

**Somerset Churches Trust**  
**Trustees Report and**  
**Unaudited Accounts**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

**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](http://www.somersetchurchestrust.org)

BANKERS  
National Westminster Bank plc  
5 South Street  
Wincanton  
Somerset BA9 9DJ

CCLA Investment Management Ltd  
80 Cheapside  
London EC2V 6DZ

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

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

SECRETARY : Mrs S Newsom  
Corton Ridge  
Weston Bampfylde  
Yeovil  
BA22 7HT

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

2015/16 has been another busy year for the Trust, with not only the Playfair Prize presentation at Wells Town Hall in October but also the usual programme of church crawls and other events. Our Annual Meeting was held in April at Downside Abbey.

The programme for next year promises the usual range of interesting visits and talks. I do hope that you can come along and enjoy good company and educational activity. Our Annual Meeting will be on Saturday 8th April 2017 at St Benedict's Church Glastonbury at 2.00 pm. Following the meeting there will be a guided tour of Glastonbury Abbey specifically for our members and guests. I do hope to see you there.

Again, this has been a year of change. Paul Heal, whose wisdom as Treasurer was so beneficial, has moved up to a bigger rôle as chairman of Bath Theatre Royal Trust – congratulations, Paul – and we welcome Tony Davies as our new Treasurer and Trustee. Maxine Irving has been obliged to stand down as our PR guru, but thankfully we have found an eager replacement in Elizabeth Farrow. Lindsey Shaw-Miller also stood down as a Trustee, as did Archdeacon John Reed on his retirement from the Diocese. Both will be missed.

It is very important for the well-being of any charity that those involved in running the organisation do not become stale and that there is always an injection of new ideas. In recent years Trustees have considered how long office holders should remain in post and in light of this in October 2016 I concluded that I should stand down as chairman. It has been a great privilege to hold that office and I am indebted to Hugh Playfair who has been my mentor during my tenure. But it is time for a new set of eyes and fresh energies to spur on the Trust to achieve its aims. I will continue to act as a Trustee as I want to carry on playing my part.

As no current Trustee has yet stepped forward we are advertising for a new Chairman. So if you know of someone who has suitable skills and a passion for churches and the rôle which they play in their communities please ask them to get in touch!

Financially, our income in 2015/16 dropped by some 10%. Our expenditure rose substantially: both to fund the Playfair prizes, and also in line with our policy of increasing grant giving by depleting our reserves. In fact our grant awards of £58,700 were over twice the previous year's total.

We continue to struggle to engage widespread participation in Ride+Stride. Although across the whole country there has this year been a diminution in this event as a source of funding, other counties still achieve considerable amounts. We need to achieve better support for Ride+Stride and we need to identify other methods of enhancing our income. We also need to increase membership, and engage more effectively with the churches and chapels of Somerset so that a higher percentage become members. Those will be the challenges of the incoming Chairman, but as individuals everyone has a part that they can play.

David Sisson, Chairman

23/1/2017



## SOMERSET CHURCHES TRUST

### Trustees Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2016

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2016.

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.

#### TRUSTEES as at 30 June 2016

**Jennifer Beazley**  
**Tony Davies (Treasurer)**  
**Angela Dudley**  
**Chris Hawkings**  
**William Newsom**  
**Hugh Playfair**  
**David Sisson (Chairman)**  
**John Wood**

Tony Davies was appointed as a Trustee in April 2016. Lindsey Shaw-Miller resigned in October 2015, Paul Heal in January 2016 and Ven. John Reed in April 2016. Since the year-end, Charles Cain was appointed as a trustee in July 2016 and John Wood resigned in August 2016.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The Trust is governed by Trust Deed dated 9 May, 1996

### CHANGE OF NAME

On 1 January 2014 the name of the Trust was changed 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 and consideration is given to the balance to represent the different skills and backgrounds that inform the activities of the Trust. Trustees are offered training in their responsibilities as a Trustee.

### 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 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 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 balance 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.

The Designated Funds are to assist in maintaining a consistent level of grant giving over a period of years. 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 3 on page 7. These monies are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund.

On behalf of the Trustees  
David Sisson (Chairman)

  
23/1/2017  
Page 3

## 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 2016, 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;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to 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  
1 North Parade Passage  
Bath  
BA1 1NX



