

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

70 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9JA

A branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, USA

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

Definitions

The trustees of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge (“the church”) are referred to in the church’s by-laws as “charity trustees”, “board members”, and collectively as “the executive board”.

Statement of the Trustees’ Responsibilities

The trustees arrange for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church, and of its income and expenditure for that period. The trustees are therefore responsible for the keeping of proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and reading rooms. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and two reading rooms and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. A brief annual written report is also prepared.

Status of the Church and Reading Room

The church is a charitable trust which was registered until 25 February 2003 under the Places of Worship Registration Act 1855, and incorporated a reading room separately registered as a charity under Charity number 271683. On 25 February 2003 the reading room registration was widened, so that both the church and the reading room became registered under the original registration number 271683. In 2022 the church acquired a second reading room in Egham High Street by merging with Christian Science Society, Egham.

Constitution and Object

The church is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The church is constituted under the terms of Trust Deeds dated 8 December 1946 and 22 October 1983 (“the Trust Deeds”).

The principal object of the church as set out in its *Constitution and Rules* is “to promote the understanding of Christian Science, as set forth in the Bible and in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy (the discoverer and founder of Christian Science), thus bringing healing to this community”.

Policies, Activities and Developments during the year

To achieve its object, the church has held services, which are fully open to the public, throughout the year. Sunday services have been held weekly at 10.30am. A testimony meeting has been held each Wednesday evening at 8.00pm and since May at 7.15 pm which provides the congregation with the opportunity to share healings and experiences that have resulted from their study and practice of Christian Science. The church holds a Sunday school as required at 10.30am on Sunday mornings for those under twenty years of age, which students can also access remotely by the internet. All these services were also available by Zoom; details of joining were on the church website. The church sponsored a Christian Science lecture in-person in March in the Egham Reading Room and at church on consecutive days, and will hold a midday Thanksgiving service on January 1 2024.

The Egham High Street reading room operates in a similar way to the one at 60 Baker Street. It was open to the public during the year for a period every Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday.

The reading room at 60 Baker Street, Weybridge was open to the public during the year for a period every weekday except Wednesdays, and on the first Saturday in each month. Both readings rooms closed on public holidays. The reading rooms stock the Bible, the Christian Science textbook and other authorised Christian Science literature, including the periodicals. The reading rooms operate as sales outlets for those wishing to purchase the products stocked, and spaces are set aside for quiet study and prayer. Computer networks with broadband internet connection are available for visitors to use, providing access to The Mother Church websites, as well as to other Christian Science branch churches around the world. A Reading Circle continues to be held via the internet on Tuesday evenings to read Mary Baker Eddy's writings and the Bible. Egham Reading Room holds an in person and online meeting each Wednesday to listen to a CSPA podcast and read from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. Members of the public are welcome to take part in both these activities.

The church has a website which includes details of both reading rooms and activities and is easily accessible by mobile phones for the benefit of public information.

In September 2020 a lease was signed with a local day nursery permitting it to operate a pre-school nursery on weekdays in the former Sunday school. The nursery continued to operate throughout the year providing a valuable benefit to the community and income to the church.

Accounting Policies

The church prepares its unrestricted funds accounts on a receipts and payments basis, using current cost accounting principles, and has them independently examined by its Independent Examiner.

The restricted funds of the church are represented by the church property and buildings as laid down in the Trust Deeds. The insurance valuation of these funds is reported in the financial statements and reviewed annually.

Reserves Policy

Regular giving, is in the weekly church collections and by regular donations. Projects are only undertaken following a vote of the church membership at business meetings, which are held each quarter. Contracts are not entered into until the necessary funds for the project have been secured. Any surplus income is held to be used at the discretion of members to further the charity's objects.

Review of Financial Activities

The merger with CSS Egham resulted in the church receiving cash totalling £300,404. A large proportion of this has been invested for growth and income which will ensure the Egham reading room remains operational for many years.

