

Chorley United Reformed Church

Charity Number: 1128897

Annual Report & Accounts 2023

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**CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Charity Commission Number: 1128897

Church Address: 34 Hollinshead Street
Chorley
Lancashire PR7 1EP

Minister: Rev. Martin Whiffen **Church Related Community Minister:** Andy Littlejohns

Church Manse Address: 6 Lingwell Close
Whittle le Woods
Chorley
Lancashire

Professional Advisers:

Independent Examiner: Adam J Syddall MA FCA
P B Syddall & Co
Chartered Accountants
Grafton House
81 Chorley Old Road
Bolton
BL1 3AJ

Stockbroker: N.G Stockton
Arnold, Stansby & Co.
3rd Floor
Alexandra Buildings
28 Queen Street
Manchester
M2 5JJ

General Finance: Finance Officer
URC NW Synod Office
Unit 20, Sandpiper Quay
Modwen Road
Salford
Manchester
M5 3EZ

Legal: Legal Officer
URC NW Synod Office
Unit 20, Sandpiper Quay
Modwen Road
Salford
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Birchall Blackburn Law
Merchant House
Avenham Street
Preston
PR1 3BN

**CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

This report includes information required by Charities Act 2011 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Chorley United Reformed Church Charity is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the North West Synod of the Church. It was registered on 31 March 2009 as Charity Number 1128897.

Chorley URC Church is situated at 34 Hollinshead Street, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1EP.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are registered as the charity trustees. Those who served from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Mrs Rees Ballard
Mrs Yvonne Barkby
Mrs Rachel Brown
Mr Brian Darbyshire
Mrs Fiona Hodson
Mrs Bernadette Phillips
Mrs Stella Kerr, resigned December 2023
Dr Grahame Barkby (Charity Commission contact for the period)
Mrs Kathleen Longton, resigned September 2023
Mr Ian McKendrick
Mr James Mawdesley
Mrs Marcia Pendlebury
Mrs Pat Holgate

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The activities of Chorley United Reformed Church are overseen by the Elders' Meeting of the Church in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, and supplemented by the rules of Chorley URC Church. The governing document of the registered charity is a statement adopted by the Church Meeting on 1 February, 2009, which was reviewed and revised during 2017 and currently under further review.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, and the care and maintenance of Church premises. The North West Synod of the United Reformed Church (URC) is now responsible for the maintenance of the manse. The Church Meeting (of all members wishing to attend) gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church. The Elders assist the Minister in the pastoral care of the church.

The members of the Elders Meeting are the minister in pastoral charge, Rev. Martin Whiffen, who was inducted in September 2011, and members of Chorley URC Church nominated and elected as Elders by the members of Chorley URC Church at a Church Meeting. Elders serve for 4 years, retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. There is no limit on the number of consecutive periods of service. The members of the Elders' Meeting are the trustees of the registered charity during their period of service as elders unless they opt out or are ineligible.

The Elders are assisted in the administration of the Church, its property and its investments by committees established for Finance and Fabric. In line with the URC Model Trust, the URC "North Western Province Trust Company" act as custodian trustees on behalf of Chorley URC.

The Charity Trustees delegate to the Finance Committee the following tasks while maintaining responsibility for such:

- Overall management of the finances of the church within the agreed authority, financial limits and budgets.
- Monitoring/managing income and expenditure and making budget recommendations
- Proactively managing the church's investments within the investment objectives, delegated authority and financial limits agreed with the Charity Trustees.

The Charity Trustees delegate to the Fabric Committee the following tasks while maintaining responsibility for such:

- Managing the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of all church buildings and fabric within the delegated authority and financial limits agreed with the Charity Trustees.
- Managing the lettings of all church buildings.

The Elders' Meeting have met monthly and, in addition, if circumstances required such, meeting either face to face or on Zoom as circumstances permitted. The Finance Committee, including its Investment sub-group, and the Fabric Committees have met quarterly and, in addition, if circumstances required such. We have been able to monitor the church's investments and seek advice from the charity's financial advisers.

