

**Report and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Church Society**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

Company No 213142  
Charity Registration No 249574

# **Church Society**

## **Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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### **Contents**

Trustees' and directors' report	1 - 5
Independent auditor's report	6 - 8
Statement of financial activities	9
Income and expenditure account	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the financial statements	12 - 24

# Church Society

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Council members	<p>The Revd N T Atkinson (until 30 August 2023) The Revd C J Brixton (from 30 August 2023) The Revd Dr M E Burkill (until 30 August 2023) The Revd P T Darlington The Revd M E Davy The Revd M Hayden The Revd Dr J Hughes Mrs R C Hunt The Revd E J G Keene (from 30 August 2023) The Revd C R H Kilgour The Revd Dr R S Munro Mrs A Robbie The Revd A P J Towner (Chairman) The Revd Dr J D Ward</p>
Director	<p>The Revd Dr Lee Gatiss</p>
Charity number	<p>249574</p>
Company number	<p>213142</p>
Registered office	<p>Hille Business Estate 132 St Albans Road Watford WD24 4AE</p>
Auditors	<p>Jacob Cavenagh &amp; Skeet 5 Robin Hood Lane Sutton Surrey SM1 2SW</p>
Principal address	<p>Hille Business Estate 132 St Albans Road Watford WD24 4AE</p>
Bankers	<p>The Royal Bank of Scotland plc London Fleet Street Branch 1 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1BD</p> <p>Barclays Bank plc 62/64 High Street Watford WD17 2BT</p>
Solicitors	<p>Edward Conor Solicitors 10 The Point Market Harborough LE16 7QU</p>

# Church Society

## Trustees' and directors' report For the year ended 31 December 2023

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The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

### Charity's objectives

Church Society is a registered charity. Its objectives are set out in the Company's governing document, the Memorandum of Association. The charity constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The overall purpose of the Society is to maintain the character of the Church of England as a reformed and national Church witnessing to and seeking to serve the entire nation for the benefit of all. In particular by:

- upholding the supremacy, sufficiency and authority of Scripture;
- equipping and encouraging parochial clergy and lay people in their ministries;
- supporting local churches;
- administering and holding funds and properties with local and national benefits;
- contending for the reformed worship and doctrine of the 39 Articles and Book of Common Prayer;
- uniting all who share these principles;
- promoting friendship with all churches which accept the supreme authority of God's word written;
- opposing all practices which are contrary to reformed doctrine;
- taking all manner of action, including legal and political, to pursue these objectives.

Church Society is working towards these objectives through publishing, parish support, campaigning and administering trusts. Wherever possible this is done in consultation and co-operation with other groups and organisations. In carrying out activities the directors confirm that they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit and believe that Church Society provides benefit to the public in a variety of ways. These are described in the sections under activities and achievements and under managed funds.

Through its allied company, Church Society Trust, the Society is involved in the patronage work of the Church of England. The Trust is responsible for 127 Livings, many of which are on a shared basis.

Church Society manages a number of financial trusts with various objectives including:

- supporting the training and education of ordinands and clergy;
- Christian work in various parishes or locations subject to certain conditions

Through other trusts the Society owns various properties on behalf of others, in particular 2 Proprietary Chapels (one in Germany) and an Independent Evangelical Church. It acts as holding trustees and appoints some of the trustees for one Church, one Hall and a school. A further trust supports accommodation for staff.

### Structure, governance, and management

The key management personnel of the Society are the Council (the Trustees), The Director Revd Dr Lee Gatiss and the Associate Director Dr Ros Clarke. They are in charge of directing and operating the charity on a day to day basis. The Council consists of up to 15 people elected annually by the members of the Society. Up to 5 additional Council members can be co-opted as required. New trustees are provided with guidance on their responsibilities.

The trustees give of their time freely and did not receive any remuneration in the year. Details of related party transactions are disclosed in Note 7 to the financial statements. The pay of staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings, though the Director's stipend is pegged to that of an incumbent in the Diocese of St Albans. The Church Society will continue to benchmark staff benefits against staff performing similar roles in similar charities.

The Global Anglican Editorial Board and Church Society Trust Directors operate largely as committees of the Council. In addition, there is a finance committee. The Council must approve appointments of Church Society Trust Members and the membership of certain other charitable trusts.

Two full-time and three part-time members of staff were employed throughout the year and their work was greatly assisted by three part-time regional directors, each enabled to do this work through the support of their churches. Other volunteers also assist in many areas and their efforts are much appreciated. The Society is an association of members who share a common vision and members do much of the work of the Society.

### Activities and achievements

During the course of the year, Church Society continued to be actively involved in fulfilling its primary objectives of promoting what the King's Coronation Oath referred to as "the true profession of the gospel... the Protestant Reformed religion", which is the foundation of the Church of England, as the established church. This included supporting individuals,



# Church Society

## Trustees' and directors' report For the year ended 31 December 2023

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parishes, and other organisations working along these lines, and in challenging and opposing teaching and actions which run counter to this faith, both within the national church and society more widely.

Lee Gatiss began the year with a stirring charge on video to us to Persist! Through a difficult year for the Church of England and many of us personally, it was an important charge to remember. Keeping going, despite discouragements, opposition, hardships and uncertainty, is what we are called to. Later in January, the House of Bishops published the first draft of the Prayers of Love and Faith, to which Lee initially responded with seven clear points outlining the problems, and later with a more detailed look at the hypocrisy of the bishops. The annual residential meeting of the CEEC also took place in January, attended by Lee Gatiss, Ros Clarke, George Crowder and various members of the Church Society Council. It was a crucial meeting setting the tone for much of the ongoing work of CEEC and its member organisations in response to the Prayers of Love and Faith over the course of the year.

Our podcast series of Heresy Half-Hours continued equipping listeners to recognise some of the most common kinds of false teaching in the church, both in history and in their contemporary forms. We also welcomed Church Society members to a series of informal Zoom coffee hours to talk about their concerns and help people understand what was happening. Our faithful pray-ers joined us on the first Thursday of each month to pray for the church, the world, Church Society, and each other.

