



Wilmslow United Reformed Church Charity

Trustees' report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Trustees’ report and financial statements

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Legal and administrative information

Charity Name: Wilmslow United Reformed Church Charity (Wilmslow URC)

Registered Charity Number: 1128170

Minister/Trustee: Revd Dr KE Thorpe

Elders/Trustees: Mr P Bradley
Mrs A Brander
Mrs C Carne (stood down from office 31 December 2022)
Mrs A Dean
Dr I Duncan
Mrs E Gilliland
Mrs N Moss
Mrs T Shepherd
Mrs W Williams
Mrs F Wood (stood down from office 31 December 2022)
Mr R Wood
Mr S Wood

Church Address: Chapel Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 1PR

Independent Examiner: Teresa Fennell ACMA, CGMA
It Doesn't Have to Cost the Earth Ltd
47 St Dunstons Close
Worcester
WR5 2AJ

Bankers: NatWest Bank plc
4 Grove Street
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 1EJ

Trustees' report

The elders, acting as trustees, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Structure, governance and management

The minister and elders are the trustees of the charity as defined under the Charities Act 2011.

The responsibilities of elders are defined in the Basis of Union which was the founding document of the United Reformed Church. The minister and elders are responsible for leading the church; fostering the spiritual development of the congregation; giving pastoral care to the congregation, ensuring that public worship is held on a regular basis and exercising stewardship over the church's property and finances. Elders are church members elected, normally for a three-year term, by the church meeting. The elders normally meet once a month and the meetings are usually chaired by the minister.

Many of the elders' responsibilities are delegated to a number of teams covering: Worship, Finance, Property, Outreach and Administration. These teams have members some of whom are elders and they report to the elders' meeting.

Church meetings are normally held quarterly and are open to all members of the church; all major decisions affecting the church are made by church meeting.

The governing document is in line with an approved instrument issued by the United Reformed Church.

Objectives and activities

The church is committed to providing public worship open to all; having a programme of Christian education for all ages; providing social and recreational activities for all ages; giving pastoral support to the congregation; providing premises, resources and services to the local community.

The elders declare that they have complied with the duty imposed by the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. Worship is open to all and all are welcome. The church premises are used by both church groups and other social, community and commercial organisations.

Achievements and performance

A public worship service is conducted every Sunday morning and a monthly mid-week service designed for those who struggle to attend on a Sunday morning has also continued over the past year. Messy Church continues on the first Sunday each month and continues to be highly appreciated. There is also Modern Believers, a faith-based discussion group.

The year has seen the Community Café held on Monday and Wednesday mornings continue the development of its outreach mission. The support for Wilmslow Youthwork, the charity set up in 2019 has continued through the year and makes a significant difference in the lives of young people and their families in and around Wilmslow and links with Wilmslow High School continue to be developed.

The social, study and recreational activities include a badminton club, bowling club, quilters group and book club. These groups and the uniformed youth organisations which meet on our premises are open to and attended by people who are not church members.

Pastoral care is provided through a network led by two support coordinators to offer the best possible and most relevant support to those members of the congregation with pastoral needs. The network is organised to coordinate the many members who volunteer to offer services such as home visiting to the sick or lonely and transport for those with limited mobility. There is also a much-valued Prayer chain.

Trustees' report *(continued)*

Financial review

The church's principal funding comes from freewill giving which was down on the previous year because of a significant donation received in 2022. Lettings income from the use of the church buildings increased as we continued to promote the use of the premises to the community.

Expenditure in the year was ahead of budget (£166,600) as in some areas additional expenditure was approved and with some increased costs linked to inflationary pressures. Significant work in the year included finishing the refurbishment of the church halls, installing new projection screens in Church and completing repairs to the Church drainage.

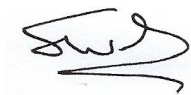
Transfers to funds were made to cover future planned maintenance.

Reserve policy

The General Fund, from the regular freewill giving, contributes to the day to day running costs of the church and there are designated funds set aside for repairs and improvements. Monies are set aside each year from the general fund, net of any costs incurred in the year, to maintain sufficient balances in this fund for future expenditure without recourse to special appeals. The General Fund balance, excluding the manse fund, equates to two months' expenditure which is broadly in line with requirements.

The year-end balance for the designated fund is shown in note 17.

