



Orthodox Church of the Nativity of The Mother of God Bristol

Registered Charity No. 290747

Annual Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31st December 2023

CONTENTS:

Legal and Administrative Information	Page
Report of the Trustees	1
Statement of Financial Activities	2 to 6
Notes to the Accounts	7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
	9

Page
1
2 to 6
7
8
9

Orthodox Church of the Nativity of The Mother of God Bristol

Charitable Status: Orthodox Church of the Nativity of The Mother of God Bristol is a Registered Charity no. 290747

Church Address: Orthodox Church
University Road
BRISTOL
BS8 1S

Trustees:

	Date Appointed	Date Resigned
Neil Andrew Brent	12-Mar-11	N/A
Kate Hearn	09-Feb-14	N/A
Lydia Kellett	23-Sep-18	04-Feb-24
Robert Beavis	22-Oct-12	04-Feb-24
Rebecca Edery	04-Feb-24	N/A
Michael Cooper	04-Feb-24	N/A

Bankers: Lloyds Bank
58 Queens Rd
BRISTOL
BS8 1RQ

Independent Examiner: Richard Ridler
36 Walden Road
Sewards End
Saffron Walden
ESSEX
CB102LF

Orthodox Church of the Nativity of The Mother of God Bristol

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st December 2023

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity:

The Church exists to provide for the religious, cultural and pastoral needs of Orthodox Christians in the area of Bristol City, Gloucestershire, and Somerset in accordance with the doctrines of the Orthodox Church under the Oecumenical Patriarch.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

During the reporting period the Church provides regular weekly church services as well as all key feasts of the Orthodox Church.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when planning our current and future activities. We understand that they comply with this guidance.

Church Activities Achievements and Performance

Particular highlights of the year were Archbishop Nikitas' visit on our Parish Feast-day, and the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of this parish in Bristol Cathedral.

New people from non-Orthodox backgrounds continue to find us. We received 6 adults in the last year, with more currently at various stages of their journey in the faith.

We continue to ensure that the building we use is fully maintained and collect monthly parish contributions towards the Building Fund. Added to this fund was a significant grant of £10,000 from the Archdiocese. These are being put to good use but most of these works will take place in 2024 and be paid for then:

- The stonework and windows in the altar area cleaned and repaired
- Roof-level water ingress at the back of the church will be investigated and rectified.
- When we are able we will be replacing the infra-red heaters
- Urgent maintenance work will also be done on the central heating system

Routine inspections of lightning conductors and fire extinguishers were also carried out

Financial Activity

	2023			Change	2022
	Unrestrict ed funds	Restricted funds	Total funds		
Total receipts	£16,737	£14,137	£30,874	£7,026	£23,848
Total Payments	£14,914	£2,940	£17,854	-£6,526	£24,380
Net of receipts/(payments)	£1,823	£11,197	£13,020	£13,552	-£532

Receipts increased by £7,026 year on year. Key reasons for this are:

- A grant from St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Educational Centre (RCN 271439) towards the cost of major building maintenance works to be carried out in 2024
- Gift Aid of £4,296 for the tax year 2022-23 was not paid by HMRC until 2024
- An increase in general collection giving and sales of candles of £1,605 as a result of a continuing increase in church attendance
- More details are in the notes to the accounts

Payments reduced significantly by £6,526:

- Equipment and Buildings Inspection was £1,984 less in 2023. In 2022 two non-annual inspections were carried out:
 1. Quinquennial survey by Conservation Architects £688
 2. Electrical System Test £1,164
- Equipment and Buildings Maintenance was £7,354 less in 2023 than 2022. In 2022 the church incurred additional spend including:
 1. A new electrical installation £6,456
 2. Gutter and Roof Clearance £320
 3. Repairs to the church floor £500

Local and International Support

The Church contributed £395 to the Turkey Earthquake Appeal

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is governed by a deed of trust dated 31st December 1973.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The charity will look for new trustees as required. Such persons will need to be eligible to serve in accordance with the Constitution. Trustees are proposed and seconded by church members and confirmed by a vote as described in the Governing Document. Since the end of this accounting period two trustees have resigned and been replaced as set out in the Legal and Administrative Information on page 1.

Reserves Policy

To retain sufficient funds in the bank to cover six months expenditure. As of 31st December 2023 the Church had £32,650 in the bank account. This includes a grant of £10,000 from the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Educational Centre (Registered Charity 271439) to be spent in 2024 on the refurbishment of the altar area. This leaves £22,650 which would cover 15 months spend at 2023 levels.