February saw the first of three meetings of General Synod, and the first debate about the Prayers of Love and Faith. Many Church Society members made strong contributions to the group discussions as well as speeches in the chamber. There was a tangible sense of unity amongst all the evangelicals on Synod, and attempts were made through legal challenges, petitions and other technical matters to prevent the Prayers of Love and Faith being adopted without a full debate under the appropriate canon laws. The votes throughout were close, and the final vote was lost by a small margin of 11 in the House of Laity. One of our podcast episodes covers the events of this week: "What happened at General Synod?"

During Synod, the Fellowship of Word and Spirit Conference took place, ironically on the theme of Leadership Reset. Their prayers, along with those of other Church Society members and beyond were a huge support and encouragement to those contending in Church House that week. Lent began in February and with it, our series of reflections on some of the Anglican collects. Contributions from an international group of authors informed our prayers for the church for sixty days, ending with the GAFCON meeting in April. The contributions were later collected together into a new book, *Gathering Our Prayers Together*.

Kirsten Birkett wrote an insightful and challenging series of blog posts in March on the issue of class in the evangelical church. Amongst a range of podcasts, the episode introducing Rob Munro as the newly installed Bishop of Ebbsfleet stood out. We continued to speak out against the Prayers of Love and Faith with blogposts such as: *Paying attention to the power of the bishops*; *When is a wedding not a wedding?*; *Marriage and Holy Matrimony*; *Hold on!*

The fourth GAFCON conference took place in Kigali, Rwanda during April. Lee Gatiss attended, representing Church Society, and was able to make many useful contacts. The issue of *The Global Anglican* which had been commissioned with the conference in mind was particularly well-received. We were delighted to expand Kirsten Birkett's work with Church Society to become our Publications Manager. Kirsty edits *The Global Anglican*, as well as *Crossway*, and is involved in our book publications as well.

We began the summer season of the podcast with an introduction to the Anglican Communion and an episode from GAFCON. Lee Gatiss introduced and commented on the Kigali Commitment. In May and June, the Bishop of Ebbsfleet held a series of Regional Conferences which all had Church Society involvement and input. The Church Society staff valued these opportunities to meet many of our members in person around the country. It was good to hear the questions and concerns people had about the situation in the Church of England and be involved in those discussions about appropriate actions to take.

The series on Class and the Evangelical Church concluded, and we also published resources to help understand what was happening at the King's coronation, as well as a collect for the king. Numbers of Church Society Partner Churches continued to grow throughout the year and we were glad to launch a new Partner Church resources section of the website. The audio archive from Reform is located here, along with all sorts of useful downloads for parish life, and the digital back catalogue of *Crossway*. In May, we also made a substantial submission to the various working groups tasked with implementing the Prayers of Love and Faith.

General Synod met again in July. Although no formal time was given to the Prayers of Love and Faith, many questions were asked and there was an informal session for information on the progress made, such as it was. The whole meeting was fraught, not only around the Prayers of Love and Faith, but also due to the disbanding of the Independent Safeguarding Board, questions about transparency and honesty, and lack of trust. Our podcast reviewed these developments.

As always in August, we hosted the Junior Anglican Evangelical Conference. We were delighted to have our largest number of delegates for some time at this year's conference, representing a wide range of training institutions and dioceses. It was

# Church Society

## Trustees' and directors' report For the year ended 31 December 2023

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a sobering time as we considered the reality of ministry in the Church of England today but an exciting one as we met so many men and women determined to serve God in hard times and hard places. The talks from this year's conference were made available online. At our AGM we heard encouraging reports from our Finance Committee and our Director, and welcomed new members of the Church Society Council: Corinne Brixton and Edward Keene.

September saw the beginning of a new academic year and the highest number of students on the Priscilla Programme for some time. A new podcast miniseries on the Church of England proved extremely useful to many listeners:

- What is the Church of England?
- The crisis in the Church of England
- How to change the Church of England
- The Doctrine of the Church of England
- What is happening now in the Church of England?

In early October, Lee Gatiss and Chris Moore (whose Church Society job is now Director of Wider Church Engagement) attended a meeting of 'LLF Stakeholders', to explain what would be needed by way of pastoral guidance and provision. The House of Bishops published their plan for the process by which they would commend the prayers. 12 of the bishops who had been present at the House of Bishops publicly stated their disagreement with the majority document. Church Society published a number of responses critiquing the plan and giving direction to our response.

Lee Gatiss and Ros Clarke attended a meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury and representatives of the Alliance organisations. Once again we had the opportunity to express some of our very serious concerns about the Prayers of Love and Faith, and the bishops' proposals to implement them. Lee's social media comments on the meeting stirred up media interest, because the Archbishop had asked attendees if he should resign and Lee and Ros had both indicated that he should.

By the time that General Synod met in November, it was clear that some of the bishops wanted to push further ahead than the plans outlined in October, apparently against the legal advice which had been received by the House of Bishops. Once again the debate was long and complex, with every vote finely balanced. The final, amended motion committed the bishops to continuing progress in implementing the Prayers of Love and Faith, both as prayers to be used within a normal service and as standalone services of blessing. This was carried by a majority of just four votes in the House of Laity. All three houses were much closer than they had been in February.

Throughout the year, the Network of Revitalisation Ministries (NoRM) has grown, with bimonthly webinars and other networking. The meeting in November was opened to those in non-revitalisation work, to hear a report from Synod and discuss the implications.

On the blog, we published a counter to the claim that evangelicals are espousing a doctrine of works with respect to same-sex relationships and an encouragement to keep contending. The St Antholin Lecture on same-sex love in the Puritan world (published on our YouTube channel and website) was a fascinating demonstration that this is not a new issue. Our latest Church Society book came out in November, *Under Christ's Orders*, in which the distinct roles of bishops, presbyters, deacons and lay people are set out. In December, we launched the Books For Christmas partnership with Equipping Pastors Worldwide, to send Church Society resources to pastors and others in the majority world.

