



Report and Financial Statements

**Year ended
31 December 2023**

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West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Trustees Report

Year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees submit their annual report and statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023. The report and statement of accounts were approved at a meeting of the Elders and Trustees on 7th February 2024 and presented to and accepted by the Annual General Meeting of the Church on 28th February 2024

Charitable Status

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity was entered in the Central Register of Charities with effect from 27 March 2009 and registered under number 1128869.

Trustees

The Trustees who were in office during 2023 were:

Revd H L Franklin	Chairperson
Mr R A Jackson	
Mrs S Jackson	Appointed 15th March 2023
Mr S P Lakin	
Mr J Lindsay	Treasurer
Mrs J R Merrin	Appointed 15th March 2023
Mrs L M Ryan	Appointed 15th March 2023
Mr C Usher	Church Secretary
Mrs J A Usher	
Mrs E M Wilson	
Mr A P Wilson	

Governing Document

Name and assets

The Charity is called West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity and comprises all the assets and funds held and on behalf of the West Kirby United Reformed Church other than properties held under trusts declared in by Schedule 2 of the United Reformed Church Act 1972 (as amended by the United Reformed Church Acts 1981 and 2000) and those held under other specifically declared trusts.

Objects

The object of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

Trustees and their responsibilities

Those members of the Elders' Meeting of West Kirby United Reformed Church who are qualified and able to serve as charity trustees are collectively the Charity Trustees of the Charity and are appointed and shall act in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Church Meeting of West Kirby United Reformed Church, which shall be in conformity with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

None of the Trustees receives a salary from the Church and they are reimbursed only for expenses incurred. However the Revd H L Franklin does receive a salary from the central office of the United Reformed Church. The Church contributes to this through its annual contribution to the Ministry and Mission Fund. (see note 6)

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Trustees Report

Year ended 31 December 2023

Report for 2023

In 2023 the Church continued to pursue its objective to advance the Christian faith, guided by its Vision of 'Connecting your Community to Christ'. Revd. Louise Franklin continued to lead the Church and with her guidance the Elders, Staff and Volunteers have combined well to promote the mission of the Church. She also serves St Davids URC, Eastham.

A bereavement course was run and was much appreciated by those who attended. Further similar course are planned. A successful Holiday Club was held in the summer and our new initiative - the Family Celebration, was held once a month. It provides an informal form of worship that serves members, visitors, families and children. Further Youth and Children's activities were launched including a 'Drop in' for primary school children on Fridays.

Our Mother and Toddler Group grew again after the pandemic and Toddlers for Dads met once a month in term time. We also hosted a 'school' for Ukrainian families once a week.

Several Outreach initiatives were held during the year reaching out to our community and to the local business people in particular. We also continued to provide flowering plants for the local railway station, which was much appreciated.

Financial Statements

The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 are on pages 3 to 5. The accounting policies are set out in note 1 on page 6 and further explanatory notes are on pages 6 to 11. The main features of the statements are:

- a) The Church General Fund incurred a deficit in 2023 of £49,853 in its general income and expenditure. (In 2022 the deficit was £50,460.)
- b) There was a substantial increase in the offerings received by the Church, partly thanks to new members who felt able to start making gifts. (See Note 2)
- c) Our contribution to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund, which is set according to our membership in the previous year, was £37,500 (2022 £36,000; see Note 6)
- d) In accordance with a decision made in 2014 the interest from the Margery Price legacy was credited to the General Fund to help offset the underlying shortfall in the Church's regular income.
- e) Interest from Investments of £1,331 was apportioned to Restricted Funds; £927 was allocated to the Tithe Fund and £404 to the Evans Fund.
- f) In line with Church policy £5,784 was allocated to the Tithe Fund (2022 £6,209) from the General Fund. Total income for the Tithe Fund of £6,711 in 2023, allowing it to fund gifts of £7.050 (see Notes 18 and 20 on page 11).
- g) In 2023 £11,002 was given to Christian good causes by the Church and its organisations from Designated and Restricted Funds (2022 - £11,001).
- h) There were net unrealised gains of £34,651 in the market value of Investments (2022: a loss of £63,778). There was also a realised gain of £1,249. (2022 a loss of £3,854), making total gains £35,900 (2022 a loss of £67,632)
- i) £55,000 from the Margery Price Legacy were credited to the General Fund. Combined with the share of gains on Investments, this offset the operating deficit so the General Fund Reserve at 31 December 2023 stood at £38,490
- j) The Church holds the money received from the Margery Price Legacy in a special fund while decisions are made regarding its use. Further transfers to the General Fund are likely to be necessary to offset future operating deficits.
- k) A special fund was set up during the year to allow the Church to employ a Worship Development Coordinator
- l) St David's URC Eastham contributes 25% of the relevant expenses incurred by our Minister