Approved by the elders on 5 June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Steve Wood, Church Treasurer

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	173,406	-	16,385	189,791	221,600
Charitable activities	3	27,787	-	-	27,787	16,740
Other trading activities	4	9,468	-	757	10,225	5,075
Investment income	5	2,919	-	57	2,976	1,151
Total income		<u>213,580</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,199</u>	<u>230,779</u>	<u>244,566</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	1,853	-	691	2,544	1,230
Charitable activities	7	185,145	27,657	15,506	228,308	222,952
Total expenditure		<u>186,998</u>	<u>27,657</u>	<u>16,197</u>	<u>230,852</u>	<u>224,182</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		26,582	(27,657)	1,002	(73)	20,384
Transfers between funds		(4,000)	9,000	(5,000)	-	-
		<u>22,582</u>	<u>(18,657)</u>	<u>(3,998)</u>	<u>(73)</u>	<u>20,384</u>
Total funds brought forward 1 April 2022		250,244	42,192	16,786	309,222	288,838
Total funds carried forward 31 March 2023		<u>272,826</u>	<u>23,535</u>	<u>12,788</u>	<u>309,149</u>	<u>309,222</u>
			(Note 16)	(Note 17)		

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet
as at 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	12	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Debtors	13	28,782	-	1,679	30,461	11,583
Investments	14	218,690	-	-	218,690	216,178
Bank and cash balances		42,784	23,535	13,632	79,951	88,692
		290,256	23,535	15,311	329,102	100,275
Current liabilities						
Creditors payable within one year	15	(17,430)	-	(2,523)	(19,953)	(7,231)
Net current assets		272,826	23,535	12,788	309,149	93,044
Total net assets		272,826	23,535	12,788	309,149	309,222
The funds of the charity						
Unrestricted income funds						
General		272,826	-	-	272,826	250,244
Designated	16	-	23,535	-	23,535	42,192
Total		272,826	23,535	-	296,361	292,436
Restricted funds	17	-	-	12,788	12,788	16,786
		272,826	23,535	12,788	309,149	309,222

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the elders on 5 June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

K.E. Thorpe.

Revd Dr KE Thorpe, Minister

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice: (FRS 102) issued by the Charity Commission on the basis that the charity is a Public Benefit Entity. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

There are no estimates or assumptions made creating estimation uncertainty as at the year-end that put the carrying values of assets and liabilities at risk of material adjustment in next year's financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors.

Tangible fixed assets

Freehold property: The trustees of the church buildings are the URC (North Western Province) Trust Limited who hold them for purposes connected with Wilmslow URC. Expenditure incurred on the church is written off in the year it is incurred.

Equipment: Currently all furniture and equipment is regarded as fully depreciated.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Resources expended

The URC Ministry and Mission contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates. Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible asset is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

Financial instruments

The charity's basic financial instruments as defined by FRS 102 are all recognised at their settlement value and the charity has no "other" financial instruments.

Taxation

As part of the United Reformed Church, the church is an excepted and registered charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly, it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Offertory and standing orders (£1,820 per week; 2022: £2,063)	94,635	-	-	94,635	107,255
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	60,430	-	-	60,430	27,492
Special offerings and donations	14,763	-	11,385	26,148	83,981
Legacies	328	-	5,000	5,328	2,872
Grants	3,250	-	-	3,250	-
	173,406	-	16,385	189,791	221,600

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Use of church rooms	27,787	-	-	27,787	16,740
	27,787	-	-	27,787	16,740

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund raising	6,069	-	757	6,826	2,418
Café income	2,560	-	-	2,560	1,936
Manse energy feed in tariff	839	-	-	839	912
	9,468	-	757	10,225	5,075

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	407	-	57	464	76
Investment income	2,512	-	-	2,512	1,075
	2,919	-	57	2,976	1,151

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)***6 Raising funds**

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising expenses	1,816	-	691	2,507	950
Running expenses	37	-	-	37	280
	<u>1,853</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>691</u>	<u>2,544</u>	<u>1,230</u>

