

BRIGHTON AND HOVE REFORM SYNAGOGUE

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2022

Charity Registration No. 1155461

BRIGHTON AND HOVE REFORM SYNAGOGUE
Summary Financial Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Summary Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Synagogue is a constituent member of the Movement for Reform Judaism and is itself a registered Charity (No.1155461). These accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Warning Statement

These Summarised Accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Synagogue. The summary is extracted from the full unaudited accounts which are available on request from the Synagogue office a Palmeira Avenue, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3GE.

Council Statement

We confirm that the accounts as shown represent a summary of information extracted from the Annual Report and Accounts of Brighton and Hove Reform Synagogue approved by the Council.

By Order of the Council



Sharon Rose
Chair

Date: 16 June 2022

Palmeira Avenue
Hove
East Sussex
BN3 3GE

Independent Examiner's Statement to the Members of Brighton and Hove Reform Synagogue

I have examined the summary financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2022 as presented.

Respective Responsibilities of the Council and the Independent Examiner

The Council are responsible for preparing the summary financial statement in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendation of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102).

My responsibility is to report to you my opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement with the full annual financial statements.

I also read other information contained in the summary financial statement and consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial information. The other information comprises only the summary financial report.

Basis of opinion

My report on the synagogue's full annual financial statements describes the basis of my opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion the summarised financial statement is consistent with the full annual financial statements of Brighton and Hove Reform Synagogue for the year ended 31 March 2022.



Ian Matthews (FCA, ICAEW)
On behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants

Date: 17 June 2022

Betchworth House
57-65 Station Road
Redhill
Surrey
RH1 1DL

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Achievements and Performance during the year

Adult membership was down 9 to 391 during the 2021 calendar year and child membership was up by 18 to 93. This demonstrates the ongoing impact of the closure of the Synagogue building, which was closed due to the pandemic throughout the previous financial year. During the year we gained 27 (2021 - 16) new adult members and lost 36 (2021 - 35), of which 13 (2021 - 20) were as a result of death and the others mostly moved away or lapsed membership for financial reasons. This was the sixth consecutive year in which our adult membership declined, for reasons which are controversial, but certainly include demographic change in the Jewish population nationally.

The Synagogue reopened for services with limited attendance late in 2020 but we have struggled to re-establish attendances at their previous levels. Congregants were certainly deterred by the ongoing pandemic risk, the need to wear masks and socially distance and our well-advised but often uncomfortable policy on ventilation. We brought in a pre-booking requirement for services to limit numbers and this was discontinued early in 2022. All services continue to be available on Zoom and attract a small but regular number of congregants.

Our numerous activity groups continued to cater for a growing number of requirements. We had members and others studying religious texts under the Rabbi on-line, the book-club continued, and the group learning to "leyn" (chant in Hebrew from the Torah scroll) also worked online. We have not yet reinstated our popular teas for the elderly and most social events except for simchas held as socially distanced events after services were impossible, but welfare activity continued by phone, and there were additional calls to members old and new.

Our choir returned to communal singing when it was permitted in Summer 2021, but they sung in the balcony well distanced from the Congregation. For the High Holydays in September 2021 numbers in Synagogue were limited to 75 on a pre-booked basis, which meant congregations were considerably smaller than usual. The services were also available simultaneously on YouTube.

Once again our greatest achievement was to keep the Cheder (religion school) operating on-line returning to in-person teaching in September 2020. Teaching on-line worked well where it included the active participation of parents. "Kuddle-up" for the youngest and Cheder for school age children up to Bar/Batmitzvah age have both continued, with monthly learning service for the Bnei Mitzvah students, who also have received one-to-one support. We have a Youth Leader working in co-operation with RJ Netzer, RJ's youth group, who provided online and in person youth activities for the 8-13 age group throughout the year. We also started a Membership Engagement Project in connection with Reform Judaism.

Our office staff continued their work, part of which they were able to do from home, which works well. Our bi-monthly magazine (Sha'are Shalom), and the colourful High Holy Day magazine appeared as usual.

The Council continued to meet monthly on Zoom and the emergency weekly sessions were discontinued as the pandemic restrictions ebbed.

Financial Review

Our total income in 2022 excluding legacies and funerals in both years was £184,661 (2021: £190,752) down 3%. The decrease of £6,091 was mainly caused by the absence of any income from grants for furlough which were £12,585 last year even though subscription income increased by £5,884 after dropping in 2021 by £13,337. Unfortunately, there was almost no recovery in income from all those activities relying on the use of the Synagogue building such as social events, room hire and ticket sales. Funeral related income fell post-pandemic by £59,976 in the year to £67,504, and although this source of income does tend to vary substantially between years, this was the lowest for very many years.

The net operating surplus as shown in these accounts, before investment gains, was £10,422 (2021 - £27,646 deficit). This included £30,927 of redevelopment related legal costs, offset by the large legacy. On a consistent "repeatable" basis before those elements of income and cost which are one-off or uncontrollable (funerals, legacies and redevelopment costs), the operating deficit in 2022 was £40,018 (2021- £63,861 deficit). This consistent basis is what we use internally to track our activity and the improvement results from a fall in "repeatable" expenditure of £29,934 to £224,679. We made savings from the staffing reductions made as a result of the pandemic which cut administrative and Cheder employment costs by £20,465 (24%) and caretaker/cleaning costs by £5,659. Employment costs had been offset by the furlough grant in 2021. Conversely utility costs increased as we reopened the building. The Movement for Reform Judaism cut its subscriptions by £6,915 or 28%.

