

Trustees Report & Unaudited Financial Statements

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust
For the year ended 5 April 2024

Contents

3	Legal and Administrative Information
4	Report of the Trustees
8	Report of the Independent Examiner
9	Statement of Financial Activities
10	Balance Sheet
11	Notes forming part of the Financial Statements
15	Resources Expended
16	Analysis of Net Assets - Current year
17	Analysis of Net Assets - Prior Year
18	Movement in Funds - Current Year
19	Movement in Funds - Prior Year
20	Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

Legal and Administrative Information

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

Charity Name:

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

Registered Charity Number:

519464

Trustees:

Mr D Hutchins (Chair)

Mr K Wells

Mr S Harvey

Mr M Cane

Mr S Boyt

Treasurer:

Mr K Wells

Principle Address:

160 Sydney Road, CREWE, Crewe, Cheshire, GBR, CW1 5NF

Independent Examiner:

Sandra Thurgood FCCA
Eastway Enterprise Centre
7 Paynes Park
Hitchin
Herts.
SG5 1EH

Accountant:

Oldfield Advisory LLP
1120 Elliot Court
Coventry
CV5 6UB

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank Plc
Crewe Branch
The Square
Crewe Cheshire
CW1 2HN

Report of the Trustees

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 5 April 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 11 and comply with the Trust Deed and applicable law.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Charity is an unincorporated trust constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 17 October 1987, most recently amended by Deed of Variation dated 09 January 2015. The trust was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 27 January 1988 under Charity Registration Number: 519464

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 3. None of the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, received any remuneration or expenses from the Charity in the year ended 5 April 2024.

The Trust operates 5 Gospel halls and Trustees are chosen from among the regular congregation of the halls. New Trustees are nominated by the existing Trustees or by the congregation and must be appointed by unanimous resolution of the congregation. They are selected according to their skills and experience and are expected to use both in furthering the objects of the Charity. Checks are made to ensure the Trustees' eligibility to act and incoming Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities by the existing Trustees, who ensure that new Trustees read the Trust Deed and relevant Charity Commission guidance.

Wider Network

The Trustees maintain informal links with similar charities with a view to pooling experience considered useful in pursuing the objects of the Trust.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that they have established systems to manage and mitigate those risks.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives and Aims

The charitable purposes of the Charity are the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit, including by the carrying on of the service of God in accordance with the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible as followed by those Christians forming part of the world-wide fellowship known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (the "Brethren") and any other charitable purposes connected with Brethren. The core doctrine of the Brethren and proper practices in furtherance of certain aspects of doctrine are summarised in two schedules to the Trust Deed.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance to charities on public benefit.

Details of public benefit activities carried out by Sefton Gospel Hall Trust can be found in the separate appendix to this report.

Main activities and achievements

The Trust provides and maintains 5 Gospel halls where religious meetings are held by the local Brethren community. Details of the origins, teachings and way of life of the Brethren can be found on the website - www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org and in the schedules to the Trust Deed.

During the year, the trust successfully secured a site for a new meeting room (Heath Road).

Plans for future periods

Despite the increased cost of energy, the trustees feel that these increased costs are not significantly impacting on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

The trust also plans to renovate the Heath Road church purchased this year to make it suitable for use as a meeting room.

Meetings

Meetings held at the Gospel halls include the Lord's Supper (Communion), Gospel preachings, Bible readings and Bible addresses. There is a structured weekly schedule of meetings and, depending on the particular meeting, between 30 and 400 people normally attend these occasions.

The meetings are attended by the regular congregation and most are open to other properly disposed visitors. The notice board outside the Hall welcomes visitors and displays the times of Gospel preachings, along with a telephone number for those seeking further information or help. Gospel tracts, which are distributed by street preachers, also display this information.

Bibles and an extensive range of other Christian reading material are on display at the halls and visitors are free to help themselves.

Spreading the Gospel message and the life of a Christian

The Gospel halls are a base from which the regular congregation and others who attend the meetings are encouraged to spread the Christian Gospel, in word and deed.

Members of the congregation participate in a programme of street preaching and Gospel tracts are provided free of charge by the Charity to such preachers to be handed out to interested members of the public.

In carrying out this work, the congregation considers itself to be living out its faith in practice, as particularly exemplified in the following extract from the schedule to the Trust Deed on living a Christian life:

- We seek and are encouraged to live exemplary lives in all our relationships with others in the wider community (including former Brethren), in accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture (1 Tim 2:2).
- We regularly go out from our homes to preach on the streets, to distribute Christian literature and engage with the wider community (including former Brethren) in order to present eternal salvation, available to all men by faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Tim 4:2).
- We seek as members of the public to lead Christian lives as husbands and wives, parents, children, employers, employees and neighbours. (Col 3:22-25, Col 4:1).
- The preservation and protection of the family unit is fundamental and children are prized as a blessing from God. (Psalm 127:3-5). The elderly are valued members of the community, for whom both their family and the wider community are expected to care.
- Holy Scripture commands us to be good neighbours to others, and deal with all other people (including former Brethren) openly, honestly and fairly and consistent with these principles, we should give our time, talents and money to assist those in need in the wider community, in so far as reasonable given our abilities and our available resources. (Matt 7:12, Matt 22:39, Eph 4:28).