Unrestricted Funds

Other than referred to above, the income of the church and reading rooms during the year consisted primarily of donations, made regularly and through collections at services and members' business meetings and receipts from the sales activities of the reading rooms. Other income came from rent received from the use made of the church's property.

Total receipts for the year from all sources amounted to £58,266. Expenditure was £87,349 and a deficit for the year of £29,083 was therefore recorded.

Restricted Funds

There were no movements in these funds during the year, other than insurance valuation changes.

Total Assets

Current assets of the church as at the year-end were £334,495 comprising cash and bank account balances and the market value of investments. Stock at the reading rooms amounted to £12,917 and the insurance valuation of property and other assets at the year-end was £4,780,844.

Future Activities

The church intends to continue and expand where possible its present activities and to spread further the knowledge and understanding of Christian Science amongst its members and visitors, and in the local community. When planning the church's activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit including the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular the church seeks to further its object by encouraging the public to attend its services, testimony meetings and lectures, and to use its reading rooms.

Church Officers

Appointment of church members to be trustees and other officers of the church is undertaken annually in December by election in accordance with the church's *Constitution and Rules*. Those members who have served as trustees and in other principal capacities during the year are shown below.

Trustees (members of the Executive Board)

Merlin Alty (from 18.01.21) retired 16.1.23
Sarah Blackah (from 18.01.21) retired 16.1.23
Anthea Ramsbottom (from 18.01.21) retired 16.1.23
Robert Thomson (from 17.1.22)
Janet Bland (from 16.1.23)
Judy Macpherson (from 16.1.23)
Robert Longman (from 16.1.23)
Peter Ramsbottom (from 16.1.23)

President

John Roxburgh (from September 2022)

Clerk

Linda Cox

Treasurer

Merlin Alty

First Reader

Anthea Butler

Second Reader

Merlin Alty

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc, 83 High Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1DU

Independent Examiner

Crilly and Co, Wyvern House, 1 Church Street, Great Bookham, KT23 3PD

Solicitors

Coole Bevis, 14 Carfax, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1DZ

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by
Robert Thomson (Chairman)

.....
(Board member)

.....
(Date)

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Unrestricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Collections & donations	16,708	19,368
Interest	2,840	144
Income tax repayment (gift aid)	3,802	3,299
Weybridge reading room sales	1,670	1,725
Egham reading room sales	2,351	2,735
Rent from 60A Baker Street (gross)	9,600	9,320
Rent from Happy Days nursery	17,000	12,000
Rent from SCC for car park	1,000	1,000
Other income (Note 2)	3,296	300,404
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>58,266</u>	<u>349,996</u>
Expenditure		
Payment for services & allowances, W & W	6,545	6,264
Payment for services & allowances, Egham	11,129	7,473
Music fees	9,150	8,196
Church operating expenses (Note 3)	15,951	14,022
Church renewals, maintenance and repairs	6,943	3,497
Donations paid (Note 4)	3,130	5,076
Committee on Publication	350	636
Advertising and fairs	696	1,024
Outreach		
Lecture expenses	2,897	2,386
Reading room purchases Weybridge	3,724	4,764
Reading room purchases Egham	2,923	1,788
Weybridge reading room operating costs (N	6,115	8,362
Egham reading room operating costs (Note	13,761	5,050
Accountancy and professional fees	4,035	1,870
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u>87,349</u>	<u>70,409</u>
Surplus/(deficit) in year	(29,083)	279,587
Balances - at start of year	365,939	88,443
Surplus/(deficit) in year	(29,083)	279,587
Change in value of Waverton investment	(2,361)	
Balances - at end of year	<u>334,495</u>	<u>365,939</u>