The charity learnt from the activities of the Hollinshead Centre (see under Mission and Evangelism) that an upgrading of the charity's governance policies and procedures was urgently needed. Work was commissioned to do this, taking professional advice in doing so. There is now a "Resilient Governance" pack held stored electronically on a central database with named and defined access at different levels and subject to regular review.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Chorley United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its premises, described more specifically in its mission statement as:-

- *To reach out, speak out and gather in for Christ*
- *To be a centre of excellence in worship and praise*
- *To maintain and continue to develop the needs of our children and youth*
- *The Church with a heart in the heart of Chorley*

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the Church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that, the Church provides benefit to the public by:

- *providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;*
- *promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.*

Our Community Engagement Project and any activity arising from that are based on the following additional mission statement which supplements the above:-

To provide or facilitate the provision of services and activities that respond to and meet identified local community needs and that are delivered within premises that are fit for purpose, whilst maintaining an appropriate and contemporary place of Christian worship.

This project is on-going and further details of activity and progress during the year are outlined later in the report under the appropriate headings.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Worship and Prayer

The church has been blessed with some very talented and dedicated people who give selflessly of their time and expertise to ensure that the quality of worship and pastoral care continue. We have continued to offer our usual range of services during 2023. Our weekly online service remains freely available on You Tube, still being recorded on DVD's for house-bound church members and, for those who don't have access to You Tube, delivered by hand if necessary.

We celebrated 9 baptisms and held 4 funerals in our church during 2023, but no weddings.

Mission and evangelism

Mission has progressed during 2023. As well as the weekly on-line services on You Tube continuing to which we continue to receive positive responses and resuming Café Church with its puppet ministry, our community worker continues to be busy during 2023 with The Meeting Place and The Repair Café, as expressions of our faith, demonstrating God's love for the community. The contract with Lancashire CC to run The Refugee/Asylum Seekers Centre ceased in December 2022, but the help that we provided by for the community through that facility has continued in other ways. All the community activities we provide are now known as The Hollinshead Centre and to assist in the co-ordination of those activities a Centre Manager was appointed at the end of 2022 with the assistance of a grant from Awards for All. This post is in addition to the Meeting Place Co-ordinator, appointed in 2021. The person in post for these 2 roles had to resign from both posts on health grounds during 2023 and these posts are on hold ("The Future").

"Dreaming our Dreams" 2012 A vision for the next 5 years - and beyond

The targets we set out in that document under the headings of Worship, Mission/Evangelism, Caring/Service (both for the local community in liaison with outside agencies and for our own church family), and Learning are unchanged and will continue to be taken forward by the church as circumstances allow.

Church and manse buildings and fabric

To facilitate our objectives and activities it is important that we maintain the fabric of all the church premises, despite the events of the last 2-3 years. The North West Synod of the URC is now responsible for the maintenance of the manse.

This is the role of the Fabric Committee with their ongoing programme of preventative maintenance and improvements to the fabric and property, keeping within budgetary guidelines. However, in view of the proposed church development, only essential maintenance was carried out in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Both the gas and electric supply contracts continue to be monitored to ensure value for money.

The charity trustees are mindful that we should use our monies and assets wisely and effectively and not squander monies. They consider that the responsible use of our resources is still to develop on our present site to provide more flexible and versatile premises that are attractive, more efficient and ecologically and disabled friendly for the benefit of the community, while still providing premises that would be recognisable as a place of worship. This decision is unchanged from 2019. The Church Development Group continues to take this forward, but, though progress was limited by the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, the bid by Chorley BC, of which we were part, to the government's Levelling Up Fund has in the end been successful and we are now hopefully back on track to revamp the community buildings as we have done with the worship space, now referred to as the sanctuary.

Community care

The use of our school buildings, including the upgraded kitchen, by a varied number of organisations and community groups continues.

The possibility of potential partner local charities and organisations who have previously expressed an interest in working with us in the future will need to be clarified as we pursue further revamping of our premises.