To continue encouraging solid scholarship in all these areas, Church Society also financially supported those studying and writing. The Dean Wace Scholarship is designed to be awarded to evangelicals within the Church of England who are seeking funding for masters and doctoral level courses (MPhil, ThM, MTh, DMin, PhD etc) in theology and related disciplines (church history, biblical counselling, etc). The Bishop Ryle Bursary is for ministers seeking funding for specific writing projects, sabbatical training proposals, and such like, as well as ordinands seeking an additional year of study below masters level. Church Society also makes annual Mary Vere Grants towards the cost of women training for non-ordained ministry in the Church of England.

People can partner in our work by praying with us, donating financially, and by becoming a member. A church can join us by becoming a Partner Church. In such uncertain and difficult times, it is more important than ever to express our gospel partnership with those who are near us and those who are far away. We hope that the fellowship that is Church Society will continue to equip people to be part of this.

### Financial Review

The assets under the control of the Society fall into two broad categories: those used directly in facilitating the work of the Society itself, and those that are administered by the Society for the benefit of others (managed funds).

There are three funds which relate directly to the Society's own work. The General fund, which is unrestricted and the General Endowment Fund and Dean Wace Memorial Endowment Fund.

# Church Society

## Trustees' and directors' report For the year ended 31 December 2023

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Within unrestricted income, donations increased 17% to £126,822 during 2023 and legacies by £34,140. Expenditure also increased, but by 13% compared to 2022. This was mainly due to strong levels of inflation impacting costs and an expansion of Church Society's activities. Overall, the result was a net income of £5,102. In addition, there was a £32,700 gain on investments and after taking account of gross transfers and a small loss on revaluation of fixed assets for own use, this resulted in a net positive movement of funds of £50,663.

The year 2023 has been a more positive market for investments than that noted in 2022, although there was a mix of gains and losses within the portfolio. As a result, the majority of the listed investments have increased in value over the year, but a decrease was noted in the fixed assets for charity's own use. Restricted funds had a net loss of £5,132 on investments and the endowment funds noted a net gain of £49,672.

On 12 December 2023, Church Society became the Trustee of the Sir Edgar Stroud Plummer Charitable Trust (charity number 1203365). The Trust's purpose is to provide income to benefit the Daily Prayer Union Trust Limited. On 13 December its funds of £1,619,959 were transferred to the Church Society and held within its bank account at year end, waiting on investment, which occurred the new year. Therefore, at year end, a significant creditor was noted of £1,619,959.

At 31 December 2023 the total reserves under the control of the charity were £3,385,982. Of these reserves, £1,826,113 are held as endowment funds and £1,099,339 as restricted funds and are therefore not available for the general purposes of the charity. £3,239,877 of the total reserves are held in tangible fixed assets or fixed asset investments. The remaining general reserves of £460,530 are within the stated policy of sufficient reserves to cover operations for three years ahead.

### Managed Funds

Most of the managed funds are subsidiary charities for which the Council acts as Trustees (or sometimes as joint Trustees). In each case a trust deed or scheme sets the parameters within which the fund is to be used. A brief description of each can be found on page 20 of the accounts. Several funds consist solely of freehold properties including churches, houses or halls. Because many of these are long-standing funds, issues have from time to time arisen in relation thereto as to their proper application and the Society has been undertaking a gradual programme of clarifying the precise nature of each trust.

The Council has no authority to expend permanent endowment funds but is under an obligation to make attempts to expend the income from those trusts. Therefore, the endowment reserves are invested, where appropriate, in order to provide income to fulfil the relevant funds' purposes. The investment portfolio is regularly reviewed by the Finance Committee. Other funds contain capital that the Council can spend should they so choose. In most cases the decision has been made not to spend capital unless there is a pressing reason to do so. Wherever capital is spent the Council must act within the terms of the Trust. In many instances the trusts were established with very clear terms as to how they should be used. The Council is very aware of the need to honour this in making grants or payments today. The same principals are used for the income from the funds. Where the Restricted Funds have a significant level of assets these may be invested to provide income to be applied in increasing cash reserves for future use and cash reserves that are actively used each year in line with the relevant funds' purposes. Where the assets of a restricted fund are less significant these are monitored unless and until the cash reserves are sufficient to make the application thereof feasible.

The administration of these funds can be a significant burden, in particular where the trust deed has theological restrictions, which have to be assessed, and where properties are involved. A list of the grants made from funds can be found on page 14. In line with common practice the Society charges an administration fee against managed funds which is the lesser of 1.5% on the balance of invested funds at the start of the year or 50% of the income of the fund.

The Finance Committee continued to monitor the investment situation during the course of the year, with funds invested mainly with Ruffer LLP and CCLA Investment Management Limited. The Finance Committee keeps under review the balance between such investments and investment in property, seeking at all time to maintain a proper balance. Financial decisions are the responsibility of the Council but the Finance Committee, which includes experience in a range of financial areas, advises them in this.

### Statement on risks

The trustees confirm that they have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and that systems have been designed and established to mitigate those risks.

The trustees consider that the principal risk facing the Society is a reduction in the income of the Society in the form of membership subscriptions, and donations and other giving. This is sought to be addressed by a regular review of the number of members and subscription levels and the level of donations, and by various initiatives designed to attract new members and to encourage giving to the Society, and the holding of significant reserves to cover deficiencies in any year.

Another significant risk is that of the loss of key personnel and staff. This is sought to be addressed by seeking to ensure that suitably committed and motivated personnel and staff are employed, that they are sufficiently supported in their roles, and that we have systems in place to recruit new staff in the event of departures or resignations.

# Church Society

## Trustees' and directors' report For the year ended 31 December 2023

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### Statement of trustees'/directors' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Church Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those 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 UK 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

### Auditors

Jacob, Cavenagh and Skeet have expressed their willingness to continue as auditors and a resolution proposing their re-appointment will be put to the forthcoming annual general meeting.