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For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Non-operating items were again favourable in 2022 with investment valuations generating a further gain of £49,526 (2021 - £148,851) after a loss of £105,957 in 2020. We also received a legacy from the estate of Harry Zurich z"l following the death of his widow of £80,635 for which the Council is extremely grateful (2021 – other legacies were £11,719). This was our second largest legacy for at least the last two decades. However, the large fall in funeral income meant a reduced profit on funerals of £732 was generated this year.

Reserves

Cash balances decreased this year to £83,449 (2021 - £95,832) despite some rebalancing between cash and investments to ensure adequate cash was held for operating needs. Free (General) reserves after deduction of fixed assets yet to be depreciated have increased to £839,525 (2021 - £788,539). The Council still considers that the Synagogue should retain cash reserves of at least £100,000 to cover emergencies and cushion against large swings and seasonality in income and expenditure, not least from unpredictable funerals and legacies which we have always experienced. We expect that our redevelopment project, which is still in the planning stage but making better progress, will require us to spend some of these reserves but will eventually provide a cash benefit from reduced expenditures to aid recovery of our reserves.

Going Concern

The Trustees have considered the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and the measures taken to contain it, on the synagogue and its ability to continue as a going concern. Although the ultimate impact cannot be finally determined, the Synagogue reopened in June 2021, and is now operating virtually as normal.

The Trustees have concluded that due to various factors including the Synagogue's level of cash and investments, there is a reasonable expectation that the Synagogue has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Consequently, the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

The Coming Year

The Council have prepared a preliminary budget for 2022-23 and expects to incur an operating deficit. We know that elements of our income such as legacies, funerals and investment performance are anyway uncertain, but we plan to focus on:

- Adult Education - a review and updated programme of events and Shiurs (study sessions)
- Avodah - a review of our services and issues around attendance
- Cheder (Religion school) and Young People- continued support and focus of our thriving and vibrant Cheder.
- Constitution Review – including introducing term limits for all Council members
- Eco Synagogue - for BHRS to be a member of the Eco Synagogue and review of our relevant practices and procedures
- Membership Engagement - Introduction of a Befrienders Programme and events around welcoming and new members
- Redevelopment of our building
- Social Activity - to increase in person activities and events

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance relating to bodies for the advancement of religion. We are constitutionally required to prioritise the provision of Jewish religious services, and the Council performs that duty through the employment of a Rabbi, the training of lay readers, and the provision of a large, beautiful and appropriate Sanctuary. In addition, in normal times the Council fulfils its duty for "other charitable activities" through active dedication to:

- Pastoral care, both to members and on occasion to other Jewish people in the Sussex area.
- Education both for adults and children in topics both specifically Jewish and of general Jewish interest; and
- Perpetuation of the Jewish community, fulfilled through fundraising as well as other social and pastoral activities. Our activities are popular amongst both members and other people in the community.

By Order of the Council



Sharon Rose
Chair

Date: 16 June 2022

Palmeira Avenue
Hove
East Sussex
BN3 3GE

BRIGHTON AND HOVE REFORM SYNAGOGUE
Unaudited Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Donations, gifts and legacies	91,244	2,871	94,115	25,422
Other Trading Activities				
Trading activities	11,769	1,411	13,180	57,644
Charitable Activities	144,722	58,648	203,370	225,116
Investment Income	22,135	-	22,135	21,769
Total Operating Income	<u>269,870</u>	<u>62,930</u>	<u>332,800</u>	<u>329,951</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Raising Funds				
Generating Voluntary Income	-	3,831	3,831	3,844
Goods sold and services provided	493	-	493	433
Total cost of raising funds	493	3,831	4,324	4,277
Charitable Activities	265,190	52,864	318,054	353,320
Total Operating Expenditure	<u>265,683</u>	<u>56,695</u>	<u>322,378</u>	<u>357,597</u>
Net Operating Income	4,187	6,235	10,422	(27,646)
Unrealised gains on Investments	49,526	-	49,526	148,851
Net Movement in Funds	53,713	6,235	59,948	121,205
Total Funds Brought Forward	<u>953,919</u>	<u>97,227</u>	<u>1,051,146</u>	<u>929,941</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward	<u>1,007,632</u>	<u>103,462</u>	<u>1,111,094</u>	<u>1,051,146</u>

BRIGHTON AND HOVE REFORM SYNAGOGUE
Unaudited Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		168,107		165,380
Investments		<u>863,698</u>		<u>817,715</u>
		<u>1,031,805</u>		<u>983,095</u>
Current Assets				
Judaica Shop Stock	1,877		1,701	
Funeral Plots	372		372	
Debtors and Prepayments	33,081		17,036	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	<u>83,449</u>		<u>95,832</u>	
	<u>118,779</u>		<u>114,941</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(39,490)</u>		<u>(46,890)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>79,289</u>		<u>68,051</u>
Total Net Assets		<u><u>1,111,094</u></u>		<u><u>1,051,146</u></u>
Accumulated Funds				
Restricted Funds		103,462		97,227
Unrestricted Funds - Designated	168,107		165,380	
Unrestricted Funds - General	<u>839,525</u>		<u>788,539</u>	
		<u>1,007,632</u>		<u>953,919</u>
		<u><u>1,111,094</u></u>		<u><u>1,051,146</u></u>

Approved by the Synagogue Council on 16 June 2022 and signed on its behalf by



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Sharon Rose - Chair



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Peter Vos - Treasurer