

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST,
CLAYGATE & ESHER**

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2023

Charity Number 268539

THE TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

Status

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Claygate and Esher is a registered charity number 268539.

Constitutional Objects

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Claygate and Esher is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts.

The church is governed by its Constitution and by-laws, which regulate such matters as finance and property, and the election, duties and responsibilities of members and officers.

Its object is to maintain, demonstrate and spread the knowledge of Truth, as set forth in the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science and Leader of the Christian Science Movement. The church is open to all.

Fulfilment of Objects, Activities and Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The church holds services and meetings in accordance with its objects. The Sunday service is at 10.30 am. The service of worship and prayer includes readings from the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy, congregational singing and a solo.

A Sunday School is held at 10.30 am for children and young people up to the age of 20 where they learn how to make practical the moral and spiritual teachings of the Bible in their own lives. Pupils attend the classes in the church or online.

A meeting is held at 7.30 pm each Wednesday, which provides everyone with the opportunity to share with others, the healings and experiences that have resulted from the study and practice of Christian Science. This meeting also includes readings from the Bible and 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' by Mary Baker Eddy to help those attending address world problems and individual and community concerns with effective prayer.

The Sunday service and Wednesday evening meeting continue to be accessible remotely online through the Zoom system and open to anyone, anywhere, unable to attend them in person. A significant number of people in the immediate area as well as others in many parts of the UK and overseas regularly listen to these on-line services. Each recording of the Sunday service and Wednesday meeting is available on the church website for a week. The recordings of Wednesday meetings are permanently deleted from church files within 3 months.

The Church maintains a Reading Room throughout the year that is open for a period once a week. It provides a spiritual resource centre, enabling the public to find spiritual solutions to their problems, and provides a supportive environment for study, contemplation and prayer. The sales room and lending library stock the Bible, the Christian Science textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy, and other books on Christian Science published by the Christian Science Publishing Society, as well as selected articles from the Christian Science Monitor in Monitor Weekly, CDs and magazines such as the Christian Science Journal and Sentinel.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Claygate and Esher

There is a bright screen with changing slides installed in the front window. This gives information about church activities and inspirational pictures and writings from the Bible and Science and Health by Mary Baker Eddy appropriate for the times.

The Church presented its annual lecture on 19th June. For the first time since 2019 the lecture was held in person in the church building. After a long period of online only services and lectures we wished to encourage people to begin to attend services in person again.

The lecturer was Alex Fischer, CS from Pau, France. The lecture was well received and we had 50 people in the audience - 10 of them new to Christian Science. We also had a number of church members attend online because they were not able to come in person - but this facility was offered by request only and not advertised.

The lecture was audio recorded and posted on the Church's website, where it had been viewed 58 times by mid-September.

Review of Financial Activities and Investment update

The increased resources of the church as a result of a large legacy from a late member and the sale of the Reading Room eight years ago continue to be turned to good account.

The programme of complete replacement of the roof was completed in June 2022. A final payment is yet to be paid.

The investment value has decreased marginally during the year, after drawing down £25,000, and now stands at £345,934 (2022 - £369,972),

New investments shall be the responsibility of the Board, which shall obtain proper advice, if necessary, from an investment manager authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The Board shall obtain the sanction of the membership on matters of principle via normal Business Meetings.

Reserves

The Church has reserves of £383,032 (2022 - £411,600) that includes monetary assets of £37,098 (2022 £41,628) and investments of £345,934 (2022 - £369,972)

There is no specific Reserve Policy at present.

Future Developments

The holding and broadcasting of services will continue. Regular giving by members and listeners is expected to continue to meet the running cost of the church and any further projects and donations to other Christian Science based charities will be undertaken following a vote of the church membership at a business meeting.