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees 24/05/2024  
and signed on their behalf by

Andrew Towner

Revd A P J Towner  
Trustee



# Church Society

## Independent auditor's report to the members on the audited financial statements of Church Society

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Church Society (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# Church Society

## Independent auditor's report to the members on the audited financial statements of Church Society

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### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included with the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees' (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to employment and financial reporting legislation and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

## Church Society

### Independent auditor's report to the members on the audited financial statements of Church Society

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We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management, considering the internal controls in place and discussion amongst the engagement team. We determined that the principal risks were related to the allocation of transactions related to restricted funds and valuation of freehold and investment properties.

In response to the risks identified we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

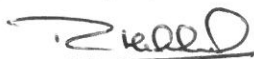
- testing the allocation of transactions to restricted funds
- reviewing Trustees and Finance meeting minutes
- evaluating the charity's internal controls
- challenging significant accounting estimates such as valuation of investment property

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Richard Haffenden MA(Cantab) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet**

**Statutory Auditor**

**Chartered Accountants**

5 Robin Hood Lane  
Sutton  
Surrey  
SM1 2SW

Dated: 3 June 2024

# Church Society

## Statement of financial activities

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2022 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>									
<b>Donations and legacies</b>									
Donations		126,822	4,485	-	131,307	108,338	13,283	-	121,621
Legacies		35,000	-	-	35,000	860	-	-	860
<b>Other trading activities</b>									
Rent receivable		-	200	-	200	-	200	-	200
Fees and other income		10,079	-	-	10,079	12,566	-	-	12,566
<b>Investments</b>	2	45,302	74,761	-	120,063	47,286	70,036	-	117,322
<b>Charitable activities</b>									
Subscriptions, publications and conferences		22,611	-	-	22,611	18,312	-	-	18,312
<b>Total income</b>		239,814	79,446	-	319,260	187,362	83,519	-	270,881
<b>Expenditure on:</b>									
<b>Raising funds:</b>									
Fundraising and publicity		606	-	-	606	377	110	-	487
Rental property costs		12,916	20,990	-	33,906	7,021	15,662	-	22,683
<b>Charitable activities:</b>									
Grant funding of activities	6	250	16,040	-	16,290	250	33,488	-	33,738
Activities undertaken directly	3	202,808	-	-	202,808	177,748	-	-	177,748
Support costs		50,832	-	-	50,832	50,426	-	-	50,426
<b>Total expenditure</b>		267,412	37,030	-	304,442	235,822	49,260	-	285,082
Net gains/(losses) on investments		32,700	(5,132)	49,672	77,240	(29,308)	(33,195)	(152,739)	(215,242)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		5,102	37,284	49,672	92,058	(77,768)	1,064	(152,739)	(229,443)
Gross transfers between funds	4	46,770	(46,770)	-	-	54,174	(54,174)	-	-
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		(1,209)	-	(20,522)	(21,731)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		50,663	(9,486)	29,150	70,327	(23,594)	(53,110)	(152,739)	(229,443)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>									
Balance at 1 January 2023		409,867	1,108,825	1,796,963	3,315,655	433,461	1,161,935	1,949,702	3,545,098
<b>Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023</b>		460,530	1,099,339	1,826,113	3,385,982	409,867	1,108,825	1,796,963	3,315,655

The notes on pages 12 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

All operations are continuing operations.



**Church Society**  
**Summary Income and expenditure account**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	199,197	153,559
Gains/(losses) on investments	77,240	(215,242)
Interest and investment income	120,063	117,322
<b>Gross income in the reporting period</b>	<b>396,500</b>	<b>55,639</b>
Expenditure	302,689	284,030
Depreciation	1,753	1,052
<b>Total expenditure in the reporting period</b>	<b>304,442</b>	<b>285,082</b>
Net income for the year	92,058	(229,443)

**Statement of Comprehensive income**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income for the year	92,058	(229,443)
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets	(21,731)	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>70,327</b>	<b>(229,443)</b>

**Church Society**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31 December 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		725,979		749,463
Investments	9		<u>2,513,898</u>		<u>2,631,658</u>
			3,239,877		3,381,121
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	10	6,725		9,098	
Debtors	11	74,428		24,811	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,716,279</u>		<u>142,587</u>	
		1,797,432		176,496	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	<u>(1,651,327)</u>		<u>(42,372)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			146,105		134,124
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>3,385,982</u>		<u>3,515,245</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	13		-		(199,590)
<b>Provision for liabilities</b>	18		-		-
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u><u>3,385,982</u></u>		<u><u>3,315,655</u></u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Endowment funds	14		1,826,113		1,796,963
Restricted funds	15		1,099,339		1,108,825
Unrestricted funds			460,530		409,867
			<u><u>3,385,982</u></u>		<u><u>3,315,655</u></u>

Included in the fund balances above are revaluation reserves of £375,443 in Endowment funds, £180,260 in Restricted funds and £66,289 in Unrestricted Funds.

The notes on pages 12 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24/05/2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

*Andrew Towner*

Revd A P J Towner  
Chairman

Company No. 213142

# Church Society

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

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### 1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies are considered material in relation to the charitable company's financial statements.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with 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) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting, as modified by the revaluation of investment properties and other investments. The accounts are all prepared in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

SORP Update Bulletin 1 has been applied in regards to the exemption of a cash flow statement.

Church Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. It is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England with registered office at Hille Business Estate, 132 St Albans Road, Watford, WD24 4AE.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Society's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### 1.2 Classification of funds

Permanent endowments represent those funds where the capital is required to be retained but the income from those funds can be spent for the benefit of Church Society or others subject in certain cases to specific restrictions contained in the original endowment.

Restricted funds represent the accumulated income of managed funds whose use is restricted to specific purposes according to the terms on which the funds were received.

The unrestricted fund represents income which may be spent generally for furthering the religious and charitable work of Church Society.

