THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

England & Wales · Charity number 1126849

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06691633
Registered	2008-11-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Stanway Evangelical Church Chapel Road Stanway Colchester CO3 0PU
Phone	07745455936
Website	www.uec-churches.net

Activities

Objects: THE FURTHERANCE OF THE CHARITABLE WORK OF THE CHARITY BY THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUCH OTHERCHARITABLE PURPOSES AS THE DIRECTORS SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.

Activities: The object of the charity is to maintain the Company premises for the purpose and the benefit of the Union of Evangelical Churches (UEC) and for the promotion and performance of the religious beliefs and practices of the UEC.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- City Of London
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£415,495	£481,703	-	-
2023-12-31	£481,850	£897,821	-	-
2022-12-31	£528,847	£679,293	£17,646,542	6
2021-12-31	£725,120	£418,710	£17,521,003	7
2020-12-31	£387,155	£395,682	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carl Page		2021-07-06
Christopher Mayers		2019-03-06
Christopher Neil Banks		2010-09-09
ERIC GEORGE BLOWES		2008-09-08
JOHN HENRY GARDNER		2024-11-14
Jagjit Johal		2023-11-14
James Oladunjoye		2025-01-03
KEITH BRITTON		2010-09-09
KEVIN ROBERT LITTLE		2010-09-09
Leandro Merigio		2018-04-25
MALCOLM RICHARDS		2010-09-09
RICHARD WILLIAM PARTRIDGE		2010-09-09
Rev DENNIS EDDIE IVEY		2010-09-09
STEPHEN JAMES FARROW		2013-10-09
STEPHEN PAUL BUDD		2018-04-25
Stephen Whitton		2024-11-14
Trevor John Matthews		2019-03-06
dr Yonah Mwampulo		2019-09-14

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THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1126849

Accounts

Charity registration number 1126849

Company registration number 06691633 (England and Wales)

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustee Directors	E Blowes	
	G Cutmore	(Resigned 23/12/2024)
	C Banks	
	M Richards	
	K Britton	
	K Little	
	F Hintze	(Resigned 06/10/2024)
	R Partridge	
	D Ivey	
	S Farrow	
	L Merigio	
	S Budd	
	T Matthews	
	C Mayers	
	A Nix	
	Y Mwampulo	
	P Loose	
	C Page	
	P Landy	(Resigned 14/11/2024)
	J Johal	
	J Gardner	(Appointed 14/11/2024)
	S Whitton	(Appointed 14/11/2024)
Company Secretary	Mr H R Gardner	
Charity number	1126849	
Company number	06691633	
Registered office	Stanway Evangelical Church Chapel Road Stanway Colchester Essex United Kingdom CO3 0PU	
Auditor	Azets Audit Services 7-8 Britannia Business Park Comet Way Southend-On-Sea Essex United Kingdom SS2 6GE	

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustee Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 14 Churches situated in Essex, east London and south-east London, and owns chapels and houses at 18 sites. As a charitable company, it seeks to add value to the outreach and ministry of each individual UEC Church, and to present the denomination to today's society as a viable and relevant organisation, speaking the truths of the Gospel and providing relevant activities to each local community.

Head Office

The UEC continued to provide an office staffed for two days each week, giving administrative, insurance, legal and management support and advice to member Churches. It continued to expand the content of the UEC Handbook with information and advice on a range of subjects to ensure compliance in all matters relevant to Churches' activities in today's society; Ministers and Church officers also have access to a cloud version of the Handbook.

Ministerial Committee
The Ministerial Committee met every three months or so, and monitored the spiritual health of member Churches, sometimes intervening in the life of struggling Churches. Each member of the committee was allocated a group of UEC Ministers, to "come alongside" them and offer pastoral support as necessary, and this seems to be helpful. It was agreed to let our connection with Affinity lapse, and our connection with the FIEC is dormant.

The committee was pleased to put forward Steve Whitton and John Gardner to be appointed Associate Ministers at Camberwell Evangelical Church, and their Ordination and Induction service will take place in January 2025. Progress was made to find someone to be appointed to Southend Evangelical Church, with plans to appoint in February 2025. Some consideration was given to the strategy of appointing Children's Workers by each Church, but nothing positive developed.

Finance & General Purposes Committee
The F&GP Committee (known as the Finance Committee) met every two months or so, and discussed a wide range of topics, procedures, needs and opportunities. It continued to monitor the capital invested (which still shows good returns) and this included meeting twice during the year with the Managing Director of Kingsfleet Wealth, which handles our investments.

In conjunction with each respective Church, the committee also reviewed the buildings portfolio under the name 5BIP – the Five-Year Building Inspection Programme (carried out by independent surveyors). This proved to be useful in highlighting defects in the buildings. This committee approved bespoke repairs – sometimes major costs were involved - and it was hoped that all repairs will be completed by Spring 2025. Rebuild Cost Assessments were made on all buildings, to give guidance for future insurance premiums as well as identifying necessary repairs.

Serious consideration was given to a wide range of legal, practical, administrative and management aspects of operating the UEC as a charitable company. The UEC Handbook is available to all Ministers, Secretaries, Administrators and Treasurers.

The Finance Committee provided financial support to the Churches at Cressing and Chelmsford. Financial & Admin Reports were presented to Board meetings and proved helpful in the careful stewardship of monies available; these are supported with Quarterly Management Accounts, to show outgoings as well as incomes. The UEC's general financial position is improving and is in a sound financial position. Income from its investments continues to grow.

Churches' progress during the year
Some Churches in the Union are showing signs of positive growth and witness in their respective communities. It is recognised that change and its accompanying risks are necessary for Churches to grow in these post-modern times.

Board meetings
Eric Blowes (Retired Minister at Stanway EC) and Chris Banks (Senior Minister at Daws Heath) were appointed as Co-Chairmen for 2025. Once again Azets were appointed as Auditors for 2024. The Board confirmed its wish to close the Promotion Committee and its responsibilities (mainly the Prayer Focus magazine, the Week of Prayer leaflet, organising Quarterly Prayer Meetings, and managing the social media platforms and the UEC website) to the Ministerial Committee. The process of selling the chapel at Shoebury made some progress – some expressions of interest seemed positive but then fell away. To date there is no firm offer to buy, but the last half of the year saw the two tenants begin to close their activities, and by December the building was closed and empty.

The Board was asked to review its Safeguarding Policy, so that it is more comprehensive than the list of papers and documents currently in the Handbook. The Finance Committee will look at this and report back. In response to the Government's anti-fraud regulations, all Board members were asked to send their ID details to the UEC Office; this will be completed by early 2025.

Plans for Future Periods
The following strategic initiatives are continually considered and actioned as appropriate:

- the support, promotion and development of Bible-based Christian ministry and outreach, including relevant training. This includes the provision of financial support for individuals to attend training courses.

- help and encouragement to all of our Churches to identify what style and combination of ministries work best in their locality and support them in implementing their programmes. This includes making information available from outside of the UEC, for Churches to acquire and use where appropriate.

- the development of training programmes that will help expand the activities available to children and people of all ages, to help reconnect with those who are two or three generations away from our Christian heritage. This may include unusual or asymmetrical activities or programmes and reviewing procedures to see which work best in the local setting.

- Encouragement to be open and welcoming to those seeking answers to the big questions of life, so that they perceive "Church" as somewhere to call their "spiritual home" and so flourish.

- contributing to local communities through activities provided by Churches (such as a Foodbank and taking part in or organising community activities) and through co-operating with other like-minded Churches and organisations outside of the UEC.

- monitoring and improving the financial wellbeing of the UEC, including encouraging each Church to continue with its own fund-raising (mainly from its own members and friends).

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

During the year there were the following resignations and appointments:

F Hintze	Resigned 6th October 2024
P Landy	Resigned 14th November 2024
G Cutmore	Resigned 23rd December 2024
J Gardner	Appointed 14th November 2024
S Whitton	Appointed 14th November 2024

Organisational structure
The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and the policy of the charity. The Directors carry the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the charity and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations. Trustees meet at a minimum of three times a year.

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 14 Churches, whose results are included within these financial statements. It also owns three properties (two of which are Manses for the incumbent Ministers, and one which is privately let), and a two-bedroom flat as an integral part of one church premises, and a three-bedroom flat as an integral part of another church premises. It also owns another chapel which is let for community purposes weekdays and used by another Church on Sundays. The respective cash balances showing per the accounts at the year-end belong to the individual UEC Churches in question.

Induction and training of new Trustee Directors
New Trustee Directors are briefed on their obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Agreement for Common Purposes (known as the ACP), the committees and decision-making procedures.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Trustee Directors report was approved by the Trustee Directors.

Howard R Gardner
.....

Mr H R Gardner
Company Secretary
Dated: 22 July 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustee Directors, who are also the Directors of The Union of Evangelical Churches for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustee Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires them 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 charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The Trustee Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union of Evangelical Churches (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee Directors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustee Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustee Directors report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustee Directors' responsibilities, the Trustee Directors, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee Directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

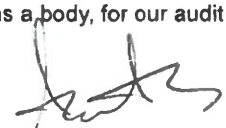
- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul East (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

7-8 Britannia Business Park
Comet Way
Southend-On-Sea
Essex
United Kingdom
SS2 6GE

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	339,675	-	339,675	413,687
Investments	4	75,820	-	75,820	68,163
Total income		415,495	-	415,495	481,850
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities & Governance costs	5&6	479,940	1,763	481,703	897,821
Loss on tangible fixed asset		-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		479,942	1,763	481,705	897,821
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	49,969	-	49,969	32,605
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(14,476)	(1,763)	(16,239)	(383,366)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		645,539	-	645,539	2,249,093
Net movement in funds		631,063	(1,763)	629,300	1,865,727
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		19,510,506	1,763	19,512,269	17,646,542
Reserve Movement		631,063	(1,763)	629,300	1,865,727
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		20,141,569	-	20,141,569	19,512,269

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		18,595,478		17,950,805
Investments	12		1,043,098		1,082,130
			19,638,576		19,032,935
Current assets					
Debtors	13	10,353		38,659	
Cash at bank and in hand		895,524		843,325	
		905,877		881,984	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(8,865)		(12,837)	
Net current assets			897,012		869,147
Total assets less current liabilities			20,535,588		19,902,082
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(394,019)		(389,813)
Net assets			20,141,569		19,512,269
Income funds					
Restricted funds			-		1,763
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted funds		20,891,181		20,905,657	
Revaluation reserve		(749,612)		(1,395,151)	
			20,141,569		19,510,506
			20,141,569		19,512,269

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2024, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustee Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The Trustee Directors have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on .

