FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 271151

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	00366710
Registered	1976-04-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Andrews Community Church Churchill Road Bentley Walsall WS2 0AA
Phone	01902 604044
Email	bishoppaul@btinternet.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE TRUST IS ESTABLISHED ARE TO BE THE CENTRAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OTHERWISE CALLED THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH (HEREINAFTER CALLED THE CHURCH) ENROLLED IN THE HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY THE 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1927 AND TO PROMOTE AID AND FURTHER THE OBJECTS AND WORK OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: The activities of the Charity are to act as a Central Board of Trustees for the Free Church of England, to hold as loans funds deposited for investment and to lend money and make grants to further the objects and work of the Free Church of England.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

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Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£85,886	£240,895	-	-
2023-12-31	£258,959	£219,997	-	-
2022-12-31	£57,474	£151,821	-	-
2021-12-31	£77,459	£139,113	-	-
2020-12-31	£139,352	£207,899	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
COLIN CHRISTOPHER MILLS		
LESLEY ANN SECKER		
Natalie Emma Stenstrom		2019-10-08
RIGHT REVD PAUL NIGEL HUNT BSC, MSC		2018-10-09
RIGHT REVEREND DOCTOR JOHN FENWICK BAMThPhDDD		2016-09-27
Rev Anthony Kieran Roberts		2022-05-10
Rev Jabson Watson		2022-05-10
Rev Mark Spiers		2019-10-08
Rev Robert Wilson		2018-10-09
Rt Rev Matthew Paul Firth MA BTh		2023-06-01
Tamileniyal Joy Christy Sahadevan		2022-05-15
WILLIAM ALBERT CLEMENTS		2011-10-17

Linked charities

- THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND STIPEND SCHEME (271151-1)

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FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 271151

Accounts

Charity registration number 271151 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 00366710

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	The Right Reverend Dr P Hunt	
	Miss L A Secker	
	The Reverend R Wilson	
	The Reverend M Spiers	
	Mrs N Stenstrom	
	The Reverend Dr J Watson	
	Mrs T J C Sahadevan	
	The Reverend M P Firth	
	The Reverand A G Ford	(Appointed 23 May 2024)
	Mrs E C Spiers	(Appointed 23 May 2024)
	The Reverend A Walsh	(Appointed 5 June 2025)
	The Reverend S J Ivey	(Appointed 5 June 2025)
Secretary	The Reverend Dr R Stephen	
Charity number	271151	
Company number	00366710	
Registered office	Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall England WS9 0RB	
Independent examiner	Christopher Hession C.A. Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall WS9 0RB	

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

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THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 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 Company's governing document (Memorandum and Articles of Association), the Companies Act 2006 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 charitable objects of the Company are to act as a Central Board of Trustees for The Free Church of England, otherwise called The Reformed Episcopal Church (hereinafter called 'the Church'), and to promote aid and further the objects and work of and to perform work and to transact business in connection with the Church and there has been no change in these during the year.

The aims of the charity are the advancement of the Christian Faith by supporting the Churches of the Denomination of the Free Church of England in worship and witness; by planting new Churches; and by activities supportive of these aims.

The charity is committed to advancing the faith of the Free Church of England by seeking new followers and facilitating the practice of the faith by existing followers. It also seeks to proselytise new followers sensitively and without coercion.

It does by (inter alia):-

sermons and religious seminars, talks, meetings and conferences

the encouragement and support of pastoral work;

promoting the study of religious teachings and practices and scriptures;

support of religious office holders for acting as such, including the provision of stipends and other living allowances, pensions and retirement accommodation;

the provision and maintenance of a buildings used for religious practice.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in reviewing the charity's objectives and activities.

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

Services continue in all Churches of the Denomination allowing for the Christian Faith to be shared publicly in worship and witness, alongside the Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Solemnisation of Matrimony and Funerals) and ongoing Pastoral Care.

Grants are made to further the work of The Free Church of England.

Achievements and performance

The Free Church of England Central Trust has continued to work in line with the charitable objectives of the institution. The agendas for all meetings now follow a pattern where the charitable objectives are explicit and this is reflected in the headings of the report.

1. Property:

The Parsonage at Harlesden has been utilised by a community housing group who have completed essential repairs and have insured the building.

The sale of the Cricket Ground at Tottington has been agreed.

An agreement to let St Paul's, Bexhill has been agreed.

The lease-to-purchase agreement at Hoyland is progressing.

We are working on collating a comprehensive list of properties held in Trust by the FCECT.

We have applied to the Charity Commission for permission to take action with regard to some property issues.

2. Central Board of Finance:

St Abdias, Sheffield	Farsi Gospels and tracts	£300
Christ Church, Broadstairs	FHD Projector	£300
Christ Church, Leigh-on-Sea	Redecoration & Publicity	£300
Christ Church, Willesborough	Printing, Bible Studies & Zoom License	£300
St George, Blackburn	Easter Publicity	£300
St Francis, Shoreham	Messy Church & Love Your Street event	£300
Emanuel, Morecambe	Publicity Materials	£300
St Andrew, Bentley	Easter Events	£300
York	Welcome Lunches for students	£300

Central Trust makes grants within the organisation to ensure that funds are available to meet all our charitable objectives.

3. Training for the Ministry of the Church:

Funds have been released as the founding of Seabury College, with the authority to award both UK and USA academic awards. The aim is to provide an academic training for ministry candidates alongside the provision of arts degrees.

4. Maintenance for the Ministry:

The Denominational Stipend Scheme and the Denominational Pension scheme are fully operational.

Work has begun on reviewing the contract of engagement for Clergy.

5. Church Planting and Evangelism:

The congregation at York has become a full member Church of the Denomination. Central Trust also agree 50% bursaries for any FCE Clergy attending the 2025 Church Planting Conference in York.

6. Youth Education:

Central Trust has agreed to offer £300 grants for any youth work within the Churches. We will report on the uptake of these grants next year.

There has been steady growth and consolidation through 2024.

The investments made during the year have performed in line with markets generally and the Trustees consider the investment manager's performance to be satisfactory.

Financial review

The Company has operated satisfactorily during the year in the furtherance of its principal activities and a summary of those activities is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 4.

There was a decrease of funds of £120,724 (2023 - £92,299 increase).

As at 31 December 2024 the Company had reserves of £864,517 (2023 - £985,241) as detailed on the Balance Sheet on page 6.

It is the policy of the Company that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

There are no restrictions on the Company's power to invest. The investment strategy is to maintain the long term purchasing power of the capital against inflation whilst achieving a balance between capital growth and income.

The investments are managed within the financial and ethical guidelines set down by the Trustees but otherwise at the discretion of the investment managers.

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

Structure, governance and management

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is licensed by the Department of Industry to be registered without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name.

The Company was incorporated on 23 April 1941 under the Companies Act 1929.

The Company is a registered Charity, under the Charities Act 2011.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

The Right Reverend Dr P Hunt	
The Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick	
Mr W A Clements	
Miss L A Secker	
The Reverend R Wilson	
The Reverend M Spiers	
Mrs N Stenstrom	
The Reverend A K Roberts	(Resigned 10 August 2024)
The Reverend Dr J Watson	
Mrs T J C Sahadevan	
The Reverend M P Firth	
The Reverend B A Murphy	(Resigned 10 August 2024)
The Reverand A G Ford	(Appointed 23 May 2024)
Mrs E C Spiers	(Appointed 23 May 2024)
The Reverend A Walsh	(Appointed 5 June 2025)
The Reverend S J Ivey	(Appointed 5 June 2025)

All those elected to serve on the General Council of the Free Church of England are also appointed Trustees. Article III states that:

Convocation shall appoint at its Annual Meeting a Council of its members and delegate to such Council such administrative powers and functions as Convocation shall from time to time resolve. The Council thus appointed shall hold once until the next succeeding Annual Meeting of Convocation.

No other person or persons within the Free Church of England or external to it has the power or authority to appoint Trustees.

None of the Trustees have 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.

Committees and working parties

1.1 The Executive Council may:

1.1.1 establish Committees consisting of those persons whom the Executive Council decide;

1.1.2 delegate to a Committee any of its powers; and

1.1.3 revoke a delegation at any time.

1.2 The Executive Council may establish Working Parties consisting of those persons whom the Executive Council decide. A Working Party may not take decisions on behalf of the Executive Council but may consider issues in depth with a view to making recommendations to the Executive Council.

1.3 The members of a Committee or a Working Party are to be appointed by the Executive Council but the Executive Council may give a Committee or a Working Party the right to co-opt individuals to its membership. The Executive Council is to determine the chair of each Committee or Working Party.

1.4 Each member of a Committee or Working Party (including the chair) is to hold office from the date of his appointment until the term of office for which he has been appointed expires or until he resigns or is removed by the Executive Council from the Committee or Working Party.

1.5 The Executive Council must determine the quorum for each Committee and Working Party it establishes.

1.6 The Executive Council must specify the financial limits within which any Committee may function. A Working Party can have no authority to incur expenditure.

1.7 Every Committee or Working Party must report its proceedings and decisions to the Executive Council as the Executive Council determines.

1.8 A meeting of a Committee or Working Party may be held entirely through telephone, video conferencing or other communications equipment, via a mixture of such communications equipment or with some people physically present at the meeting whilst others are present via communications equipment. If all the people participating in the meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

Funds held as custodian trustee

The Free Church of England Central Trust holds funds as Trustee on behalf of the Denomination and various churches within the denomination. The objects of the denomination and the various churches within are the advancement of the Christian religion by means and in accordance with the principles of The Free Church of England.

Investments at market value	£921,556 (2023 - £876,699)
Cash deposits and other current assets	£42,138 (2023 - £96,868)

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The amounts held as custodian trustee for each church/trust as at 31 December 2024 are as follows:

	2024	2023
Emmanuel Church, Barnstable	£195,544	£190,300
Crowborough Rectory	£34,123	£33,209
Crowborough Church, East Sussex	£101,127	£98,415
Emmanuel Church, Carshalton	£73,937	£71,270
Putney	£89,067	£85,227
Christchurch Exmouth Patten	£125,788	£119,566
Farnham SSF	£73,662	£71,788
St Georges, Blackburn	£44,489	£42,620
North Diocese	£104,908	£102,843
St Stephen's Church, Middlesbrough	£121,049	£158,329
Total	**£963,694**	**£973,567**

The objects of these churches and trusts are aligned and for the benefit of the Free Church of England Central Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee are accounted for as separate funds within the charity's books and records.