Funding

Funding is sought through gifts from the congregation and Gift Aid is claimed on eligible donations. Funding is sometimes received from other charitable trusts with complementary objectives.

Financial Review

In the year ended 5 April 2024 the Trust had a surplus of £168,896 of incoming resources over resources expended.

Total voluntary income received this year was £262,473 compared to £53,243 in the previous year.

Restricted Funds are being accumulated due to the ongoing refurbishment works on the halls that the trust possesses.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs, based on its size and the level of its financial commitments. The Trust has no employees and its regular outgoings are minimal. Accordingly, the Trustees have decided to adopt a policy of maintaining no significant reserves. The congregation is kept regularly informed as to particular needs for funds, and other relevant matters and the Trustees aim to ensure that the Charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure, by raising a funds appeal to the congregation.

Free Reserves at the year end were nil (2023: £28,950)

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees 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 England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust Deed require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust Deed. 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. All transactions have been reviewed and approved by two trustees.

On Behalf of the board:

.....

Mr K Wells (Trustee)

.....

Date

Report of the Independent Examiner

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Sefton Gospel Hall Trust for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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 records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Sandra Thurgood FCCA

Eastway Enterprise Centre
7 Paynes Park
Hitchin
Herts.
SG5 1EH

2 January 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Income and endowments:					
Donations and Legacies:					
Contributions from the Congregation	6,000	-	47,386	53,386	26,880
Gift Aid Donations	75,000	-	68,270	143,270	12,655
Income Tax refunds	18,750	-	17,067	35,818	3,036
Congregation Support	-	-	30,000	30,000	10,671
Investments					
Interest Received	20	-	-	20	6
Total Income and endowments:	99,770	-	162,723	262,493	53,249
Expenditure:					
Running Meeting Rooms (note 7)	85,590	-	528	86,117	56,577
Congregation Support (note 7)	4,438	3,041	-	7,479	12,532
Total Expenditure:	90,028	3,041	528	93,597	69,109
Net Income/(Expenditure)	9,743	(3,041)	162,195	168,896	(15,860)
Net Movement In Funds	9,743	(3,041)	162,195	168,896	(15,860)
	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Reconciliation of funds (note 9)					
Total Funds brought forward	876,656	2,013	124,379	1,003,048	1,018,908
Net movement in funds	9,743	(3,041)	162,195	168,896	(15,860)
Total Funds carried forward	886,398	(1,028)	286,574	1,171,944	1,003,048

The notes on page 11 - 20 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust As at 5 April 2024

	2024	2023
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets (note 4)	1,127,705	849,719
Total Fixed Assets	1,127,705	849,719
Current assets		
Prepayments and accrued income	37,967	6,906
Cash at bank and in hand	8,941	149,603
Total Current assets	46,908	156,508
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	2,669	3,180
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2,669	3,180
Net current assets/(liabilities)	44,239	153,329
Total assets less current liabilities	1,171,944	1,003,048
Net Assets	1,171,944	1,003,048
Funds (note 8)		
Restricted Funds	286,574	124,379
Unrestricted funds	885,370	878,668
Total Funds	1,171,944	1,003,048

The unaudited financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees of Sefton Gospel Hall Trust onand were signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mr K Wells (Trustee)

The notes on pages 11 - 20 form part of these financial statements.

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and incorporating update bulletins 1 and 2, and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The functional currency of the charity is sterling (£).

The Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Income

Donations are recognised in the year in which there is entitlement and probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future year. Gift aid is added to the value of the donation to which it relates.

Donated services are recognised as income and expenditure in the financial statements when organisations or individuals offer their services and support pro bono. The value of these donated services to Sefton Gospel Hall Trust is considered to be equal to market value which would be paid were the service formally procured. This includes services paid for by other trusts.

Investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Charitable activities comprise those costs directly attributable to the fulfilment of the charitable objects.

1.4 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and costs related to statutory requirements. Governance and support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of capacity used.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets (costing more than £100) are stated at cost less depreciation. Freehold land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold buildings	3% straight line
Property improvements	20% reducing balance
Tools & Equipment	20% reducing balance
Fixtures and Fittings	20% reducing balance

1.6 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income or corporation tax on charitable activities, provided income falls within the charitable exemptions and is spent on charitable purposes.

1.7 Funds

The general unrestricted fund is free for the Trustees to use for any purposes in furtherance of the trust's charitable objects.

Restricted funds arise from donations to the trust, which are made for a specific purpose. Restricted funds can only be used for the purpose for which funds were given.

1.8 Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The Charity does not have a trading subsidiary.