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Ministry costs					
URC Ministry and Mission Fund	68,085	-	-	68,085	69,435
Youth Work	20,000	-	-	20,000	18,400
Synod levy	3,408	-	-	3,408	3,615
Churches Together in Wilmslow	-	-	-	-	-
Missional Partnership	150	-	1,796	1,946	229
Pulpit supply	550	-	-	550	6
	<u>92,193</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,796</u>	<u>93,989</u>	<u>91,685</u>
Ministerial costs					
Travel and subsistence	2,533	-	-	2,533	3,084
Pastoral support	704	-	3,800	4,504	1,755
Worship resources	528	-	-	528	342
Wedding and funeral expenses	200	-	-	200	-
Flowers	735	-	-	735	419
	<u>4,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>5,600</u>
Church costs					
Cleaning	12,993	-	-	12,993	9,881
Supplies	3,609	-	-	3,609	2,441
Heat, light and water	17,089	-	-	17,089	13,080
Repairs and maintenance	28,288	27,657	-	55,945	52,535
Insurance	4,453	-	-	4,453	5,982

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*

7 Charitable activities (continued)

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Church costs (continued)					
Waste disposal	1,585	-	-	1,585	1,393
Gardening	306	-	-	306	2,081
	<u>68,323</u>	<u>27,657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,980</u>	<u>87,393</u>
Manse costs					
Council tax	3,286	-	-	3,286	3,188
Telephone	876	-	-	876	852
Water	490	-	-	490	503
Repairs and maintenance	13	-	-	13	-
	<u>4,665</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,665</u>	<u>4,543</u>
Office costs					
Telephone	1,573	-	-	1,573	1,502
Stationery and furniture	145	-	-	145	531
Printing	412	-	-	412	414
Photocopying	493	-	-	493	493
Postage	23	-	-	23	-
Newsletter	849	-	-	849	469
Website	88	-	-	88	58
Sundries	652	-	-	652	490
	<u>4,235</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,235</u>	<u>3,957</u>
Team and activity costs					
Community lunches	-	-	-	-	24
Fellowship	1,085	-	-	1,085	580
Messy Church	-	-	-	-	37
Music	455	-	-	455	385
Outreach	234	-	-	234	1,304
Uniformed organisations	14	-	-	14	-
Worship	800	-	-	800	1,023
	<u>2,588</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,588</u>	<u>3,353</u>

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*7 Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022-23 £	Total 2021-22 £
Finance and admin costs					
Secretarial expenses	994	-	-	994	850
Finance expenses	662	-	-	662	699
Premises expenses	296	-	-	296	348
Bad debts	112	-	-	112	150
Bank charges	557	-	-	557	551
	<u>2,621</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,621</u>	<u>2,598</u>
Donations					
Northern College	250	-	-	250	250
Parkinson's Support Group	-	-	-	-	1,283
East Cheshire Hospice	1,590	-	-	1,590	1,283
NSPCC	1,590	-	-	1,590	1,283
Samaritans	1,590	-	-	1,590	-
Disaster Emergency Committee appeals	500	-	-	500	-
Church Action on Poverty	50	-	-	50	50
East Manchester Community Assoc'n	250	-	-	250	-
Penrhys	-	-	-	-	450
Money for Madagascar	-	-	-	-	1,000
Redeeming our Communities	-	-	-	-	500
Commitment for Life	-	-	2,513	2,513	2,400
Disaster appeals	-	-	2,302	2,302	5,660
Harvest appeal	-	-	2,729	2,729	4,419
Christian Aid	-	-	1,856	1,856	3,120
Other donations	-	-	510	510	2,125
	<u>5,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,910</u>	<u>15,730</u>	<u>23,823</u>
Charitable activities	<u>185,145</u>	<u>27,657</u>	<u>15,506</u>	<u>228,308</u>	<u>222,952</u>

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

8 Trustee remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees (2021-22: £Nil) were paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from their employment with the church. The Minister is remunerated by the United Reformed Church and her settlement agreement includes the manse which is owned by the Synod, but whose costs of £4,651 (2021-22: £4,543) are paid by the church.

Donations without conditions totalling £15,279 (2021-22: £17,882) were received from trustees.

Expenses totalling £11,440 (2021-22: £3,436) were paid to seven (2021-22: eight) trustees including the Minister. These were for travel, subsistence and the reimbursement of out of pocket expenses.

9 Related party transactions

Donations without conditions totalling £12,080 (2021-22: £8,695) were received from related parties.