Prospects and Risks

We pray that the recent growth in membership and offerings may continue but we are aware that the Church is likely to experience further annual financial deficits as it invests to pursue its Vision. However it has retained a substantial part of the Margery Price Legacy, from which both the income and the capital are available to offset the imbalance in the Church's regular income and expenditure.

The income currently generated by investing the legacy will reduce as it is used, and although offerings have risen recently, efforts need to continue to boost income and to manage costs in order to bring the Church's finances into balance. It may take some time to achieve this, but the Legacy Fund is sufficient to support our Vision for several more years.

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Incoming resources						
Voluntary Income	2	81,390	577	1,088	83,055	88,810
Activities generating funds	3	13,833	18,304	0	32,137	25,023
Grants Received	4	0	15,080	0	15,080	4,350
Investment Income	5	14,060	0	1,331	15,391	16,634
Total Incoming resources		109,283	33,961	2,419	145,663	134,817
Resources expended						
URC Ministry and Mission Fund	6	37,500	0	0	37,500	36,000
Ministry	7	4,132	0	0	4,132	4,456
Premises Costs (incl major repairs)	8, 17	44,389	0	0	44,389	52,256
Administrative costs	9	4,013	60,013	0	64,026	62,743
Church organisations and activities	10	0	19,362	0	19,362	18,782
Donations passed on	11	0	1,359	9,643	11,002	11,001
Total resources expended		90,034	80,734	9,643	180,411	185,238
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		19,249	(46,773)	(7,224)	(34,748)	(50,421)
Transfers						
To Designated Funds						
Church organisations	17	(2,904)	2,904	0	0	0
Discipleship Fund	17	0	0	0	0	0
Staff Funds	17	(60,013)	60,013	0	0	0
Outreach and Evangelism	17	(401)	401	0	0	0
To Restricted Funds						
Tithe Fund	18	(5,784)	0	5,784	0	0
		(69,102)	63,318	5,784	0	0
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		(49,853)	16,545	(1,440)	(34,748)	(50,421)

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

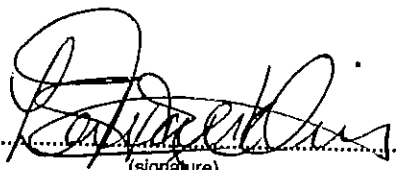
Statement of Movement in Funds for the year ended 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Total funds brought forward at 1 January		29,654	47,981	421,655	499,290	617,343
Net deficit for the year		(49,853)	16,545	(1,440)	(34,748)	(50,421)
Transfer to General Reserve	16,18	55,000	0	(55,000)	0	0
Realised gains from sale of investments	12,18	1,249	0	0	1,249	(3,854)
Unrealised gain/(loss) in value of investments	12,18	2,440	0	32,211	34,651	(63,778)
Total funds carried forward at 31 December		<u>38,490</u>	<u>64,526</u>	<u>397,426</u>	<u>500,442</u>	<u>499,290</u>

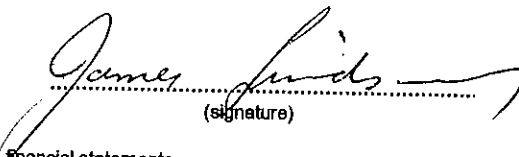
Approved by the Trustees at a meeting on 7th February 2024 and

Accepted by the Annual General Meeting of the Church held on 28th February 2024

Signed by Rev'd Louise Franklin (Chair of Trustees)


(signature)

and by James Lindsay (Trustee and Treasurer)


(signature)

The notes on pages 8 to 11 and the statements on page 12 form part of these financial statements