E G Blowes
Trustee Director

Company Registration No. 06691633

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Stanway Evangelical Church, Chapel Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0PU, United Kingdom.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102)'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustee Directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the charity continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal construction obligation committing the charity to that expenditure. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregated all costs 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.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Property improvements	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	15% on reducing balance
Computers	15% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the reviews the charity carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial Instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when there is a commitment to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Gifts, Donations and Legacies	314,139	-	314,139	303,041
Sundry Income	4,265	-	4,265	7,595
Government Grants	-	-	-	59,829
Gift Aid refunds	21,271	-	21,271	43,222
	339,675	-	339,675	413,687

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Investment Income	18,000	18,000
Rents Received	50,471	45,015
Interest receivable	7,349	5,148
	75,820	68,163

5 Charitable activities

Unrestricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Stipends, salaries and expenses	118,343	157,683
Youth and children's work	2,758	2,231
Fellowship events	838	4,345
Training and study material	950	172
Subscriptions and conferences	4,560	3,421
Music and sound licence	2,998	2,545
Missionary expenditure	37,312	54,448
Gift and donations	1,165	6,060
Outreach event and activities	5,262	7,026
Visiting speakers	7,363	5,128
Advertising and website	541	1,212
Office costs	22,510	27,922
Motor and travel	3,743	5,704
Insurances	16,655	15,440
Utilities	47,673	56,848
Building expenses	14,910	8,420
Telephone	3,607	3,341
Repairs and maintenance	156,675	376,441
Music and PA expenses	2,751	3,474
Postage, printing and stationery	2,462	2,690
Refreshments	3,110	4,395
Book-Keeping	1,020	1,120
Sundries	1,881	1,113
Depreciation	865	950
Bank Charges	280	383
Service Costs	10,128	4,710
	470,360	**757,222**

Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Repairs and maintenance	1,763	133,906
Legal and professional fees	-	-
	1,763	**133,906**

6 Governance Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Audit fees	6,672	5,940
Legal and professional	2,908	753
	9,580	6,693

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £6,672 (2023- £5,940) for audit fees.

7 Trustee Directors' Remuneration and Benefits

Trustee Directors' stipends and other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2024 totalled £111,458 (2023: £106,207).

The Trustee Directors were reimbursed from travel and mileage expenses incurred when performing their work on behalf of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Ministers	6	5
Church Worker	2	1
Total	6	6

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	49,969	32,605

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Property improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2024	17,297,661	647,858	7,229	14,562	17,967,310
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	645,539	-	-	-	645,539
At 31 December 2024	17,943,200	647,858	7,229	14,562	18,612,849
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2024	-	-	6,201	10,305	16,506
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	154	711	865
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	-	-	6,355	11,016	17,371
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2024	17,943,200	647,858	1,029	3,546	18,595,478
At 31 December 2023	17,297,661	647,858	1,029	4,257	17,950,805

The Union has over many years acquired Churches and other Freehold Properties. The cost of most of the early acquisitions would not be possible to establish. The Trustee Directors have therefore brought these properties into the accounts at the latest insurance valuations with due reduction made in the valuation for costs included which apply to reinstatement values only.

11 **Tangible fixed assets** **(Continued)**

The Freehold Property is made up of the following:

	2024	2023
Camberwell	2,031,209	1,942,237
Canning Town	1,949,148	1,871,990
Chelmsford	1,024,594	986,006
Corringham	888,651	849,062
Cressing	987,219	951,511
Daws Heath	337,343	325,909
Eastwood	920,267	796,627
Great Wakering	1,051,390	932,409
Shoebury	765,796	732,311
Southend on Sea	1,252,778	1,202,988
Stanford Le Hope	905,639	870,288
Stanway	2,030,800	1,878,475
Totham	667,140	694,216
Wickford	755,304	981,021
Witham	1,402,878	1,356,574
	16,970,156	16,371,624
House Buildings		
Canning Town	347,043	333,307
Chelmsford	324,184	310,792
Cressing	301,817	281,938
	973,044	926,037
Total	**17,943,200**	**17,297,661**

The Charity obtains annual valuations of the properties held at the year ended and as at 31st December 2024 there was an increase of £645,539 in the amount brought forward from 2023. The above 2024 valuations are based on the current rebuilding costs, as advised by the insurers.

12 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments
Cost or valuation	£
At 1 January 2024	1,082,130
Disposals	-
Valuation change	(39,032)
At 31 December 2024	1,043,098
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2024	1,043,098
At 31 December 2023	1,082,130

13 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	9,645	37,951
Prepayments and accrued income	708	708
	10,353	38,659

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,758	1,875
Accruals and deferred income	7,107	10,962
	8,865	12,837

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	394,019	389,813

16 Related party transactions

There were related party transactions with the Trustee Directors which totalled £1,020 (2023: £2,840) for administration purposes within the year. £435 of this was outstanding at the year end.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1126849

Accounts

IKN

Charity registration number 1126849

Company registration number 06691633 (England and Wales)

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustee Directors	E Blowes G Cutmore C Banks M Richards K Britton K Little F Hintze R Partridge D Ivey S Farrow L Merigio S Budd T Matthews C Mayers A Nix Y Mwampulo P Loose C Page P Landy J Johal
Company Secretary	Mr H R Gardner
Charity number	1126849
Company number	06691633
Registered office	Stanway Evangelical Church Chapel Road Stanway Colchester Essex United Kingdom CO3 0PU
Auditor	Azets Audit Services 7-8 Britannia Business Park Comet Way Southend-On-Sea Essex United Kingdom SS2 6GE

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustee Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 14 Churches situated in Essex, east London and south-east London, and owns chapels and houses at 18 sites. As a charitable company, it seeks to add value to the outreach and ministry of each individual UEC Church, and to present the denomination to today's society as a viable and relevant organisation, speaking the truths of the Gospel and providing relevant activities to each local community.

Head Office

The UEC continued to provide an office staffed for two days each week, giving administrative, insurance, and legal and management support and advice to member Churches. It continued to expand the content of the *UEC Handbook* with information and advice on a range of subjects to ensure compliance in all matters relevant to Churches' activities in today's society. The relocation of the office to Stanway Evangelical Church has turned out to be beneficial in many ways.

Ministerial Committee
The Ministerial Committee met every three months or so, and monitored the spiritual health of member Churches, sometimes intervening in the life of struggling Churches. The "decline" mentality that has characterised the UEC for many years is less prominent and the committee is keen to assist Churches to be more growth orientated; however, the legacy of the covid pandemic was still affecting some Church activities. A Vision Day was held in September 2023, but was poorly attended; Leadership Teams were invited to attend, and those that did found it helpful. The committee decided to allocate each committee member a group of UEC Ministers, to "come alongside" them and offer pastoral support as necessary. The committee met with senior staff from the FIEC with a view to re-instating the connection and fellowship previously enjoyed; enquiries will also be made to Affinity, where our connection/membership had also lapsed.

The committee was pleased to put forward Jag Johal to be a Minister at Wickford Evangelical Church. His Ordination and Induction service takes place in January 2024.

Finance & General Purposes Committee
The F&GP Committee (known as the Finance Committee) met every two months or so, and discussed a wide range of topics, procedures, needs and opportunities. It continued to monitor the capital invested (which still shows good returns) and this included meeting twice during the year with the Managing Director of Kingsfleet Wealth, which handles our investments. In conjunction with each respective Church, the committee also reviewed the buildings portfolio (houses, flats and church premises) to ensure they are fit for purpose. The Tri-Ennial Property Surveys (TEPS) were replaced by 5BIP – the Five-Year Building Inspection Programme (carried out by independent surveyors) and this is proving to be more useful in highlighting defects in the buildings. It is managed by this committee, with bespoke repairs etc being discussed with each Church; some buildings were in a poor state of repair, and it was hoped that all repairs will be completed by Spring 2024. Serious consideration was given to a wide range of legal, practical, administrative and management aspects of operating the UEC as a charitable company. The UEC Handbook available to all Ministers, Secretaries, Administrators and Treasurers, is updated as necessary and is now available in the "cloud" version.

The Finance Committee provided financial support to the Churches at Corringham, Cressing and Chelmsford. Financial & Admin Reports were presented to Board meetings following each FC meeting and are proving helpful in the careful stewardship of monies available. The UEC's general financial position is improving. Income from its investments continues to grow.

Promotion Committee
The Promotion Committee (accountable to the Finance Committee) continued to produce well-run and professional events and publications. Fewer events were organised; the Faith Matters Day at Southend EC was attended by 36 people, which included members of that Church.

The *Prayer Focus* house magazine continued to be an excellent and useful publication (looking back and looking forward), and was distributed not only to UEC Churches, but far beyond. The *Week of Prayer* leaflet was also produced and very well-received. Consideration was given to organising a UEC Family Day, and to re-instating the Quarterly Prayer Meetings, which have encouraged the local Churches that hosted them; these may happen in 2024. Christine Oxenham continued in her role as Chair.

Churches' progress during the year
Some Churches in the Union are showing signs of positive growth and witness in their respective communities. It is recognised that change and its accompanying risks are necessary for Churches to grow in these post-modern times. Some are struggling, and so benefit from being part of a group of Churches; others began to re-instate their face-to-face programmes – weekday meetings and groups as well as Sunday services.

Structural surveys on all the UEC chapels and churches were conducted (the 5BIP programme) and using some of the monies from the sale of Rayleigh Evangelical Church, necessary repairs have begun. Camberwell EC is still looking for a Minister; at Grove Road EC, Chelmsford, electrical repairs works are likely; Eastwood EC is in need of additional leadership; at Great Wakering, Carl Page is now an Associate Minister, and the Church looks for a Minister to lead the fellowship; at Little Totham the building works required are nearly completed; at Shoebury EC, the community work managed by Hub 151 is developing well, and the Balm of Gilead Church has full (and increasing) use of the building on Sundays; at Southend EC, the Church flat is now occupied and the rental from this is being put into a fund for a successor pastor in due time; at Stanford le Hope the Fresh Hope Community Church is beginning to make progress; Stanway EC's building project is now complete and in increasing use for community events; at Valley Church, Witham, progress is being made in outreach ministries, but no progress in finding a Minister.

Reviewing the work of all the Churches (including those not mentioned above), it seems that the effects of covid have been left behind, although the legacy still affects attitudes to outreach etc.; most Churches are beginning to look forward, with services and meetings re-instated, and new projects considered or begun.

Board meetings
Eric Blowes (Retired Minister at Stanway EC) and Chris Banks (Senior Minister at Daws Heath) were appointed as Co-Chairmen for 2024. Once again Azets were appointed as Auditors for 2024. The Board decided to retain most of the PP and UEC memorabilia by having it scanned and saved for future access; some legal documents etc. are held at the UEC office. Informal Discussions – as part of Board deliberations – have been moderately useful, but sometimes inconclusive. The Board decided that the Promotion Committee is no longer appropriate to the UEC activities and would therefore cease, subject to a vote in 2024. In November, the Board was very pleased to agree to the proposal from the Ministerial Committee appoint Jag Johal to be a Minister at Wickford Evangelical Church. The Board agreed with the proposal from the Finance Committee to begin the process of selling the chapel at Shoebury. Following an informal survey, the Board was pleased to cancel the outstanding loan to Cressing Community Church.

Plans for Future Periods
The following strategic initiatives are continually considered and actioned as appropriate:

- the support, promotion and development of Bible-based Christian ministry and outreach, including relevant training. This includes consideration of another Vision Day, and the provision of financial support for individuals to attend training courses.

- help and encouragement to all of our Churches to identify what style and combination of ministries work best in their locality and support them in implementing their programmes. This includes making

information available from outside of the UEC, for Churches to acquire and use where appropriate.

