

Company No 79323

Contents

Trustees' and Directors' report	1-4
Balance sheet	5
Notes to the financial statements	6

**Financial statements for
the year ended 31 December 2022**

Church Society Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

THURSDAY



AC856MHM

A28

20/07/2023

#4

COMPANIES HOUSE

Church Society Trust

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Directors	The Revd R W Farr The Revd P T Darlington (Chairman) The Revd Dr M E Burkill The Revd S R Gales The Revd M D J Holdaway The Revd Dr N J C Tucker The Revd Dr J D Ward (from 25 January 2022)
Patronage Secretary	Mr J N Porter Goff
Company Secretary	Mrs Sophie Barker
Company number	79323
Registered office	Dean Wace House Ground Floor, Centre Block Hille Business Estate 132 St Albans Road Watford WD24 4AE
Business address	Dean Wace House Ground Floor, Centre Block Hille Business Estate 132 St Albans Road Watford WD24 4AE

Church Society Trust

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees, who are also directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Objectives

The objectives of Church Society Trust are set out in its Memorandum of Association. They are to assist Church Society, a Registered Charity, in its patronage activities.

Church Society Trust exercises its patronage rights in the parishes of which it is Patron and represents the Society's interests in the process of selecting suitable candidates for vacancies. It also works to protect the patronage system and frequently challenges the suspensions of livings.

The Trust has no financial assets in its own right. All its expenses are paid from the funds of Church Society. It is managed by a Board of Trustees (known as Directors) who are selected from the Members of the Trust who themselves are appointed by the Directors, subject to the approval of the Council of Church Society. The Directors are confirmed in office annually by the Council of Church Society. They meet regularly to conduct their business. In order to assist in filling vacancies, they keep a register of candidates who might be considered. Candidates are expected to support the doctrine and worship of the Church of England as set out in the 39 Articles of Religion and the Book of Common Prayer as adopted in 1662 and to uphold the supreme and exclusive sufficiency and authority of Holy Scripture as containing all things necessary for salvation.

Review of the activities

The main business of the Trust is to exercise Patronage Rights and to support the ministry in the 127 parishes of which it is the Patron. In just under half of these, the Trust is the sole patron. In the remaining parishes, patronage is exercised jointly, in turns, or by a Board. Therefore, the Trust does not always have a decisive say in appointments. In addition, many benefices are suspended on becoming vacant because of the need to reduce clergy numbers. When the benefice is suspended a Priest-in-Charge is appointed which is legally the responsibility of the Bishop. However, there is an expectation that wherever possible the patrons and parish representatives are fully engaged in the appointment process. In practice this expectation is not always fulfilled although the Trust does all that it can to retain involvement.

Church Society Trust is also responsible for the ministry at the Gloucester Mariners Chapel, Christ Church, Düsseldorf (Germany), Lightbowne Evangelical Church, an independent church in Greater Manchester and St James, Ryde.

The Kirchengrundstücksgesellschaft mbH in Düsseldorf (KGG) is a German registered company with limited liability. The Chapel of Christ Church was the vision of William T Mulvany and the company was established by his daughter Miss Anabella Mulvany in 1911 with Church Association Trust the majority shareholder. The KGG owns all the land and buildings of Christ Church. Church Society Trust is now the sole shareholder and appoints Managers to oversee the affairs of the company who are also Trustees of the Christ Church Community eV (voluntary association). The share capital of the KGG was last registered in 1985 as DM50,000 equating to €25,594.59.

Church Society Trust has the right of appointment to the chaplaincy, which is exercised in partnership with the church council. However, the Trust does not exert influence on day-to-day management, nor supply funds. Neither is there any expectation of financial gain from the shareholding.