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2023

	Notes	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible assets	1c	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	12	36,943	49,995	391,061	477,999	482,099
Current Assets						
Debtors	13	1,906	0	1,500	3,406	2,086
Bank balances	14	2,589	13,024	4,865	20,478	16,615
Cash in hand		106	1,507	0	1,613	1,739
		4,601	14,531	6,365	25,497	20,440
Current Liabilities						
Creditors payable within one year	15	3,054	0	0	3,054	3,249
Net Current Assets		1,547	14,531	6,365	22,443	17,191
Total Net Assets		<u>38,490</u>	<u>64,526</u>	<u>397,426</u>	<u>500,442</u>	<u>499,290</u>
The Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted income funds						
General	16	38,490	0	0	38,490	29,654
Designated	17	0	64,526	0	64,526	47,981
Total		38,490	64,526		103,016	77,635
Restricted funds	18	0	0	397,426	397,426	421,655
Total Funds		<u>38,490</u>	<u>64,526</u>	<u>397,426</u>	<u>500,442</u>	<u>499,290</u>

Approved by the Trustees at an Elders' meeting on 7th February 2024

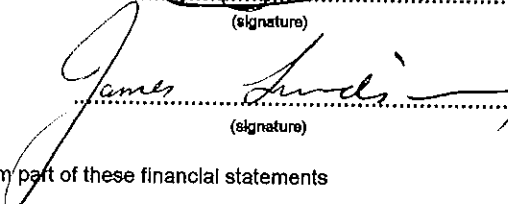
Accepted by the Annual General Meeting of the Church held on 28th February 2024

Signed by Rev'd Louise Franklin (Chair of Trustees)



 (signature)

and by James Lindsay (Treasurer)



 (signature)

The notes on pages 6 to 11 and the statements on page 12 form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the statement of Financial activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

1 Accounting Policies

1a Basis of accounting

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity appears on the Register of Charities under Number 1128869

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP - FRS 102) Issued by the Charities Commission, and follow the guidance of the United Reformed Church.

The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b Fund Accounting

Unrestricted and Designated funds are available for use at the discretion of the Church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Specific Designated Funds are used to control the finances of the various Church organisations, projects and activities.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor(s), or contained in the terms of a grant.

Restricted funds are also used to control the funds collected for the Christian Charities supported by the Church and its fellowship.

1c Tangible Fixed Assets

Freehold property: The owner of the church and manse buildings is the URC Mersey Synod Trust which holds them in trust for purposes connected with West Kirby URC. The Mersey Synod provides discretionary grants towards major repairs to the church and manse. Expenditure on repairs to the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

Equipment: Expenditure on movable items costing less than £10,000 is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

Depreciation is provided on movable items costing £10,000 or over at the following annual rates calculated to write off assets over their estimated useful lives. Currently all assets that would qualify have been fully written off in line with this policy

Electronic equipment (including computers)	33.33% (over 3 years)
Musical Instruments	20% (over 5 years)
Furniture	10% (over 10 years)

1d Incoming resources

All voluntary giving and other routine income, including the tax recovery from donations under Gift Aid, is included in the period in which it is received. Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

1e Resources expended

The contribution to the URC Ministry & Mission Fund is paid regularly and charged to the year to which it relates.

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. Appropriate accruals are made for significant expenses committed but not yet paid at the year end.

Expenses are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

No governance costs are currently being incurred.

As most of the management and activity of the Church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not recorded in these financial statements. This voluntary contribution to the life of the Church is incalculable.

1f Taxation

As part of the United Reformed Church, West Kirby URC is an exempt 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 and gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. Therefore no provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2 Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Regular Offerings					
Free will offerings by bank transfer	59,414	0	0	59,414	55,393
Free will offerings by credit card	594	0	0	594	370
Free will loose offerings	3,749	0	0	3,749	3,690
	63,757	0	0	63,757	59,453
Donations and Legacies	3,898	0	1,088	4,986	14,817
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	13,735	577	0	14,312	14,540
	81,390	577	1,088	83,055	88,810

Note: Donations and legacies for 2022 includes £12,586 received from the estate of Miss M. Price

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Notes to the statement of Financial activities - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Activities generating funds	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Sundry lettings	13,833	0	0	13,833	11,512
Church Weekend	0	0	0	0	4,403
Eco Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Flower Fund	0	20	0	20	0
Worship/ Music Tracks	0	360	0	360	1,090
Holiday Cub and Family Celebration	0	713	0	713	390
Outreach and Evangelism	0	1,030	0	1,030	1,240
Toddler Group	0	4,978	0	4,978	4,881
Worship Development	0	10,280	0	10,280	0
Youth activities	0	923	0	923	1,507
	13,833	18,304	0	32,137	25,023