- the development of training programmes that will help expand the activities available to children and people of all ages, to help reconnect with those who are two or three generations away from our Christian heritage. This may include unusual or asymmetric activities or programmes and reviewing procedures to see which work best in the local setting.

- Encouragement to be open and welcoming to those seeking answers to the big questions of life, so that they perceive "Church" as somewhere to call their "spiritual home" and so flourish.

- contributing to local communities through activities provided by Churches (such as a Foodbank and taking part in or organising community activities) and through co-operating with other like-minded Churches and organisations outside of the UEC

- monitoring and improving the financial wellbeing of the UEC, including encouraging each Church to continue with its own fund-raising (mainly from its own members and friends).

Structure, governance and management
Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Organisational structure
The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and the policy of the charity. The Directors carry the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the charity and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations. Trustees meet at a minimum of three times a year.

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 14 Churches, whose results are included within these financial statements. It also owns three properties (two of which are Manses for the incumbent Ministers, and one which is privately let), and a two-bedroom flat as an integral part of one church premises, and a three-bedroom flat as an integral part of another church premises. It also owns another chapel which is let for community purposes weekdays and used by another Church on Sundays. The respective cash balances showing per the accounts at the year-end belong to the individual UEC Churches in question.

Induction and training of new Trustee Directors
New Trustee Directors are briefed on their obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Agreement for Common Purposes (known as the ACP), the committees and decision-making procedures.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Trustee Directors report was approved by the Trustee Directors.

Howard R Gardner
.....
Mr H R Gardner

Company Secretary

Dated: 16 July 2024

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustee Directors, who are also the Directors of The Union of Evangelical Churches for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustee Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires them 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 charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The Trustee Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is 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.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union of Evangelical Churches (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee Directors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustee Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustee Directors report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustee Directors' responsibilities, the Trustee Directors, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee Directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul East (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

7-8 Britannia Business Park
Comet Way
Southend-On-Sea
Essex
United Kingdom
SS2 6GE

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	353,912	59,775	413,687	461,438
Investments	4	68,163	-	68,163	67,409
Total income		422,075	59,775	481,850	528,847
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities & Governance costs	5&6	763,915	133,906	897,821	679,293
Loss on tangible fixed asset	9	-	-	-	796,129
Total expenditure		763,915	133,906	897,821	1,475,422
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	32,605	-	32,605	(50,772)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(309,235)	(74,131)	(383,366)	(997,347)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		2,249,093	-	2,249,093	1,122,886
Net movement in funds		1,939,858	(74,131)	1,865,727	125,539
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		17,570,648	75,894	17,646,542	17,521,003
Reserve Movement		-	-	-	181,026
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		17,570,648	75,894	17,646,542	17,646,542

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		17,950,805		15,702,659
Investments	12		1,082,130		1,169,525
			19,032,935		16,872,184
Current assets					
Debtors	13	38,659		41,845	
Cash at bank and in hand		843,325		1,120,952	
		881,984		1,162,798	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(12,837)		(37,254)	
Net current assets			869,147		1,125,544
Total assets less current liabilities			19,902,082		17,997,728
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(389,813)		(351,186)
Net assets			19,512,269		17,646,542
Income funds					
Restricted funds			1,763		75,894
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted funds		20,905,657		21,214,892	
Revaluation reserve		(1,395,151)		(3,644,244)	
			19,510,506		17,570,648
			19,512,269		17,646,542

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustee Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The Trustee Directors have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on . 16 July 2024

E G Blowes
Trustee Director

Company Registration No. 06691633

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Stanway Evangelical Church, Chapel Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0PU, United Kingdom.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102)'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustee Directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the charity continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity .

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal construction obligation committing the charity to that expenditure. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregated all costs 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.

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1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Property improvements	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	15% on reducing balance
Computers	15% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the reviews the charity carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial Instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 **Employee benefits**

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 **Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Gifts, Donations and Legacies	303,041	-	303,041	304,721
Sundry Income	7,595	-	7,595	336
Government Grants	54	59,775	59,829	95,462
Gift Aid refunds	43,222	-	43,222	60,919
	353,912	59,775	413,687	461,438

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment Income	20,830	18,000
Rents Received	45,015	47,842
Interest receivable	2,318	1,567
	68,163	67,409

5 Charitable activities

Unrestricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Stipends, salaries and expenses	157,683	112,359
Youth and children's work	2,231	2,478
Fellowship events	4,345	224
Training and study material	172	1,093
Subscriptions and conferences	3,421	1,255
Music and sound licence	2,545	2,300
Missionary expenditure	59,158	44,868
Gift and donations	6,060	4,666
Outreach event and activities	7,026	6,430
Visiting speakers	5,128	6,603
Advertising and website	1,212	661
Office costs	27,922	24,025
Motor and travel	5,704	3,085
Insurances	15,440	16,245
Utilities	56,848	39,287
Building expenses	8,420	6,218
Telephone	3,341	3,476
Repairs and maintenance	376,441	132,030
Music and PA expenses	3,474	4,993
Postage, printing and stationery	2,690	6,253
Refreshments	4,395	1,360
Book-Keeping	1,120	975
Sundries	1,113	2,095
Depreciation	950	904
Bank Charges	383	666
Service costs	-	3,381
	757,222	**427,930**

Restricted funds

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Repairs and maintenance	133,906	226,504
Legal and professional fees	-	18,995
	133,906	245,499

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Governance Costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Audit fees	5,940	5,406
Legal and professional	753	458
	6,693	5,864

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £5,940 (2022- £5,406) for audit fees.

7 Trustee Directors' Remuneration and Benefits

Trustee Directors' stipends and other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2023 totalled £157,683) (2022: £112,359).

The Trustee Directors were reimbursed from travel and mileage expenses incurred when performing their work on behalf of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Ministers	5	5
Church Worker	1	1
Total	6	6

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Net gains/(losses) on tangible fixed assets

	Unrestricted funds	Total
		£
	2023	2022
Net loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(796,129)
	-	(796,129)

10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	32,605	(50,772)

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Property improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2023	15,048,568	647,858	7,229	14,562	15,718,217
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	2,249,093	-	-	-	2,249,093
At 31 December 2023	17,297,661	647,858	7,229	14,562	17,967,310
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2023	-	-	6020	9,538	15,558
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	180	767	947
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	-	6,200	10,305	16,505
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2023	17,297,661	647,858	1,029	4,257	17,950,805
At 31 December 2022	15,048,568	647,858	1,209	5,024	15,702,659

The Union has over many years acquired Churches and other Freehold Properties. The cost of most of the early acquisitions would not be possible to establish. The Trustee Directors have therefore brought these properties into the accounts at the latest insurance valuations with due reduction made in the valuation for costs included which apply to reinstatement values only.

11 Tangible fixed assets **(Continued)**

The Freehold Property is made up of the following:

	2023	2022
Camberwell	1,942,237	1,734,140
Canning Town	1,871,990	1,671,419
Chelmsford	986,006	880,362
Corringham	849,062	758,091
Cressing	951,511	849,563
Daws Heath	325,909	290,990
Eastwood	796,627	711,274
Great Wakering	932,409	832,508
Shoebury	732,311	653,849
Southend on Sea	1,202,988	1,074,096
Stanford Le Hope	870,288	777,042
Stanway	1,878,475	1,245,210
Totham	694,216	619,835
Wickford	981,021	875,911
Witham	1,356,574	1,211,226
	16,371,624	14,185,516
House Buildings		
Canning Town	333,307	306,817
Chelmsford	310,792	292,430
Cressing	281,938	263,805
	926,037	863,052
Total	**17,297,661**	**15,048,568**

The Charity obtains annual valuations of the properties held at the year ended and as at 31st December 2023 there was an increase of £2,249,093 in the amount brought forward from 2022. The above 2023 valuations are based on the current rebuilding costs, as advised by the insurers.

12 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023	1,169,525
Disposals	(120,000)
Valuation change	32,605
At 31 December 2023	1,082,130
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	1,082,130
At 31 December 2022	1,169,525

13 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	37,951	41,137
Prepayments and accrued income	708	708
	38,659	41,845

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,875	7,470
Accruals and deferred income	10,962	29,784
	12,837	37,254

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	389,813	351,186

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

16 Related party transactions

There were related party transactions with the Trustee Directors which totalled £8,162 for administration and repair purposes within the year. £540 of this was outstanding at the year end..

Charity registration number 1126849

Company registration number 06691633 (England and Wales)

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustee Directors	E Blowes G Cutmore C Banks M Richards K Britton K Little F Hintze R Partridge D Ivey S Farrow L Merigio S Budd T Matthews C Mayers A Nix Y Mwampulo P Loose C Page P Landy J Johal
Company Secretary	Mr H R Gardner
Charity number	1126849
Company number	06691633
Registered office	Stanway Evangelical Church Chapel Road Stanway Colchester Essex United Kingdom CO3 0PU
Auditor	Azets Audit Services 7-8 Britannia Business Park Comet Way Southend-On-Sea Essex United Kingdom SS2 6GE

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustee Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 14 Churches situated in Essex, east London and south-east London, and owns chapels and houses at 18 sites. As a charitable company, it seeks to add value to the outreach and ministry of each individual UEC Church, and to present the denomination to today's society as a viable and relevant organisation, speaking the truths of the Gospel and providing relevant activities to each local community.

Head Office

The UEC continued to provide an office staffed for two days each week, giving administrative, insurance, and legal and management support and advice to member Churches. It continued to expand the content of the *UEC Handbook* with information and advice on a range of subjects to ensure compliance in all matters relevant to Churches' activities in today's society. The relocation of the office to Stanway Evangelical Church has turned out to be beneficial in many ways.

Ministerial Committee
The Ministerial Committee met every three months or so, and monitored the spiritual health of member Churches, sometimes intervening in the life of struggling Churches. The "decline" mentality that has characterised the UEC for many years is less prominent and the committee is keen to assist Churches to be more growth orientated; however, the legacy of the covid pandemic was still affecting some Church activities. A Vision Day was held in September 2023, but was poorly attended; Leadership Teams were invited to attend, and those that did found it helpful. The committee decided to allocate each committee member a group of UEC Ministers, to "come alongside" them and offer pastoral support as necessary. The committee met with senior staff from the FIEC with a view to re-instating the connection and fellowship previously enjoyed; enquiries will also be made to Affinity, where our connection/membership had also lapsed.

The committee was pleased to put forward Jag Johal to be a Minister at Wickford Evangelical Church. His Ordination and Induction service takes place in January 2024.

Finance & General Purposes Committee
The F&GP Committee (known as the Finance Committee) met every two months or so, and discussed a wide range of topics, procedures, needs and opportunities. It continued to monitor the capital invested (which still shows good returns) and this included meeting twice during the year with the Managing Director of Kingsfleet Wealth, which handles our investments. In conjunction with each respective Church, the committee also reviewed the buildings portfolio (houses, flats and church premises) to ensure they are fit for purpose. The Tri-Ennial Property Surveys (TEPS) were replaced by 5BIP – the Five-Year Building Inspection Programme (carried out by independent surveyors) and this is proving to be more useful in highlighting defects in the buildings. It is managed by this committee, with bespoke repairs etc being discussed with each Church; some buildings were in a poor state of repair, and it was hoped that all repairs will be completed by Spring 2024. Serious consideration was given to a wide range of legal, practical, administrative and management aspects of operating the UEC as a charitable company. The UEC Handbook available to all Ministers, Secretaries, Administrators and Treasurers, is updated as necessary and is now available in the "cloud" version.