~~22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016~~

27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Somerset Churches Trust**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**for the Year Ended 30 June 2016**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	2015
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Subscriptions</b>	17,269			17,269	16,729
including tax relief on subscriptions					
<b>Donations</b>					
General (inc tax relief)	4,721			4,721	8,583
Playfair Prize		1,210		1,210	500
Deposit interest	161			161	162
Investment income			839	839	823
<b>Events</b>					
2015 Ride+Stride (inc tax relief)	5,970			5,970	8,446
Playfair Prize award ceremony	1,337			1,337	
Church visits and other events	796			796	1,777
<b>Publications and advertising</b>	952			952	808
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>31,206</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>33,255</b>	<b>37,828</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
General expenses	(97)	-	-	(97)	(191)
Postage	0	-	-	0	(307)
Web site costs	(308)	-	-	(308)	(173)
General printing	(1,093)	-	-	(1,093)	(770)
Insurance	(219)	-	-	(219)	(201)
Marketing display material	(350)	-	-	(350)	(213)
Events	(393)	-	-	(393)	(615)
Playfair prizes & event expenses	(864)	(6,810)	-	(7,674)	-
Donations	0	-	-	0	(83)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(3,324)</b>	<b>(6,810)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(10,134)</b>	<b>(2,553)</b>
<b>SURPLUS BEFORE GRANTS PAID</b>	<b>27,882</b>	<b>(5,600)</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>23,121</b>	<b>35,275</b>
<b>GRANTS PAID (note 7)</b>	<b>(31,300)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(31,300)</b>	<b>(19,500)</b>
<b>EXCESS/(DEFICIT) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(3,418)</b>	<b>(5,600)</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>(8,179)</b>	<b>15,775</b>

**Somerset Churches Trust**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**as at 30 June 2016**

**ASSETS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Designated Funds (note4)</b>	<b>Endowment Fund (note3)</b>	<b>Total Funds 2016</b>	<b>Total Funds 2015</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Investment (at market value)</b>					
Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF):					
1,779.3 Income Units	-	-	22,553	22,553	22,037
Investment income not yet paid as grants			1,667	1,667	828
<b>Gift aid due on subscriptions received</b>	1,599	-	-	1,599	1,801
<b>Bank Balances</b>	71,001	20,000	0	91,001	93,512
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>72,600</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>24,220</b>	<b>116,820</b>	<b>118,178</b>

**SOURCE OF FUNDS**

<b>Funds Brought Forward</b>	69,713	25,600	22,865	118,178	101,032
Transfer from Designated Fund					15,775
Investment income			839	839	
Investment gain in year			516	516	1,371
Deficit for the year	(3,418)	(5,600)		(9,018)	
HMRC overpayment	6,305			6,305	
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>72,600</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>24,220</b>	<b>116,820</b>	<b>118,178</b>

**PROVISIONS**

Amount due to HMRC (note 6)	(6,305)			(6,305)	
<b>Grants approved but not paid at 30 June 2016 (note 7)</b>	<b>(55,700)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(55,700)</b>	<b>28,300</b>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Anthony L Davies MA MBA FIC CMC (Hon Treasurer)

**Somerset Churches Trust**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the Year Ended 30 June 2016**

1 The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and with applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice.  
 Tax recoverable (gift aid) on subscriptions received during the year is included in the statement of assets; all other transactions are accounted for on a receipts and payments basis.

2 Bank balances, except funds for immediate needs, are all in interest bearing accounts.

3 Endowment Fund at market value (permanent fund)

This represents a legacy of £20,000 from the late Robert Hill. The income to be used for grants to churches in the Axbridge deanery of the diocese of Bath and Wells .

	£
Balance at 30 June 2015	22,865
Investment gain in year	516
Investment income	839
Grants paid	-
Balance at 30 June 2016	<u>24,220</u>

4 Designated funds

(a) The designated fund brought forward of £20,000 is for the purpose of creating a capital sum to assist in maintaining a consistent level of grant giving over a period of time.

No grants have been made from this fund during the current or previous year.

(b) Donations totalling £5,600, previously held as a designated fund for the Playfair Prize, were awarded, in the autumn of 2015

5 No Trustee received any remuneration or other benefits during the current or previous year.  
 Routine out of pocket expenses such as postage, stationery and approved travel expenses are reimbursed.

6 In May 2013 the Trust was paid by HMRC an amount of £6,304.72 to which the Trust is not entitled.  
 We have made HMRC aware of this error and await a response.  
 This amount was not recognised in the 2014-15 accounts.



**Somerset Churches Trust**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the Year Ended 30 June 2016**

7

Grants paid in the year	£
Trudoxhill Congregational Church	2,000
Bicknoller, St George	2,000
Yeovil, St John the Baptist	5,000
Fivehead, St Martin	1,000
Norton sub Hamdon, St Mary	2,000
Raddington, St Michael	2,000
Lydeard, St Lawrence	2,800
Bridgwater, Holy Trinity	4,000
Langford Budville, St Peter	1,000
Weston Zoyland, St Mary	5,000
Horsington, St John the Baptist	4,000
Compton Dundon, St Andrew	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>31,300</u></b>

Grants outstanding at 30 June 2016	£
Enmore, St Michael	4,000
Williton Methodist Church	7,500
Bridgwater, Holy Trinity	2,000
Merriott, All Saints	600
Stoke sub Hamdon, St Mary	1,500
Chew Stoke, St Andrew	4,500
Frome, Holy Trinity	3,000
Coleford, Holy Trinity	2,000
Whitestaunton, St Andrew	1,000
Nunney, All Saints	10,000
Chantry, Holy Trinity	2,000
Preston Pluncknett, St James	1,000
East Harptree, St Laurence	5,000
North Perrott, St Martin	5,000
Curry Mallet, All Saints	5,000
West Buckland, St Mary	1,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>55,700</u></b>