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

.....
The Reverend Dr R Stephen
Company Secretary

.....
The Right Reverend Dr P Hunt
Trustee

Date: 15th September 2025

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Free Church of England Central Trust (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

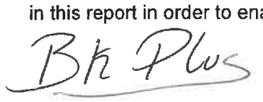
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I am aware of ongoing correspondence with the Charity Commission in relation to various matters which may have occurred over recent years. As at the date of signing this report the matters remain outstanding and as such I have not noted this as a matter of material concern.

I confirm that there are 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.



Christopher Hession C.A.

Azzurri House
Walsall Road
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0RB

Dated: 2 September 2025

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:									
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	500
Charitable activities	4	434	-	81,754	82,188	202,211	-	52,770	254,981
Investments	5	3,698	-	-	3,698	3,478	-	-	3,478
Total income		4,132	-	81,754	85,886	206,189	-	52,770	258,959
Charitable activities	6	131,020	-	109,872	240,892	133,780	-	86,205	219,985
Other expenditure	12	-	-	3	3	8	-	4	12
Total expenditure		131,020	-	109,875	240,895	133,788	-	86,209	219,997
Net gains on investments	13	13,043	3,902	17,340	34,285	20,291	6,070	26,976	53,337
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(113,845)	3,902	(10,781)	(120,724)	92,692	6,070	(6,463)	92,299
Reconciliation of funds:									
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		551,792	111,031	322,418	985,241	459,100	104,961	328,881	892,942
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		437,947	114,933	311,637	864,517	551,792	111,031	322,418	985,241

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**15**		666,703		666,932
Investments	**16**		128,418		271,950
			795,121		938,882
Current assets					
Debtors	**17**	132,499		220,428	
Cash at bank and in hand		-		37,805	
		132,499		258,233	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	(62,975)		(211,746)	
Net current assets			69,524		46,487
Total assets less current liabilities			864,645		985,369
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**20**		(128)		(128)
Net assets			864,517		985,241
Funds					
Designated funds	**23**		114,933		111,031
Restricted funds	**22**		311,637		322,418
Unrestricted funds	**24**		437,947		551,792
			864,517		985,241

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15-9-25

.....

The Right Reverend Dr P Hunt
Trustee

Company registration number 00366710 (England and Wales)

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Free Church of England Central Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Azzurri House, Walsall Road, Aldridge WS9 0RB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Company 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 Company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Company 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 Company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

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.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Grants are accounted for when the company is committed to paying them.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

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	2% on cost and nil

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.

The freehold properties purchased in 2022 and 2023 are not depreciated, on the basis of them having such a long useful life and a high residual value.

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.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Company. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Legacies receivable	-	500

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	**Restricted funds 2024 £**	**Total 2024 £**	**Unrestricted funds 2023 £**	**Restricted funds 2023 £**	**Total 2023 £**
Incoming resources from charitable activities - contributions from churches	-	81,754	81,754	-	52,770	52,770
Other income	434	-	434	202,211	-	202,211
	434	81,754	82,188	202,211	52,770	254,981

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	**Unrestricted funds 2023 £**
Interest receivable	3,698	3,478

Interest receivable comprised £3,256 loan interest (2023 - £824) and £442 bank interest (2023 - £2,654).

6 Charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Stipend costs	156,997	138,874
Depreciation and impairment	229	229
Book-keeping fees	1,588	456
Accountancy	12,327	11,312
General expenses	9,654	5,135
Legal and professional fees	52,614	18,646
Charges and fees	1,129	1,112
Property repairs	2,425	14,206
	236,963	189,970
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	3,929	30,015
	240,892	219,985
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	131,020	133,780
Restricted funds	109,872	86,205
	240,892	219,985

7 Grants payable

	2024 £	2023 £
Grants	3,929	30,015
	3,929	30,015

8 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner:		
- for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,100	2,000
- for other assurance services	10,227	9,312
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	229	229

9 Independent Examiner's Remuneration

Fees payable to the Charity's Independent Examiner:	2024 £	2023 £
Independent Examination of the Charity's Annual Accounts	2,100	2,000
Non-audit services		
Accountancy and payroll services	10,227	9,312

10 Trustees

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

11 Stipend

The average monthly number of office holders receiving a stipend during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Ministers	7	6
General Secretary	1	1
Total	8	7

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Stipends	146,114	132,763
Social security costs	8,688	5,021
Other pension costs	2,195	1,090
	156,997	138,874

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

12 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Interest on late PAYE	-	3	3	8	4	12
	-	3	3	8	4	12

13 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	**Designated funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	**2024**	**2024**	**2024**	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£	£	£	£
Gain/(loss) on investments	13,043	3,902	17,340	34,285	20,291	6,070	26,976	53,337

14 Taxation

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

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	669,451
At 31 December 2024	669,451
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2024	2,519
Depreciation charged in the year	229
At 31 December 2024	2,748
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2024	666,703
At 31 December 2023	666,932

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2024	271,850	100	271,950
Valuation changes	34,285	-	34,285
Withdrawals	(177,817)	-	(177,817)
At 31 December 2024	128,318	100	128,418
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2024	128,318	100	128,418
At 31 December 2023	271,850	100	271,950

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Loans to subsidiaries		100	100

17 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	132,499	220,428

Other debtors includes a loan from the Central Trust to St Jude's Church, Walsall. Interest is charged at 3%. There are no fixed repayment terms. The balance owed to the Central Trust as at 31 December 2024 was £101,943 (2023 - £38,161). Also included in other debtors is £24,997 (2023 - £nil) which is owed the the Central Trust by Christchurch, Broadstairs. Interest is charged at 3%. There are no fixed repayment terms.

18 Loans and overdrafts

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank overdrafts	22,791	-
Interest free loans	128	128
	22,919	128
Payable within one year	22,791	-
Payable after one year	128	128

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Bank overdrafts	18	22,791	-
Other creditors		40,184	211,746
		62,975	211,746

20 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Other loans	18	128	128

21 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2024 £	2023 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,195	1,090

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund.

22 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	At 31 December 2024 £
Southern Diocese Bishops Fund	75,114	-	-	-	75,114
National Stipend Scheme	244,532	81,754	(109,875)	17,340	233,751
Russian Church Appeal	2,772	-	-	-	2,772
	322,418	81,754	(109,875)	17,340	311,637

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	At 31 December 2023 £
Southern Diocese Bishops Fund	85,114	-	(10,000)	-	75,114
National Stipend Scheme	240,995	52,770	(76,209)	26,976	244,532
Russian Church Appeal	2,772	-	-	-	2,772
	328,881	52,770	(86,209)	26,976	322,418

a) The Southern Diocese Stipend Fund represents funds set aside to augment stipends to clergy in the Southern Diocese.
b) The Russian Church Appeal represents funds available to assist the development of a church in St Petersburg, Russia.

23 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	At 1 January 2024	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£
Clergy Benevolent Fund	110,930	3,902	114,832
Somerville Bequest	101	-	101
	111,031	3,902	114,933

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£
Clergy Benevolent Fund	104,860	6,070	110,930
Somerville Bequest	101	-	101
	104,961	6,070	111,031

a) The Clergy Benevolent Fund is used to assist retired clergy of The Free Church of England and their widows and to augment pension contributions on behalf of serving clergy of The Free Church of England.

b) The Somerville Bequest is used to assist the running of The Free Church of England Central Trust.

24 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	551,792	4,132	(131,020)	13,043	437,947

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	459,100	206,189	(133,788)	20,291	551,792

25 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2024:				
Tangible assets	666,703	-	-	666,703
Investments	(307,294)	79,996	355,716	128,418
Current assets/(liabilities)	78,666	34,937	(44,079)	69,524
Long term liabilities	(128)	-	-	(128)
	437,947	114,933	311,637	864,517

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2023:				
Tangible assets	666,932	-	-	666,932
Investments	(142,521)	76,095	338,376	271,950
Current assets/(liabilities)	27,509	34,936	(15,958)	46,487
Long term liabilities	(128)	-	-	(128)
	551,792	111,031	322,418	985,241

26 Related party transactions

During the year the Company paid £1,389 (2023 - £1,105) to Mrs Sharon Clements, the wife of a Trustee, for book-keeping services.

FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 271151

Accounts

Charity registration number 271151

Company registration number 00366710 (England and Wales)

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	The Right Reverend Dr P Hunt	
	The Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick	
	Mr W A Clements	
	Miss L A Secker	
	The Reverend R Wilson	
	The Reverend M Spiers	
	Mrs N Stenstrom	
	The Reverend Dr J Watson	
	Mrs T J C Sahadevan	
	The Reverend M P Firth	(Appointed 1 June 2023)
	The Reverend B A Murphy	(Appointed 1 June 2023)
	The Reverand A G Ford	(Appointed 23 May 2024)
	Miss E C Garratt	(Appointed 23 May 2024)
Secretary	The Reverend Dr R Stephen	
Charity number	271151	
Company number	00366710	
Registered office	Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall England WS9 0RB	
Independent examiner	Christopher Hession C.A. Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall England WS9 0RB	

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

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THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Company's governing document (Memorandum and Articles of Association), the Companies Act 2006 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 charitable objects of the Company are to act as a Central Board of Trustees for The Free Church of England, otherwise called The Reformed Episcopal Church (hereinafter called 'the Church'), and to promote aid and further the objects and work of and to perform work and to transact business in connection with the Church and there has been no change in these during the year.

The aims of the charity are the advancement of the Christian Faith by supporting the Churches of the Denomination of the Free Church of England in worship and witness; by planting new Churches; and by activities supportive of these aims.