The Finance Committee provided financial support to the Churches at Corringham, Cressing and Chelmsford. Financial & Admin Reports were presented to Board meetings following each FC meeting and are proving helpful in the careful stewardship of monies available. The UEC's general financial position is improving. Income from its investments continues to grow.

Promotion Committee
The Promotion Committee (accountable to the Finance Committee) continued to produce well-run and professional events and publications. Fewer events were organised; the Faith Matters Day at Southend EC was attended by 36 people, which included members of that Church.

The *Prayer Focus* house magazine continued to be an excellent and useful publication (looking back and looking forward), and was distributed not only to UEC Churches, but far beyond. The *Week of Prayer* leaflet was also produced and very well-received. Consideration was given to organising a UEC Family Day, and to re-instating the Quarterly Prayer Meetings, which have encouraged the local Churches that hosted them; these may happen in 2024. Christine Oxenham continued in her role as Chair.

Churches' progress during the year
Some Churches in the Union are showing signs of positive growth and witness in their respective communities. It is recognised that change and its accompanying risks are necessary for Churches to grow in these post-modern times. Some are struggling, and so benefit from being part of a group of Churches; others began to re-instate their face-to-face programmes – weekday meetings and groups as well as Sunday services.

Structural surveys on all the UEC chapels and churches were conducted (the 5BIP programme) and using some of the monies from the sale of Rayleigh Evangelical Church, necessary repairs have begun. Camberwell EC is still looking for a Minister; at Grove Road EC, Chelmsford, electrical repairs works are likely; Eastwood EC is in need of additional leadership; at Great Wakering, Carl Page is now an Associate Minister, and the Church looks for a Minister to lead the fellowship; at Little Totham the building works required are nearly completed; at Shoebury EC, the community work managed by Hub 151 is developing well, and the Balm of Gilead Church has full (and increasing) use of the building on Sundays; at Southend EC, the Church flat is now occupied and the rental from this is being put into a fund for a successor pastor in due time; at Stanford le Hope the Fresh Hope Community Church is beginning to make progress; Stanway EC's building project is now complete and in increasing use for community events; at Valley Church, Witham, progress is being made in outreach ministries, but no progress in finding a Minister.

Reviewing the work of all the Churches (including those not mentioned above), it seems that the effects of covid have been left behind, although the legacy still affects attitudes to outreach etc.; most Churches are beginning to look forward, with services and meetings re-instated, and new projects considered or begun.

Board meetings
Eric Blowes (Retired Minister at Stanway EC) and Chris Banks (Senior Minister at Daws Heath) were appointed as Co-Chairmen for 2024. Once again Azets were appointed as Auditors for 2024. The Board decided to retain most of the PP and UEC memorabilia by having it scanned and saved for future access; some legal documents etc. are held at the UEC office. Informal Discussions – as part of Board deliberations – have been moderately useful, but sometimes inconclusive. The Board decided that the Promotion Committee is no longer appropriate to the UEC activities and would therefore cease, subject to a vote in 2024. In November, the Board was very pleased to agree to the proposal from the Ministerial Committee appoint Jag Johal to be a Minister at Wickford Evangelical Church. The Board agreed with the proposal from the Finance Committee to begin the process of selling the chapel at Shoebury. Following an informal survey, the Board was pleased to cancel the outstanding loan to Cressing Community Church.

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Plans for Future Periods
The following strategic initiatives are continually considered and actioned as appropriate:

- the support, promotion and development of Bible-based Christian ministry and outreach, including relevant training. This includes consideration of another Vision Day, and the provision of financial support for individuals to attend training courses.

- help and encouragement to all of our Churches to identify what style and combination of ministries work best in their locality and support them in implementing their programmes. This includes making

information available from outside of the UEC, for Churches to acquire and use where appropriate.

- the development of training programmes that will help expand the activities available to children and people of all ages, to help reconnect with those who are two or three generations away from our Christian heritage. This may include unusual or asymmetric activities or programmes and reviewing procedures to see which work best in the local setting.

- Encouragement to be open and welcoming to those seeking answers to the big questions of life, so that they perceive "Church" as somewhere to call their "spiritual home" and so flourish.

- contributing to local communities through activities provided by Churches (such as a Foodbank and taking part in or organising community activities) and through co-operating with other like-minded Churches and organisations outside of the UEC

- monitoring and improving the financial wellbeing of the UEC, including encouraging each Church to continue with its own fund-raising (mainly from its own members and friends).

Structure, governance and management
Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Organisational structure

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and the policy of the charity. The Directors carry the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the charity and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations. Trustees meet at a minimum of three times a year.

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 14 Churches, whose results are included within these financial statements. It also owns three properties (two of which are Manses for the incumbent Ministers, and one which is privately let), and a two-bedroom flat as an integral part of one church premises, and a three-bedroom flat as an integral part of another church premises. It also owns another chapel which is let for community purposes weekdays and used by another Church on Sundays. The respective cash balances showing per the accounts at the year-end belong to the individual UEC Churches in question.

Induction and training of new Trustee Directors

New Trustee Directors are briefed on their obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Agreement for Common Purposes (known as the ACP), the committees and decision-making procedures.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Trustee Directors report was approved by the Trustee Directors.

Howard R Gardner

.....

Mr H R Gardner

Company Secretary

Dated: 16 July 2024

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustee Directors, who are also the Directors of The Union of Evangelical Churches for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustee Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires them 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 charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The Trustee Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is 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.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of The Union of Evangelical Churches (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee Directors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustee Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustee Directors report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustee Directors' responsibilities, the Trustee Directors, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee Directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul East (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

7-8 Britannia Business Park
Comet Way
Southend-On-Sea
Essex
United Kingdom
SS2 6GE

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	353,912	59,775	413,687	461,438
Investments	4	68,163	-	68,163	67,409
Total income		422,075	59,775	481,850	528,847
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities & Governance costs	5&6	763,915	133,906	897,821	679,293
Loss on tangible fixed asset	9	-	-	-	796,129
Total expenditure		763,915	133,906	897,821	1,475,422
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	32,605	-	32,605	(50,772)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(309,235)	(74,131)	(383,366)	(997,347)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		2,249,093	-	2,249,093	1,122,886
Net movement in funds		1,939,858	(74,131)	1,865,727	125,539
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		17,570,648	75,894	17,646,542	17,521,003
Reserve Movement		-	-	-	181,026
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		17,570,648	75,894	17,646,542	17,646,542

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**11**		17,950,805		15,702,659
Investments	**12**		1,082,130		1,169,525
			19,032,935		16,872,184
Current assets					
Debtors	**13**	38,659		41,845	
Cash at bank and in hand		843,325		1,120,952	
		881,984		1,162,798	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**14**	(12,837)		(37,254)	
Net current assets			869,147		1,125,544
Total assets less current liabilities			19,902,082		17,997,728
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**15**		(389,813)		(351,186)
Net assets			19,512,269		17,646,542
Income funds					
Restricted funds			1,763		75,894
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted funds		20,905,657		21,214,892	
Revaluation reserve		(1,395,151)		(3,644,244)	
			19,510,506		17,570,648
			19,512,269		17,646,542

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustee Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The Trustee Directors have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on . 16 July 2024

E G Blowes
Trustee Director

Company Registration No. 06691633

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Stanway Evangelical Church, Chapel Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0PU, United Kingdom.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102)'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustee Directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the charity continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity .

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal construction obligation committing the charity to that expenditure. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregated all costs 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.

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1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Property improvements	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	15% on reducing balance
Computers	15% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the reviews the charity carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial Instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Gifts, Donations and Legacies	303,041	-	303,041	304,721
Sundry Income	7,595	-	7,595	336
Government Grants	54	59,775	59,829	95,462
Gift Aid refunds	43,222	-	43,222	60,919
	353,912	59,775	413,687	461,438

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment Income	20,830	18,000
Rents Received	45,015	47,842
Interest receivable	2,318	1,567
	68,163	67,409

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Charitable activities

Unrestricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Stipends, salaries and expenses	157,683	112,359
Youth and children's work	2,231	2,478
Fellowship events	4,345	224
Training and study material	172	1,093
Subscriptions and conferences	3,421	1,255
Music and sound licence	2,545	2,300
Missionary expenditure	59,158	44,868
Gift and donations	6,060	4,666
Outreach event and activities	7,026	6,430
Visiting speakers	5,128	6,603
Advertising and website	1,212	661
Office costs	27,922	24,025
Motor and travel	5,704	3,085
Insurances	15,440	16,245
Utilities	56,848	39,287
Building expenses	8,420	6,218
Telephone	3,341	3,476
Repairs and maintenance	376,441	132,030
Music and PA expenses	3,474	4,993
Postage, printing and stationery	2,690	6,253
Refreshments	4,395	1,360
Book-Keeping	1,120	975
Sundries	1,113	2,095
Depreciation	950	904
Bank Charges	383	666
Service costs	-	3,381
	757,222	**427,930**

Restricted funds

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Repairs and maintenance	133,906	226,504
Legal and professional fees	-	18,995
	133,906	245,499

6 Governance Costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Audit fees	5,940	5,406
Legal and professional	753	458
	6,693	5,864

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £5,940 (2022- £5,406) for audit fees.

7 Trustee Directors' Remuneration and Benefits

Trustee Directors' stipends and other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2023 totalled £157,683) (2022: £112,359).

The Trustee Directors were reimbursed from travel and mileage expenses incurred when performing their work on behalf of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Ministers	5	5
Church Worker	1	1
Total	6	6

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Net gains/(losses) on tangible fixed assets

	Unrestricted funds	Total
		£
	2023	2022
Net loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(796,129)
	-	(796,129)

10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	32,605	(50,772)

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Property improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2023	15,048,568	647,858	7,229	14,562	15,718,217
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	2,249,093	-	-	-	2,249,093
At 31 December 2023	17,297,661	647,858	7,229	14,562	17,967,310
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2023	-	-	6020	9,538	15,558
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	180	767	947
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	-	6,200	10,305	16,505
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2023	17,297,661	647,858	1,029	4,257	17,950,805
At 31 December 2022	15,048,568	647,858	1,209	5,024	15,702,659

The Union has over many years acquired Churches and other Freehold Properties. The cost of most of the early acquisitions would not be possible to establish. The Trustee Directors have therefore brought these properties into the accounts at the latest insurance valuations with due reduction made in the valuation for costs included which apply to reinstatement values only.

