

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1171921

Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2019  
for  
Severn Gospel Hall Trust

Sandra Thurgood FCCA FMAAT CPA BSc  
6 Rookery Walk  
Clifton  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire  
SG17 5HW

Severn Gospel Hall Trust

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for the Year Ended 5 April 2019

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Severn Gospel Hall Trust

Reference and Administrative Details  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2019

**TRUSTEES**

M Brassey  
A C Turner  
C J Penprase

**PRINCIPAL ADDRESS**

Gospel Hall  
Barracks Lane  
Off The Mount  
Shrewsbury  
SY3 8PF

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER**

1171921

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Sandra Thurgood FCCA FMAAT CPA BSc  
6 Rookery Walk  
Clifton  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire  
SG17 5HW

**CHAIRMAN**

M Brassey

**TREASURER**

J Hobbs

**BANKERS**

CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

## Severn Gospel Hall Trust

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 5 April 2019

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2019. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

The Severn Gospel Hall Trust is constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 5th July 1980, amended by various Deeds and most recently by Deed of Variation dated 12th August 2014. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 7th March 2017 under Charity Registration Number 1171921.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1. None of the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, received any remuneration or expenses from the Charity in the year ended 5 April 2019 (2018: £nil).

Trustees are selected according to their experience in specialised fields and are expected to use that experience in furthering the objects of the Trust. Checks are made to ensure that there are no legal or other barriers to their appointment. New Trustees are nominated by the existing trustees and appointed by unanimous resolution of the Congregation. Incoming Trustees are made fully aware of their responsibilities by the existing Trustees who ensure that new Trustees read the Trust Deed and the relevant guidance for trustees published by the Charity Commission.

##### **Wider network**

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

##### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

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

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

The Trust has the following charitable purposes:

1. 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") whose core doctrine and whose proper practices in furtherance of some of the aspects of that core doctrine ("Faith in Practice") is summarised in the two Schedules to the New Trust Deed which is contained in the Second Schedule to the Deed of Variation dated 12th August 2014.
2. Any other charitable purposes connected with Brethren



## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Significant activities**

The Trust provides and maintains gospel halls for the religious activities of Christians often referred to as 'Brethren'. Details of the origins, teachings and way of life of the Brethren can be found on their website - [www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org](http://www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org).

Meetings held at these gospel halls include the Lord's Supper (Communion), Gospel preachings, Bible readings and Bible addresses. Depending on the particular meeting, between 20 and 200 people normally attend these occasions. There is a structured weekly schedule of meetings held in one or more of the gospel halls.

### **Spreading the Gospel Message**

The Gospel Halls are a base from which a large number of preachers operate to spread the Christian gospel, in word and deed. Gospel tracts are provided free of charge by the Trust to such preachers. Many of them also preach the Christian gospel on the streets of Shrewsbury most weeks of the year.

In addition to street preaching, the trust also keeps in contact with prison chaplains to provide gospel tracts as required. The Trust also operates a programme of providing regular packs of nutritious food and gospel literature to homeless and needy persons through local charities or homeless societies.

### **Visitors**

The services and meetings are attended by the regular congregation and many of the services are open to other visitors who are properly disposed. The notice boards outside the Halls welcome visitors and displays times of Gospel Preachings along with a telephone number for those seeking further information or help.

### **Public benefit**

The trustees of Severn Gospel Hall Trust 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.

### **The life of a Christian**

The following points are an extract from Schedule 1 of the Trust Deed. They outline the way of life of the Brethren as supported by the Holy Scriptures and how it contributes to public benefit;

1. 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)
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).
3. 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).
4. 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.
5. 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**

The Trust's activities are funded by donated services and grants from Holyhead Gospel Hall Trust (Charity no 1159423), a Trust in the local area of similar purposes.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Charitable activities**

The normal activities of the Trust were maintained throughout the year. All of the Gospel Halls under the control of the Trust were used throughout the year to further its charitable objectives.

The congregation is kept regularly informed as to particular needs for funds, and other relevant matters.

### **Public Benefit and Outreach 2018-19**

One of the Trust's principal activities that further its objectives is providing a facility for the coordination of 'outreach' work into the wider community.

This report includes some of the activities that we have been engaged in during 2018-19.

### **Street preachings and Gospel tract distribution**

We have maintained regular open air preachings on Pride Hill, Shrewsbury on Saturdays and weekdays throughout all months of the year. This is proving to be a very good location and opportunity for distribution of Gospel tracts, with many members also handing them out when opportune to contacts made during work and daily life. Each tract has contact details and times of our afternoon preaching. This continues to spread the availability of attending the gospel at our hall. Approximately 900 tracts have been distributed this financial year at 300 preachings.

### **Food packs**

We have continued to provide food packs and gospel literature on a regular basis to the Shrewsbury Ark, which provides support for single, homeless and vulnerable people.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

### **BHF Bagathon**

British Heart Foundation was supported in their 'Bagathon' for 2019 and we raised over 300 bags locally using our main hall as a collection and storage point.

### **Supporting the Rapid Relief Team charity**

The Rapid Relief Team charity has a local team in Shrewsbury made up from our congregation members. To widen the scope of activity the team cooperate with the neighbouring team in Newtown, Powys.