1.9 Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.10 Significant estimates and judgements

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits from an employment with the charity and no Trustees were reimbursed for expenses (2023: none)

3. WAGES AND SALARIES

There are no employees (2023: none)

4. Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost	Freehold Property - Sydney Road	Freehold Property - Stock Lane	Freehold Property - Wheelock	Freehold Property - Chorlton	Property Development - Sydney Road
At 6 April 2023	443,726	264,290	257,560	204,286	9,100
Additions					7,249
Disposals					
At 5 April 2024	443,726	264,290	257,560	204,286	16,349
Depreciation					
At 6 April 2023	221,952	67,360	59,237	17,763	1,207
Current Year Depreciation	11,093	6,607	6,439	4,357	727
Eliminated on disposals					
At 5 April 2024	233,045	73,967	65,676	22,120	1,934
Net Book Value					
At 5 April 2024	210,680	190,323	191,884	182,166	14,415
At 5 April 2023	221,773	196,930	198,323	186,523	7,893

Cost	Property Development - Chorlton	Fixtures and Fittings	Tools and Equipment	Freehold Property - Heath Road	Property development - Wheelock	Totals
At 6 April 2023	45,743	43,424	1,599			1,269,726
Additions	393	1,954		305,427	342	315,367
Disposals						
At 5 April 2024	46,136	45,378	1,599	305,427	342	1,585,093
Depreciation						
At 6 April 2023	19,886	31,909	693			420,007
Current Year Depreciation	5,202	2,500	181	250	24	37,381
Eliminated on disposals						
At 5 April 2024	25,088	34,409	874	250	24	457,388
Net Book Value						
At 5 April 2024	21,048	10,968	725	305,178	318	1,127,705
At 5 April 2023	25,857	11,515	906			849,719

Land registry titles of the above property held are CH313986, CH600344, CH599785, CH588330, CH596609 and CH696037.

5. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

During the financial year, aggregated donations of £126,310 (2023: £6,565) were received.

6. VOLUNTEERS

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust relies entirely on volunteers to carry out the management, administration and general maintenance work. The Trust has no paid staff or paid Trustees.

Resources Expended

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

7. Resources Expended

	MEETING ROOMS	OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL COSTS 2024	TOTAL COSTS 2023
Direct Costs				
Premises costs - repairs and maintenance	11,242	-	11,242	2,602
Premises costs - heat, light and power	21,976	-	21,976	8,619
Telephone	1,156	-	1,156	2,576
Health and Safety	3,706	-	3,706	-
Legal and professional	5,649	-	5,649	2,370
Bank charges	310	-	310	262
Congregation Support	4,438	3,041	7,479	12,532
Depreciation	37,381	-	37,381	37,774
Insurance	2,029	-	2,029	1,329
Governance	2,669	-	2,669	1,046
Total Direct Costs	90,555	3,041	93,597	69,109

Governance costs include £180 (prior year: £180) in respect of independent examiners fees.

Analysis of Net Assets - Current year

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

8. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

8.1 Current Year

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024
Funds				
Tangible Fixed Assets	730,886	-	396,819	1,127,705
Current Assets	80,484	(1,028)	(32,548)	46,908
Current Liabilities	75,028	-	(77,696)	(2,669)
Total Funds	886,398	(1,028)	286,574	1,171,944

Analysis of Net Assets - Prior Year

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

8.2 Prior Year

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Funds				
Tangible Fixed Assets	765,972	-	83,747	849,719
Current Assets	19,100	2,013	135,396	156,508
Current Liabilities	91,584	-	(94,764)	(3,180)
Total Funds	876,656	2,013	124,379	1,003,048

Movement in Funds - Current Year

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

9. Movement in Funds

9.1 Movement in funds - current year

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024
Movement in Funds				
Total funds brought forward	876,656	2,013	124,379	1,003,048
Incoming resources	99,770	-	162,723	262,493
Resources expended	(90,028)	(3,041)	(528)	(93,597)
Total funds carried forward	886,398	(1,028)	286,574	1,171,944

Movement in Funds - Prior Year

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

9. Movement in Funds

9.2 Movement in funds - Prior year

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Movement in Funds				
Total funds brought forward	913,042	-	105,866	1,018,908
Incoming resources	32,439	2,238	18,571	53,249
Resources expended	(68,826)	(225)	(58)	(69,109)
Total funds carried forward	876,656	2,013	124,379	1,003,048

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

Sefton Gospel Hall Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Income and endowments:				
Donations and Legacies:				
Contributions from the Congregation	24,000	-	2,880	26,880
Gift Aid Donations	-	-	12,655	12,655
Income Tax refunds	-	-	3,036	3,036
Congregation Support	8,433	2,238	-	10,671
Investments				
Interest Received	6	-	-	6
Total Income and endowments:	32,439	2,238	18,571	53,249
Expenditure:				
Running Meeting Rooms (note 9)	56,519	-	58	56,577
Congregation Support (note 9)	12,307	225	-	12,532
Total Expenditure:	68,826	225	58	69,109
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(36,387)	2,013	18,513	(15,860)
Net Movement In Funds	(36,387)	2,013	18,513	(15,860)
Reconciliation of funds (note 11)				
Total Funds brought forward	913,042	-	105,866	1,018,908
Net movement in funds	(36,387)	2,013	18,513	(15,860)
Total Funds carried forward	876,656	2,013	124,379	1,003,048