11 Tangible fixed assets **(Continued)**

The Freehold Property is made up of the following:

	2023	2022
Camberwell	1,942,237	1,734,140
Canning Town	1,871,990	1,671,419
Chelmsford	986,006	880,362
Corringham	849,062	758,091
Cressing	951,511	849,563
Daws Heath	325,909	290,990
Eastwood	796,627	711,274
Great Wakering	932,409	832,508
Shoebury	732,311	653,849
Southend on Sea	1,202,988	1,074,096
Stanford Le Hope	870,288	777,042
Stanway	1,878,475	1,245,210
Totham	694,216	619,835
Wickford	981,021	875,911
Witham	1,356,574	1,211,226
	16,371,624	14,185,516
House Buildings		
Canning Town	333,307	306,817
Chelmsford	310,792	292,430
Cressing	281,938	263,805
	926,037	863,052
Total	**17,297,661**	**15,048,568**

The Charity obtains annual valuations of the properties held at the year ended and as at 31st December 2023 there was an increase of £2,249,093 in the amount brought forward from 2022. The above 2023 valuations are based on the current rebuilding costs, as advised by the insurers.

12 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023	1,169,525
Disposals	(120,000)
Valuation change	32,605
At 31 December 2023	1,082,130
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	1,082,130
At 31 December 2022	1,169,525

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	37,951	41,137
Prepayments and accrued income	708	708
	38,659	41,845

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,875	7,470
Accruals and deferred income	10,962	29,784
	12,837	37,254

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	389,813	351,186

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

16 Related party transactions

There were related party transactions with the Trustee Directors which totalled £8,162 for administration and repair purposes within the year. £540 of this was outstanding at the year end..

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1126849

Accounts

Charity registration number 1126849

Company registration number 06691633 (England and Wales)

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustee Directors	E Blowes G Cutmore C Banks M Richards K Britton K Little F Hintze R Partridge D Ivey S Farrow L Merigio S Budd T Matthews C Mayers A Nix Y Mwampulo P Loose C Page P Landy
Company Secretary	Mr H R Gardner
Charity number	1126849
Company number	06691633
Registered office	Stanway Evangelical Church Chapel Road Stanway Colchester Essex United Kingdom CO3 0PU
Auditor	Azets Audit Services 1 Nelson Street Southend-On-Sea Essex United Kingdom SS1 1EG

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustee Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 14 Churches situated in Essex, east London and south-east London. As a charitable company, it seeks to add value to the outreach and ministry of each individual UEC Church, and to present the denomination to society as a viable and relevant organization, speaking the truths of the Gospel and providing relevant activities to each local community.

Head Office

The UEC continued to provide an office staffed for two days each week, giving administrative, insurance, and legal and management support and advice to member Churches. It continued to expand the content of the *UEC Handbook* with information and advice on a range of subjects to ensure compliance in all matters relevant to Churches' activities in today's society. In September 2022 the office relocated to Stanway Evangelical Church.

Ministerial Committee
The Ministerial Committee met every three months or so, and monitored the spiritual health of member Churches, including intervening actively in the life of struggling Churches. The "decline" mentality that has characterised the UEC for many years is less prominent and the committee is keen to assist Churches to be more growth orientated. It is expected that a Vision Day will be held in September 2023.

The committee was pleased to support Philip Loose as Pastor at Grove Road Evangelical Church, with financial support approved by the Finance Committee for three years.

Finance & General Purposes Committee
The F&GP Committee (known as the Finance Committee) met every two months or so, and discussed a wide range of topics, procedures, needs and opportunities. It continued to monitor the capital invested (which still shows good returns) and this included meeting twice during the year with the Managing Director of Kingsfleet Wealth, which handles our investments. In conjunction with each respective Church, the committee also reviewed the buildings portfolio (houses, flats and church premises) to ensure they are fit for purpose. The Tri-Ennial Property Surveys (TEPS) were replaced by 5BIP – the Five-Year Building Inspection Programme and this is proving to be more useful in highlighting defects in the buildings. It is managed by this committee, with bespoke repairs etc being discussed with each Church. Serious consideration was given to a wide range of legal, practical, administrative and management aspects of operating the UEC as a charitable company, and once again Azets were appointed as Auditors for 2023. The *UEC Handbook* available to all Ministers, Secretaries, Administrators and Treasurers, is updated as necessary and is now also available in the "cloud" version.

The Finance Committee provided financial support to the Churches at Corringham, Cressing and Chelmsford. Financial & Admin Reports are presented to Board meetings following each FC meeting and are proving helpful in the careful stewardship of monies available. The UEC's general financial position is improving. Income from its investments continues to grow. The Board decided regretfully to sell Rayleigh Evangelical Church, as it was becoming expensive to make it "fit for purpose". It now belongs to the Celestial Church of Christ, thus ensuring it will continue to be a place of worship.

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Promotion Committee
The Promotion Committee (accountable to the Finance Committee) continued to produce well-run and professional events and publications. The Women's Day Conference planned for this year finally took place in October and was well-received by the 15 ladies who attended. UEC Men's Breakfasts - sponsored by this committee – with a successful event at Southend. Two Faith Matters Days took place, at Valley Church, Witham and at Stanway EC.

The *Prayer Focus* house magazine continued to be an excellent and useful publication (looking back and looking forward), and was distributed not only to UEC Churches, but far beyond. The *Week of Prayer* leaflet was also produced and very well-received. Christine Oxenham continues in her role as Chair.

Churches' progress during the year
Some Churches in the Union are showing signs of positive growth and witness in their respective communities. It is recognised that change and its accompanying risks are necessary for Churches to grow in these post-modern times. Some are struggling, and so benefit from being part of a group of Churches; others began to re-instate their face-to-face programmes – weekday meetings and groups as well as Sunday services.

Structural surveys on all the UEC chapels and churches was conducted, and using some of the monies from the sale of Rayleigh Evangelical Church, necessary repairs can now be done. Camberwell EC is still looking for a Minister; at Grove Road EC, Chelmsford, Philip Loose was appointed Senor Minister; Eastwood EC is in need of additional leadership; at Great Wakering, plans were put in hand to receive Carl Page transferring from Southend EC; at Little Totham the building works required is much larger and more complicated than anticipated; at Shoebury EC, the community work managed by Hub 151 is developing well, and the Balm of Gilead Southend Church has full (and increasing) use of the building on Sundays; at Southend EC, the Church flat is now occupied and the rental from this will be put towards a fund for a successor pastor in due time; at Stanford le Hope the Fresh Hope Community Church is making progress; Stanway EC's building progress is proceeding apace and should be completed early 2023; at Valley Church, Witham, progress is being made in outreach ministries, but no progress in finding a Minister.

Reviewing the work of all the Churches (including those not mentioned above), it seems that the effects of covid have been left behind, and most Churches are looking forward, with services and meetings re-instated, and new projects considered or begun.

Board meetings
Eric Blowes (Minister at Stanway EC) and Chris Banks (Senior Minister at Daws Heath) were appointed as Co-Chairmen for 2023, and the meetings are becoming more active in discussions and looking forward.

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Plans for Future Periods
The following strategic initiatives are continually considered and actioned as appropriate:

- the support, promotion and development of Bible-based Christian ministry and outreach, including relevant training. This includes consideration of another Vision Day, and the provision of financial support for individuals to attend training courses.

- help and encouragement to all of our Churches to identify what style and combination of ministries work best in their locality and support them in implementing their programmes. This includes making information available from outside of the UEC, for Churches to acquire and use where appropriate.

- the development of training programmes that will help expand the activities available to children and people of all ages, to help reconnect with those who are two or three generations away from our Christian heritage. This may include unusual or asymmetric activities or programmes and reviewing procedures to see which work best in the local setting.

- Encouragement to be open and welcoming to those seeking answers to the big questions of life, so that they perceive "Church" as somewhere to call their "spiritual home" and so flourish.

- contributing to local communities through activities provided by Churches (such as a Foodbank and taking part in or organising community activities) and through co-operating with other like-minded Churches and organisations outside of the UEC

- monitoring and improving the financial wellbeing of the UEC, including encouraging each Church to continue with its own fund-raising (mainly from its own members and friends).

Structure, governance and management
Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Organisational structure

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and the policy of the charity. The Directors carry the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the charity and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations. Trustees meet at a minimum of three times a year.

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 14 Churches, whose results are included within these financial statements. It also owns three properties (two of which are Manses for the incumbent Ministers, and one which is privately let), and a two-bedroom flat as an integral part of one church premises, and a three-bedroom flat as an integral part of another church premises. It also owns another chapel which is let for community purposes weekdays and used by another Church on Sundays. The respective cash balances showing per the accounts at the year-end belong to the individual UEC Churches in question.

Induction and training of new Trustee Directors

New Trustee Directors are briefed on their obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Agreement for Common Purposes (known as the ACP), the committees and decision-making procedures.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Trustee Directors report was approved by the Trustee Directors.

Howard R Gardner

Mr H R Gardner

Company Secretary

Dated: 6 July 2023

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustee Directors, who are also the Directors of The Union of Evangelical Churches for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustee Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires them 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 charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The Trustee Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union of Evangelical Churches (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee Directors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustee Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustee Directors report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustee Directors' responsibilities, the Trustee Directors, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee Directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul East (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

1 Nelson Street
Southend-On-Sea
Essex
United Kingdom
SS1 1EG

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	321,071	140,367	461,438	685,417
Investments	4	67,409	-	67,409	39,703
Total income		388,480	140,367	528,847	725,120
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities & Governance costs	5&6	433,794	245,499	679,293	418,710
Loss on tangible fixed asset	9	796,129	-	796,129	-
Total expenditure		1,229,923	245,499	1,475,422	418,710
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	(50,772)	-	(50,772)	8,774
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(892,215)	(105,132)	(997,347)	315,184
Other recognised gains and losses					
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		1,122,886	-	1,122,886	(7,538,151)
Net movement in funds		230,671	(105,132)	125,539	(7,222,967)
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		17,521,003	-	17,521,003	24,743,970
Reserve Movement		(181,026)	181,026	-	-
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		17,570,648	75,894	17,646,542	17,521,003

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**11**		15,702.659		16,354,385
Investments	**12**		1,169,525		470,297
			16,872,184		16,824,682
Current assets					
Debtors	**13**	41,845		257,110	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,120,952		803,003	
		1,162,798		1,060,113	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**14**	(37,254)		(12,384)	
Net current assets			1,125,544		1,047,729
Total assets less current liabilities			17,997,728		17,872,411
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**15**		(351,186)		(351,408)
Net assets			17,646,542		17,521,003
Income funds					
Restricted funds			75,894		-
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted funds		21,214,892		22,288,133	
Revaluation reserve		(3,644,244)		(4,767,130)	
			17,570,648		17,521,003
			17,646,542		17,521,003

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustee Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The Trustee Directors have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on .

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E G Blowes
Trustee Director

Company Registration No. 06691633

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Stanway Evangelical Church, Chapel Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0PU, United Kingdom.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102)'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustee Directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the charity continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity .

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal construction obligation committing the charity to that expenditure. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregated all costs 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.