In revisiting the needs of the local community by repeating the CEP during 2017, that report confirmed that very little had changed and most of those needs remained. In 2020 our researchers confirmed that this would still be the case, in fact even more so now, and so the need for the aforementioned community activities is even greater:

- The monthly Repair Café provides a free service for those on low incomes run with qualified registered trades people (volunteers), working on domestic appliances and within health and safety guidelines
- The Meeting Place provides a drop-in facility for the vulnerable and isolated in the community, 2 days a week with a part-time co-ordinator in post.
- The Refugee/Asylum Seekers Centre ran until the end of 2022 (see above).

The Meeting Place runs with the support of and in collaboration with the NHS and Chorley BC, including partnerships with their community and social prescribing teams, and other voluntary organisations such as Citizens Advice.

In addition, during 2023, The Meeting Place has attracted funding for what it provides for the community from Chorley BC's Household Support Fund.

All the community activities that we provide are now known as The Hollinshead Centre.

The Community Project Fund set up within the charity accounts, deals with the funding and expenditure of those activities and the accounts correlate expenditure with grants received. Those monies include further grants from Chorley BC, Lancashire CC, Duchy of Lancaster, the North West Synod of the URC and other organisations during 2023.

The Future

The worship space of our present premises continues to be a much more versatile and flexible space used by the community during the week.

We are continuing to look at revamping the present community buildings, seeking advice from the architects as to the possibilities and hopefully providing facilities equating to those that would have been provided by the previously proposed new build community centre. This would take account of the community facility provided by the revamped worship space and will lead to a revamping of the existing community buildings and a smaller new build.

This is being facilitated by the bid by Chorley BC, of which we were part, to the government's Levelling Up Fund being successful and is being progressed by the church development group acting on behalf of the charity and with the financial support of Chorley BC and the North West Synod of the URC, while still taking appropriate professional advice as required.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

The financial management structure under the overall management of the Charity Trustees/Elders with Finance and Fabric Committees continues to function well. This eases the day to day burden on the Charity Trustees/Elders for financial, property and investment matters and given them more time for pastoral activities and developing our vision for the future.

We believe that we have managed the church's financial activities in the last year well. Though we have an ageing church membership overall, the congregation and membership have been maintained. Church members and friends have responded in their giving to ensure that the charity's expenses were met.

To ensure that monies for church development are set aside from other income and expenditure, the Church Development Fund Account remains. The income to this fund from church members and regular worshippers reflects the confidence they have in the way forward. Equally to ensure that monies for the above community work are set aside from other income and expenditure, the Community Project Fund operates for The Hollinshead Centre.

With the help of the NW Synod as above, we have still been able to meet all our expenses, but, as Notes 8 and 9 to the Financial Statements show, and our giving to varying charities and deserving causes continues, totalling £3,715. In addition, there were some direct donations from fundraising activities that did not pass through the accounts.

Our investments took a hit in recent years, but, working closely with our financial advisers, a this has been minimised.

In view of possible church developments as described earlier and the financial implications, the concerns that the Minster and Elders have around regular giving continue to be addressed with the membership and congregation and the TRIO material produced by the URC, which is based on proportionate giving, is available to us.

The church's contribution to the URC's Ministry and Mission Fund through the North West Synod of the URC was still the major item of expenditure for 2023 and will be for 2024. As the sum is calculated in arrears, there are fewer church members to raise that money, but any capital and capital assets for church development and donations/income for such and the community project fund are now ring-fenced and excluded from its calculation.

Expenditure for 2023 includes some expenses for the community worker, but the major expenses will be met centrally by the URC.

The full financial implications of church development on our present site cannot at this point be fully addressed, though the development team will be working on estimated costings as the project proceeds. If we find that the costings for any further community development are beyond what the charity can resource and put the charity's finances and activities in jeopardy, then the charity trustees will review the scope of that development and proceeding further, hopefully without losing key facilities for the community as far as possible. Major decisions will go to the church meeting in accord with our constitution for ratification before any action can be taken.