RRT members have also been busy during the year taking part in the following activities.

- Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital Charity Fun Day
- Coracle World Championship supporting Macmillan Cancer Support
- Severn Way Walk raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support
- Classics at the College in support of Hope House Children's Hospices

### **Further plans for 2019 -20**

We are planning to continue the various initiatives in the new period.

We will look for opportunities to support additional other local charities that need support from our willing team of volunteers

We will be open to new suggestions from members of the congregation which we will review and put forward for approval at one of the regular trustee meetings.



## Severn Gospel Hall Trust

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 5 April 2019

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments. The Trust aims to hold sufficient funds in a current account to cover day to day expenditure, plus an allowance for any urgent repairs and capital expenses that may arise. 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.

Free reserves at the year end were £53.

##### **Financial position**

In the year ended 5 April 2019 the Trust had a surplus of incoming resources over resources expended amounting to £701,717.

A grant of £684,864 in respect of the transfer of two Gospel Halls was received from Holyhead Gospel Hall Trust.

Total voluntary income received this year was £731,135 compared to £3,870 in the previous year.

All funds held were unrestricted funds.

Expenses relating to the provision and upkeep of Gospel Halls amounting to £46,271 were donated by Holyhead Gospel Hall Trust during the year.

#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

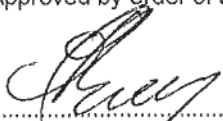
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires 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;
- 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 charity will continue in business.

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 2008 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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 04/02/2020 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
M Brasse - Trustee

I report on the accounts for the year ended 5 April 2019, which are set out on pages seven to eleven.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I have examined your charity's accounts as required under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. that accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. that the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. that the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
4. that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Sandra Thurgood FCCA FMAAT CPA BSc  
6 Rookery Walk  
Clifton  
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Date: .....11/2/2020.....



Severn Gospel Hall Trust

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	5.4.19 Total funds £	5.4.18 Total funds £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
	2				
Running Gospel Hall Trusts		46,271	-	46,271	3,870
Other Activities		684,864	-	684,864	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>731,135</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>731,135</b>	<b>3,870</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Running Gospel Hall Trusts		13,792	-	13,792	3,925
Depreciation		14,002	-	14,002	-
Other Activities		-	-	-	432,700
<b>Governance costs</b>		<b>1,624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>7,467</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>29,418</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,418</b>	<b>444,092</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>					
		701,717	-	701,717	(440,222)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>501,053</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>501,053</b>	<b>941,275</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>1,202,770</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,202,770</b>	<b>501,053</b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

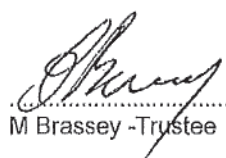
Severn Gospel Hall Trust

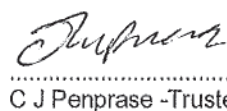
Balance Sheet

At 5 April 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	5.4.19 Total funds £	5.4.18 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	4	1,202,717	-	1,202,717	500,000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank		993	-	993	1,053
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(940)	-	(940)	-
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		53	-	53	1,053
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		1,202,770	-	1,202,770	501,053
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		1,202,770	-	1,202,770	501,053
<b>FUNDS</b>	6				
Unrestricted funds				1,202,770	501,053
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				1,202,770	501,053

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 February 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
M Brassey -Trustee

  
C J Penprase -Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2019

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

**Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	- 2% on cost
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**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**2. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

A grant of £684,864 in respect of the transfer of two Gospel Halls was received from Holyhead Gospel Hall Trust.

**3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 5 April 2019 nor for the year ended 5 April 2018.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 5 April 2019 nor for the year ended 5 April 2018.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2019

**4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold property £
<b>COST</b>	
At 6 April 2018	500,000
Additions	716,719
At 5 April 2019	<u>1,216,719</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
Charge for year	<u>14,002</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 5 April 2019	<u>1,202,717</u>
At 5 April 2018	<u>500,000</u>
Freehold property comprises: The Mount (Title No SL160633) Whitcroft (Title No SL199031) Bowbrook (Title No SL239758)	

**5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	5.4.19 £	5.4.18 £
Other creditors	<u>940</u>	<u>-</u>

**6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 6.4.18 £	Net movement in funds £	At 5.4.19 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	501,053	701,717	1,202,770
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>501,053</u>	<u>701,717</u>	<u>1,202,770</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	731,135	(29,418)	701,717
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>731,135</u>	<u>(29,418)</u>	<u>701,717</u>



Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2019

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 6.4.17 £	Net movement in funds £	At 5.4.18 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General fund	941,275	(440,222)	501,053
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>941,275</u>	<u>(440,222)</u>	<u>501,053</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	3,870	(444,092)	(440,222)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>3,870</u>	<u>(444,092)</u>	<u>(440,222)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 6.4.17 £	Net movement in funds £	At 5.4.19 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	941,275	261,495	1,202,770
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>941,275</u>	<u>261,495</u>	<u>1,202,770</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	735,005	(473,510)	261,495
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>735,005</u>	<u>(473,510)</u>	<u>261,495</u>