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1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Property improvements	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	15% on reducing balance
Computers	15% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the reviews the charity carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial Instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Gifts, Donations and Legacies	259,816	44,905	304,721	441,871
Sundry Income	336	-	336	800
Local Government Grants (106 clause)	-	95,462	95,462	186,000
Gift Aid refunds	60,919	-	60,919	56,746
	321,071	140,367	461,438	685,417

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Investment Income	18,000	13,000
Rents Received	47,842	26,664
Interest receivable	1,567	39
	67,409	39,703

5 Charitable activities

Unrestricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
Stipends, salaries and expenses	112,359	120,891
Youth and children's work	2,478	1,694
Fellowship events	224	342
Training and study material	1,093	152
Subscriptions and conferences	1,255	480
Music and sound licence	2,300	2,069
Missionary expenditure	44,868	53,580
Gift and donations	4,666	8,953
Outreach event and activities	6,430	3,984
Visiting speakers	6,603	3,562
Advertising and website	661	140
Office costs	24,025	20,653
Motor and travel	3,085	2,676
Insurances	16,245	13,182
Utilities	39,287	29,341
Building expenses	6,218	9,205
Telephone	3,476	3,549
Repairs and maintenance	132,030	90,137
Music and PA expenses	4,993	16,099
Postage, printing and stationery	6,253	6,316
Refreshments	1,360	1,259
Book-Keeping	975	620
Sundries	2,095	876
Depreciation	904	950
Bank Charges	666	353
Service costs	3,381	-
	427,930	**391,063**

Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Repairs and maintenance	226,504	-
Legal and professional fees	18,995	-
	245,499	-

6 Governance Costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Audit fees	5,406	5,778
Legal and professional	458	21,869
	5,864	27,647

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £5,406 (2021- £5,778) for audit fees.

7 Trustee Directors' Remuneration and Benefits

Trustee Directors' stipends and other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2022 totalled £112,359 (2021: £120,891).

The Trustee Directors were reimbursed from travel and mileage expenses incurred when performing their work on behalf of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Ministers	5	5
Church Workers	1	2
Total	6	7

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Net gains/(losses) on tangible fixed assets

	Unrestricted funds	Total
		£
	2022	2021
Net loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(796,129)	-
	(796,129)	-

10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	(50,772)	8,774

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Property improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2022	15,701,145	647,858	7,229	13,962	16,370,194
Additions	-	-	-	2,580	2,580
Disposals	(1,775,463)	-	-	(1,980)	(1,777,443)
Revaluation	1,122,886	-	-	-	1,122,886
At 31 December 2022	15,048,568	647,858	7,229	14,562	15,718,217
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2022	-	-	5,806	10,003	15,809
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	214	691	905
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	(1,156)	(1,156)
At 31 December 2022	-	-	6,020	9,538	15,558
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2022	15,048,568	647,858	1,209	5,024	15,702,659
At 31 December 2021	15,701,145	647,858	1,423	3,959	16,354,385

The Union has over many years acquired Churches and other Freehold Properties. The cost of most of the early acquisitions would not be possible to establish. The Trustee Directors have therefore brought these properties into the accounts at the latest insurance valuations with due reduction made in the valuation for costs included which apply to reinstatement values only.

11 Tangible fixed assets **(Continued)**

The Freehold Property is made up of the following:

	2022	2021
Camberwell	1,734,140	1,605,685
Canning Town	1,671,419	1,547,610
Chelmsford	880,362	815,150
Corringham	758,091	701,936
Cressing	849,563	787,000
Daws Heath	290,990	269,435
Eastwood	711,274	658,587
Great Wakering	832,508	770,840
Rayleigh	-	1,775,463
Shoebury	653,849	605,415
Southend on Sea	1,074,096	994,533
Stanford Le Hope	777,042	719,483
Stanway	1,245,210	1,152,972
Totham	619,835	573,921
Wickford	875,911	811,028
Witham	1,211,226	1,121,505
	14,185,516	14,910,563
House Buildings		
Canning Town	306,817	284,534
Chelmsford	292,430	265,341
Cressing	263,805	240,707
	863,052	790,582
Total	**15,048,568**	**15,701,145**

The Charity obtains annual valuations of the properties held at the year ended and as at 31st December 2022 there was an increase of £1,122,886 in the amount brought forward from 2021. The above 2022 valuations are based on the current rebuilding costs, as advised by the insurers.

12 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments
Cost or valuation	**£**
At 1 January 2022	470,297
Additions	750,000
Valuation change	(50,772)
At 31 December 2022	1,169,525
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2022	1,169,525
At 31 December 2021	470,297

13 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Trade debtors	41,137	257,110
Prepayments and accrued income	708	-
	41,845	257,110

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	**£**
Trade creditors	7,470	7,470
Accruals and deferred income	29,784	4,914
	37,254	12,384

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022	2021
	£	**£**
Other creditors	351,186	351,408

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16 Related party transactions

There were related party transactions with the Trustee Directors which totalled £975 for administration purposes within the year. £500 of this was outstanding at the year end..

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1126849

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1126849

Company Registration No. 06691633 (England and Wales)

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustee Directors	C N Banks E Blowes K Britton G Cutmore F Hintze D Ivey K Little R Partridge M Richards S Farrow W Hoggard (Resigned 30 November 2021) L Merigio S Budd G Marshall D Bigmore (Resigned 31 December 2021) A Nix T Matthews C Mayers Y Mwampulo P Loose C Page (Appointed 6 July 2021) P Landy (Appointed 1 Dec 2021)
Company Secretary	Mr H R Gardner
Charity number	1126849
Company number	06691633
Registered office	36 Eastwood Road Rayleigh Essex SS6 7JQ
Auditor	Azets Audit Services 1 Nelson Street Southend-On-Sea Essex SS1 1EG United Kingdom

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustee Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 15 Churches situated in Essex, east London and south-east London. As a charitable company, it seeks to add value to the outreach and ministry of each individual UEC Church, and to present the denomination to society as a viable and relevant organization, speaking the truths of the Gospel and providing relevant activities to each local community

Head Office

The UEC continued to provide an office staffed for two days each week, giving administrative, insurance, and legal and management support and advice to member Churches. It continued to expand the content of the *UEC Handbook* with information and advice on a range of subjects to ensure compliance in all matters relevant to Churches' activities in today's society.

The UEC's response to the Coronavirus pandemic
The Coronavirus pandemic had a continuing impact on the life of all the Churches during 2021. Most Churches still held services via Zoom or Teams or streamed them on YouTube or Facebook; all found new ways of supporting their members including phone calls, email and WhatsApp as well as holding committee meetings. However, UEC Board and Committee meetings began to be conducted face-to-face. Those Churches offering Foodbank resources continue to do so.

Ministerial Committee
The Ministerial Committee met every three months or so, and monitored the spiritual health of member Churches, including intervening actively in the life of struggling Churches. The "decline" mentality that has characterised the UEC for many years is less prominent and the committee is keen to assist Churches to be more growth orientated: the Vision Day held in June contributed to this encouragement. As the pandemic recedes, Churches are considering their approach towards ministry and mission for the years ahead.

Finance & General Purposes Committee
The F&GP Committee (known as the Finance Committee) met every two months or so, and discussed a wide range of topics, procedures, needs and opportunities. It continued to monitor the capital invested (which still shows good returns) and this included meeting twice during the year with the Managing Director of Kingsfleet Wealth, which handles our investments. In conjunction with each respective Church, the committee also reviewed the buildings portfolio (houses, flats and church premises) to ensure they are fit for purpose. However, Tri-Ennial Property Surveys (TEPS) continued to be "unfit for purpose" and so the discussion about Quinquennial Reports (every five years) will be re-activated. Serious consideration was given to a wide range of legal, practical, administrative and management aspects of operating the UEC as a charitable company, and once again Azets were appointed as Auditors for 2022.

The Finance Committee provided financial support to the Churches at Cressing and Corringham. Quarterly Management Accounts presented to Board meetings following each quarter are proving helpful in the careful stewardship of monies available. The UEC's general financial position is improving. Income from its investments continues to grow, and expenditures (now reduced) on the building at Rayleigh EC are met by letting rooms to a dance studio. The Board decided the time had come to decide the future of this building and having taken outside advice decided to sell it. This will take place during 2022. A renegotiation of our insurances enabled the agreement of a new 5-Year Long Term Agreement – and the immediate reduction in most premiums of up to 30%.

Several pages in the Handbook have been revised with new pages added. The Handbook is now also available in a "cloud" version.

Promotion Committee
The Promotion Committee (accountable to the Finance Committee) continued to produce well-run and professional events and publications. The Women's Day Conference planned for this year finally took place in September and was well-received: 48 ladies attended when 36 were expected. UEC Men's Breakfasts - sponsored by this committee – came to an end in their present form, but two took place in 2021. Two Faith Matters events took place, at Eastwood EC and at Fresh Hope Community Church; both were better attended than anticipated, and all present, including the host Churches, were greatly encouraged.

The *Prayer Focus* house magazine continued to be an excellent and useful publication (looking back and looking forward), and was distributed not only to UEC Churches, but far beyond. The *Week of Prayer* leaflet was also produced and very well-received. Christine Oxenham continues in her role as Chair, and during the year Philip Loose (Associate Minister at Chelmsford) joined the committee to monitor and manage the UEC website.

Youth Connect Committee
The Youth Connect Committee (accountable to the Ministerial Committee) is still in abeyance, and it may be that it will be re-instated in the future.

Churches' progress during the year
Some Churches in the Union are showing signs of positive growth and witness in their respective communities. It is recognized that change and its accompanying risks are necessary for Churches to grow in these post-modern times. Some are struggling, and so benefit from being part of a group of Churches; others began to re-instate their face-to-face programmes – weekday meetings and groups as well as Sunday services. The community work at Shoebury was continued by MyTownSouthend with the UEC's approval and the Balm of Gilead Southend Church continues its services on Sundays. A structural survey on the building at Little Totham indicated the old chapel was unsafe to use so services began to be held in the hall. In Witham, Valley Church's process of seeking a Minister has been put on hold. At Camberwell, Fred Hintze, long-serving Senior Minister, stepped down but continues as Minister Emeritus while a search is made for God's man to lead this Church. During the year Bill and Nola Hoggard retired and resigned from the leadership of Southend EC (Minister and Church Worker respectively) and Peter Landy was appointed Minister there with Carl Page appointed Associate Minister. At Eastwood EC, Simon Werrett stepped down from the leadership and David Bigmore retired and resigned.

Board meetings
Keith Britton (Senior Minister at Wickford EC) stepped down as UEC Chairman at the end of 2021, and after careful consideration, the appointment of two Co-Chairmen w.e.f. 1 Jan 2022 was agreed: Eric Blowes (Minister at Stanway EC) and Chris Banks (Senior Minister at Daws Heath) were appointed for one year, with the situation to be reviewed at the end of 2022.

Plans for Future Periods
The following strategic initiatives are continually considered and actioned as appropriate:

- the support, promotion and development of Bible-based Christian ministry and outreach, including relevant training. This includes consideration of another Vision Day, and the provision of financial support for individuals to attend training courses.

- help and encouragement to all of our Churches to identify what style and combination of ministries work best in their locality and support them in implementing their programmes. This includes making information available from outside of the UEC, for Churches to acquire and use where appropriate.

- the development of training programmes that will help expand the activities available to children and people of all ages, to help reconnect with those who are two or three generations away from our Christian heritage. This may include unusual or asymmetric activities or programmes and reviewing procedures to see which work best in the local setting.