Organisational Structure

A First Reader and Second Reader conduct the church services and testimony meetings. A President conducts church business meetings. The members elect these officers. The general management of the church is the responsibility of the Executive Board of four, unpaid members (the Trustees). The board is elected each year at a Members' Meeting in early November, and take up office the following February. They hold the office for one year and for no more than three years consecutively.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Claygate and Esher

Those who served during the past year are as follows:

First Reader: Susan Thomas

Second Reader: John Witney

The Board:

Mr J Alanko (Chair)

Mrs T Bland

Mr H Farrar

Mrs M Moon

President: Mr R Tarboton

Clerk: Mrs A Walls

Treasurer: Mrs MJ Pearson

Statement of the Board's Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the church. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Principal Address

45 Hare Lane, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9BY

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 34 High Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1DD

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Investment Advisor

Investec Wealth and Investment Limited, Midland House, 2 Poole Road, Bournemouth, BH2 5QY

Reporting Accountant

Bullimores, Chartered Accountants, Old Printers Yard, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2HF

Approval

The report of the Trustees was approved by the board on 8th January 2024 and signed on their behalf.


Jaska Alanko
Chair of Trustees

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST OCTOBER 2023

Unrestricted Fund	2023	2022
Receipts	£	£
Collections & donations	31,869	31,412
Gift Aid tax recovered	6,726	5,906
Interest	259	72
Reading Room receipts	365	391
Total Receipts	39,219	37,781
Payments		
Reading Room purchases	1,743	2,127
Outreach (2)	9,476	8,845
Cost of Services (3)	19,044	18,462
Church Premises costs (4)	17,310	15,694
Administration (5)	11,954	12,818
Committee on Publication	588	1,496
Independent examiner's fee	1,890	1,764
Bank charges	157	115
Major repairs and improvements	6,587	8,467
New Roof	-	77,742
Total payments	68,749	147,530
Net (Payments) over Receipts for the year	-£29,530	-£109,749
Bank balances at start of year	41,628	116,377
Investment Sales	25,000	35,000
Investment purchases	-	-
Monetary assets at the year end	37,098	41,628
Movement for the year to 31st October 2023		
Market value at the beginning of the year	369,972	442,616
Movements during the period:		
Cash invested	-	-
Income reinvested	4,175	2,895
Investment manager's fee for the year	-£4,358	-£4,870
Cash withdrawn	-£25,000	-£35,000
Increase (decrease) in market value	£1,145	-£35,669
Value at year end	345,934	369,972

The income is reinvested and the investment manager's fee is charged to the the investment :

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

The Church is a 'small' charity having a gross income of less than £250,000 excluding capital disposals and therefore draws up its accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

The Reading Room stock has been valued at a nominal value.

	2023	2022
	£	£
2 Outreach costs		
Lectures	3,682	2,645
Website (hosting)	136	-
RR Screen	458	-
UK CS RR online - £100 pm	1,200	1,200
Donations paid - TMC, CS Nursing	4,000	5,000
	9,476	8,845
3 Cost of services		
Zoom/Soundcloud/Music Licenses	968	919
Telephone/Broadband (other than Zoom)	1,121	1,094
Allowances - Readers	2,400	2,829
Musicians	11,298	9,560
Sound Technician	2,100	1,575
Quarterlies	324	474
Organ Service & water damage repair	833	2,011
	19,044	18,462
4 Church premises costs		
Cleaning/Garden maintenance	5,143	4,781
Electricity	4,232	2,356
Insurance	5,002	4,410
Maintenance & small equipment	2,761	4,051
Water	172	96
	17,310	15,694
5 Church administration costs		
Clerk/Treasurer	6,898	9,298
Accounting software	186	-
Payroll costs	2,460	1,530
Sundries (includes CSJ listing and laptop)	2,410	1,990
	11,954	12,818

The accounts were approved by the Members on 8th January 2024 and signed on their behalf by

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FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, CLAYGATE AND ESHER (Charity number 268539)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 NOVEMBER 2022 TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Claygate and Esher (the Charity) for the period ended 31 October 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 6.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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 accounts to be reached.



Name of principal: Ms S Edwards FCA

Name of firm: Bullimores LLP Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors

Address: Old Printers Yard
156 South Street
Dorking
Surrey RH4 2HF

Date : 2/2/2024