During the year appointments were made to benefices for which the Trust has patronage rights. For many of these benefices the patron's rights of nomination were suspended and the Bishop had responsibility for appointing a Priest-in-Charge. In most instances Bishops fully involve parish representatives in appointments and often also involve patrons. The Trust attempts to take as active a role as possible in the process and is pro-active in doing so. In most of these benefices it is likely that there will be pastoral re-organisation in the future illustrating the continued impact of the decline in clergy numbers leading to benefice or parish amalgamations.

Dioceses continue to make unwarranted suspensions of the right of presentation, and the appointment of interim ministers along with pastoral reorganisation, pose a threat to the theological integrity of several parishes. In a number of dioceses our experience is that poor administrative systems result in proper

Church Society Trust

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2022

procedures in relation to patronage not being followed, even to the extent of patrons not being informed of appointments being made.

The provision of central Church of England funding for Resource Churches has led to dioceses usurping the rights of patrons. This has been experienced in several dioceses. We expect this to be a growing problem given the number of diocese trialling 'Minster Communities' or similar plans for diocesan reorganisation.

Following the retirements of a number of long serving ministers, we continue to see the imperative it is for incumbents to better prepare their churches by tackling the tough issues of gender and sexuality, throughout their ministry, and equipping their PCCs to pass and reaffirming a Letter of Request.

The directors have continued to conduct the business of the Trust by a mixture video conference and in-person meetings. We are thankful too for additions to our patronage churches, for increased numbers of enquiries about transferring patronage, for the support of David Meager in the office and for the work of the Director of Church Society, Lee Gatiss together with the Regional Directors, Tony Cannon, George Crowder and Chris Moore. We are grateful for a fruitful working relationship with the Bishop of Maidstone (Rod Thomas) who retired in August 2022. He will be succeeded by Rob Munro, who will be consecrated Bishop of Ebbsfleet in February 2023.

The Directors have continued to work to improve relations with our parishes through visits, preaching and regular contacts. Trust members are encouraged to be part of this important work too. The parishes are prayed for regularly in line with the Prayer Diary.

The Trust is represented at the Patrons Consultative Group (formerly Private Patrons Consultative Group) and the Evangelical Patronage Consultative Council (EPCC).

The roles of Company Secretary and Patronage Secretary are distinct and undertaken by two people. Together with administrative help from the Church Society office, the Trust Directors and some Trust Members undertake much of the work. The Trust section of the Church Society website continues to be updated with information about the work of the Trust, including details of all the parishes. The database of information (most of which is available on the website) is updated most months. All new pastoral schemes are scanned and included on the website and many older schemes have been added as have scans of photographs and some documents from the archives.

Church Society Trust

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the income and expenditure of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 14 December 2021, the members of the Trust voted to amend the Church Society Trust Memorandum of Association Section 9 by deleting the final sentence that required an annual audit to be undertaken. As the Trust accounts are technically dormant, there is currently no need for any audit or inspection of them. Should that change, the legal requirements would come into play, and the Trust could decide within that, how to proceed.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the Directors



The Revd Paul Darlington
Chairman
Company No 00079323

Dated: 18th July 2023

Church Society Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets		
Bank and short term deposits	-	-
	_____	_____
	-	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	-
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Net assets	-	-
	=====	=====
	_____	_____
Funds	-	-
	=====	=====

For the year ending 31 December 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.


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

The notes on page 6 also form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 18th July 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Paul Darlington
Director



The Revd Dr Nick Tucker
Director

Company number: 00079323

Church Society Trust

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, the Companies Act 2006 and Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The company was dormant throughout the year ended 31 December 2022. It is a company limited by guarantee with registered office of Hille Business Estate, 132 St Alban's Road, Watford, WD24 4AE.

2 Income and expenditure

The trust received no income and incurred no expenditure during the year.

3 Employee information

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs	-	-
	=====	=====

There were no employees during the year apart from the Directors.

The Directors did not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the company for the year ended 31 December 2022 (2021: £nil).

4 Commitments and contingent liabilities

4.1 Contingent liabilities

The company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 December 2022 that have not been provided for in these accounts (2021: £nil).