- Encouragement to be open and welcoming to those seeking answers to the big questions of life, so that they perceive "Church" as somewhere to call their "spiritual home" and so flourish.

- contributing to local communities through activities provided by Churches (such as a Foodbank and taking part in or organising community activities) and through co-operating with other like-minded Churches and organisations outside of the UEC

- monitoring and improving the financial wellbeing of the UEC, including encouraging each Church to continue with its own fund-raising (mainly from its own members and friends).

Structure, governance and management
Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

During the year there were the following resignations and appointments:

W Hoggard	Resigned 30 November 2021
D Bigmore	Resigned 31 December 2021
C Page	Appointed 6 July 2021
P Landy	Appointed 1 December 2021

Organisational structure
The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and the policy of the charity. The Directors carry the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the charity and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations. Trustees meet at a minimum of three times a year.

The Union of Evangelical Churches structure includes the 15 churches whose results are included within these financial statements, together with four properties used as Manses attached to particular churches, a two-bedroom flat as an integral part of one church premises, a three-bedroom flat as an integral part of another church premises, and a private house that is currently let. The respective cash balances showing per the accounts at the year end belong to the individual Churches in question.

Induction and training of new Trustees
New trustees are briefed on their obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Agreement for Common Purposes (known as the ACP), the committees and decision-making procedures.

Statement of Trustee Directors' responsibilities
The Trustee Directors, who are also the Directors of The Union of Evangelical Churches for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustee Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires them 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 charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The Trustee Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is 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.

Auditor
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Trustee Directors report was approved by the Trustee Directors.

Howard R Gardner

Mr H R Gardner
Company Secretary

Dated: 5th July 2022

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE OF THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union of Evangelical Churches (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee Directors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustee Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustee Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustee Directors' responsibilities, the Trustee Directors, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee Directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul East (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

1 Nelson Street
Southend-On-Sea
Essex
SS1 1EG
United Kingdom

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	685,417	356,333
Investments	4	39,703	30,822
Total income		725,120	387,155
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities & Governance costs	5 & 6	418,710	395,682
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	8,774	61,523
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		315,184	52,996
Other recognised gains and losses			
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		(7,538,151)	1,473,300
Net movement in funds		(7,222,967)	1,526,296
Fund balances at 1 January 2021		24,743,970	23,217,674
Fund balances at 31 December 2021		17,521,003	24,743,970

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		16,354,385		23,893,486
Investments	**11**		470,297		461,523
			16,824,682		24,355,009
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	257,110		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		803,003		725,260	
		1,060,113		725,260	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(12,384)		(3,816)	
Net current assets			1,047,729		721,444
Total assets less current liabilities			17,872,411		25,076,453
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**14**		(351,408)		(332,483)
Net assets			17,521,003		24,743,970
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted funds		22,288,133		21,972,949	
Revaluation reserve		(4,767,130)		2,771,021	
			17,521,003		24,743,970
			17,521,003		24,743,970

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2021, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustee Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The Trustee Directors have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 5th July 2022.

E G Blowes
Trustee Director

E G Blowes

5th July 2022.

Company Registration No. 06691633

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 36 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7JQ.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustee Directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the charity continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal construction obligation committing the charity to that expenditure. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregated all costs 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.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, nett of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Property improvements	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	15% on reducing balance
Computers	15% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in nett income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in nett income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the reviews the charity carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial Instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the nett amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a nett basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Gift, Donations and Legacies	441,871	321,999
Sundry Income	800	315
Local Government Grants (106 clause)	186,000	-
Gift Aid refunds	56,746	34,019
	685,417	356,333

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Investment Income		
Rents Received	13,000	12,000
Interest receivable	26,664	18,492
	39	330
	39,703	30,822

5 Charitable activities

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Stipends, salaries, and expenses	120,891	135,291
Youth and children's work	1,694	1,675
Fellowship events	342	960
Training and study material	152	527
Subscriptions and conferences	480	510
Music and sound licence	2,069	2,935
Missionary expenditure	53,580	61,202
Gift and donations	8,953	6.984
Outreach event and activities	3,984	2,118
Visiting speakers	3,562	2,685
Advertising and website	140	880
Office costs	20,653	33,149
Motor and travel	2,676	6,353
Insurances	13,182	17,784
Utilities	29,341	41,207
Building expenses	9,205	20,917
Telephone	3,549	5,038
Repairs and maintenance	90,137	78,202
Music and PA expenses	16,099	1,488
Postage, printing and stationery	6,316	3,410
Refreshments	1,259	529
Book-Keeping	620	1,288
Sundries	876	992
Depreciation	950	1,118
Bank Charges	353	122
Church Loan	-	(36,523)
	391,063	**390,841**

6 Governance costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Audit fees	5,778	3,612
Legal and professional	21,869	1,229
	27,647	4,841

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £5,778 (2020 - £3,612) for audit fees.

7 Trustee Directors' Remuneration and Benefits

Trustee Directors' stipends and other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2021 totalled £81,484 (2020: £96,316).

The Trustee Directors were reimbursed from travel and mileage expenses incurred when performing their work on behalf of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2021.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Ministers	5	6
Church Workers	2	2
Total	7	8

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2021	2020
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	8,774	61,523

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Property improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2021	23,239,296	647,858	7,229	13,962	23,908,345
Revaluation	(7,538,151)				(7,538,151)
At 31 December 2021	15,701,145	647,858	7,229	13,962	16,370,194
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2021	-	-	5,555	9,304	14,859
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	251	699	950
At 31 December 2021	-	-	5,806	10,003	15,809
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2021	15,701,145	647,858	1,423	3,959	16,354,385
At 31 December 2020	23,239,296	647,858	1,674	4,658	23,893.486

The Union has over many years acquired Churches and other Freehold Properties. The cost of most of the early acquisitions would not be possible to establish. The Trustee Directors have therefore brought these properties into the accounts at the latest insurance valuations with due reduction made in the valuation for costs included which apply to reinstatement values only.

10 Tangible fixed assets

The Freehold Property is made up of the following:

	2021	2020
Camberwell	1,605,685	1,923,363
Canning Town	1,547,610	2,472,859
Chelmsford	815,150	1,061,230
Corringham	701,936	801,579
Cressing	787,000	1,248,003
Daws Heath	269,435	525,164
Eastwood	658,587	1,093,277
Great Wakering	770,840	1,096,037
Rayleigh	1,775,463	2,984,481
Shoebury	605,415	833,237
Southend on Sea	994,533	1,416,907
Stanford Le Hope	719,483	1,131,553
Stanway	1,152,972	2,541,141
Totham	573,921	783,983
Wickford	811,028	681,758
Witham	1,121,505	1,702,225
	14,910,563	22,296,797
House Buildings		
Canning Town	284,534	321,180
Chelmsford	265,341	305,085
Cressing	240,707	316,234
	790,582	942,499
Total	**15,701,145**	**23,239,296**

The Charity obtains annual valuations of the properties held at the year ended and as at 31st December 2021 there was an decrease of £7,538,151 in the amount brought forward from 2020. The above 2021 valuations are based on the current rebuilding costs, as advised by the insurers.

11 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2021	461,523
Valuation changes	8,774
At 31 December 2021	470,297
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2021	470,297
At 31 December 2020	461,523

12 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Debtors	257,110	-

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,470	-
Accruals and deferred income	4,914	3,816

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	351,408	332,483

15 Related party transactions

There were related party transactions with the Trustee Directors which totalled £1,780 for administration and repair purposes within the year. No monies were outstanding at the year end.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1126849

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1126849

Company Registration No. 06691633 (England and Wales)

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THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustee Directors	C N Banks E G Blowes K Britton G Cutmore F C Hintze D E Ivey K R Little R W Partridge M Richards S J Farrow W Hoggard L Merigio S P Budd G P Marshall D S W Bigmore Dr A J H Nix T J Matthews C Mayers Y Mwampulo P Loose
Company Secretary	Mr H R Gardner
Charity number	1126849
Company number	06691633
Registered office	36 Eastwood Road Rayleigh Essex SS6 7JQ
Auditor	Azets Audit Services 1 Nelson Street Southend-On-Sea Essex SS1 1EG United Kingdom

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustee Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a group of 15 Churches situated in Essex, east London and south-east London. As a charitable company, it seeks to add value to the outreach and ministry of each individual UEC Church, and to present the denomination to society as a viable and relevant organization, speaking the truths of the Gospel and providing relevant activities to the local community.

Head Office

The UEC continued to provide an office staffed for two days each week, giving administrative, insurance, and legal and management support and advice to member Churches. It continued to expand the content of the UEC Handbook with information and advice on a range of subjects to ensure compliance in all matters relevant to Churches' activities in today's society.

The UEC's response to the Coronavirus pandemic
From February through to December, the Coronavirus pandemic had an increasing impact on the life of all the Churches (and will continue into 2021). Most Churches held services via Zoom or Teams or streamed them on YouTube or Facebook; all found new ways of supporting their members including phone calls, email and WhatsApp as well as holding committee meetings. Nearly all the UEC Board and Committee meetings were conducted via Zoom, and the limitations of no face-to-face meetings were offset by savings in time and travel. Those offering Foodbank resources continue to do so.

Once pressure from other Churches and organisations was put on the Government to allow Churches to choose whether to open for public worship, in practice nearly all UEC Churches closed with a few allowing small gatherings for prayer; social distancing within each building was monitored at all times. This will continue into 2021.

Ministerial Committee
The Ministerial Committee met every three months or so, and monitored the spiritual health of member Churches, including intervening actively in the life of struggling Churches. The main challenge from this committee is still to rethink the "decline" mentality that has characterised the UEC for many years and turn it around to be more growth orientated. However, the pandemic is challenging the more positive attitude among Churches towards ministry and mission, and consideration will need to be given in motivating the various leaderships in 2021. Unconnected with this impact, several Ministers resigned, and one Associate Minister was appointed. Plans were put in hand for a Vision Day to take place this year – then postponed to June 2021.

Finance & General Purposes Committee
The F&GP Committee (known as the Finance Committee) met every two months or so, to monitor the capital invested (which still shows good returns) and this included meeting twice during the year with the Managing Director of Kingsfleet Wealth, which handles our investments. In conjunction with each respective Church, the committee also reviewed the buildings portfolio (houses, flats and church premises) to ensure they are fit for purpose. Tri-Ennial Property Surveys (TEPS) have proved difficult to manage centrally, so it was agreed that they would become part of each Church's annual H&S Review and to report any problems to the central office. There was some discussion about Churches doing Quinquennial Reports (every five years). Serious consideration was given to a wide range of legal, practical, administrative and management aspects of operating the UEC as a charitable company, and whether the UEC would benefit by becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The Finance Committee continues to provide financial support to several Churches, plus support to Mark Parrott, based at Grove Road Evangelical Church, Chelmsford, with his outreach ministry to Muslims. The financial support/investment in Rayleigh Evangelical Church has ended.

Quarterly Management Accounts presented to Board meetings following each quarter are proving helpful in the careful stewardship of monies available. The reduction in income to the UEC general fund together with the grants etc. listed above have reduced the financial resources available; however, the income from our investment continues, and the UEC's financial position is improving. Plans were put in hand to reduce financial support to Churches, with some arrangements coming naturally to the end of their terms. A formal Reserves Policy will be put to the Board for consideration in 2021.