Ideally, the Charity Trustees would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months regular expenditure for "business as usual". The cash balances at 31 December 2023, excluding the Church Development Fund, the Community Project Fund, other designated monies for church development, any restricted funds and Fabric Committee accounts, represent approximately 4 months of known estimated budgeted expenditure for "business as usual" during 2024. Both treasurers consider that we still have sufficient funds to cover the church's fixed expenses for 2024.

The bank and cash balances at 31 December 2023 were as follows:

- General funds: £68,759 compared with £82,402 in 2022.
- All designated funds, excluding capital assets and investments: £28,483 compared with £5,172 in 2022 and reflects monies designated for church development.
- All restricted funds: £34,074 compared with £35,816 in 2022; this reflects donations and grants for the community activities of the Hollinshead Centre.
- Total balance all funds, excluding capital assets and investments: £131,316 compared with £123,390 in 2022.

Investments at 31 December 2023 totalled £45,613 compared with £51,018 in 2022. These figures reflect stock market activity and we have followed the advice of our financial advisers to ensure the best return on our investments under the circumstances for funding further church development.

Further comments are made under "Major risks to the charity".

Designated Funds

The Charity currently operates 5 designated Funds with the encouragement of the Church Meeting. These have been described in Note 15 of the Financial Statement as:-

Fabric Committee Fund

Support Fund

Tiddlers

Ladies Fellowship Donation Fund

Designated Funds within the Church Development Fund Account

The purpose and movement within funds during the year is shown in Note 15 of the Financial Statements.

Restricted Funds

The Church Fund includes 10 restricted funds for 2023, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the church. These monies were not at the disposal of the Charity Trustees/Elders/Church Meeting for any other purpose. They are described in Note 16 of the Financial Statement along with the movement in the funds during the year and include the Restricted Funds within the Church Development Fund Account, the Community Project Fund and the Hollinshead Centre Appeal Account.

Payments to employees and Charity Trustees

The charity no longer employs a Meeting Place Co-ordinator and a Centre Manager. Our cleaner is self-employed.

The church organist retired at the end of 2021 and volunteers play the organ for us in his place.

It should be noted that the majority of the work of the charity is carried out by willing volunteers and it is only when the work is too difficult or specialist that we employ outside contractors.

Major risks to the charity

There are probably 6 continuing major risks to the charity:

- A continuing fall in the number of people worshipping at the church in recent years directly related to an increasingly ageing congregation/membership. Approximately 80%+ of our Voluntary Income is direct giving by members and adherents, in which recovery under Gift Aid is significant. This particularly emphasises the need for our Minister and Elders to monitor the progress and funding of our activities and ensure that the charity continues to fulfil its objectives.
To ensure the continuation of the support for the community of Chorley provided by The Hollinshead Centre, the charity is pursuing the setting up of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in partnership with the North West Synod of the URC and Chorley BC while taking legal advice to ensure that the interests of the charity are protected. Should the church close as a place of worship, the community facility would still remain.
- Risks to investments. The Finance Committee continues to seek professional advice to review and re-balance its investment portfolio as required to safeguard and diversify its capital investment and reduce the level of risk while still seeking a significant level of capital growth and income from investments. Though the market value of our investments was affected by events in recent years, we have still met a target income from investments of 4%. Risks to our investments will constantly be kept under review. This capital will be a significant contribution to the costs of church development.
- Increasing costs for developments arising from "Dreaming our Dreams". Some are relatively minor and easily met while others are major, such as the church development, for which we will seek grants and other sources of outside funding as we move forward in liaison with professional fundraisers and national and local outside agencies, statutory and non-statutory. With professional advice, we still hope to be able to overcome the obstacles to successful applications for grants that we had previously identified. The positive response from church members and regular worshippers, the support of the North West Synod of the URC and its head office, the support of Chorley BC and the feedback from our professional advisers, positive so far, are all encouraging signs.
- Our work in the Open Kitchen, the Repair Café and The Meeting Place highlights issues around safeguarding for vulnerable demographic groups. Our policies and procedures continue to be reviewed and updated along with the provision of regular training. These activities have been supported financially by Chorley BC, Lancashire CC, the Duchy of Lancaster, the North West Synod of the URC, the National Lottery (Awards for All) and other organisations.
- It had been identified that our present premises are sitting on top of an old coal seam and mine workings originating a few miles away. There is the risk of subsidence that is