#### 1.3 Depreciation of tangible assets

Freehold properties are recorded at value and all other tangible assets are recorded at cost less depreciation and any impairment.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, except freehold property, at annual rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment: 33% on a straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on freehold properties. It is the policy of the Society to maintain these at least to their current standard and to charge the Statement of Financial Activities the cost of maintenance as incurred. The useful economic lives and residual values are reviewed at the end of each year.

#### 1.4 Investments

Investments are included at fair value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and market value at the start of the year, or subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the year of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market value during the year and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

# Church Society

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

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### 1.5 Investment Properties

Investment properties are included at the trustees estimate of fair value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investment properties are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and market value at the start of the year, or subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the year of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market value during the year and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

### 1.6 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving or effective stock where appropriate.

### 1.7 Debtors

Prepayments are included at the amount prepaid and debtors are included at the settlement amount due.

### 1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of opening of the deposit.

### 1.9 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### 1.10 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

### 1.11 Income

Donations and legacies are accounted for once the charity has entitlement to the income, this is when it is probable the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be reliably measured.

#### **Investment income**

Dividends, interest and rental income are recognised gross when the charity has entitlement to the income.

#### **Charitable activities and other trading activities**

Income from these sources is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income. If subscriptions are received in advance of the period to which they relate they are deferred to the next period.

### 1.12 Expenditure

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, discounted to present value for longer term liabilities. Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

#### **Raising funds**

These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and maintaining investment properties.

#### **Charitable expenditure**

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Society in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those of an indirect nature necessary to support them. They also include governance costs which comprise costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity.

# Church Society

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

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### Grants

Grants are included at the amounts paid from the funds during the year.

#### 1.13 Intangible income

The contribution to the administration of Church Society supplied in the form of voluntary services is acknowledged with gratitude but not recognised in these financial statements.

#### 1.14 Pension costs

Defined benefit scheme – This is a multi-employer scheme and the pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity in the year.

Defined contribution scheme – The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

#### 1.15 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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### 2. Investment Income

	2023 £	2022 £
Investment properties	79,748	83,297
Common investment funds	40,312	34,023
Cash deposits	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>120,063</u>	<u>117,322</u>

### 3. Grants Paid

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Amalgamated Ordination and Training Fund</b>		
Scholarships	2,750	4,500
Book grants	<u>86</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>2,836</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b>General Fund</b>		
Contribution to St Faith's, Maidstone	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
<b>Mary Vere Fund</b>		
Scholarships	<u>2,000</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>Gloucester Mariners Hall</b>		
Contribution to Gloucester Mariners Hall	<u>-</u>	<u>228</u>
<b>Paddock Wood Parochial Hall Trust</b>		
Contribution to Paddock Wood Church	<u>11,204</u>	<u>27,760</u>
	<u>16,290</u>	<u>33,738</u>

**Church Society**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**4 Transfer of restricted funds**

During the year Church Society applies a management fee policy to the funds which are generating a sufficient level of income. This contributes towards the administration costs of the funds. In addition, where Church Society is carrying out work along the same purpose of the funds a transfer may be approved by the Finance Committee.

**5 Operating leases**

The charity is committed to the following payments under operating leases:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Not later than one year	14,220	7,320
Later than one year and not later than five years	5,255	-
	<u>19,475</u>	<u>7,320</u>
Lease payments charged to expenditure in the year	<u>16,320</u>	<u>16,320</u>

**6 Charitable activities**

	<b>Staff costs</b>	<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>Other costs</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
				<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant funding of activities			16,290	16,290	33,738
Activities undertaken directly	93,646	1,753	107,409	202,808	177,748
Support costs	33,396		17,436	50,832	50,426
	<u>127,042</u>	<u>1,753</u>	<u>141,135</u>	<u>269,930</u>	<u>261,912</u>

**Other costs - Activities undertaken directly**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Establishment and property	25,730	25,776
Publications	31,733	24,738
Meetings and conferences	7,583	7,191
Other staff costs	32,326	38,636
Miscellaneous	10,037	4,121
	<u>107,409</u>	<u>100,462</u>

**Other costs - Support costs**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Professional and management fees	3,483	300
Meetings and conferences	5,476	2,628
<b>Governance Costs</b>		
Professional and management fees	-	10,080
Auditors' remuneration – audit services	5,846	4,980
Trustee Travel Expenses	2,631	1,538
	<u>17,436</u>	<u>19,526</u>

**Staff costs**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	110,981	93,637
Social security costs	4,092	2,667
Pension costs (see note 18)	11,969	10,830
	<u>127,042</u>	<u>107,134</u>

The average number of persons employed by the charitable company during the year was 5 (2022: 5). No employee earned more than £60,000.

**Church Society**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**7 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions**

Council Members receive no remuneration for their services. Their travelling expenses are reimbursed in respect of expenses incurred on either Church Society or Church Society Trust business. In the year ended 31 December 2023, 11 Council Members claimed reimbursement of travelling expenses totalling £2,631 (2022: £1,538). The total value of donations without conditions received from trustees was £663 (2022: £2,291).

The charitable company does not have indemnity insurance to protect it from loss arising from neglect or defaults of its trustees, employees or agents or to indemnify the trustees or officers against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £69,699 (2022: £66,009).

In 2021 an interest free loan of £6,000 was agreed between a key member of management and Church Society. As at 31 December 2023 the loan was outstanding was £3,100. There was also a purchase of books from a key member of management by Church Society for £23.

As at 31 December 2023 there was a creditor with Sir Edgar Stroud Plummer Charitable Trust (charity number 1203365) for £1,619,959 due to its funds currently being held with Church Society's bank account. Church Society is the sole trustee of the charity.