The ACP was completely revised and circulated to all Handbook holders.

Promotion Committee
The Promotion Committee (accountable to the Finance Committee) continued to produce well-run and professional events and publications. However, due to the impact of the pandemic, the decision was taken to postpone the Family Day to 2021. The Faith Matters Days were planned and then cancelled. A Women's Day Conference planned for this year will now take place in 2021. One particularly successful event was an inter-Church Prayer Meeting conducted via Zoom. UEC Men's Breakfasts - sponsored by this committee – came to an end in their present form, but with two new members joining this committee (one to lead these), more are being planned for 2021. The Prayer Focus house magazine continued to be an excellent and useful publication (looking back and looking forward), and was distributed not only to UEC Churches, but far beyond. A smaller version of the Week of Prayer leaflet was also distributed. Dave Partridge stepped down from Chairman – a role he held since 2015 – and from the committee altogether. His expertise was much appreciated; Christine Oxenham is the new Chair.

Youth Connect Committee
The Youth Connect Committee (accountable to the Ministerial Committee) decided to close in March 2020, which the Board regretted but supported. The combination of reducing support from Churches and the effect of the pandemic made this decision inevitable, but perhaps the future will bring something new to the UEC's youth work.

Churches' progress during the year
Some Churches in the Union are showing signs of positive growth and witness in their respective communities. It is recognized that change and its accompanying risks are necessary for Churches to grow in these post-modern times. Some are struggling, and so benefit from being part of a group of Churches. With the closure of REC Church (the new name for Rayleigh Evangelical Church), its Foodbank also closed; efforts were made to keep the Foodbank going with help from members of *Churches for Rayleigh* but proved unsuccessful. The community work at Shoebury was continued by MyTownSouthend with the UEC's approval (with a reduced programme, but with plans for 2021) and in November 2020 the Balm of Gilead Southend Church began holding services on Sundays. The building project at Great Wakering has been completed, with much improved access and visual presence in the High Street. In Witham, Valley Church's process of seeking a Minister has been put on hold. At Camberwell, Fred Hintze, long-serving Senior Minister, stepped down but continues as Minister Emeritus while a search is made for God's man to lead this Church.

Board meetings
Keith Britton (Senior Minister at Wickford EC) continues in post as UEC Chairman. Open discussions at Board meetings, where all could contribute to a general discussion and airing of views are proving helpful, as has the appointment of all Associate Ministers as Trustee Directors. One particular discussion focused on whether to sell or keep the buildings at Rayleigh and Shoebury, both in use but not functioning as UEC Churches; decisions will be made next year.

In order to pursue other callings, Mark Parrott stepped down as long-serving Senior Minister at Grove Road EC, Chelmsford. It was therefore a joy to appoint Philip Loose as Associate Minister there and a Trustee Director of the UEC with effect from 25 November 2020.

Plans for Future Periods
The following strategic initiatives are continually considered and actioned as appropriate:

- the support, promotion and development of Bible-based Christian ministry and outreach, including relevant training. This includes attendance by all Ministers at an annual Vision Day, and the provision of financial support for individuals to attend training courses.

- help and encouragement to all of our Churches to identify what style and combination of ministries work best in their locality and support them in implementing their programmes. This includes making information available from outside of the UEC, for Churches to acquire and use where appropriate.

- the development of training programmes that will help expand the activities available to children and people of all ages, to help reconnect with those who are two or three generations away from our Christian heritage. This may include unusual or asymmetric activities or programmes and reviewing procedures to see which work best in the local setting.

- Encouragement to be open and welcoming to those seeking answers to the big questions of life, so that they perceive "Church" as somewhere to call their "spiritual home" and so flourish.

- contributing to local communities through activities provided by Churches (such as a Foodbank and taking part in or organising community activities) and through co-operating with other like-minded Churches and organisations outside of the UEC

- monitoring and improving the financial wellbeing of the UEC, including encouraging each Church to continue with its own fund-raising (mainly from its own members and friends).

Structure, governance and management
Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

During the year there were the following resignations.

S J Hensley	Resigned 17 August 2020
N G Drew	Resigned 12 August 2020
J Content	Resigned 27 August 2020
M D Parrott	Resigned 20 September 2020
P Loose	Appointed 25 November 2020

Organisational structure
The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and the policy of the charity. The Directors carry the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the charity and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations. Trustees meet at a minimum of three times a year.

The Union of Evangelical Churches structure includes the 15 churches whose results are included within these financial statements, together with four properties used as Manses attached to particular churches, a two-bedroom flat as an integral part of one church premises, a three-bedroom flat as an integral part of another church premises, and a private house that is currently let. The respective cash balances showing per the accounts at the year end belong to the individual Churches in question.

Induction and training of new Trustees
New trustees are briefed on their obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Agreement for Common Purposes (known as the ACP), the committees and decision-making procedures.

Statement of Trustee Directors' responsibilities
The Trustee Directors, who are also the Directors of The Union of Evangelical Churches for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustee Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires them 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 charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The Trustee Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is 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.

Auditor
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Trustee Directors report was approved by the Trustee Directors .

Howard Gardner
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Mr H R Gardner
Company Secretary

Dated: 27 September 2021

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE OF THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union of Evangelical Churches (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee Directors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustee Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustee Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustee Directors' responsibilities, the Trustee Directors, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee Directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul East (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

27TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

1 Nelson Street
Southend-On-Sea
Essex
SS1 1EG
United Kingdom

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	**Unrestricted funds 2020** £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	356,333	424,310
Investments	4	30,822	38,882
Total income		387,155	463,192
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities & Governance costs	5 & 6	395,682	469,990
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	61,523	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		52,996	(6,798)
Other recognised gains and losses			
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		1,473,300	1,297,721
Net movement in funds		1,526,296	1,290,923
Fund balances at 1 January 2020		23,217,674	21,926,751
Fund balances at 31 December 2020		24,743,970	23,217,674

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		23,893,486		22,421,304
Investments	**11**		461,523		400,000
			24,355,009		22,821,304
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		725,260		722,191	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**12**	(3,816)		(3,840)	
Net current assets			721,444		718,351
Total assets less current liabilities			25,076,453		23,539,655
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**13**		(332,483)		(321,981)
Net assets			24,743,970		23,217,674
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted funds		21,972,949		21,919,953	
Revaluation reserve		2,771,021		1,297,721	
			24,743,970		23,217,674
			24,743,970		23,217,674

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2020, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustee Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The Trustee Directors have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 27th September 2021.

E G Blowes
Trustee Director

Company Registration No. 06691633

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Union of Evangelical Churches is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 36 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7JQ.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustee Directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the charity continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal construction obligation committing the charity to that expenditure. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregated all costs 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.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, nett of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Nil
Property improvements	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	15% on reducing balance
Computers	15% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in nett income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in nett income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the reviews the charity carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial Instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the nett amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a nett basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Gift, Donations and Legacies	321,999	358,755
Sundry Income	315	1,340
Gift Aid refunds	34,019	64,215
	356,333	424,310

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Investment Income	12,000	12,000
Rents Received	18,492	26,132
Interest receivable	330	750
	30,822	38,882

5 Charitable activities

	Total 2020	**Total 2019**
	£	**£**
Stipends, salaries, and expenses	135,291	160,786
Youth and children's work	1,675	2,869
Fellowship events	960	3,915
Training and study material	527	11,406
Subscriptions and conferences	510	11,261
Music and sound licence	2,935	2,102
Missionary expenditure	61,202	40,693
Gift and donations	6,984	997
Outreach event and activities	2,118	4,288
Visiting speakers	2,685	9,350
Advertising and website	880	2,871
Office costs	33,149	27,759
Motor and travel	6,353	5,632
Insurances	17,784	16,823
Utilities	41,207	53,684
Building expenses	20,917	7,366
Telephone	5,038	3,400
Repairs and maintenance	78,202	75,323
Music and PA expenses	1,488	8,421
Postage, printing and stationery	3,410	4,856
Refreshments	529	1,614
Book-Keeping	1,288	1,375
Sundries	992	5,899
Depreciation	1,118	1,315
Bank Charges	122	120
Church Loan	(36,523)	-
	390,841	**464,125**

6 Governance costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Audit fees	3,612	3,816
Legal and professional	1,229	2,049
	4,841	5,865

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £3,612 (2019 - £3,816) for audit fees.

7 Trustee Directors' Remuneration and Benefits

Trustee Directors' stipends and other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2020 totalled £96,316 (2019: £108,213).

The Trustee Directors were reimbursed from travel and mileage expenses incurred when performing their work on behalf of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Ministers	6	5
Church Workers	2	1
Total	8	6

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2020	2019
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	61,523	-

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Property improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2020	21,765,996	647,858	7,229	13,962	22,435,045
Revaluation	1,473,300	-	-	-	1,473,300
At 31 December 2020	23,239,296	647,858	7,229	13,962	23,908,345
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2020	-	-	5,259	8,482	13,741
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	296	822	1,118
At 31 December 2020	-	-	5,555	9,304	14,859
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2020	23,239,296	647,858	1,674	4,658	23,893,486
At 31 December 2019	21,765,996	647,858	1,970	5,480	22,421,304

The Union has over many years acquired Churches and other Freehold Properties. The cost of most of the early acquisitions would not be possible to establish. The Trustee Directors have therefore brought these properties into the accounts at the latest insurance valuations with due reduction made in the valuation for costs included which apply to reinstatement values only.

10 Tangible fixed assets

The Freehold Property is made up of the following:

	2020	2019
Camberwell	1,923,363	1,814,493
Canning Town	2,472,859	2,332,885
Chelmsford	1,061,230	1,001,160
Corringham	801,579	756,206
Cressing	1,248,003	1,177,361
Daws Heath	525,164	495,437
Eastwood	1,093,277	1,031,393
Great Wakering	1,096,037	975,468
Rayleigh	2,984,481	2,815,548
Shoebury	833,237	833,237
Southend on Sea	1,416,907	1,336,704
Stanford Le Hope	1,131,553	1,067,502
Stanway	2,541,141	2,237,302
Totham	783,983	739,606
Wickford	681,758	643,167
Witham	1,702,225	1,605,872
	22,296,797	20,863,341
House Buildings		
Canning Town	321,180	308,935
Chelmsford	305,085	288,178
Cressing	316,234	305,542
	942,499	902,655
Total	**23,239,296**	**21,765,996**

The Charity obtains annual valuations of the properties held at the year ended and as at 31st December 2020 there was an increase of £1,473,300 in the amount brought forward from 2019. The above 2020 valuations are based on the current rebuilding costs, as advised by the insurers.

11 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2020	400,000
Valuation changes	61,523
At 31 December 2020	461,523
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2020	461,523
At 31 December 2019	400,000

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals and deferred income	3,816	3,840

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Other creditors	332,483	321,981

14 Related party transactions

There were related party transactions with the Trustee Directors which totalled £4,702 for administration and repair purposes within the year. No monies were outstanding at the year end.