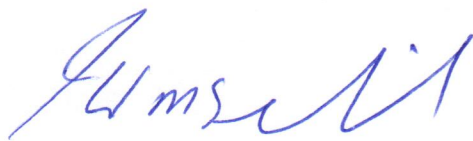
very likely to account for some of the structural problems that are now apparent in our present premises. As we pursue church development on our present site, we are seeking professional advice on what can be realistically achieved, particularly in light of the above risk, and overcoming such, which is very likely. With the support of the North West Synod of the URC, taking appropriate professional advice and successfully seeking financial support, we can remedy the situation and still pursue further revamping of the premises.

- Any church development still has the potential for risk as follows.
 1. Financial risk of funds being committed to any redevelopment and that fails and funds cannot be recovered, though professional support/advice and sourcing outside funding should minimise this risk.
 2. Building work, when completed, being found to be not fit for purpose. By having repeatedly researched the needs of the local community and ensuring that our plans meet those requirements as well as our own and with further advice from architects and surveyors, this risk will be minimised.
 3. The risks of any proposed church development to the charity's finances in future years. As well as our own accountant, the legal and financial advisers of the North West Synod of the URC will also be ensuring that the charity does not take any unnecessary or undue risks.
 4. Following local elections, the council may change its planning strategy. However, we have understood from council officers that this remains very unlikely. Financial support from the council for redevelopment is now assured, based on there being match-funding from Chorley United Reformed Church and the North West Synod of the United Reformed Church.

As previously stated, if we find that the costings are beyond what the charity can resource and put the charity's finances and activities in jeopardy, then the charity trustees will continue to review the scope of any church development and think again about proceeding any further. The development group are aware of these issues and continue to take professional advice.

The Charity Trustees are aware of the financial implications of the above issues. All church members and the wider congregation will be continually kept informed of the charity's finances, particularly in light of developments arising from "Dreaming our Dreams" and any proposed church development.

This report, with the approval of the Church Meeting, was compiled by Dr. Grahame Barkby (Charity Commission contact for the period) and approved by the Charity Trustee's/Elders' Meeting on 18th September 2024 and is signed on its behalf by Ian McKendrick, Charity Trustee.



18th September 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1128897

CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO
31 DECEMBER 2023

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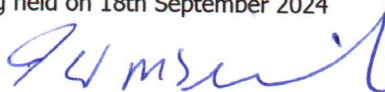
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	3	55,419	4,628	10,296	70,343	65,929
Other trading activities	4	4,893	-	-	4,893	4,970
Investments	5	42,922	9,009	54	51,985	37,121
Other	6	2,264	347	27,010	29,621	45,289
Total income		<u>105,498</u>	<u>13,984</u>	<u>37,360</u>	<u>156,842</u>	<u>153,309</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities:						
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	7	44,119	-	-	44,119	47,096
Ministerial costs	8	2,761	5,263	-	8,024	7,209
Costs of church activities	9	33,245	22,595	36,915	92,755	168,692
Grants payable and restricted donations passed on	10	0	2,315	1,400	3,715	2,986
Total expenditure		<u>80,125</u>	<u>30,173</u>	<u>38,315</u>	<u>148,613</u>	<u>225,983</u>
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	13.2	-	(5,708)	-	(5,708)	(7,251)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE		25,373	(21,897)	(955)	2,521	(79,925)
Transfers between funds		<u>(39,016)</u>	<u>39,803</u>	<u>(787)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(13,643)	17,906	(1,742)	2,521	(79,925)
Total funds b/fwd 1 January 2023		82,402	281,373	141,389	505,164	585,089
Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2023		<u>68,759</u>	<u>299,279</u>	<u>139,647</u>	<u>507,685</u>	<u>505,164</u>
			(Note 15)	(Note 16)		
MONIES RING-FENCED FOR CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND RESTRICTED FUNDS TO BE PASSED ON						
	17	<u>-</u>	<u>(219,664)</u>	<u>(139,323)</u>	<u>(358,987)</u>	<u>(416,910)</u>
			(Note 17)	(Note 17)		
Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2023 adjusted for ring-fenced monies		<u>68,759</u>	<u>79,615</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>148,698</u>	<u>88,254</u>

