

Company No 79323

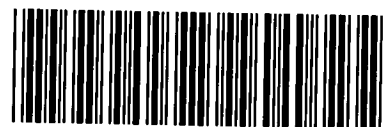
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**Financial statements for
the year ended 31 December 2020**

Church Society Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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Church Society Trust

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Directors

The Revd R W Farr (Chairman)
The Revd Dr M E Burkill
The Revd P T Darlington
The Revd S R Gales
The Revd M D J Holdaway
Mr R Nicholson
The Revd Dr N J C Tucker

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

Auditors

Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet
5 Robin Hood Lane
Sutton
Surrey
SM1 2SW

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 2020

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 2020.

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 matters such as the protection of the patronage system, challenging the suspension of livings and the selection of suitable candidates for vacancies where the Trust has influence.

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 116 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) and Lightbowne Evangelical Church, an independent church in Greater Manchester.

The Chapel of St. James Ryde now has separate trustees partly appointed by the Council of Church Society. It is expected that Church Society Trust will remain involved in future appointments to St. James and two Directors are presently Trustees.

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.

Church Society Trust

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2020

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.

The concerns raised in last year's report have, sadly, come to pass: One congregation has left the Church of England to join AMiE, St James Ryde, and we continue to work out our role and responsibilities in the new situation. In two other situations the minister and some of the congregation have left, St Fimbarrus Fowey, and Emmanuel & St Mary, Chadwell St Mary. In the light of these situations, we would urge incumbents to take heed of the flock they will leave behind and make the best provision they can for them.

'Resource Churches' in Truro and Blackburn Dioceses have overridden the role of the patron and seemed to take little account of the local needs.

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.

Following the retirements of a number of long serving ministers, we are reminded of 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 a Letter of Request.

The major challenge during the year has been Covid. We are grateful to God that despite the restrictions, appointments have continued to be made. Interviews by Zoom have become common but visits by candidates to parishes have continued, constrained by local rules. On occasion, simplified licensing services, on-line, have been useful. From March 2020, the directors conducted the business of the Trust by video conference. We are thankful too for additions to our patronage churches, for the support of David Meager in the office and for the work of the Regional Directors Mark Wallace (until Autumn 2020), George Crowder, Tony Cannon and Chris Moore. We continue to be grateful for a fruitful working relationship with the Bishop of Maidstone.

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 2020

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.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors


So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

Jacob, Cavenagh and Skeet have expressed their willingness to continue in office. A resolution proposing their re-appointment will be put to the forthcoming annual general meeting.

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



Revd R W Farr
Chairman
Company No 00079323

Dated: 25 June 2021

Independent Auditor's report to the members of the Church Society Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Church Society Trust (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its result for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Independent Auditor's report to the members of the Church Society Trust

- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Directors' Report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the company, we identified that the principal risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to financial reporting and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management, considering the internal controls in place and discussion amongst the engagement team. We determined that the principal risk related to incorrect disclosure of items in the financial statements.

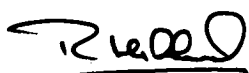
In response to the risks identified we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and reviewing Trustees and Finance meeting minutes.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Richard Haffenden MA (Cantab) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) Date 14 September 2021
for and on behalf of Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

5 Robin Hood Lane
Sutton
Surrey SM1 2SW

Church Society Trust

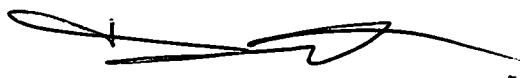
Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Current assets		
Bank and short term deposits	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Funds	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on page 8 also form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 25 June 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



The Revd R W Farr
Director



The Revd Mark Burkill
Director

Company number: 00079323

Church Society Trust

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

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 2020. 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

	2020 £	2019 £
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 2020 (2019: £nil).

4 Commitments and contingent liabilities

4.1 Contingent liabilities

The company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 December 2020 that have not been provided for in these accounts (2019: £nil).