

The River of Life Church (Dumfries)

Scotland · Charity number SC049246

Details

Known as	River of Life Church
Status	Not Submitted
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2019-04-25
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	River of Life Church Lovers Walk Dumfries DG1 1LU
Website	http://riveroflife.org.uk

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the prevention or relief of poverty', 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of religion'

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: 4 The organisation's purposes are: 4.1 The advancement of religion by the promotion and practice of the Christian faith. 4.2 The advancement of education by the provision of religious classes, life counselling and financial advice. 4.3 The prevention or relief of poverty by a range of actions and projects to help people in need.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Dumfries And Galloway
- **Geographical spread:** A specific local point, community or neighbourhood

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£0	£0	-	13
2023-09-30	£344,191	£356,337	-	13
2022-09-30	£217,415	£287,970	-	13
2021-09-30	£80,978	£32,100	-	1

The River of Life Church (Dumfries)

Scotland - Charity number SC049246

Accounts



THE RIVER OF LIFE (DUMFRIES)

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER:- SC049246

CARSON & TROTTER

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
123 IRISH STREET
DUMFRIES
DG1 2PE

The River of Life (Dumfries)

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The River of Life (Dumfries)

Trustees report **for the year ended 30th September 2023**

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Objectives and activities

The principal activities of The River of Life (Dumfries) in the year under review were charitable, in line with the charity's objects, which are the advancement of religion by the promotion and practice of the Christian faith, the advancement of education by the provision of religious classes, life counselling and financial advice, and the prevention or relief of poverty by a range of actions and projects to help people in need.

Achievements and performance

The Charity raises funds in order for it to achieve its objectives. These objectives have been achieved during the year.

Financial review

The accounts show a net deficit for the year of £12,146. Reserves at the year end were £53,173. This is made up of £48,173 of unrestricted funds and £5,000 restricted funds.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and financing of the charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reserves

The trustees aim to have sufficient reserves to cover between three and six months running costs and to meet redundancy and winding-up costs in the event that funding is reduced or ceases.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) (No. SC049246). It was registered in its current legal form on 1st October 2021. It is governed by its Constitution.

The trustees are jointly responsible for the running of the SCIO and managing its assets. The trustees meet regularly to review the work of the charity, monitor progress on achievement of its objectives and financial performance and plan future strategy.

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Trustees report for the year ended 30th September 2023

..... continued

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The trustees are always on the lookout for responsible people who can help the Church grow and provide a firm foundation for the governance of the charity. Decisions for recruitment lie with the existing trustees and suitable people would need to be held in high regard in the Christian community, of integrity and treasure the values we hold dear, in accordance with our Statement of Faith and sound biblical theology.

Reference and administrative details

Scottish charity number	SC049246
Registered office	Lovers Walk Dumfries DG1 1LU
Independent Examiners	Gillian K Gray BAcc CA Carson & Trotter Chartered Accountants 123 Irish Street Dumfries DG1 2PE

Trustees

The trustees who have served the charity during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark Smith (Chair)
Helen Smith
Duke Miller
Glen Rogers
Rebecca Robertson

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Trustees report for the year ended 30th September 2023

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Responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

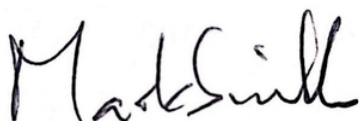
The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the charity's Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

This report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23rd April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Mark Smith
Chair

The River of Life (Dumfries)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The River of Life (Dumfries)**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2023 which are set out on pages 5 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

a. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;

have not been met, or

b. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Mrs Gillian K Gray BAcc CA
Carson & Trotter
Chartered Accountants
123 Irish Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PE**

Date: 23rd April 2026

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 30th September 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	Notes	funds	funds	Total	Total
		£	£	funds	funds
				£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	112,738	-	112,738	85,735
Charitable activities	3	-	5,000	5,000	500
Other trading activities	4	226,453	-	226,453	131,180
Total income		<u>339,191</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>344,191</u>	<u>217,415</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	117,410	-	117,410	113,904
Other trading activities	6	238,927	-	238,927	174,066
Total expenditure		<u>356,337</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>356,337</u>	<u>287,970</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(17,146)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(12,146)</u>	<u>(70,555)</u>
Net movement in funds	12	<u>(17,146)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(12,146)</u>	<u>(70,555)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	12	65,319	-	65,319	135,874
Total funds carried forward	12	<u>48,173</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>53,173</u>	<u>65,319</u>

All income and expenditure derived from continuing activities.