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

	2023	2022
Monetary assets	£	£
Lloyds Bank current account	18,356	100,245
Waverton investment	197,639	
Cash floats	510	360
Lloyds Bank 32 days notice account	117,990	265,334
Total monetary assets	<u>334,495</u>	<u>365,939</u>
Current liability	0	0
Non-monetary assets		
Weybridge reading room stock	3,857	3,546
Egham reading room stock	9,060	11,057
	<u>12,917</u>	<u>14,603</u>
For information only:		
Values of buildings and property for insurance purposes		
Church building	2,823,788	2,423,852
Church fixed and moveable contents	129,568	107,973
Weybridge reading room building	258,682	222,045
Weybridge reading room fixed and moveable contents	45,606	38,005
Egham building	1,296,300	1,294,851
Egham fixed and moveable contents	226,900	213,465
Total value for insurance purposes	<u>4,780,844</u>	<u>4,300,191</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on _____ and
signed on their behalf by:

Name:.....

Position.....

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

The notes on pages 3, 4 and 5 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

- (a) These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis
- (b) Reading room stock is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.
Closing stock valued at average \$/£ conversion rate.

	2023	2022
	£	£
2 Other income		
Income distribution from Waverton	3,218	
Egham sundry income	70	
Legacy (share of final residue)	7	
Received from CSS Egham on acquisition	<u>3,296</u>	<u>300,404</u>
	<u>3,296</u>	<u>300,404</u>
3 Church operating expenses		
Cleaning	3,807	4,536
Heat, light and water	5,563	3,404
Insurance	3,609	3,178
Telephone & internet	1,329	709
Printing, postage and stationery	34	46
Garden and grounds	1,380	1,866
Sundries	<u>229</u>	<u>284</u>
Total church operating expenses	<u>15,951</u>	<u>14,022</u>
4 Donations paid		
Whitehaven Trust	300	500
Lime Tree House	500	500
CS Nurses Fund	300	500
Focus	850	1,000
JCSRRUK	350	1,000
CS Monitor for prisons	185	196
CS Sentinel for prisons	178	188
Police Community Clubs	195	130
Easter Camp	200	500
The Mother Church	<u>72</u>	<u>63</u>
Total donations paid	<u>3,130</u>	<u>5,076</u>

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

(continued)

	2023	2022
	£	£
5 Weybridge reading room trading summary		
Receipts		
Sales to public	1,670	1,725
Literature for use by the church or reading room	2,165	1,520
Total receipts	<u>3,835</u>	<u>3,245</u>
Payments		
Purchases and subscriptions	<u>3,274</u>	<u>4,764</u>
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments	561	(1,520)
Increase/(decrease) in stock over period	<u>311</u>	<u>(857)</u>
Trading surplus/(deficit)	<u>872</u>	<u>(2,377)</u>
6 Weybridge reading room operating costs		
Cleaning	385	330
Heat, light, water	1,440	956
Telephone & internet	341	291
Printing, postage and stationery	123	68
Equipment	(375)	5,663
Renewals, maintenance and repairs	4,056	1,029
Sundries	146	26
Total	<u>6,115</u>	<u>8,362</u>
7 Egham reading room trading summary		
Receipts		
Sales to public	2,351	2,735
Literature for use by the reading room	590	285
Total receipts	<u>2,941</u>	<u>3,021</u>
Payments		
Purchases and subscriptions	2,923	1,788
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments	18	1,233
Increase/(decrease) in stock over period	<u>(1,997)</u>	<u>0</u>
Trading (deficit)/surplus	<u>(1,979)</u>	<u>1,233</u>

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

(continued)

	2023	2022
8 Egham reading room operating costs	£	
Cleaning	1,456	458
Window cleaning	270	150
Heat, light, water	2,273	1,119
Printing, postage & stationery	128	164
Telephone & internet	1,044	505
Equipment		(260)
Renewals, maintenance and repairs	5,984	327
Insurance	1,021	1,823
Car parking	960	640
Garden	544	
Sundries	83	111
Total	<u>13,761</u>	<u>5,037</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees Of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge Charity number 271683

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 October 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act, and
3. state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those accounts. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met, or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Aidan Crilly BA FCA
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Great Bookham
Surrey
KT23 3PD



11 JANUARY 2024