The charity is committed to advancing the faith of the Free Church of England by seeking new followers and facilitating the practice of the faith by existing followers. It also seeks to proselytise new followers sensitively and without coercion.

It does by (inter alia):-

sermons and religious seminars, talks, meetings and conferences

the encouragement and support of pastoral work;

promoting the study of religious teachings and practices and scriptures;

support of religious office holders for acting as such, including the provision of stipends and other living allowances, pensions and retirement accommodation;

the provision and maintenance of a buildings used for religious practice.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in reviewing the charity's objectives and activities.

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

Services continue in all Churches of the Denomination allowing for the Christian Faith to be shared publicly in worship and witness, alongside the Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Solemnisation of Matrimony and Funerals) and ongoing Pastoral Care.

Grants are made to further the work of The Free Church of England.

Achievements and performance

The Free Church of England Central Trust has continued to work in line with the charitable objectives of the institution. The agendas for all meetings now follow a pattern where the charitable objectives are explicit and this is reflected in the headings of the report.

1. Property:

The FCECT continues to actively engage appropriately as Custodian Trustees of all properties vested in Central Trust. We have engaged another solicitors' practice, Freeths, to advise on trusteeships and have consulted with lawyers (on their advice) to try to resolve historic issues.

The sale of the site of St David's Church, Preston, was finally agreed and the land is now being redeveloped for community housing.

A new Parsonage for the Church in Morecambe has been purchased, in part utilising the funds realised from the sale of St David's, Preston, alongside funds from Central Trust.

The uninsurable Parsonage at Harlesden will be sold and a new property purchased with the proceeds.

The Church Hall at Walsall was being renovated so that it could be used more extensively and the Church sold.

2. Central Board of Finance:

There had been six applications to the Home Mission Fund for this current year and all grants were approved.

St George's, Blackburn	Warm Hub Initiative	£300
Christ Church, Broadstairs	Printer for Publicity	£300
Christ Church Willesborough	Books & Carol Service Publicity	£292
Christ the Redeemer, Chudleigh	Web Costs and cards	£150
St John's, Tottington	Printing & general outreach	£300
St Andrew's, Bentley	Jubilee Tea Party	£300

As part of the restructuring of how we 'do business' we have agreed budgets for the various charitable objectives so that there are funds to apply to projects as they come to fruition.

3. Training for the Ministry of the Church:

The Bishops' Examining Chaplain had to retire and the Denomination has now adopted a clearly defined Ministry Pathway that is published on the website. The provision of theological training for ministry candidates has been agreed with the London School of Theology and the syllabus, as is required, has been agreed by the General Council.

In partnership with the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Episcopal Church and hosted by Bishop Gerhard Meyer, some of our Clergy attended an International Church Planting event in Germany in the summer of 2023.

4. Maintenance for the Ministry:

The Denominational Stipend Scheme and the Denominational Pension scheme are fully operational. There had been an agreed raise to the uplift grants made from the Stipend Scheme.

A formal document, a Working Agreement for Clergy, has been drafted and agreed and this forms the basis of engaging Clergy (together with a detailed letter of appointment).

St George's, Blackburn, had drawn up a Parish Profile in a new style as they look to appoint a new Minister.

5. Church Planting and Evangelism:

The Church at Morecambe has been reopened under the leadership of the Rev'd Brett Murphy, incorporating a Community Pantry that attracts some income to support the stipend. The Rev'd Matthew Firth has initiated a new work in York, to which the funds realised from the sale of St Stephen's, Middlesborough are applied.

6. Youth Education:

The TWiGG group based at St Andrew's, Bentley and St Barnabas on the Isle of Man remain the most active Churches with regard to Youth Education. It is recognised that this is an area of weakness and needs to be addressed.

2023 has been a positive and active year in which the groundwork for current and future growth has been addressed.

The investments made during the year have performed in line with markets generally and the Trustees consider the investment manager's performance to be satisfactory.

Financial review

The Company has operated satisfactorily during the year in the furtherance of its principal activities and a summary of those activities is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 4.

There was an increase of funds of £92,299 (2022 - £186,538 decrease).

As at 31 December 2023 the Company had reserves of £985,241 (2022 - £892,942) as detailed on the Balance Sheet on page 6.

It is the policy of the Company that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

There are no restrictions on the Company's power to invest. The investment strategy is to maintain the long term purchasing power of the capital against inflation whilst achieving a balance between capital growth and income.

The investments are managed within the financial and ethical guidelines set down by the Trustees but otherwise at the discretion of the investment managers.

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

Structure, governance and management

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is licensed by the Department of Industry to be registered without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name.

The Company was incorporated on 23 April 1941 under the Companies Act 1929.

The Company is a registered Charity, under the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

The Right Reverend Dr P Hunt	
The Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick	
Mr W A Clements	
Mr C Mills	(Resigned 3 October 2023)
Miss L A Secker	
The Reverend R Wilson	
The Reverend M Spiers	
Mrs N Stenstrom	
The Reverend A K Roberts	(Resigned 1 April 2024)
The Reverend Dr J Watson	
Mrs T J C Sahadevan	
The Reverend G E Andow	(Resigned 8 February 2023)
The Reverend M P Firth	(Appointed 1 June 2023)
The Reverend B A Murphy	(Appointed 1 June 2023)
The Reverand A G Ford	(Appointed 23 May 2024)
Miss E C Garratt	(Appointed 23 May 2024)

All those elected to serve on the General Council of the Free Church of England are also appointed Trustees. Article III states that:

Convocation shall appoint at its Annual Meeting a Council of its members and delegate to such Council such administrative powers and functions as Convocation shall from time to time resolve. The Council thus appointed shall hold once until the next succeeding Annual Meeting of Convocation.

No other person or persons within the Free Church of England or external to it has the power or authority to appoint Trustees.

None of the Trustees have 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.

Committees and working parties

1.1 The Executive Council may:

1.1.1 establish Committees consisting of those persons whom the Executive Council decide;

1.1.2 delegate to a Committee any of its powers; and

1.1.3 revoke a delegation at any time.

1.2 The Executive Council may establish Working Parties consisting of those persons whom the Executive Council decide. A Working Party may not take decisions on behalf of the Executive Council but may consider issues in depth with a view to making recommendations to the Executive Council.

1.3 The members of a Committee or a Working Party are to be appointed by the Executive Council but the Executive Council may give a Committee or a Working Party the right to co-opt individuals to its membership. The Executive Council is to determine the chair of each Committee or Working Party.

1.4 Each member of a Committee or Working Party (including the chair) is to hold office from the date of his appointment until the term of office for which he has been appointed expires or until he resigns or is removed by the Executive Council from the Committee or Working Party.

1.5 The Executive Council must determine the quorum for each Committee and Working Party it establishes.

1.6 The Executive Council must specify the financial limits within which any Committee may function. A Working Party can have no authority to incur expenditure.

1.7 Every Committee or Working Party must report its proceedings and decisions to the Executive Council as the Executive Council determines.

1.8 A meeting of a Committee or Working Party may be held entirely through telephone, video conferencing or other communications equipment, via a mixture of such communications equipment or with some people physically present at the meeting whilst others are present via communications equipment. If all the people participating in the meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

Funds held as custodian trustee

The Free Church of England Central Trust holds funds as Trustee on behalf of the Denomination and various churches within the denomination. The objects of the denomination and the various churches within are the advancement of the Christian religion by means and in accordance with the principles of The Free Church of England.

Investments at market value	£876,699 (2022 - £806,913)
Cash deposits and other current assets	£96,868 (2022 - £152,884)

The amounts held as custodian trustee for each church/trust as at 31 December 2023 are as follows:

	2023	2022
Emmanuel Church, Barnstable	£190,300	£180,847
Crowborough Rectory	£33,209	£31,559
Crowborough Church, East Sussex	£98,415	£93,526
Emmanuel Church, Carshalton	£71,270	£66,909
Putney	£85,227	£79,254
Christchurch Exmouth Patten	£119,566	£109,887
Farnham SSF	£71,788	£68,412
St Georges, Blackburn	£42,620	£39,695
North Diocese	£102,843	£98,630
St Stephen's Church, Middlesbrough	£158,329	£191,078
Total	**£973,567**	**£959,797**

The objects of these churches and trusts are aligned and for the benefit of the Free Church of England Central Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee are accounted for as separate funds within the charity's books and records.

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

The Reverend Dr R Stephen
Company Secretary

The Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick
Trustee

23 May 2024

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Free Church of England Central Trust (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (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

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I am aware of ongoing correspondence with the Charity Commission in relation to various matters which may have occurred over recent years. As at the date of signing this report the matters remain outstanding and as such I have not noted this as a matter of material concern.

I confirm that there are 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.

Christopher Hession C.A.

Azzurri House
Walsall Road
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0RB
England

Dated: 5 September 2024

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:									
Donations and legacies	3	500	-	-	500	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4	202,211	-	52,770	254,981	723	-	55,684	56,407
Investments	5	3,478	-	-	3,478	1,067	-	-	1,067
Total income		206,189	-	52,770	258,959	1,790	-	55,684	57,474
Charitable activities	6	133,780	-	86,205	219,985	53,537	-	98,285	151,822
Other expenditure	12	8	-	4	12	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		133,788	-	86,209	219,997	53,537	-	98,285	151,822
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	20,291	6,070	26,976	53,337	(35,071)	(10,492)	(46,627)	(92,190)
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		92,692	6,070	(6,463)	92,299	(86,818)	(10,492)	(89,228)	(186,538)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		459,100	104,961	328,881	892,942	545,918	115,453	418,109	1,079,480
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		551,792	111,031	322,418	985,241	459,100	104,961	328,881	892,942

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**15**		666,932		260,500
Investments	**16**		271,950		476,613
			938,882		737,113
Current assets					
Debtors	**17**	40,254		25,137	
Cash at bank and in hand		37,805		166,913	
		78,059		192,050	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	(31,572)		(36,093)	
Net current assets			46,487		155,957
Total assets less current liabilities			985,369		893,070
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**20**		(128)		(128)
Net assets			985,241		892,942
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**22**		322,418		418,109
Designated funds	**23**		111,031		115,453
Unrestricted funds			551,792		459,100
			985,241		892,942

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 23 May 2024

Mr W A Clements
Trustee

Company Registration No. 00366710

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Free Church of England Central Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Azzurri House, Walsall Road, Aldridge WS9 0RB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Company 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 Company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Company 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 Company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

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.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Grants are accounted for when the company is committed to paying them.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

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	2% on cost and nil

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.