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2202
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	12	-	225,183	275,573	500,756	500,756
Investments	13	-	45,613	-	45,613	51,018
		<u>-</u>	<u>270,796</u>	<u>275,573</u>	<u>546,369</u>	<u>551,774</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	14	6,292	544	67	6,903	6,107
Bank and cash balances		62,467	27,939	34,007	124,413	117,283
		<u>68,759</u>	<u>28,483</u>	<u>34,074</u>	<u>131,316</u>	<u>123,390</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors payable within one year		-	-	(170,000)	(170,000)	(170,000)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>68,759</u>	<u>28,483</u>	<u>(135,926)</u>	<u>(38,684)</u>	<u>(46,610)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>68,759</u>	<u>299,279</u>	<u>139,647</u>	<u>507,685</u>	<u>505,164</u>
Creditors payable after one year		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>68,759</u>	<u>299,279</u>	<u>139,647</u>	<u>507,685</u>	<u>505,164</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY						
Unrestricted income funds:						
General		68,759	-	-	68,759	82,402
Designated	15	-	299,279	-	299,279	281,373
Total		<u>68,759</u>	<u>299,279</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>368,038</u>	<u>363,775</u>
Restricted income funds:						
	16	-	-	139,647	139,647	141,389
		<u>68,759</u>	<u>299,279</u>	<u>139,647</u>	<u>507,685</u>	<u>505,164</u>

Approved by the Charity Trustees/Elder's Meeting held on 18th September 2024
and signed on its behalf by Ian McKendrick



The notes on pages 3 to 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 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 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)" and the United Reformed Church Guidance. The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted and the principle accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

1c Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives.

Designation is an administrative act by which trustees may earmark unrestricted funds for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the trustees if they later decide that the charity should not proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

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

Endowment funds are funds the capital of which must be maintained; normally only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose and terms on which the endowment was established.

Totals for page 1 have included any rounding up/down for the benefit of the SORP accounts

1d Tangible Fixed Assets

Freehold property: The Trustees of the church and manse buildings are the United Reformed Church (North West Province) Trust Ltd who hold them upon trust on behalf of Chorley URC for purposes connected with Chorley URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

Investment assets: These are stated at market values on the balance sheet date.

All gains and losses are taken to the statement of financial activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening market value (or purchase date if later).

1e Incoming Resources

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received. Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

1f Resources Expended

The URC Ministry & Mission Fund 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 to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1g Taxation

As part of the United Reformed Church with an income in excess of £100,000, we registered with the Charity Commission on February 2009. Our registration number is 1128897. As such 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.