4 Grants Received	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Worship Development Synod Grant	0	8,500	0	8,500	0
Coward Trust for Discipleship	0	1,500	0	1,500	0
Grant from Synod towards Fuel costs	0	0	0	0	1,000
Grant for Ukraine Support	0	0	850	850	850
Grants from URC/Synod for Youth Activities	0	5,080	0	5,080	2,500
	0	15,080	850	15,930	4,350

5 Investment Income	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank and Loan Interest	117	0	0	117	6
CCLA Ethical Investment Fund	10,127	0	1,331	11,458	12,395
Investec Wealth	3,816	0	0	3,816	4,233
	14,060	0	1,331	15,391	16,634

6 Ministry and Mission Fund

	2023	2022
	£	£
The Church contributes to the central costs of the URC in providing ministers, running the denomination and the wider mission of the National Church.	37,500	36,000

7 Ministerial costs	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Car expenses	2,489	0	0	2,489	2,974
Telephone Incl mobile phone and Broadband	810	0	0	810	677
Books	163	0	0	163	123
Other expenses	78	0	0	78	240
Prayer and other Ministry (including pulpit supply)	232	0	0	232	99
Worship materials	360	0	0	360	343
	4,132	0	0	4,132	4,456

Note: These costs are net of the contribution made by St David's URC, Eastham

8 Premises costs	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Caretaking and cleaning	13,045	0	0	13,045	12,145
Catering	817	0	0	817	468
Heat and Light (Gross - see Note)	10,808	0	0	10,808	10,486
Insurance	4,521	0	0	4,521	4,119
Council Tax	1,954	0	0	1,954	1,868
Water charges	2,257	0	0	2,257	1,810
Repairs and maintenance	9,980	0	0	9,980	20,788
Musical instruments (repairs and tuning)	379	0	0	379	305
Equipment (small items)	628	0	0	628	267
	44,389	0	0	44,389	52,256

Note: A grant of £1,000 was received from the URC Mersey Synod in 2022 to help with Heat and Light costs

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Notes to the statement of Financial activities - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2023

9 Administrative costs	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff and Related Costs	0	60,013	0	60,013	57,793
Telephone and IT	1,038	0	0	1,038	1,000
Printing, postage and stationery	1,455	0	0	1,455	1,327
Seminars, conferences and training	58	0	0	58	290
Subscriptions	831	0	0	831	772
Sundry expenses	631	0	0	631	1,561
	4,013	60,013	0	64,026	62,743

10 Costs of Church organisations and activities (see Note 17)	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Discipleship	0	1,650	0	1,650	1,765
Church week-end (bi-annual)	0	0	0	0	4,774
Flower Fund	0	19	0	19	11
Holiday Club and Family Celebration	0	659	0	659	529
Break-out	0	58	0	58	29
Outreach and Evangelism	0	1,281	0	1,281	1,817
Toddlers	0	4,546	0	4,546	3,176
Worship Development	0	4,392	0	4,392	0
Worship/Music Tracks	0	138	0	138	936
Youth Activities	0	6,619	0	6,619	5,745
	0	19,362	0	19,362	18,782

11 Donations and Gifts passed on	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Toddlers	0	1,209	0	1,209	1,073
Churches Together In West Kirby	0	150	0	150	150
Ann Fursdon/AIM	0	0	0	0	550
Evangelical Alliance	0	0	150	150	150
Good News for Everyone (Gideons)	0	0	500	500	0
Leprosy Mission	0	0	592	592	470
Open Doors	0	0	710	710	0
Reach	0	0	3,000	3,000	3,000
Safe Families for Children	0	0	0	0	678
Ukraine Support	0	0	265	265	1,050
Wirral Youth for Christ	0	0	2,400	2,400	2,800
Other	0	0	9	9	300
Miss WO Evans Fund	0	0	2,017	2,017	780
	0	1,359	9,643	11,002	11,001

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Notes to the statement of Financial activities - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2023

12 Investments

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Original investment values - Cost					
CCLA/Coif Ethical Investment fund (2023- 125910 units)	16,475	25,997	154,603	197,075	214,637
Investec Wealth	3,864	0	68,858	72,720	78,641
Total	20,339	25,997	223,459	269,795	293,278
Cumulative unrealised gains to 31st December 2023					
CCLA/Coif Ethical Investment fund	15,207	23,998	142,710	181,915	161,210
Investec Wealth	1,397	0	24,892	26,289	27,611
Total	16,604	23,998	167,602	208,204	188,821
Market Value - as at 31st December 2023					
CCLA/Coif Ethical Investment fund	31,682	49,995	297,313	378,990	375,847
Investec Wealth	5,261	0	93,748	99,009	106,252
Total market value	36,943	49,995	391,061	477,999	482,099

Note: There were total gains from investments in 2023 of £35,900 (2022 a loss of £67,632). Net unrealised gains were £34,651 (2022: a loss of £63,778). There was also a gain of £1,249 as funds were withdrawn (2022 a loss of £3,854).