The freehold properties purchased in 2022 and 2023 are not depreciated, on the basis of them having such a long useful life and a high residual value.

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.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Company. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Legacies receivable	500	-

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Incoming resources from charitable activities - contributions from churches	-	52,770	52,770	-	55,684	55,684
Other income	202,211	-	202,211	723	-	723
	202,211	52,770	254,981	723	55,684	56,407

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	3,478	1,067

Interest receivable comprised £824 loan interest (2022 - £742) and £2,654 bank interest (2022 - £325).

6 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Stipend costs	138,874	100,924
Depreciation and impairment	229	229
Book-keeping fees	456	2,688
Accountancy	11,312	12,546
General expenses	5,135	8,746
Legal and professional fees	18,646	21,710
Charges and fees	1,112	890
Property repairs	14,206	1,506
	189,970	149,239
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	30,015	2,583
	219,985	151,822
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	133,780	53,537
Restricted funds	86,205	98,285
	219,985	151,822

7 Grants payable

	2023 £	2022 £
Grants	30,015	2,583
	30,015	2,583

8 Net movement in funds

	2023 £	2022 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner:		
- for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,000	2,000
- for other assurance services	9,312	7,626
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	229	229

9 Independent Examiner's Remuneration

Fees payable to the Charity's Independent Examiner:	2023 £	2022 £
Independent Examination of the Charity's Annual Accounts	2,000	2,000
Non-audit services		
Accountancy and payroll services	9,312	7,626

10 Trustees

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

11 Stipend

The average monthly number of office holders receiving a stipend during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Ministers	6	5
General Secretary	1	1
Total	7	6

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Stipends	132,763	95,419
Social security costs	5,021	4,491
Other pension costs	1,090	1,014
	138,874	100,924

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

12 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Interest on late PAYE	8	4	12	-	-	-
	8	4	12	-	-	-

13 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	**Designated funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	**2023**	**2023**	**2023**	2022	2022	2022	2022
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£	£	£	£
Gain/(loss) on investments	20,291	6,070	26,976	53,337	(35,071)	(10,492)	(46,627)	(92,190)

14 Taxation

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

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	262,790
Additions	406,661
At 31 December 2023	669,451
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2023	2,290
Depreciation charged in the year	229
At 31 December 2023	2,519
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	666,932
At 31 December 2022	260,500

During the year a house was purchased in Morecambe.

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Other investments	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2023	476,513	100	476,613
Valuation changes	53,337	-	53,337
Withdrawals	(258,000)	-	(258,000)
At 31 December 2023	271,850	100	271,950
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2023	271,850	100	271,950
At 31 December 2022	476,513	100	476,613

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Investments in subsidiaries		100	100

16 Fixed asset investments **(Continued)**

17 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	**2023** £	**2022** £
Other debtors	40,254	25,137

Other debtors includes a loan from the Central Trust to St Jude's Church, Walsall. Interest is charged at 3%. There are no fixed repayment terms. The balance owed to the Central Trust as at 31 December 2023 was £38,161 (2022 - £25,137).

18 Loans and overdrafts

	2023 £	**2022** £
Interest free loans	128	128
Payable after one year	128	128

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	**2022** £
Other creditors	31,572	36,093

20 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	**2023** £	**2022** £
Other loans	**18**	128	128

21 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	**2023** £	**2022** £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	1,090	1,014

21 Retirement benefit schemes (Continued)

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund.

22 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Southern Diocese Bishops Fund	85,114	-	(10,000)	-	-	75,114
National Stipend Scheme	240,995	52,770	(76,209)	-	26,976	244,532
Russian Church Appeal	2,772	-	-	-	-	2,772
	328,881	52,770	(86,209)	-	26,976	322,418

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Southern Diocese Bishops Fund	85,114	-	-	-	-	85,114
National Stipend Scheme	330,223	55,684	(98,285)	-	(46,627)	240,995
Russian Church Appeal	2,772	-	-	-	-	2,772
	418,109	55,684	(98,285)	-	(46,627)	328,881

a) The Southern Diocese Stipend Fund represents funds set aside to augment stipends to clergy in the Southern Diocese.
b) The Russian Church Appeal represents funds available to assist the development of a church in St Petersburg, Russia.

23 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	At 1 January 2023	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£
Clergy Benevolent Fund	104,860	6,070	110,930
Somerville Bequest	101	-	101
	104,961	6,070	111,031
	104,961	6,070	111,031

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£
Clergy Benevolent Fund	115,352	(10,492)	104,860
Somerville Bequest	101	-	101
	115,453	(10,492)	104,961

a) The Clergy Benevolent Fund is used to assist retired clergy of The Free Church of England and their widows and to augment pension contributions on behalf of serving clergy of The Free Church of England.

b) The Somerville Bequest is used to assist the running of The Free Church of England Central Trust.

24 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	459,100	206,189	(133,788)	-	20,291	551,792
	459,100	206,189	(133,788)	-	20,291	551,792

24 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	545,918	1,790	(53,537)	-	(35,071)	459,100
	545,918	1,790	(53,537)	-	(35,071)	459,100

25 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	666,932	-	-	666,932
Investments	(142,521)	76,095	338,376	271,950
Current assets/(liabilities)	27,509	34,936	(15,958)	46,487
Long term liabilities	(128)	-	-	(128)
	551,792	111,031	322,418	985,241

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	260,500	-	-	260,500
Investments	95,188	70,025	311,400	476,613
Current assets/(liabilities)	103,540	34,936	17,481	155,957
Long term liabilities	(128)	-	-	(128)
	459,100	104,961	328,881	892,942

26 Related party transactions

During the year the Company paid £1,105 (2022 - £1,854) to Mrs Sharon Clements, the wife of a Trustee, for book-keeping services.

FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 271151

Accounts

Charity registration number 271151

Company registration number 00366710 (England and Wales)

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

PAGES FOR FILING WITH REGISTRAR

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	The Right Reverend P Hunt	
	Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick	
	Mr W A Clements	
	Mr C Mills	
	Miss L A Secker	
	Reverend R Wilson	
	Reverend M Spiers	
	Mrs N Stenstrom	
	Reverend A K Roberts	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
	The Reverend Dr J Watson	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
	Mrs T J C Sahadevan	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
Secretary	Reverend Dr R Stephen	
Charity number	271151	
Company number	00366710	
Registered office	Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall England WS9 0RB	
Independent examiner	Christopher Hession C.A. Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall England WS9 0RB	

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

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THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

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 Company's governing document (Memorandum and Articles of Association), the Companies Act 2006 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 charitable objects of the Company are to act as a Central Board of Trustees for The Free Church of England, otherwise called The Reformed Episcopal Church (hereinafter called 'the Church'), and to promote aid and further the objects and work of and to perform work and to transact business in connection with the Church and there has been no change in these during the year.

The aims of the charity are the advancement of the Christian Faith by supporting the Churches of the Denomination of the Free Church of England in worship and witness; by planting new Churches; and by activities supportive of these aims.

The charity is committed to advancing the faith of the Free Church of England by seeking new followers and facilitating the practice of the faith by existing followers. It also seeks to proselytise new followers sensitively and without coercion.

It does by (inter alia):-

sermons and religious seminars, talks, meetings and conferences

the encouragement and support of pastoral work;

promoting the study of religious teachings and practices and scriptures;

support of religious office holders for acting as such, including the provision of stipends and other living allowances, pensions and retirement accommodation;

the provision and maintenance of a buildings used for religious practice.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in reviewing the charity's objectives and activities.

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

Services continue in all Churches of the Denomination allowing for the Christian Faith to be shared publicly in worship and witness, alongside the Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Solemnisation of Matrimony and Funerals) and ongoing Pastoral Care. A review is underway of the existing property portfolio and how that may be used to extend the Denomination by Church Planting.

Grants are made to further the work of The Free Church of England.

Achievements and performance

1. General

The appointment of a full-time Company Secretary for the Free Church of England Central Trust and a General Secretary for the Free Church of England has been the most significant development in this year. This post enables a more proactive approach to the work that supports and enables the work of the Denomination.

It is also good to put on record that the Charity Commission serious incident investigation has now been closed and both Bishops have been cleared of any financial irregularity. There have been some recommendations with regard to how the Central Trust works and so a Complaints Policy has been agreed as has a Conflicts of Interest Policy.

This report covers the work of the Free Church of England Central Trust. The Free Church of England Central Trust has, historically, dealt with property and investments and the General Council dealt with everything else. As a result of the recent engagement with the Charity Commission the focus the Free Church of England Central Trust Agenda has been redesigned so that it addresses directly and purposefully the Charitable Aims to which we are held accountable. These are listed below with a summary of the actions already taken or proposed.

2. Property

This has been a busy year regarding the property lodged with the Free Church of England Central Trust. We have agreed the sale of the site at Preston and there has been some negotiation with regards to the Hollinwood site with Impact at St James no longer an Associate Congregation of the Free Church of England but continuing their valuable ministry and Christian presence on that site. Similarly, a dialogue has been initiated with Hoyland. There is an ongoing discussion concerning St Jude's at Walsall and about the Parsonage at Harlesden.

The Free Church of England Central Trust is Custodian Trustee of many Churches and properties and we are still working towards fulfilling our responsibilities for all those sites so that the investment of those in previous generations is honoured.

We have, during this year, initiated a Denominational Insurance Scheme with a Broker who engages with each Church to ensure full cover for in their specific location and have also engaged with a supplier in setting up a Denominational scheme for gas and electricity. It is hoped that many of our Churches will sign up for these so that, together, we will manage to achieve some economy of scale.