Trustees

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of the charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing the statement the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and to enable trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 23rd October 2024

and signed their behalf by:



Neil Andrew Brent, Treasurer



Kate Hearn, President



ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD BRISTOL

Charity No. 290747
From 01-Jan-23
To 31-Dec-23

Section A: Receipts and payments

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	
	£s	£s	£s	£s
Receipts				
Parish Fundraising	13,647	4,137	17,784	21,229
Grants Awarded		10,000	10,000	
Other Fundraising	904		904	315
Special Collections	328		328	829
Sale of Candles	1,858		1,858	1,475
Total receipts	16,737	14,137	30,874	23,848
Payments				
Church Running Expenses	10,192		10,192	17,822
Clergy costs	2,500		2,500	2,650
Other Administration Expenses	270		270	380
Other Expenses	170		170	
Cost of Sales	1,187		1,187	1,504
Church Fabric and Purchasing		2,940	2,940	1,000
Transfer of funds collected at services	595		595	1,024
Total Payments	14,914	2,940	17,854	24,380
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,823	11,197	13,020	-532
Cash funds last year end	11,155	8,475	19,630	20,162
Cash funds this year end	12,978	19,672	32,650	19,630

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories / Details	2023			2022
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	
	£s	£s	£s	£s
Cash	695		695	120
Bank Account	12,283	19,672	31,955	19,510
Total cash funds	12,978	19,672	32,650	19,630

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Neil Andrew Brent

Kate Hearn

Signature	Date of approval
	23/10/24
	23/10/24



ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD BRISTOL

Charity No. 290747
From 01-Jan-23
To 31-Dec-23

Notes to the Accounts

RPA Heading 1	RPA Heading 2	2023			2022
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds	
A1: Receipts					
Parish Fundraising	Building Fund		£1,892	£1,892	£2,542
	Facebook Donations	£80		£80	£949
	General Church Collections	£9,258		£9,258	£8,035
	Gift Aid				£2,730
	Icon Fund		£2,245	£2,245	£600
	Just Giving Donations				£293
	Reguar Giving - Standing Orders	£4,310		£4,310	£6,080
Parish Fundraising Total		£13,648	£4,137	£17,784	£21,229
Grants Awarded	Building Fund - Grant		£10,000	£10,000	
Grants Awarded Total			£10,000	£10,000	
Other Fundraising	Amazon - Smile	£39		£39	£44
	Donations for Services	£560		£560	
	Other Donations	£17		£17	£48
	Other Fundraising				£50
	Sale of items	£288		£288	£174
Other Fundraising Total		£904		£904	£315
Sale of Candles	Sale of Candles	£1,858		£1,858	£1,476
Sale of Candles Total		£1,858		£1,858	£1,476
Special Collections	Turkey Earthquake	£328		£328	
	Ukraine Appeal				£310
	Ukraine Tourniquet Appeal				£519
Special Collections Total		£328		£328	£829
A1: Receipts Total		£16,737	£14,137	£30,874	£23,848
A3: Payments					
Church Fabric and	Purchase of Icons		£2,940	£2,940	£1,000
Church Fabric and Purchasing Total			£2,940	£2,940	£1,000
Church Running Expenses	Archive Project	£517		£517	£157
	Candles Purchased for Church Use	£572		£572	£471
	Cleaning	£775		£775	£38
	Equipment and Buildings Inspection	£207		£207	£2,192
	Equipment and Buildings Maintenance	£90		£90	£7,444
	Insurance	£3,733		£3,733	£3,304
	Other Costs	£604		£604	
	Payment for Utilities	£2,350		£2,350	£2,997
	Pest control	£1,342		£1,342	£1,220
Church Running Expenses Total		£10,192		£10,192	£17,822
Clergy costs	Priests Expenses	£2,500		£2,500	£2,650
Clergy costs Total		£2,500		£2,500	£2,650
Cost of Sales	Candles for Sale	£1,187		£1,187	£1,504
Cost of Sales Total		£1,187		£1,187	£1,504
Other Administration Expenses	Fees and Charges	£12		£12	
	Website	£85		£85	£207
	Zoom Calls	£173		£173	£173
Other Administration Expenses Total		£270		£270	£380
Other Expenses	75th Anniversary Celebrations	£170		£170	
Other Expenses Total		£170		£170	
Transfer of funds collected at services	Patriarchate Fund	£200		£200	
	Turkey Earthquake	£395		£395	
	Ukraine Appeal				£375
	Ukraine Tourniquet Appeal				£649
Transfer of funds collected at services Total		£595		£595	£1,024
A3: Payments Total		£14,914	£2,940	£17,854	£24,380
Net Position		£1,823	£11,197	£13,020	-£532



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Orthodox Church of The Nativity of The Mother Of God Bristol

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/12/2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

290747

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/ 12 / 2023

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

27/09/2024

Name:

Richard Ridler

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

36 Walden Road

Sewards End, Saffron Walden

Essex CB10 2LF

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.