Expenses totalling £909 (2021-22: £696) were paid to three (2021-22: two) partners of trustees. These were for travel, subsistence and the reimbursement of out of pocket expenses.

One of the trustees is also a trustee of Wilmslow Youth. Amounts paid to Wilmslow Youth in the year were £18,977 (2021-22: £13,767). Donations amounting to £6,000 (2021-22: £5,000) were received from Wilmslow Youth in the year as contributions towards use of the Undercroft.

10 Staff costs

Staff costs in the year totalled £60 (2021-22: £Nil) in relation to one employee (2021-22: Nil). There were no social security or pension costs payable.

11 Independent examination

The fee in the year for independent examination of the financial statements was £720 (2021-22: £Nil).

12 Fixed assets

For the reasons stated in the Accounting Policy (Note 1), the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the church buildings are insured by the church for £6,556,000 and the contents of the church buildings are insured for £387,000.

13 Debtors

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Accounts receivable	4,001	-	-	4,001	585
Bad debt provision	(514)	-	-	(514)	(402)
Income tax recoverable	22,519	-	1,670	24,189	3,416
Prepayments	2,776	-	9	2,785	7,984
	<u>28,782</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,679</u>	<u>30,461</u>	<u>11,583</u>

Notes to the financial statements (*continued*)

14 Investments

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022	216,178	-	-	216,178	215,103
Interest applied in the year	2,512	-	-	2,512	1,075
At 31 March 2023	218,690	-	-	218,690	216,178

The investments represent the amount held on behalf of the Church by the Synod following a review which resulted in responsibility for the manse passing to the URC (North Western Province) Trust Limited.

15 Creditors payable within one year

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Accounts payable	15,461	-	-	15,461	1,389
Accruals and deferred income	1,969	-	2,523	4,492	5,842
	17,430	-	2,523	19,953	7,231

16 Designated funds

The church operates one designated fund with the encouragement of the church meeting.

Repairs fund - this is established to fund the maintenance of the church and manse premises; it receives regular budgeted transfers from the general fund when funds are available. The maintenance is supervised by the Property Team.

The movements on the designated fund were as follows:

	Repairs fund	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£
Brought forward at 1 April 2022	42,192	42,192	38,964
Expenditure on charitable activities	(27,657)	(27,657)	(46,772)
Transfers from other funds	9,000	9,000	50,000
Carried forward at 31 March 2023	23,535	23,535	42,192

Notes to the financial statements (*continued*)

17 Restricted funds

The church accounts include four restricted funds where the monies can only be used for the specific purposes for which they were entrusted to the church. These monies are not at the disposal of the church meeting for any other purpose and represent:

Specific gifts – at different times of the year monies are raised in the church to support specific projects.

Additional ministry fund – this represents the balance of a legacy and although it is totally expendable, it may only be used to provide additional ministry.

Ministerial hardship fund – this represents funds donated for use by the minister as she determines to provide gifts or support. The use of these funds is kept confidentially.

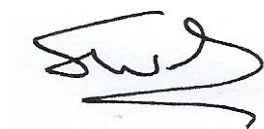
Missional partnership fund – this represents the funds held by the church on behalf of the Greater Manchester South and Cheshire Missional Partnership of which the church is part.

The movements in the restricted funds during the year were:

	Specific gifts	Additional ministry	Missional partnership	Hardship fund	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward at 1 April 2022	-	2,692	261	13,833	16,786	18,279
Donations and legacies	14,844	-	1,541	-	16,385	18,392
Activities for generating funds	757	-	-	-	757	-
Investment income	-	57	-	-	57	1
Expenditure on raising funds	(691)	-	-	-	(691)	(258)
Expenditure on charitable activities	(9,910)	-	(1,796)	(3,800)	(15,506)	(19,628)
Transfers to other funds	(5,000)	-	-	-	(5,000)	-
Carried forward at 31 March 2023	-	2,749	6	10,033	12,788	16,786

Treasurer's statement

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 6 to 15 for the year ended 31 March 2023.



Stephen David Wood, FCA

8 May 2023

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Wilmslow United Reformed Church Charity ("the Church") for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 6 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Teresa Fennell

Date: 17th December 2023

Teresa Fennell, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

It Doesn't Have to Cost the Earth Ltd
47 St Dunstons Close
Worcester, WR5 2AJ