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	<i>Freehold property – held for charitable purposes £</i>	<i>Fixtures fittings and equipment £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
As at 1 January 2023	745,853	17,321	763,174
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(59)	(59)
Revaluation	(21,731)	-	(21,731)
As at 31 December 2023	724,122	17,262	741,384
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>			
As at 1 January 2023	-	13,711	13,711
Provision for the year	-	1,753	1,753
Eliminated on disposals	-	(59)	(59)
As at 31 December 2023	-	15,405	15,405
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 31 December 2023	724,122	1,857	725,979
As at 31 December 2022	745,853	3,610	749,463

Freehold property consists of one property which has a value which was based on a professional valuation obtained through letting agents as at 31 December 2023. The historical cost of this property is £708,101.

The following properties have all been shown in the balance sheet at a notional amount of £1,000. In each case, the property is an asset of an endowment fund and its sale is subject to significant restrictions or is not permitted under any circumstances.

***Not inalienable – expendable endowment***

Lightbowne Evangelical Church  
 Gloucester Mariners Hall  
 St Andrews, Montserrat  
 Wigan St Catharine, Recreation Ground

***Not inalienable – permanent endowment***

Gloucester Mariners Church

***Inalienable – permanent endowment***

Penrhyn Hall, Walthamstow  
 Old Hill Hall

**Church Society**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**9 Fixed asset investments**

	<i>Investment Properties</i>	<i>Listed Investments £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
Valuation at 1 January 2023	1,381,147	1,250,511	2,631,658
Additions	-	13,200	13,200
Disposals	-	(201,443)	(201,443)
Revaluation	24,231	46,252	70,483
Market valuation at 31 December	<u>1,405,378</u>	<u>1,108,520</u>	<u>2,513,898</u>
<b>Historic cost</b>	<u>1,007,868</u>	<u>900,059</u>	<u>1,907,927</u>

Commercial Road, Paddock Wood had a formal valuation by Ibbett Mosely Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2018 for £25,000.

The remaining investment properties all have a value based on a professional valuation obtained through letting agents as at 31 December 2023.

Listed investments are investments placed with Ruffer LLP and CCLA Investment Management Limited.

**10 Stocks**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Publications for resale	<u>6,725</u>	<u>9,098</u>

**11 Debtors**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Prepayments	7,444	6,870
Other debtors	66,984	17,941
	<u>74,428</u>	<u>24,811</u>

**12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Trade creditors	691	3,580
Deferred income	2,332	1,928
Accruals	28,345	32,867
Other Creditors	1,619,959	-
Mortgage liability	-	3,997
	<u>1,651,327</u>	<u>42,372</u>

**13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Mortgage liability	-	-
Due within 1 - 2 years	-	4,203
Due within 2 - 5 years	-	13,954
Due in more than 5 years	-	181,433
	<u>-</u>	<u>199,590</u>

The mortgage liability was paid off in installments during the year.



**Church Society**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**14 Movement on Endowment funds**

	<i>Balance 1 January 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Movement in funds</i>			<i>Balance 31 December 2023</i>
	£	£	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Gains/ (losses) on revaluation</i>	£
			£	£	£	
<b>Permanent endowment funds</b>						
Birchington Convalescent Benefit Fund	72,013	-	-	-	5,438	77,451
Brighton Emmanuel	296,849	-	-	-	12,962	309,811
Dean Wace Memorial	940,581	-	-	-	(2,814)	937,767
General Fund	362,418	-	-	-	9,842	372,260
Gloucester Mariners Church	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Leamington Spa, Christchurch	65,776	-	-	-	5,652	71,428
Old Hill Hall	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Walthamstow, Penrhyn Hall Trust	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>1,740,637</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,080</u>	<u>1,771,717</u>
<b>Expendable endowment funds</b>						
Lightbowne Evangelical Church, Manchester	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Gloucester Mariners Hall	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
St Andrews, Montserrat	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Düsseldorf Chaplaincy	2,367	-	-	-	204	2,571
Gloucester Mariners Residence	24,959	-	-	-	(2,134)	22,825
Paddock Wood Parochial Church Hall Trust	25,000	-	-	-	-	25,000
Wigan Recreation Ground	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>56,326</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,930)</u>	<u>54,396</u>
	<u>1,796,963</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,150</u>	<u>1,826,113</u>

	<i>Balance 1 January 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Gains/ (losses) on revaluation</i>	<i>Balance 31 December 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Permanent endowment funds</b>						
E A Beynon Fund	177,908	-	-	(165,000)	(12,908)	-
Birchington Convalescent Benefit Fund	80,247	-	-	-	(8,234)	72,013
Brighton Emmanuel	318,082	-	-	-	(21,233)	296,849
Dean Wace Memorial	1,027,370	-	-	-	(86,789)	940,581
General Fund	-	-	-	362,418	-	362,418
Gloucester Mariners Church	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Leamington Spa, Christchurch	75,483	-	-	-	(9,707)	65,776
Maidstone, St Faith Parish Room	212,288	-	-	(197,418)	(14,870)	-
Old Hill Hall	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Walthamstow, Penrhyn Hall Trust	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>1,894,378</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(153,741)</u>	<u>1,740,637</u>
<b>Expendable endowment funds</b>						
Lightbowne Evangelical Church, Manchester	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Gloucester Mariners Hall	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
St Andrews, Montserrat	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Düsseldorf Chaplaincy	2,758	-	-	-	(391)	2,367
Gloucester Mariners Residence	23,566	-	-	-	1,393	24,959
Paddock Wood Parochial Church Hall Trust	25,000	-	-	-	-	25,000
Wigan Recreation Ground	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>55,324</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>56,326</u>
	<u>1,949,702</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(152,739)</u>	<u>1,796,963</u>

