money account	604	167
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	793	281
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### **5 Fundraising costs**

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Reading room purchases	4,138	4,233
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,138	4,233
	<hr/>	<hr/>

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 6 Charitable activities

	Costs of generating voluntary income 2024 £	Costs of generating voluntary income 2023 £
Church and Reading Room honoraria	4,000	4,000
Music honoraria	1,575	1,700
Cleaner's wages	1,709	1,814
Heat and light	2,989	1,851
Donations	3,623	3,247
Quarterlies Church, Sunday School	816	749
Insurance	1,294	1,183
Lecture expenses	1,992	1,930
Water rates	256	248
Maintenance	3,569	1,768
Other sundries	1,343	1,496
Telephone	1,282	1,065
Depreciation	2,630	2,674
	<u>27,078</u>	<u>23,725</u>
	<u>27,078</u>	<u>23,725</u>

### 7 Trustees

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

### 8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Total	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	<u>7,284</u>	<u>7,514</u>

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 9 Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
Accountancy fees	882	840
Legal and professional fees	-	2,632
	<u>882</u>	<u>3,472</u>

#### 10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Gain/(loss) on investments	<u>28,284</u>	<u>8,213</u>

#### 11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

#### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Organ	Computers	Refurbishment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2023	<u>125,000</u>	<u>1,419</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>266,728</u>	<u>395,242</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>125,000</u>	<u>1,419</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>266,728</u>	<u>395,242</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>					
At 1 April 2023	-	808	1,017	20,606	22,431
Depreciation charged in the year	-	61	108	2,461	2,630
At 31 March 2024	-	<u>869</u>	<u>1,125</u>	<u>23,067</u>	<u>25,061</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>					
At 31 March 2024	<u>125,000</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>970</u>	<u>243,661</u>	<u>370,181</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>125,000</u>	<u>611</u>	<u>1,078</u>	<u>246,122</u>	<u>372,811</u>

Buildings owned are deemed to have a residual value at least equal to cost.

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

### 13 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 April 2023	255,581
Additions	28,284
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	283,865
	<hr/>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2024	283,865
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2023	255,581
	<hr/> <hr/>

### 14 Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Reading room stock	1,321	1,214
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### 15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Prepayments and accrued income	37	35
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	882	840
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### 17 Related party transactions

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