3. Central Board of Finance
The Denomination as a whole is committed to the objectives of the Charity.

There had been six applications to the Home Mission Fund for this current year and all grants were approved.
1) HOLY TRINITY – OSWALDTWISTLE
Towards printing and refreshments for a Memorial Service held for
families affected by Covid and who were unable to hold a full funeral service due to the restrictions

2) ST FRANCIS CHURCH - SHOREHAM-BY-SEA
Towards Messy Church Breakfast Clubs Publicity and TV Monitor on a stand

3) ST PAUL'S CHURCH – BEXHILL
Towards church entrance improvements and removing weathervane, publicity and outreach

4) ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – BLACKBURN
Toward Facebook adverts and Easter publicity from CPO

5) ST ANDREW'S – BENTLEY
Towards the cost of Memorial Services held in December for families affected by Covid and other bereavements.
Printing Costs, Candles, and Refreshments.
Licences for Online and streaming services
Materials for Messy Church

6)CHRIST CHURCH – WILLESBOROUGH
Study Material for virtual Bible Studies classes
500 Christmas Invitations to the Salvation Army Band Carol Service at Christ Church

As part of the restructuring of how we 'do business' we have agreed budgets for the various charitable objectives so that there are funds to apply to projects as they come to fruition.

4. Training for the Ministry of the Church
There has, in recent years, been no clear pathway for the training and formation of ministers. The Free Church of England co-operates fully in the quarterly meeting (chaired by the Rev'd Dr Jonathan Riches of the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in the USA) where the more general matters of theological education in Europe are discussed under the European Anglican Theological Seminary (EATS).

Having explored a number of options – including accessing theological education provided in the USA - we eventually secured a partnership with the London School of Theology who will provide a recognised and accredited theological education in the UK. This could be at Certificate, Diploma or Degree level and could be undertaken in-person or on-line. Formation for ministry in the context of the Free Church of England would then be completed within the Denomination, using the people and resources available to us. The work of setting this up is ongoing.

5. Maintenance for the Ministry
The Denominational Stipend Scheme and the Denominational Pension scheme are fully operational.

Some historic funds have now been applied to providing stipends for ministry. We continue to explore ways in which we can identify resources that can properly be applied to funding ministry in both the South and the North.

6. Church Planting and Evangelism
Steps are also being taken to revitalise the work at Emmanuel, Morecambe, and at Christ Church, Leigh-on-Sea. Thes represent significant and positive moves towards reclaiming lost ground.

7. Youth Education
We are aware that this is an area that needs development. During this year we have been able to support a youth group that serves the whole Denomination based at St Andrew's, Bentley, with a particular emphasis on providing support for mental health and wellbeing.

8. Website
The launch of the new website was noted and it was hoped that there would be better support for this by Churches sending in items of news or a report on their activities that would be of interest to the wider constituency.

The investments made during the year have performed in line with markets generally and the Trustees consider the investment manager's performance to be satisfactory.

Financial review

The Company has operated satisfactorily during the year in the furtherance of its principal activities and a summary of those activities is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 4.

There was a decrease of funds of £186,537 (2021 - £3,638 increase).

As at 31 December 2022 the Company had reserves of £892,943 (2021 - £1,079,480) as detailed on the Balance Sheet on page 6.

It is the policy of the Company that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

There are no restrictions on the Company's power to invest. The investment strategy is to maintain the long term purchasing power of the capital against inflation whilst achieving a balance between capital growth and income.

The investments are managed within the financial and ethical guidelines set down by the Trustees but otherwise at the discretion of the investment managers.

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

Structure, governance and management

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is licensed by the Department of Industry to be registered without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name.

The Company was incorporated on 23 April 1941 under the Companies Act 1929.

The Company is a registered Charity, under the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

The Right Reverend P Hunt	
Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick	
Mr W A Clements	
Mrs M Cassidy	(Resigned 19 March 2022)
Mr C Mills	
Miss L A Secker	
Reverend Dr G Wareing	(Resigned 19 March 2022)
Reverend R Wilson	
Reverend M Spiers	
Mrs N Stenstrom	
Reverend A K Roberts	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
The Reverend Dr J Watson	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
Mrs T J C Sahadevan	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
The Reverend G E Andow	(Appointed 10 May 2022 and resigned 8 February 2023)

All those elected to serve on the General Council of the Free Church of England are also appointed Trustees. Article III states that:

Convocation shall appoint at its Annual Meeting a Council of its members and delegate to such Council such administrative powers and functions as Convocation shall from time to time resolve. The Council thus appointed shall hold once until the next succeeding Annual Meeting of Convocation.

No other person or persons within the Free Church of England or external to it has the power or authority to appoint Trustees.

None of the Trustees have 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.

Committees and working parties

1.1 The Executive Council may:

1.1.1 establish Committees consisting of those persons whom the Executive Council decide;

1.1.2 delegate to a Committee any of its powers; and

1.1.3 revoke a delegation at any time.

1.2 The Executive Council may establish Working Parties consisting of those persons whom the Executive Council decide. A Working Party may not take decisions on behalf of the Executive Council but may consider issues in depth with a view to making recommendations to the Executive Council.

1.3 The members of a Committee or a Working Party are to be appointed by the Executive Council but the Executive Council may give a Committee or a Working Party the right to co-opt individuals to its membership. The Executive Council is to determine the chair of each Committee or Working Party.

1.4 Each member of a Committee or Working Party (including the chair) is to hold office from the date of his appointment until the term of office for which he has been appointed expires or until he resigns or is removed by the Executive Council from the Committee or Working Party.

1.5 The Executive Council must determine the quorum for each Committee and Working Party it establishes.

1.6 The Executive Council must specify the financial limits within which any Committee may function. A Working Party can have no authority to incur expenditure.

1.7 Every Committee or Working Party must report its proceedings and decisions to the Executive Council as the Executive Council determines.

1.8 A meeting of a Committee or Working Party may be held entirely through telephone, video conferencing or other communications equipment, via a mixture of such communications equipment or with some people physically present at the meeting whilst others are present via communications equipment. If all the people participating in the meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

Funds held as custodian trustee

The Free Church of England Central Trust holds funds as Trustee on behalf of the Denomination and various churches within the denomination. The objects of the denomination and the various churches within are the advancement of the Christian religion by means and in accordance with the principles of The Free Church of England.

Investments at market value	£806,913 (2021 - £927,533)
Cash deposits and other current assets	£152,884 (2021 - £181,964)

The amounts held as custodian trustee for each church/trust as at 31 December 2022 are as follows:

Emmanuel Church, Barnstable £180,847
Crowborough Rectory £31,559
Crowborough Church, East Sussex £93,526
Emmanuel Church Carshalton £66,909
Putney £79,254
Christchurch Exmouth Patten £109,887
Farnham SSF £68,412
St Georges, Blackburn £39,695
North Diocese £98,630
St Stephen's Church, Middlesbrough £191,078

The objects of these churches and trusts are aligned and for the benefit of the Free Church of England Central Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee are accounted for as separate funds within the charity's books and records.

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

Reverend Dr R Stephen
Company Secretary

Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick
Trustee

25 May 2023

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Free Church of England Central Trust (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I am aware of ongoing correspondence with the Charity Commission in relation to various matters which may have occurred over recent years. As at the date of signing this report the matters remain outstanding and as such I have not noted this as a matter of material concern.

I confirm that there are 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.

BK Plus

Christopher Hession C.A.

Azzurri House
Walsall Road
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0RB
England

Dated: 26 May 2023

The amounts held as custodian trustee for each church/trust as at 31 December 2022 are as follows:

Emmanuel Church, Barnstable £180,847
Crowborough Rectory £31,559
Crowborough Church, East Sussex £93,526
Emmanuel Church Carshalton £66,909
Putney £79,254
Christchurch Exmouth Patten £109,887
Farnham SSF £68,412
St Georges, Blackburn £39,695
North Diocese £98,630
St Stephen's Church, Middlesbrough £191,078

The objects of these churches and trusts are aligned and for the benefit of the Free Church of England Central Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee are accounted for as separate funds within the charity's books and records.

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

Reverend Dr R Stephen
Company Secretary

Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick
Trustee

25 May 2023

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Endowment funds designated 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:									
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,758	17,758
Charitable activities	4	723	-	55,684	56,407	792	-	58,118	58,910
Investments	5	1,067	-	-	1,067	791	-	-	791
Total income		1,790	-	55,684	57,474	1,583	-	75,876	77,459
Expenditure on:									
Charitable activities	6	53,536	-	98,285	151,821	49,000	-	90,113	139,113
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	(35,071)	(10,492)	(46,627)	(92,190)	26,653	7,094	31,545	65,292
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(86,817)	(10,492)	(89,228)	(186,537)	(20,764)	7,094	17,308	3,638

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Endowment funds designated 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(86,817)	(10,492)	(89,228)	(186,537)	(20,764)	7,094	17,308	3,638
Gross transfers between funds		(57,082)	-	57,082	-	-	-	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(143,899)	(10,492)	(32,146)	(186,537)	(20,764)	7,094	17,308	3,638
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		545,918	115,453	418,109	1,079,480	566,442	108,359	400,801	1,075,602
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		402,019	104,961	385,963	892,943	545,918	115,453	418,109	1,079,480

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		260,500		9,400
Investments	**14**		476,613		706,469
			737,113		715,869
Current assets					
Debtors	**15**	25,138		24,395	
Cash at bank and in hand		166,913		370,853	
		192,051		395,248	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(36,093)		(31,509)	
Net current assets			155,958		363,739
Total assets less current liabilities			893,071		1,079,608
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**18**		(128)		(128)
Net assets			892,943		1,079,480
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**19**		385,963		418,109
Designated funds			104,961		115,453
Unrestricted funds			402,019		545,918
			892,943		1,079,480

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25 May 2023

Mr W A Clements
Trustee

Company Registration No. 00366710

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Free Church of England Central Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Azzurri House, Walsall Road, Aldridge WS9 0RB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Company 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 Company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company 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 Company.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Company 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 Company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

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.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Grants are accounted for when the company is committed to paying them.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

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	2% on cost and nil

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.