**Church Society**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**15 Movement on Restricted funds**

	<i>Movement in funds</i>					<i>Balance 31 December 2023</i>
	<i>Balance 1 January 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Gains/(losses) on revaluation</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amalg. Ord. and Training Fund	876,488	51,978	(17,258)	(34,709)	7,895	884,394
Birchington Convalescent Fund	3,601	2,070	-	(1,009)	-	4,662
Brighton Emmanuel Trust	20,020	15,603	(6,568)	(8,453)	(1,284)	19,318
Düsseldorf	580	66	-	(34)	-	612
Gloucester Mariners Residence Fund	213	484	-	(171)	-	526
Leamington Spa, Christchurch Fund	4,614	1,864	-	(949)	-	5,529
Mary Vere Fund	11,953	3,824	(2,000)	-	-	13,777
Paddock Wood Parochial Church Hall Trust Fund	147,987	2,612	(11,204)	(1,080)	(10,641)	127,674
Ryde Ecclesiastical Charity	29,622	540	-	(171)	(2,384)	27,667
Walthamstow, Penrhyn Hall Trust fund	8,150	240	-	(115)	760	9,035
Walthamstow, St John Fund	5,597	165	-	(79)	522	6,205
	<b>1,108,825</b>	<b>79,446</b>	<b>(37,030)</b>	<b>(46,770)</b>	<b>(5,132)</b>	<b>1,099,339</b>

	<i>Movement in funds</i>					<i>Balance 31 December 2022</i>
	<i>Balance 1 January 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Gains/(losses) on revaluation</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amalg. Ord. and Training Fund	920,405	49,336	(17,603)	(34,692)	(40,958)	876,488
Birchington Convalescent Fund	2,559	2,018	-	(976)	-	3,601
Brighton Emmanuel Trust	17,196	14,404	(3,059)	(8,521)	-	20,020
Düsseldorf	546	67	-	(33)	-	580
Gloucester, Mariners Hall	228	-	(228)	-	-	-
Gloucester Mariners Residence Fund	(130)	343	-	-	-	213
Leamington Spa, Christchurch Fund	3,665	1,899	-	(950)	-	4,614
Maidstone, St Faith Parish Room Fund	7,490	-	-	(7,490)	-	-
Mary Vere Fund	-	12,563	(610)	-	-	11,953
Paddock Wood Parochial Church Hall Trust Fund	166,838	2,160	(27,760)	(1,254)	8,003	147,987
Ryde Ecclesiastical Charity	27,986	341	-	(93)	1,388	29,622
Walthamstow, Penrhyn Hall Trust fund	8,962	230	-	(98)	(944)	8,150
Walthamstow, St John Fund	6,190	158	-	(67)	(684)	5,597
	<b>1,161,935</b>	<b>83,519</b>	<b>(49,260)</b>	<b>(54,174)</b>	<b>(33,195)</b>	<b>1,108,825</b>

**16 Net assets held by funds**

	<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>Endowment funds</i>	<i>Total funds</i>
	£	£	£	£
<i>Balance 31 December 2023</i>				
Tangible fixed assets	1,857	-	724,122	725,979
Fixed asset investments	352,499	1,063,002	1,098,397	2,513,898
Net current assets	106,174	36,337	3,594	146,105
Long Term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
	<b>460,530</b>	<b>1,099,339</b>	<b>1,826,113</b>	<b>3,385,982</b>
<i>Balance 31 December 2022</i>				
Tangible fixed assets	225,238	-	524,225	749,463
Fixed asset investments	306,880	1,054,934	1,269,844	2,631,658
Net current assets	77,339	53,891	2,894	134,124
Long Term Liabilities	(199,590)	-	-	(199,590)
	<b>409,867</b>	<b>1,108,825</b>	<b>1,796,963</b>	<b>3,315,655</b>

# Church Society

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

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### 17. Purpose of funds

Amalgamated Ordination and Training Fund	To assist with and promote the educational and training needs of those persons who are, or are training to become, ministers in the established Church of England who subscribe to the conservative, evangelical tradition.
E A Beynon Fund	For the general purposes of the National Church League which in 1950 merged with Church Association to become Church Society. On 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 the balance of the fund has been transferred to General Funds in line with the purpose of the fund.
Birchington Convalescent Benefit Fund	To make grants to enable poor children and in default of poor children other poor persons to obtain convalescent treatment after illness.
Brighton, Emmanuel Church	To maintain Christian and missionary work on Scriptural Protestant and Evangelical lines so far as practicable in the Brighton and Hove area and subject thereto elsewhere.
Dean Wace Memorial Fund	To provide land and buildings for Church Society and income for the Society's general purposes.
Düsseldorf Chaplaincy	To pay for the expenses of Christ Church, Düsseldorf in relation to both the upkeep of buildings and the employment of staff.
General Fund	For the general purposes of Church Society
Gloucester Mariners Residence	To provide a residence for the chaplain of the Mariner's Chapel or to provide for the general work of the Mariners Chapel.
Leamington Spa, Christ Church	For the augmentation of the stipend of the Incumbent of St Mark's, Leamington Spa, so long as the doctrine and worship in the parish of St Mark's are evangelical in character.
Maidstone, St Faith Parish Room	Subject to the appointment of a vicar within 10 years of the sale of the Parish Room and to such vicar maintaining and carrying on a protestant reformed tradition, to provide funds for the Church and otherwise for the general purposes of Church Society. On 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 the balance of the fund has been transferred to General Funds in line with the purpose of the fund.
Mary Vere Fund	Its aim is to assist with and promote the educational and training needs of women who are in, or are training for, non-ordained ministry in the established Church of England who subscribe to the conservative, evangelical tradition.
Paddock Wood Parochial Church Hall Trust	To provide funds for evangelical purposes in or in connection with the parish of St. Andrew's Paddock Wood.
Ryde Ecclesiastical Charity	To further the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ryde.
Walthamstow, Penrhyn Hall Trust	To permit the Penrhyn Hall to be used under the direction and control of the vicar of St. John's Walthamstow so long as it is used consistently with evangelical principles.

# Church Society

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

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Walthamstow, St John

To support any work within the parish of St. John's Walthamstow, either being part of church activities or in support of charities operating within the parish.

Freeholds held on behalf of Churches or other charities.

Lightbowne Evangelical Church, Manchester, Gloucester Mariners Hall, Hollabury Mission Hall Poughill, Cornwall, St Andrews, Montserrat, Old Hill Hall, St Catharine's Recreation Ground, Wigan.