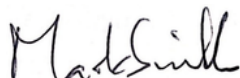
The notes on pages 7 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Balance sheet
as at 30th September 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		165,205		166,883
Current assets					
Stocks		12,000		12,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		27,504		51,368	
		<u>39,504</u>		<u>63,368</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(60,141)</u>		<u>(52,555)</u>	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			<u>(20,637)</u>		<u>10,813</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			144,568		177,696
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11		<u>(91,395)</u>		<u>(112,377)</u>
Net assets			<u>53,173</u>		<u>65,319</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	12		5,000		-
Unrestricted funds	12		48,173		65,319
Total charity funds			<u>53,173</u>		<u>65,319</u>

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 23rd April 2026, and are signed on their behalf by:



Mark Smith
Chair

The notes on pages 7 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1. General information and basis of preparation

The River of Life (Dumfries) is a charity, registered in Scotland. The address of the registered office along with the nature of the charity's operations and principle activities are given in the trustees' report.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and amounts are rounded to the nearest £.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. Hence the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2nd February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS102 Section 1A.

1.2. Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.3. Income recognition

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

1.4. Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity feels that there is only one activity and as such support costs have not been separately identified as they have been treated as being wholly for the fulfilment of the primary activity. Governance costs include the cost of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustees' meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters. As with support costs, the governance costs are treated as being wholly for the primary activity.

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2023

..... continued

1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land and buildings	-	Not depreciated
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	25% straight line
Website	-	10% straight line

1.6. Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

The regular cost of providing retirement pensions and related benefits is charged to the profit and loss account over the employees' service lives on the basis of a constant percentage of earnings.

1.7. Stock

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

1.8. Taxation

The charity is not liable to corporation tax on its primary charitable activities.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Gifts received	112,738	-	112,738	85,735
	<u>112,738</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,738</u>	<u>85,735</u>

All of the income received from donations and legacies in 2022 was unrestricted.

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th September 2023

..... continued

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Grants received				
Grants received	-	5,000	5,000	500
Total incoming resources from charitable activities	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>500</u>

All of the income received from charitable activities in 2022 was unrestricted.

4. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Coffee shop sales	226,453	-	226,453	125,129
Grants received	-	-	-	5,900
Government grants received	-	-	-	151
	<u>226,453</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>226,453</u>	<u>131,180</u>

All of the income received from other trading activities in 2022 was unrestricted.

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th September 2023

..... continued

5. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	58,180	-	58,180	46,348
Pastors' fees and expenses	24,397	-	24,397	29,374
Employer's NI contributions	2,858	-	2,858	469
Staff pension costs	1,332	-	1,332	1,097
Rent and rates	245	-	245	4,604
Insurance	240	-	240	1,302
Light and heat	2,809	-	2,809	7,103
Repairs and maintenance	3,045	-	3,045	2,102
Printing, stationery and advertising	110	-	110	270
Advertising and promotion	311	-	311	-
Telephone	837	-	837	941
Computer costs	7,349	-	7,349	1,575
Travel and subsistence	1,847	-	1,847	1,931
Bank interest and charges	528	-	528	7
Evangelism and special events	59	-	59	1,081
Volunteer expenses	564	-	564	2,794
General expenses	1,495	-	1,495	54
Gifts and donations	202	-	202	823
Depreciation	1,918	-	1,918	2,101
Loan interest	4,960	-	4,960	4,303
	<u>113,286</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,286</u>	<u>108,279</u>
Governance costs				
Legal and professional fees	1,720	-	1,720	3,274
Independent Examiner's Fees	2,404	-	2,404	2,350
	<u>4,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,124</u>	<u>5,624</u>
	<u>117,410</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,410</u>	<u>113,903</u>

All of the expenditure on charitable activities in 2022 was unrestricted.