Movements in Investment Funds in the year

	CCLA/Coif Ethical Fund	Investec Wealth	Total
	£	£	£
Opening balance - 1st January 2023	375,847	106,252	482,099
Purchases/(Sales) in the year	(32,000)	(8,000)	(40,000)
Investment gain in the year	35,143	757	35,900
Closing balance - 31st December 2023	378,990	99,009	477,999

13 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Recovery due from St Davids Eastham	556	0	0	556	566
Recovery and grant due from URC	1350	0	0	1350	20
Welfare loans	0	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
	1,906	0	1,500	3,406	2,086

14 Bank Balances

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Santander Current Account	1,650	1,013	750	3,413	10,602
Santander Deposit Account	939	12,011	4,115	17,065	6,013
	2,589	13,024	4,865	20,478	16,615

15 Creditors and other Current Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Accrual for committed expenses	3,054	0	0	3,054	3,249
Payments received in advance for hall lettings	0	0	0	0	0
	3,054	0	0	3,054	3,249

Note: As stated in Accounting Policy 1e, appropriate accruals are made for significant expenses incurred or committed but not yet paid.

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Notes to the statement of Financial activities - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2023

16 General Funds

The movements in the General Funds of the Church in the years from 2016 to 2022 were as follows:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening balance	62,226	50,652	30,808	7,067	21,638	32,977	29,654
Income	134,825	136,579	115,847	88,793	91,564	114,385	109,283
Expenditure	(91,785)	(94,414)	(85,623)	(75,870)	(80,012)	(97,662)	(90,034)
Transfers to Funds	(57,937)	(62,014)	(62,510)	(59,035)	(53,771)	(67,163)	(69,102)
Transfers to General Fund (see note)	0	0	8,489	60,000	50,000	50,000	55,000
Realised and Unrealised Gains/Losses	3323	(195)	256	683	3,558	(2,863)	1,249
Closing balance	60,662	30,808	7,067	21,638	32,977	29,654	36,060

Note: The large legacy received between 2011 and 2013 is held in a Restricted Fund while decisions are made about its use (See note 19). Substantial transfers have been made from this fund to the General Reserve in recent years to offset the annual deficit. Income from this legacy has also been credited to the General Fund from 2014 onwards, as were smaller legacies and donations.

17 Designated Funds

As stated in Accounting Policy 1b, specific Designated Funds are used to control the income and expenditure of the Church organisations, activities and special projects. Grants are provided by the general fund to the organisations every year to help meet their costs. Some are also supported by grants from the Margery Price Legacy and outside bodies.

The movements in the Designated Funds during the year were as follows:

	Opening balance at 1st Jan 2023	Grants from/to General Funds	Transfers to/from MP Legacy Fund	Other income, donations and grants	Expenditure in year	Closing balance at 31 Dec 2023
Church Organisations and activities						
Children's Church	0	58	0	0	(58)	0
Church week-end	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eco Fund	50	0	0	0	0	50
Flower Fund	52	0	0	20	(19)	53
Holiday Club and Family Celebration	0	0	0	713	(659)	54
Outreach and Evangelism (see Note a)	0	401	0	1,030	(1,431)	0
Toddlers (see Note b)	1,707	0	0	5,555	(5,755)	1,507
Worship Development (See Note c)	0	0	0	18,780	(4,392)	14,388
Worship/Music Tracks	203	0	0	360	(138)	425
Youth Activities (see Note d)	281	2,846	0	6,003	(6,619)	2,511
Sub-total Church Organisations and activities	2,293	3,305	0	32,461	(19,071)	16,988
Discipleship Fund (see Note e)	17,688	0	0	1,500	(1,650)	17,538
Staff Funds (see Note f)	28,000	60,013	0	0	(60,013)	28,000
Total Designated Funds	47,981	63,318	0	33,961	(80,734)	64,526

Note a: Expenditure on Outreach and Evangelism included £150 contributed to Churches Together in West Kirby

Note b: Expenditure by Toddlers for 2023 included £1,209 given to various charities

Note c: A grant of £8,500 was received from the URC Mersey Synod - the first instalment of a total grant of £25,000.