The freehold property purchased in 2022 is not depreciated, on the basis of it having such a long useful life and a high residual value.

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.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Company. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Total	Restricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant	-	17,758

4 Charitable activities

	2022	**2021**
	£	**£**
Incoming resources from charitable activities - contributions from churches	55,684	58,118
Other income	723	792
	56,407	58,910
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	723	792
Restricted funds	55,684	58,118
	56,407	58,910

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Interest receivable	1,067	791

Interest receivable comprised £742 loan interest (2021 - £720) and £325 bank interest (2021 - £71).

6 Charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Stipend costs	100,924	95,398
Depreciation and impairment	229	229
Book-keeping fees	2,687	927
Accountancy	12,546	8,026
General expenses	8,746	2,903
Legal and professional fees	21,710	27,303
Charges and fees	890	2,004
Property repairs	1,506	-
	149,238	136,790
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	2,583	2,323
	151,821	139,113
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	53,536	49,000
Restricted funds	98,285	90,113
	151,821	139,113

7 Grants payable

	2022 £	2021 £
Training grants	2,583	2,323
	2,583	2,323

8 Independent Examiner's Remuneration

Fees payable to the Charity's Independent Examiner:	2022 £	2021 £
Independent Examination of the Charity's Annual Accounts	2,000	2,000
Non-audit services		
Accountancy and payroll services	7,626	6,026

9 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Company during the year, except for The Right Reverend Paul Hunt, a Trustee of the charity, who was paid £21,698 stipend (2021 - £23,933) and £1,667 honoraria (2021 - £5,000) for ministerial duties performed for the Church.

The Right Reverend Paul Hunt was reimbursed a total of £nil (2021 - £1,780) expenses during the year.

10 Stipend

The average monthly number of office holders receiving a stipend during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Ministers	5	5
General Secretary	1	-
Total	6	5

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Stipends	95,419	91,733
Social security costs	4,491	2,130
Other pension costs	1,014	1,535
	100,924	95,398

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

11 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	**Designated funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£	£	£	£
Gain/(loss) on investments	(35,071)	(10,492)	(46,627)	(92,190)	26,653	7,094	31,545	65,292

12 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 Taxationof Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2022	11,461
Additions	251,329
At 31 December 2022	262,790
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2022	2,061
Depreciation charged in the year	229
At 31 December 2022	2,290
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2022	260,500
At 31 December 2021	9,400

During the year a parsonage was purchased in Broadstairs.

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Other investments	Total
	£		£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2022	706,369	100	706,469
Valuation changes	(92,189)	-	(92,189)
Withdrawals	(137,666)	-	(137,666)
At 31 December 2022	476,514	100	476,614
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2022	476,514	100	476,614
At 31 December 2021	706,369	100	706,469

		2022	2021
Other investments comprise:	Notes	£	£

14 Fixed asset investments (Continued)

Investments in subsidiaries	100	100

15 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	25,138	24,395

Other debtors comprises a loan from the Central Trust to St Jude's Church, Walsall. Interest is charged at 3%. There are no fixed repayment terms.

16 Loans and overdrafts

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest free loans	128	128
Payable after one year	128	128

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors	36,093	31,509

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Other loans	16	128	128

19 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Southern Diocese Stipend Fund: Bishops Fund	85,114	-	-	-	85,114	-	-	-	-	85,114
Southern Diocese Stipend Fund: Stipend Fund	312,915	75,876	(90,113)	31,545	330,223	55,684	(98,285)	57,082	(46,627)	298,077
Russian Church Appeal	2,772	-	-	-	2,772	-	-	-	-	2,772
	400,801	75,876	(90,113)	31,545	418,109	55,684	(98,285)	57,082	(46,627)	385,963

a) The Southern Diocese Stipend Fund represents funds set aside to augment stipends to clergy in the Southern Diocese.
b) The Russian Church Appeal represents funds available to assist the development of a church in St Petersburg, Russia.
c) During the financial year to 31 December 2020 a bequest was received for £30,000 into The Free Church of England Southern Diocese Stipend Fund. An additional restriction was placed on the fund in that it is to be used to provide a contribution to a Stipend for future Ministers of Emmanuel Church Alum Rock Road Birmingham, provided that such Emmanuel Church shall still be functioning in accordance with the Canons and Constitutions of the Free Church of England or of its lawfully constituted successor. If the said Emmanuel Church or its successor ceases so to function then the aforesaid bequest is to be used at the discretion of the aforementioned Stipend Fund.

20 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2021	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2022	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Clergy Benevolent Fund	108,258	7,094	115,352	(10,492)	104,860
Somerville Bequest	101	-	101	-	101
	108,359	7,094	115,453	(10,492)	104,961

a) The Clergy Benevolent Fund is used to assist retired clergy of The Free Church of England and their widows and to augment pension contributions on behalf of serving clergy of The Free Church of England.

b) The Somerville Bequest is used to assist the running of The Free Church of England Central Trust.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Designated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	260,500	-	-	260,500	9,400	-	-	9,400
Investments	95,188	70,025	311,400	476,613	267,926	80,516	358,027	706,469
Current assets/(liabilities)	46,459	34,936	74,563	155,958	268,720	34,937	60,082	363,739
Long term liabilities	(128)	-	-	(128)	(128)	-	-	(128)
	402,019	104,961	385,963	892,943	545,918	115,453	418,109	1,079,480

22 Related party transactions

During the year the Company paid £1,854 (2021 - £925) to Mrs Sharon Clements, the wife of a Trustee, for book-keeping services.

FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 271151

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 271151

Company Registration No. 00366710 (England and Wales)

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

PAGES FOR FILING WITH REGISTRAR

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	The Right Reverend P Hunt	
	Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick	
	Mr W A Clements	
	Mr C Mills	
	Miss L A Secker	
	Reverend R Wilson	
	Reverend M Spiers	
	Mrs N Stenstrom	
	Rev A K Roberts	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
	The Rev'd Dr J Watson	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
	Mrs T J C Sahadevan	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
	The Rev'd G E Andow	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
Secretary	Reverend Dr R Stephen	
Charity number	271151	
Company number	00366710	
Registered office	Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall WS9 0RB	
Independent examiner	David Baldwin Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall England WS9 0RB	

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

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THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

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 Company's governing document (Memorandum and Articles of Association), the Companies Act 2006 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 charitable objects of the Company are to act as a Central Board of Trustees for The Free Church of England, otherwise called The Reformed Episcopal Church (hereinafter called 'the Church'), and to promote aid and further the objects and work of and to perform work and to transact business in connection with the Church and there has been no change in these during the year.

The aims of the charity are the advancement of the Christian Faith by supporting the Churches of the Denomination of the Free Church of England in worship and witness; by planting new Churches; and by activities supportive of these aims.

The charity is committed to advancing the faith of the Free Church of England by seeking new followers and facilitating the practice of the faith by existing followers. It also seeks to proselytise new followers sensitively and without coercion.

It does by (inter alia):-

sermons and religious seminars, talks, meetings and conferences

the encouragement and support of pastoral work;

promoting the study of religious teachings and practices and scriptures;

support of religious office holders for acting as such, including the provision of stipends and other living allowances, pensions and retirement accommodation;

the provision and maintenance of a buildings used for religious practice.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in reviewing the charity's objectives and activities.

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

Services continue in all Churches of the Denomination allowing for the Christian Faith to be shared publicly in worship and witness, alongside the Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Solemnisation of Matrimony and Funerals) and ongoing Pastoral Care. A review is underway of the existing property portfolio and how that may be used to extend the Denomination by Church Planting.

Grants are made to further the work of The Free Church of England.

Achievements and performance

The Denomination as a whole is committed to the objectives of the Charity. Specifically, grants have been made to the following Churches for the stated purposes, in accord with our objectives:

HOLY TRINITY – OSWALDTWISTLE – Towards printing and refreshments for a Memorial Service held for families affected by Covid and who were unable to hold a full funeral service due to the restrictions.

ST FRANCIS CHURCH - SHOREHAM-BY-SEA – Towards Messy Church Breakfast Clubs Publicity and TV Monitor on a stand

ST PAUL'S CHURCH – BEXHILL – Towards church entrance improvements and removing weathervane, publicity and outreach.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – BLACKBURN – Toward Facebook adverts and Easter publicity from CPO.

ST ANDREW'S – BENTLEY – Towards the cost of Memorial Services held in December for families affected by Covid and other bereavements. Printing Costs, Candles, and Refreshments. Licences for Online and streaming services. Materials for Messy Church.

CHRIST CHURCH – WILLESBOROUGH - Study Material for virtual Bible Studies classes. Christmas Invitations to the Salvation Army Band Carol Service at Christ Church.

The investments made during the year have performed in line with markets generally and the Trustees consider the investment manager's performance to be satisfactory.

Financial review

The Company has operated satisfactorily during the year in the furtherance of its principal activities and a summary of those activities is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 4.

There was an increase of funds of £3,638 (2020 - £15,084 decrease).

As at 31 December 2021 the Company had reserves of £1,079,480 (2020 - £1,075,602) as detailed on the Balance Sheet on page 6.

It is the policy of the Company that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

There are no restrictions on the Company's power to invest. The investment strategy is to maintain the long term purchasing power of the capital against inflation whilst achieving a balance between capital growth and income.

The investments are managed within the financial and ethical guidelines set down by the Trustees but otherwise at the discretion of the investment managers.

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

Structure, governance and management

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is licensed by the Department of Industry to be registered without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name.

The Company was incorporated on 23 April 1941 under the Companies Act 1929.