### 18. Pension Schemes

Church Society participates in two pension schemes administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the scheme separately from those of Church Society and other participating employers.

#### (a) The Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF)

Church Society participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections:

1. The Defined Benefits Scheme
2. The Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
  - a. A deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
  - b. A cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

#### Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

**Pension Builder Classic** provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

**Pension Builder 2014** is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable (2023: £2,265, 2022: £2,086).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review effective 1 January 2024, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% to both pensions not yet in payment and pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 1997; and a bonus on pensions in payment in respect of post April 2006 service so that the pension increase was 5% (where usually it would be calculated based on inflation up to 2.5%). This followed improvements in the funding position over 2023. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the 2019 valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The next valuation date is due 31 December 2022. Calculations are currently under way.

# Church Society

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, Church Society could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

### (b) The Church of England Funded Pension Scheme (CEFPS)

Church Society participates in the Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme for stipendiary clergy, a defined benefit pension scheme. This scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Responsible Bodies.

Each participating Responsible Body in the Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme pays contributions at a common contribution rate applied to pensionable stipends.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. It is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific Responsible Body, and this means contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable towards benefits and expenses accrued in that year which were £7,051 in 2023 (2022: £8,266), plus any figures arising from contributions in respect of the Scheme's deficit (see below). The 2021 valuation showed the scheme to be fully funded and as such in 2023, following the valuation results being agreed, the deficit contributions paid were £0 (2022: £1,000).

A valuation of the Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent Scheme valuation completed was carried out at as 31 December 2021. The 2021 valuation revealed a surplus of £560m, based on assets of £2,720m and a funding target of £2,160m, assessed using the following assumptions:

- An average discount rate of 2.7% p.a.;
- RPI inflation of 3.6% p.a. (and pension increases consistent with this);
- CPIH inflation in line with RPI less 0.8% pre 2030 moving to RPI with no adjustment from 2030 onwards;
- Increase in pensionable stipends in line with CPIH;
- Mortality in accordance with 90% of the S3NA tables, with allowance for improvements in mortality rates from 2013 in line with the CMI2020 extended model with a long-term annual rate of improvement of 1.5%, a smoothing parameter of 7, an initial addition to mortality improvements of 0.5% pa and an allowance for 2020 data of 0% (i.e. w2020 = 0%)

Following finalisation of the 31 December 2021 valuation, deficit contributions ceased with effect from 1 January 2023, since the Scheme was fully funded.

The deficit recovery contributions under the recovery plan in force at each 31 December were as follows:

	% of pensionable stipends
31 December 2021	7.1% payable from January 2021 to December 2022
31 December 2022	Nil
31 December 2023	Nil

An interim reduction to deficit contributions to 3.2% of pensionable stipends was made with effect from April 2022, and remained in place until December 2022.

For senior office holders, pensionable stipends are adjusted in the calculations by a multiple, as set out in the Scheme's rules.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. However, as there are no agreed deficit recovery payments from 1 January 2023 onwards, the balance sheet liability as at 31 December 2022 is nil. The movement in the balance sheet liability over 2022 and over 2023 is set out in the table below.

# Church Society

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Balance sheet liability at 1 January	0	2,000
Deficit contribution paid	0	(1,000)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	0	0
Remaining change to the balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	0	(1,000)
Balance sheet liability at 31 December	0	0

\* Comprises change in agreed deficit recovery plan, and change in discount rate and assumptions between year-ends.

This liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions. No assumptions are needed for December 2022 as there are no agreed deficit recovery payments going forward. No price inflation assumption was needed for December 2021 since pensionable stipends for the remainder of the recovery plan were already known.

	December 2023	December 2022	December 2021
Discount rate	n/a	n/a	0.0% pa
Price inflation	n/a	n/a	n/a
Increase to total pensionable payroll	n/a	n/a	-1.5% pa

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another Responsible Body fails, Church Society could become responsible for paying a share of that Responsible Body's pension liabilities.

### (c) NEST Pension Scheme

Church Society participates in a defined contribution scheme run by NEST. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are £2,641 (2022: £1,491).

### 19. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

The charitable company had no material capital commitments or contingent liabilities at 31 December 2023. (2022: £nil).

### 20. Luckley-Oakfield School Trust

The Council of Church Society appoints the Trustees of the Luckley-Oakfield School Trust, which owns a school near Wokingham. In the event of the Trust being wound up the assets would revert to Church Society for educational purposes.

### 21. Ryde, St James

The Council of Church Society appoints three of the five trustees of the Ryde, St James Trust. The Trust owns the Church and a house in Ryde, Isle of Wight, which are held by Church Society on their behalf.

### 22. Hollabury Mission Hall Trust

The Council of Church Society appoints three of the five trustees of the Hollabury Mission Hall Trust. The Trust owns the Hollabury Mission Hall, Poughill, Bude, which is held by Church Society on their behalf.

# Church Society

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

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### 23. Black Chapel

Church Society is the sole trustee of Black Chapel (charity number 262667). Consolidated accounts have not been prepared as the combined income of all the charities under the control of Church Society is below the threshold at which group accounts are required. At the end of the financial year Black Chapel had reserves of £743,089. Its income was £19,400 and expenditure £9,746 resulting in a surplus of £9,654.

### 24. Sir Edgar Stroud Plummer Charitable Trust

Church Society became the sole trustee of the Sir Edgar Stroud Plummer Charitable Trust (charity number 1203365) on 12 December 2023. Its purpose is to provide income to benefit the Daily Prayer Union Trust Limited (charity number: 284857). Consolidated accounts have not been prepared as the combined income of all the charities under the control of Church Society is below the threshold at which group accounts are required. At the end of the financial year, Sir Edgar Stroud Plummer Charitable Trust had reserves of £1,619,959, which are noted in Church Society's creditors as the cash was held in Church Society's bank account at year end (Note 12). Its income and expenditure from the 12 December to 31 December 2023 was £nil.