Note d: Grants of £2,500, £1,250 and £1,330 were received from the URC Mersey Synod to support Youth Activities.

Note e: The Discipleship Fund was set up in 2014 by a grant from the Margery Price Legacy to provide support for Church Members attending Christian training courses or discipleship activities. Costs in 2023 were offset by a grant from the Coward Trust.

Note f: The Staff Fund tracks the cost of employing our Youth and Children's Coordinator and our Church Life Coordinator. Annual costs are met by transfers from the General Fund while maintaining a balance to meet the possible cost of any severance/redundancy payments that might prove necessary.

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

Notes to the statement of Financial activities - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2023

18 Restricted Funds

As stated in the Accounting Policy 1b, the Church uses specific Restricted Funds to control money donated by the Church and its fellowship to support Christian Charities and activities. In addition, the Church maintains three established Restricted Funds for specific purposes of which two (the Miss WO Evans Fund and the Margery Price Legacy) were set up on receipt of substantial legacies.

Movements in the Restricted Funds in 2023 were as follows:

	Opening balance at 1st Jan 23	Grants from the Tithe Fund and other transfers	Income, transfers and donations	Grants and Donations passed on	Unrealised and realised gains on investments (see note 12)	Closing balance at 31 Dec 23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ann Furedon/AIM	1,774	0	0	0	0	1,774
Church Week-end Bursary Fund	875	0	0	0	0	875
Evangelical Alliance	0	160	0	(150)	0	0
Good News for Everyone (Gkdeons)	0	500	0	(500)	0	0
Leprosy Mission	0	300	292	(592)	0	0
Open Doors	0	700	10	(710)	0	0
Reach	0	3,000	0	(3,000)	0	0
Ukraine Support	0	0	265	(265)	0	0
Wirral Youth for Christ	0	2,400	0	(2,400)	0	0
Other	9	0	5	(9)	0	5
Sub-total	2,658	7,060	572	(7,628)	0	2,664
Margery Price Legacy (see Note 19)	376,255	(55,000)	0	0	27,809	349,064
Miss WO Evans Fund	13,195	0	920	(2,017)	1,371	13,469
Tithe Fund (see Note 20)	29,547	(7,050)	6,711	0	3,031	32,239
Total	421,655	(55,000)	8,203	(9,643)	32,211	397,426

19 Margery Price legacy

The total received between 2011 and 2013 from Margery Price's estate was £1,083,392. 10% (£108,339) was set aside to create the Margery Price Tithe Fund (later merged with the Fund for Christian Organisations to form the 'Tithe Fund'), leaving £975,053 in the main legacy fund.

From the legacy fund various grants have been made - partly offset by gains from investing the funds. The substantial expenditure on the Re-ordering Project resulted in a significant reduction in this fund during 2016, 2017 and 2018.

From 2014 onwards, all income received from the interest and dividends generated by investing the Legacy Fund has been credited to the General Fund to help offset some of the underlying deficit in the regular income and expenditure of the Church. In recent years further transfers have been made to the General Fund to offset the annual deficit. Further similar transfers are likely to be necessary in future.

20 Tithe Fund

The Tithe Fund was created at the beginning of 2015 by the merger of the established Fund for Christian Charities and the MP Tithe Fund, which was set up with 10% of the receipts from the Margery Price legacy. The combined fund is now the main channel by which the Church supports related Christian charities and good causes. 10% of the net regular income of the Church after deducting its contribution to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund is credited to the fund each year, along with the appropriate share of investment income and capital gains. From the fund, one-off or regular gifts are made as agreed by the Church Meeting.

West Kirby United Reformed Church Charity

**Notes to the statement of Financial activities - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Treasurer's Statement

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 3 to 5 for the year to 31 December 2023 (and the supporting notes on pages 6 to 11) in accordance with the accounting policies of the Church.

James Lindsay

28th February 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of West Kirby United Reformed Church

I report on the financial statements of West Kirby United Reformed Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 3 to 5 and the supporting notes on pages 6 to 11.

Respective 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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church and a comparison of the accounts presented and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

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 by the Independent Examiner

28th February 2024

Tim Pugh
30 Queensbury
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