The Company is a registered Charity, under the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

The Right Reverend P Hunt	
Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick	
Mr W A Clements	
Mrs M Cassidy	(Resigned 19 March 2022)
Mr C Mills	
Miss L A Secker	
Reverend Dr G Wareing	(Resigned 19 March 2022)
Reverend R Wilson	
Reverend M Spiers	
Mrs N Stenstrom	
Reverend A K Roberts	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
The Reverend Dr J Watson	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
Mrs T J C Sahadevan	(Appointed 10 May 2022)
The Reverend G E Andow	(Appointed 10 May 2022)

All those elected to serve on the General Council of the Free Church of England are also appointed Trustees. Article III states that:

Convocation shall appoint at its Annual Meeting a Council of its members and delegate to such Council such administrative powers and functions as Convocation shall from time to time resolve. The Council thus appointed shall hold once until the next succeeding Annual Meeting of Convocation.

No other person or persons within the Free Church of England or external to it has the power or authority to appoint Trustees.

None of the Trustees have 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.

Committees and working parties

1.1 The Executive Council may:

1.1.1 establish Committees consisting of those persons whom the Executive Council decide;

1.1.2 delegate to a Committee any of its powers; and

1.1.3 revoke a delegation at any time.

1.2 The Executive Council may establish Working Parties consisting of those persons whom the Executive Council decide. A Working Party may not take decisions on behalf of the Executive Council but may consider issues in depth with a view to making recommendations to the Executive Council.

1.3 The members of a Committee or a Working Party are to be appointed by the Executive Council but the Executive Council may give a Committee or a Working Party the right to co-opt individuals to its membership. The Executive Council is to determine the chair of each Committee or Working Party.

1.4 Each member of a Committee or Working Party (including the chair) is to hold office from the date of his appointment until the term of office for which he has been appointed expires or until he resigns or is removed by the Executive Council from the Committee or Working Party.

1.5 The Executive Council must determine the quorum for each Committee and Working Party it establishes.

1.6 The Executive Council must specify the financial limits within which any Committee may function. A Working Party can have no authority to incur expenditure.

1.7 Every Committee or Working Party must report its proceedings and decisions to the Executive Council as the Executive Council determines.

1.8 A meeting of a Committee or Working Party may be held entirely through telephone, video conferencing or other communications equipment, via a mixture of such communications equipment or with some people physically present at the meeting whilst others are present via communications equipment. If all the people participating in the meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

Funds held as custodian trustee

The Free Church of England Central Trust holds funds as Trustee on behalf of the Denomination and various churches within the denomination. The objects of the denomination and the various churches within are the advancement of the Christian religion by means and in accordance with the principles of The Free Church of England.

Investments at market value	£927,533 (2020 - £814,185)
Cash deposits and other current assets	£181,964 (2020 - £219,995)

The amounts held as custodian trustee for each church/trust as at 31 December 2021 are as follows:

Emmanuel Church, Barnstable £219,939
Crowborough Rectory £38,381
Crowborough Church, East Sussex £113,743
Emmanuel Church Carshalton £78,111
Putney £90,880
Christchurch Exmouth Patten £126,419
Farnham SSF £82,376
St Georges, Blackburn £45,049
North Diocese £123,521
St Stephen's Church, Middlesbrough £191,078

The objects of these churches and trusts are aligned and for the benefit of the Free Church of England Central Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee are accounted for as separate funds within the charity's books and records.

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

.....
Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick
Trustee

.....
Mr W A Clements
Trustee

Date: 14th Sept 2022

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Free Church of England Central Trust (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2021

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I am aware of ongoing correspondence with the Charity Commission in relation to various matters which may have occurred over recent years. As at the date of signing this report the matters remain outstanding and as such I have not noted this as a matter of material concern.

I confirm that there are 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.

David Baldwin

Azzurri House
Walsall Road
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0RB
England

Dated: 15 September 2022

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Designated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Designated funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:									
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	17,758	17,758	-	-	52,849	52,849
Charitable activities	4	792	-	58,118	58,910	3,912	-	73,237	77,149
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,600	7,600
Investments	6	791	-	-	791	1,753	-	1	1,754
Total income		1,583	-	75,876	77,459	5,665	-	133,687	139,352
Expenditure on:									
Charitable activities	7	49,000	-	90,113	139,113	87,953	-	119,946	207,899
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	26,653	7,094	31,545	65,292	21,824	5,809	25,830	53,463
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(20,764)	7,094	17,308	3,638	(60,464)	5,809	39,571	(15,084)
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(20,764)	7,094	17,308	3,638	(60,464)	5,809	39,571	(15,084)
Fund balances at 1 January 2021		566,442	108,359	400,801	1,075,602	626,906	102,551	361,229	1,090,686
Fund balances at 31 December 2021		545,918	115,453	418,109	1,079,480	566,442	108,360	400,800	1,075,602

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

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		9,400		9,629
Investments	**14**		706,469		641,176
			715,869		650,805
Current assets					
Debtors	**16**	24,395		23,675	
Cash at bank and in hand		370,853		451,435	
		395,248		475,110	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**18**	(31,509)		(50,185)	
Net current assets			363,739		424,925
Total assets less current liabilities			1,079,608		1,075,730
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**19**		(128)		(128)
Net assets			1,079,480		1,075,602
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**20**		418,109		361,229
Designated funds			115,453		102,551
Unrestricted funds			545,918		566,442
			1,079,480		1,075,602

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 14-9-22

.....

Mr W A Clements
Trustee

Company Registration No. 00366710

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Free Church of England Central Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Azzurri House, Walsall Road, Aldridge WS9 0RB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Company 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 Company. 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 Company 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 Company.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Company 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 Company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

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.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Grants are accounted for when the company is committed to paying them.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

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	2% on cost

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.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Company. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.10 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Restricted funds	Restricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Legacies receivable	-	30,000
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant	17,758	22,849
	17,758	52,849

4 Charitable activities

	2021	**2020**
	£	**£**
Incoming resources from charitable activities - contributions from other churches	58,118	73,237
Other income	792	3,912
	58,910	77,149
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	792	3,912
Restricted funds	58,118	73,237
	58,910	77,149

5 Other trading activities

	Total	Restricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Rental income	-	7,600

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	2020	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	791	1,753	1	1,754

Interest receivable comprised £720 loan interest (2020 - £1,266) and £71 bank interest (2020 - £488).

7 Charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Stipend costs	95,398	127,749
Depreciation and impairment	229	229
Book-keeping fees	927	1,011
Accountancy	8,026	7,020
General expenses	2,903	11,198
Legal and professional fees	27,303	19,811
Charges and fees	2,004	1,999
Property repairs	-	21,336
Tuition fees	-	3,300
Bad debts	-	11,663
	136,790	205,316
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	2,323	2,583
	139,113	207,899
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	49,000	87,953
Restricted funds	90,113	119,946
	139,113	207,899

8 Grants payable

	2021 £	2020 £
Training grants	2,323	2,583
	2,323	2,583

9 Independent Examiner's Remuneration

Fees payable to the Charity's Independent Examiner:	2021 £	2020 £
Independent Examination of the Charity's Annual Accounts	2,000	2,000
Non-audit services		
Accountancy and payroll services	6,026	5,020

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Company during the year, except for The Right Reverend Paul Hunt, a Trustee of the charity, who was paid £23,933 stipend and £5,000 honoraria for ministerial duties performed for the Church.

The Right Reverend Paul Hunt was reimbursed a total of £1,780 expenses during the year.

11 Stipend

The average monthly number of office holders receiving a stipend during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Ministers	5	6

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Stipends	91,733	122,937
Social security costs	2,130	3,269
Other pension costs	1,535	1,543
	95,398	127,749

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

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	**Designated funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	**2021**	2020	2020	2020	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£	£	£	£
Gain/(loss) on investments	26,653	7,094	31,545	65,292	21,824	5,809	25,830	53,463

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 January 2021	11,461
At 31 December 2021	11,461
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2021	1,832
Depreciation charged in the year	229
At 31 December 2021	2,061
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2021	9,400
At 31 December 2020	9,629

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Other investments	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2021	641,076	100	641,176
Valuation changes	65,293	-	65,293
At 31 December 2021	706,369	100	706,469
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2021	706,369	100	706,469
At 31 December 2020	641,076	100	641,176

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Loans to subsidiaries		100	100

15 Financial instruments

	2021 £	2020 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	706,369	641,076

16 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors	24,395	23,675

17 Loans and overdrafts

	2021 £	2020 £
Interest free loans	128	128
Payable after one year	128	128

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other creditors	31,509	50,185

19 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Other loans	17	128	128

20 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Southern Diocese Stipend Fund: Bishops Fund	85,114	-	-	-	85,114	-	-	-	85,114
Southern Diocese Stipend Fund: Stipend Fund	273,342	133,687	(119,946)	25,830	312,913	75,876	(90,113)	31,545	330,221
Russian Church Appeal	2,772	-	-	-	2,772	-	-	-	2,772
	361,228	133,687	(119,946)	25,830	400,800	75,876	(90,113)	31,545	418,109

a) The Southern Diocese Stipend Fund represents funds set aside to augment stipends to clergy in the Southern Diocese.
b) The Russian Church Appeal represents funds available to assist the development of a church in St Petersburg, Russia.
c) During the financial year to 31 December 2020 a bequest was received for £30,000 into The Free Church of England Southern Diocese Stipend Fund. An additional restriction was placed on the fund in that it is to be used to provide a contribution to a Stipend for future Ministers of Emmanuel Church Alum Rock Road Birmingham, provided that such Emmanuel Church shall still be functioning in accordance with the Canons and Constitutions of the Free Church of England or of its lawfully constituted successor. If the said Emmanuel Church or its successor ceases so to function then the aforesaid bequest is to be used at the discretion of the aforementioned Stipend Fund.

21 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2020	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2021	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Clergy Benevolent Fund	102,450	5,809	108,259	7,094	115,353
Somerville Bequest	101	-	101	-	101
	102,551	5,809	108,360	7,094	115,454

a) The Clergy Benevolent Fund is used to assist retired clergy of The Free Church of England and their widows and to augment pension contributions on behalf of serving clergy of The Free Church of England.

b) The Somerville Bequest is used to assist the running of The Free Church of England Central Trust.

