

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 2024

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 7.15pm 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 joint sponsored an online Christian Science lecture in December.

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 reading 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 the Bible. 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

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 £85,133. Expenditure was £79,861 and a surplus for the year of £5,272 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 £368,960 comprising cash and bank account balances and the market value of investments. Stock at the reading rooms amounted to £14,440 and the insurance valuation of property and other assets at the year-end was £4,907,829

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)

Robert Thomson (from 17.1.22, retired 16.1.23)

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 (till September 2024)

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

Mark Adams 6 Wendover Place, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 3DG

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 Longman (Chairman)

.....
(Board member)

.....
(Date)

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Unrestricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Collections & donations	16,216	16,708
Donation from closed church	25,000	
Interest	3,014	2,840
Income tax repayment (gift aid)	3,035	3,802
Weybridge reading room sales	1,105	1,670
Egham reading room sales	2,145	2,351
Rent from 60A Baker Street (gross)	9,590	9,600
Rent from Happy Days nursery	18,000	17,000
Investment portfolio income	5,868	3,218
Other income (Note 2)	1,160	1,077
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>85,133</u>	<u>58,266</u>
Expenditure		
Payment for services, W & W (Note 9)	5,791	6,545
Payment for services, Egham	11,169	11,129
Music fees	9,390	9,150
Church operating expenses (Note 3)	18,304	15,951
Church renewals, maintenance and repairs	5,328	6,943
Donations paid (Note 4)	2,456	3,130
Committee on Publication	345	350
Advertising and fairs	474	696
Lecture expenses	358	2,897
Reading room purchases Weybridge	3,631	3,724
Reading room purchases Egham	2,633	2,923
Weybridge reading room operating costs (Note 6)	8,114	6,115
Egham reading room operating costs (Note 8)	9,223	13,761
Accountancy and professional fees	2,645	4,035
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u>79,861</u>	<u>87,349</u>
Surplus/(deficit) in year	5,272	-29,083
Cash flow statement		
Cash balances - at start of year	136,856	365,939
Surplus/(deficit) in year	5,272	-29,083
Invested in securities (Waverton)		-200,000
Cash balances - at end of year	<u>142,128</u>	<u>136,856</u>

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 OCTOBER 2024

	2024	2023
Monetary assets	£	£
Lloyds Bank current account	18,657	18,356
Lloyds Bank 32 days notice account	122,961	117,990
Cash floats	510	510
	<u>142,128</u>	<u>136,856</u>
Waverton investment	226,832	197,639
Total monetary assets	<u>368,960</u>	<u>334,495</u>
Current liability	0	0
Non-monetary assets		
Weybridge reading room stock	4,486	3,857
Egham reading room stock	9,954	9,060
	<u>14,440</u>	<u>12,917</u>
For information only:		
Values of buildings and property for insurance purposes		
Church building	2,905,678	2,823,788
Church fixed and moveable contents	129,568	129,568
Weybridge reading room building	266,184	258,682
Weybridge reading room fixed and moveable contents	45,606	45,606
Egham building	1,333,893	1,296,300
Egham fixed and moveable contents	226,900	226,900
Total value for insurance purposes	<u>4,907,829</u>	<u>4,780,844</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 2024

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

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 Lloyds Bank October 2024 \$/£ exchange rate.

	2024	2023
	£	£
2 Other income		
Egham sundry income		70
Refund of direct debit charge	10	
Legacy		7
Rent for register office use of car park	1,150	1,000
	<u>1,160</u>	<u>1,077</u>
3 Church operating expenses		
Cleaning	3,737	3,807
Heat, light and water	8,875	5,563
Insurance	3,639	3,609
Telephone & internet	722	1,329
Printing, postage and stationery	31	34
Garden and grounds	1,020	1,380
Sundries	280	229
Total church operating expenses	<u>18,304</u>	<u>15,951</u>
4 Donations paid		
Whitehaven Trust	300	300
Lime Tree House	500	500
CS Nurses Fund	300	300
Focus	350	850
JCSRRUK	350	350
CS Monitor for prisons	179	185
CS Sentinel for prisons	172	178
Police Community Clubs		195
Easter Camp	200	200
The Mother Church	105	72
Total donations paid	<u>2,456</u>	<u>3,130</u>

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

(continued)

	2024	2023
	£	£
5 Weybridge reading room trading summary		
Receipts		
Sales to public	1,105	1,670
Literature for use by the church or reading room at cost	1,523	2,165
Total receipts	<u>2,628</u>	<u>3,835</u>
Payments		
Purchases and subscriptions	<u>3,631</u>	<u>3,274</u>
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments	(1,003)	561
Increase/(decrease) in stock over period	<u>629</u>	<u>311</u>
Trading surplus/(deficit)	<u>(374)</u>	<u>872</u>
6 Weybridge reading room operating costs		
Cleaning	385	385
Heat, light, water	2,430	1,440
Telephone & internet	231	341
Printing, postage and stationery	231	123
Equipment		(375)
Renewals, maintenance and repairs	4,837	4,056
Sundries		146
Total	<u>8,114</u>	<u>6,115</u>
7 Egham reading room trading summary		
Receipts		
Sales to public	2,145	2,351
Literature for use by the reading room	590	590
Total receipts	<u>2,735</u>	<u>2,941</u>
Payments		
Purchases and subscriptions	2,633	2,923
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments	101	18
Increase/(decrease) in stock over period	<u>894</u>	<u>(1,997)</u>
Trading surplus/(deficit)	<u>995</u>	<u>(1,979)</u>

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Walton and Weybridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

(continued)

	2024	2023
8 Egham reading room operating costs	£	
Cleaning	1,204	1,456
Window cleaning		270
Heat, light, water	2,362	2,273
Printing, postage & stationery	12	128
Telephone & internet	926	1,044
Renewals, maintenance and repairs	865	5,984
Insurance	2,780	1,021
Car parking	960	960
Garden		544
Sundries	112	83
Total	<u>9,223</u>	<u>13,761</u>

9 Officers' payment for services

As recorded in the minutes of the members' meeting held on 8 October 2023, the readers, clerk, treasurer and Weybridge librarian were entitled to receive total remuneration of £6,600 during the year, of which £5,975 was waived.

CASH SUMMARY FOR YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

Balances at 01.11.22

Lloyds current account	100,245
Lloyds 32-day deposit account	265,334

Cash floats:

Weybridge reading room	80
Egham reading room	30
Letting agent APW	250

365,939

Cash surplus/(deficit) for year 2022-23

5,272

Change in value of Waverton investment

(2,361)

Total

368,850

Balances at 31.10.23

Lloyds current account	18,356
Lloyds 32-day deposit account	117,990
Waverton investment	197,639

Cash floats:

Weybridge reading room	80
Egham reading room	180
Letting agent APW	250

Total

334,495

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 2024 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.



Mark Adams
6 Wendover Place
Staines
Middlesex
TW18 3DG

6 December 2024