

Somerset Churches Trust
Trustees Report and
Unaudited Accounts
For the year ended 30 June 2021

Registered Charity number: 1055840

Somerset Churches Trust

Reference and Administrative Information

NAME : Somerset Churches Trust

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER : 1055840

ADDRESS : c/o Harris & Harris
14 Market Place
Wells
Somerset BA5 2RE

WEBSITE: www.somersetchurchestrust.org

BANKERS:

National Westminster Bank plc
The Commons
Shaftesbury Dorset
SP7 8JY

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
80 Cheapside
London EC2V 6DZ

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Malling
Kent ME19 4TA

United Trust Bank Limited
One Ropemaker Street
London EC2Y 9AW

TRUSTEES: The Trustees are listed in the appended Trustees' Report

SECRETARY: Jim Allwood
25 Church Close
Martock
Somerset TA12 6DS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Roland J. Adamson BA FCA

OBJECTS: The Trust is an independent non-denominational body to raise money and make grants for the preservation and repair of churches and chapels in the historic county of Somerset. It also exists to encourage greater interest and involvement by all members of the community, whether churchgoing or not, in the magnificent heritage of religious buildings in the county.

Somerset Churches Trust

Chairman's statement on the activities, achievements and future plans of the Trust

In 2019 we put on a fine programme of church visits (crawls), which were well attended. These were fascinating events, giving members an opportunity to learn more about our terrific heritage in Somerset. Our very informative annual members' talk was given in November 2019 by Dr Tim O'Connor, an architectural historian who focusses on buildings and church monuments in Dorset and Somerset.

In 2020, the work of Somerset Churches Trust has understandably been under the cloud of Covid19. Many activities have had to be postponed (I hope only until 2021) but our Trustees, Management Committee, Assessors and Crawl Organisers are all committed to bringing our physical (as opposed to virtual) presence back as soon as permitted.

The Trust depends upon two main sources of income: membership subscriptions and the annual Ride+Stride charity fundraising campaign. Membership subscriptions remain strong but we still need to expand our subscriber base. However, Ride+Stride financial results in 2019 were disappointing, even with professional fundraising support. Naturally, this is an area high on the agenda for Trustees.

We are active in the County in promoting issues of importance to churches and chapels: for example, our lead theft roof alarm campaign which has successfully concluded (since the end of our reporting period), having distributed £30,000 of funding from Allchurches Trust plus sums from our own funds, to contribute towards parish churches investing in their own roof alarms.

There are other challenges. In common with other funding bodies generally, some grant-giving organisations are redefining their priorities, making the pump-priming grants from Somerset Churches Trust even more important. It also affects a source of our own funding. As a Trust we are conscious of this and are looking at other funding models, but what is important to us is a steady stream of new members. Membership is the lifeblood of the Trust.

2021 is the Trust's 25th Anniversary. We will have ready a packed programme of visits, organised by a dedicated team who are all keen to provide a balance of opportunities to learn more about our historic churches and chapels. The Trustees' objectives for the next 25 years are to keep churches and chapels alive, and I am most grateful to them, and all involved, for their continued support and commitment.

Axel Palmer, Chairman

dd/mm/2021

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard for guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

TRUSTEES as at 30 June 2021

Jim Allwood

Bob Croft

Chris Hawkings (Vice-Chairman)

Ven. Simon Hill

Marion Jeffrey

Very Rev. Bob Key

Dr Axel Palmer (Chairman)

Philip Skelhorn

Anthony Sutcliffe

Very Rev. Bob Key was appointed as a trustee in July 2020.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The Trust is governed by Trust Deed dated 9 May, 1996. On 1 January 2014 the name of the Trust was changed from "Friends of Somerset Churches and Chapels" to "Somerset Churches Trust".

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees are appointed for an initial term of five years which is then renewable. Power of appointment is vested in the Trustees having regard to the different skills and backgrounds that inform the activities of the Trust. Trustees are offered training in their responsibilities as a Trustee.

ORGANISATION

The Trust has no paid employees. Day-to-day operations are conducted by the Trustees, and by officers who are appointed by the Trustees.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees keep under review administrative procedures and the risks to which the Trust may be subject and take such steps as is necessary in those respects. A risk assessment has been developed which is periodically reviewed by the Trustees.

RESERVES, GRANT-MAKING AND INVESTMENT POLICIES

The policy of the trust is to apply the whole of its funds, apart from the Endowment Fund, in grants for the preservation and repair of, and the provision of community facilities in, churches and chapels in the historic county of Somerset. The Unrestricted Funds are held to meet needs as they arise and the Trustees aim to hold a reserve of funds to ensure that any urgent requests can be accommodated and that a consistent policy can be adopted for the making of grants. Unrestricted Funds are where possible held in interest bearing deposits, except for funds for immediate needs which are maintained in a current account. Designated Funds are where possible held in interest bearing deposits.

The Endowment Fund reflects money specifically donated to create a capital fund on which income arising will be used for the purpose set out in note 4 on page 7. These monies are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund.

On behalf of the Trustees

Axel Palmer, Chairman

dd/mm/2021

SOMERSET CHURCHES TRUST

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Somerset Churches Trust

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 30 June 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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 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 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Roland J. Adamson BA FCA
Chartered Accountant
45 Shakespeare Avenue
Bath
BA2 4RG

10th November 2021