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	**Designated funds 2021 £**	**Restricted funds 2021 £**	**Total 2021 £**	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Designated funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	9,400	-	-	9,400	9,629	-	-	9,629
Investments	267,926	80,516	358,027	706,469	241,272	73,422	326,482	641,176
Current assets/(liabilities)	268,720	34,937	60,082	363,739	315,669	34,938	74,318	424,925
Long term liabilities	(128)	-	-	(128)	(128)	-	-	(128)
	545,918	115,453	418,109	1,079,480	566,442	108,360	400,800	1,075,602

23 Related party transactions

During the year the Company paid £925 (2020 - £1,011) to Mrs Sharon Clements, the wife of a Trustee, for book-keeping services.

FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 271151

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 271151

Company Registration No. 00366710 (England and Wales)

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

PAGES FOR FILING WITH REGISTRAR

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	The Right Reverend P Hunt Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick Mr W A Clements Mrs M Cassidy Mr C Mills Miss L A Secker Reverend Dr G Wareing Reverend R Wilson Reverend M Spiers Mrs N Stenstrom
Secretary	The Right Reverend P Hunt
Charity number	271151
Company number	00366710
Registered office	Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall WS9 0RB
Independent examiner	David Baldwin Azzurri House Walsall Road Aldridge Walsall England WS9 0RB

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

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THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

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 Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 activities of the Company are to act as a Central Board of Trustees for The Free Church of England, to hold as loans, funds deposited by churches for investment and to lend money and make grants to further the objects and work of The Free Church of England and there has been no change in these during the year.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in reviewing the charity's objectives and activities.

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

Grants are made to further the work of The Free Church of England.

Achievements and performance

The investments made during the year have performed in line with markets generally and the Trustees consider the investment manager's performance to be satisfactory.

Financial review

The Company has operated satisfactorily during the year in the furtherance of its principal activities and a summary of those activities is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 4.

There was a decrease of funds of £15,084 (2019 - £481,722).

It is the policy of the Company that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

There are no restrictions on the Company's power to invest. The investment strategy is to maintain the long term purchasing power of the capital against inflation whilst achieving a balance between capital growth and income.

The investments are managed within the financial and ethical guidelines set down by the Trustees but otherwise at the discretion of the investment managers.

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

Structure, governance and management

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is licensed by the Department of Industry to be registered without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name.

The Company was incorporated on 23 April 1941 under the Companies Act 1929.

The Company is a registered Charity, under the Charities Act 2011.

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

The Right Reverend P Hunt
Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick
Mr W A Clements
Mrs M Cassidy
Mr C Mills
Miss L A Secker
Reverend Dr G Wareing
Reverend R Wilson
Reverend M Spiers
Mrs N Stenstrom

None of the Trustees have 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.

Funds held as custodian trustee
The Free Church of England Central Trust holds funds as Trustee on behalf of the Denomination and various churches within the denomination. The objects of the denomination and the various churches within are the advancement of the Christian religion by means and in accordance with the principles of The Free Church of England.

Investments at market value	£814,185 (2019 - £749,885)
Cash deposits and other current assets	£219,995 (2019 - £274,572)

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

Right Reverend Dr J Fenwick
Trustee
Dated: 5 October 2021

Mr W A Clements
Trustee
Dated:5 October 2021

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Free Church of England Central Trust (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I am aware of ongoing correspondence with the Charity Commission in relation to various matters which may have occurred over recent years. As at the date of signing this report the matters remain outstanding and as such I have not noted this as a matter of material concern.

I confirm that there are 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.

David Baldwin

Azzurri House
Walsall Road
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0RB
England

Dated: 5 October 2021

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Endowment funds designated 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Endowment funds designated 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Income from:									
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	52,849	52,849	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4	3,912	-	73,237	77,149	354,276	-	37,985	392,261
Other trading activities	5	-	-	7,600	7,600	-	-	4,500	4,500
Investments	6	1,753	-	1	1,754	1,985	-	4	1,989
Total income		5,665	-	133,687	139,352	356,261	-	42,489	398,750
Expenditure on:									
Charitable activities	7	87,953		119,946	207,899	54,859	-	79,777	134,636
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	21,824	5,809	25,830	53,463	159,207	10,722	47,679	217,608
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(60,464)	5,809	39,571	(15,084)	460,609	10,722	10,391	481,722

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Net (expenditure)/Income for the year/ Net movement in funds	(60,464)	5,809	39,571	(15,084)	460,609	10,722	10,391	481,722
Fund balances at 1 January 2020	626,906	102,551	361,229	1,090,686	166,297	91,828	350,837	608,962
Fund balances at 31 December 2020	566,442	108,360	400,800	1,075,602	626,906	102,550	361,228	1,090,684

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**12**		9,629		9,858
Investments	**13**		675,857		622,394
			685,486		632,252
Current assets					
Debtors	**15**	23,675		37,069	
Cash at bank and in hand		451,435		477,794	
		475,110		514,863	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(84,866)		(56,303)	
Net current assets			390,244		458,560
Total assets less current liabilities			1,075,730		1,090,812
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**18**		(128)		(128)
Net assets			1,075,602		1,090,684
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**19**		400,800		361,229
Endowment funds - designated			108,360		102,551
Unrestricted funds			566,442		626,906
			1,075,602		1,090,684

THE FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CENTRAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 5 October 2021

Mr W A Clements
Trustee

Company Registration No. 00366710

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Free Church of England Central Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Azzurri House, Walsall Road, Aldridge WS9 0RB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Company 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 Company. 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 Company 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 Company.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Company 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 Company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Grants are accounted for when the company is committed to paying them.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

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	2% on cost

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 net income/(expenditure) for the year.

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.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Company. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

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

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

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

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits
Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Restricted funds	Total
	2020	2019
	£	£
Legacies receivable	30,000	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant	22,849	-
	52,849	-

4 Charitable activities

	2020	**2019**
	£	**£**
Incoming resources from charitable activities	73,237	37,985
Other income	3,912	354,276
	77,149	392,261
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	3,912	354,276
Restricted funds	73,237	37,985
	77,149	392,261

5 Other trading activities

	Restricted funds	Restricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Rental income	7,600	4,500

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2020	**2020**	**2020**	2019	2019	2019
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Interest receivable	1,753	1	1,754	1,985	4	1,989

Interest receivable comprised £1,266 loan interest (2019 - £1,254) and £488 bank interest (2019 - £735).

7 Charitable activities

	2020	**2019**
	£	**£**
Staff costs	127,749	88,860
Depreciation and impairment	229	229
Book-keeping fees	1,011	989
Accountancy	7,020	9,994
General expenses	11,198	12,839
Legal and professional fees	19,811	5,419
Charges and fees	1,999	1,935
Property repairs	21,336	8,488
Tuition fees	3,300	3,300
Bad debts	11,663	-
	205,316	132,053
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	2,583	2,583
	207,899	134,636
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	87,953	54,859
Restricted funds	119,946	79,777
	207,899	134,636

8 Grants payable

	2020	2019
	£	£
Grants to individuals	2,583	2,583
	2,583	2,583

9 Trustees

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

10 Stipend

The average monthly number of office holders during the year was:

	2020	**2019**
	Number	**Number**
Ministers	6	6

Employment costs	**2020**	**2019**
	£	**£**
Wages and salaries	122,937	83,739
Social security costs	3,269	4,220
Other pension costs	1,543	901
	127,749	88,860

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

11 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	**Endowment funds designated 2020 £**	**Restricted funds 2020 £**	**Total 2020 £**	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Endowment funds designated 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Gain/(loss) on investments	21,824	5,809	25,830	53,463	159,207	10,722	47,679	217,608

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 January 2020	11,461
At 31 December 2020	11,461
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2020	1,603
Depreciation charged in the year	229
At 31 December 2020	1,832
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2020	9,629
At 31 December 2019	9,858

13 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Other investments	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2020	622,294	100	622,394
Valuation changes	53,463	-	53,463
At 31 December 2020	675,757	100	675,857
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2020	675,757	100	675,857
At 31 December 2019	622,294	100	622,394

The wholly owned subsidiary, FCE Holdings Limited, is a dormant non-trading company.

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Investments in subsidiaries		100	100

14 Financial instruments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	675,757	622,294

15 Debtors

	2020	2019
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	23,675	37,069

16 Loans and overdrafts

	2020	2019
	£	£
Interest free loans	128	128
Payable after one year	128	128

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other creditors	84,866	56,303

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2020	2019
		£	£
Bank loans	16	128	128

19 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Southern Diocese Stipend Fund: Bishops Fund	85,114	-	-	-	85,114	-	-	-	85,114
Southern Diocese Stipend Fund: Stipend Fund	262,951	42,489	(79,777)	47,679	273,342	133,687	(119,946)	25,830	312,913
Russian Church Appeal	2,772	-	-	-	2,772	-	-	-	2,772
	350,837	42,489	(79,777)	47,679	361,228	133,687	(119,946)	25,830	400,800

a) The Southern Diocese Stipend Fund represents funds set aside to augment stipends to clergy in the Southern Diocese.
b) The Russian Church Appeal represents funds available to assist the development of a church in St Petersburg, Russia.

20 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2019	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2020	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Clergy Benevolent Fund	91,728	10,722	102,450	5,809	108,259
Somerville Bequest	101	-	101	-	101
	91,829	10,722	102,551	5,809	108,360

a) The Clergy Benevolent Fund is used to assist retired clergy of The Free Church of England and their widows and to augment pension contributions on behalf of serving clergy of The Free Church of England.

b) The Somerville Bequest is used to assist the running of The Free Church of England Central Trust.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	**Designated funds 2020 £**	**Restricted funds 2020 £**	**Total 2020 £**	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Designated funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	9,629	-	-	9,629	9,858	-	-	9,858
Investments	275,953	73,422	326,482	675,857	254,129	67,613	300,652	622,394
Current assets/(liabilities)	280,988	34,938	74,318	390,244	363,047	34,937	60,576	458,560
Long term liabilities	(128)	-	-	(128)	(128)	-	-	(128)
	566,442	108,360	400,800	1,075,602	626,906	102,550	361,228	1,090,684

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2019 - none).