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th September 2023

..... continued

6. Analysis of expenditure on other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	funds	funds	Total	Total
	£	£	funds	funds
			£	£
Cost of coffee shop stock				
Opening stock	12,000	-	12,000	-
Purchases - coffee shop	93,500	-	93,500	86,652
Closing stock	(12,000)	-	(12,000)	(12,000)
	<u>93,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,500</u>	<u>74,652</u>
Other coffee shop				
Coffee shop - wages and salaries	117,300	-	117,300	90,930
Coffee shop - staff pension costs	-	-	-	50
Coffee shop - staff training	38	-	38	-
Coffee shop - rent & rates	7,827	-	7,827	-
Coffee shop - insurance	2,953	-	2,953	1,420
Coffee shop - light and heat	9,260	-	9,260	1,057
Coffee shop - repairs and maintenance	4,569	-	4,569	2,916
Coffee shop - printing, stationery and advertising	311	-	311	1,171
Coffee shop - advertising and promotion	223	-	223	-
Coffee shop - telephone	406	-	406	-
Coffee shop - computer costs	120	-	120	-
Coffee shop - travel and subsistence	29	-	29	-
Coffee shop - bank charges	1,504	-	1,504	1,158
Coffee shop - volunteer expenses	77	-	77	-
Coffee shop - general expenses	810	-	810	712
	<u>145,427</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>145,427</u>	<u>99,414</u>
Total coffee shop expenses	<u>238,927</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>238,927</u>	<u>174,066</u>

All of the expenditure on other trading activities in 2022 was unrestricted.

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th September 2023

..... continued

7. Staff costs

Number of employees	2023	2022
The average monthly numbers of employees during the year were:	Number	Number
Church	4	4
Coffee shop	9	15
	13	19
	13	19
Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	175,480	137,278
Social security costs	2,858	469
Pension costs	1,332	1,147
	179,670	138,894
	179,670	138,894

There were no employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

The Pastor and his wife, both trustees, received fees and expenses totalling £24,397 for the year (2022: £29,374), this amount is not included within wages and salaries. No other trustees received remuneration for their services, or were reimbursed for expenses during the year.

8. Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and amounted to £1,332 (2022 - £1,147).

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th September 2023

..... continued

9. Tangible fixed assets	Land and buildings freehold	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1st October 2022	166,238	7,203	173,441
Additions	-	240	240
At 30th September 2023	<u>166,238</u>	<u>7,443</u>	<u>173,681</u>
Depreciation			
At 1st October 2022	1,200	5,358	6,558
Charge for the year	300	1,618	1,918
At 30th September 2023	<u>1,500</u>	<u>6,976</u>	<u>8,476</u>
Net book values			
At 30th September 2023	<u>164,738</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>165,205</u>
At 30th September 2022	<u>165,038</u>	<u>1,845</u>	<u>166,883</u>
10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Trade creditors		15,711	14,088
Other taxes and social security costs		19,885	13,221
Other creditors		923	2,051
Accruals		2,640	2,640
Bank of Scotland Bounce Back Loan		7,000	7,000
Goshen Trust Loan		13,982	13,555
		<u>60,141</u>	<u>52,555</u>
11. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Bank of Scotland Bounce Back Loan		12,833	19,833
Speddoch Loan		10,000	10,000
Goshen Loan		68,562	82,544
		<u>91,395</u>	<u>112,377</u>

The River of Life (Dumfries)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th September 2023

..... continued

12. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1st October 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 30th September 2023 £
Restricted funds:				
Hubbub Foundation	-	5,000	-	5,000
	-	5,000	-	5,000
Unrestricted funds:				
Unrestricted general funds	65,319	339,191	(356,337)	48,173
	65,319	339,191	(356,337)	48,173
Total funds	<u>65,319</u>	<u>344,191</u>	<u>(356,337)</u>	<u>53,173</u>

The unrestricted general funds represent the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

In the year a £5,000 grant was received from Hubbub Foundation for the use of the food project.

13. Analysis of net assets in funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	-	5,000	5,000
Unrestricted funds	165,205	(117,032)	48,173
Total funds	<u>165,205</u>	<u>(112,032)</u>	<u>53,173</u>

14. Related party transactions

During the year, a total of £24,397 was paid to Mark Smith, a trustee, in respect of his fees as Pastor and expenses for himself and his wife, Helen Smith, also a trustee (2022: £29,374).

During the year a total of £9,876 (2022: £8,300) was donated to the charity by the trustees.