2 FURTHER NOTES

No further notes for 2023 accounts

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	General	Designated	Funds		
	£	£	£	£	£
3 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES					
Gift Aid & Bankers Orders	34,633	2,660	361	37,654	35,369
Loose Cash	6,127	-	-	6,127	6,282
Tax Refund	9,435	663	75	10,173	10,044
Weddings & Funerals & Baptisms	-	-	-	-	626
Donations Received	4,999	435	9,860	15,294	12,748
Wedding & Funeral Fees	225	-	-	225	-
Support Fund	-	870	-	870	860
	<u>55,419</u>	<u>4,628</u>	<u>10,296</u>	<u>70,343</u>	<u>65,929</u>
4 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES					
Hollies for You shop	-	-	-	-	-
Messenger	-	-	-	-	-
Car Park fees/lease	-	-	-	-	-
Special Efforts	4,055	-	-	4,055	3,995
Saturday morning Coffee and Scones	838	-	-	838	975
	<u>4,893</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,893</u>	<u>4,970</u>
5 INVESTMENTS					
Rent from Property (1)	42,904	6,400	-	49,304	34,319
Dividends and distributions	-	2,595	-	2,595	2,780
Bank interest received	18	14	54	86	22
	<u>42,922</u>	<u>9,009</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>51,985</u>	<u>37,121</u>
6 OTHER INCOME					
Adlington Pastoral Expenses contributions	1,089	-	-	1,089	1,089
Adlington Manse contributions	-	347	-	347	381
Grants received	-	-	27,010	27,010	43,619
Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
Synod support for CRCW	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds Synod Manse Scheme	-	-	-	-	-
Synod support during Covid pandemic	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous items	1,175	-	-	1,175	200
	<u>2,264</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>27,010</u>	<u>29,621</u>	<u>45,289</u>
1. Rent from property includes manse, school lettings and yard					
Total	<u>105,498</u>	<u>13,984</u>	<u>37,360</u>	<u>156,842</u>	<u>153,309</u>

7 MINISTRY & MISSION FUND

The church contributes to the central URC costs of training and providing ministers (including the centralised payment of stipends, pension contributions and other benefits for ministers), running the denomination, and the wider mission of the national church. This annual budget amounts to some £23million, 80% of which relates to minister costs, and 87% is provided through the Ministry & Mission Fund contributions from churches.

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	General	Designated	Funds		
	£	£	£	£	£
Maintenance of the Ministry	44,119	-	-	44,119	47,096
	<u>44,119</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,119</u>	<u>47,096</u>
8 MINISTERIAL COSTS					
Pastoral expenses	2,761	-	-	2,761	3,445
	<u>2,761</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,761</u>	<u>3,445</u>
Manse Costs					
Maintenance, repairs and redecorating	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Water, gas and electricity	-	667	-	667	712
Council tax	-	4,596	-	4,596	3,052
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,263</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,263</u>	<u>3,764</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	General	Designated	Funds		
	£	£	£	£	£
9 COSTS OF CHURCH / BUILDINGS ACTIVITIES					
Pastoral Expenses (other than ministerial)	-	-	-	-	-
CRCW expenses	1,507	-	-	1,507	2,801
Pulpit Supply and Worship	227	-	-	227	104
Family Church	240	-	-	240	-
Organist & Music	-	-	-	-	-
Copyright licenses	263	-	-	263	329
Annual subscriptions: Synod, CTC	-	-	-	-	30
Water, gas and electricity	15,411	-	-	15,411	5,447
Buildings maintenance	3,730	-	-	3,730	2,036
Buildings improvements	958	-	-	958	3,428
Garage refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning	5,805	-	-	5,805	3,963
Stationery, postage & advertising	452	-	-	452	966
Telephone (vestry); now Church broadband	576	-	-	576	461
Messenger Costs	-	-	-	0	0
Insurance	-	6,629	-	6,629	6,258
Flowers	-	-	496	496	712
Hollies for You shop rent and council tax	-	-	-	-	-
Church Development Fund	-	15,960	-	15,960	4,150
Ceiling repair	-	-	-	-	111,298
Community Project Fund	-	-	35,422	35,422	22,111
Other Expenses	3,096	-	833	3,929	3,596
Donations other than restricted donations below passed on	-	-	-	-	50
Dreaming our Dreams; including other professional fees	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs - Independent examiner and accounts preparation	780	-	-	780	780
Bank charges	200	6	164	370	172
	<u>33,245</u>	<u>22,595</u>	<u>36,915</u>	<u>92,755</u>	<u>168,692</u>
10 GRANTS PAYABLE AND RESTRICTED DONATIONS PASSED ON					
Tear Fund/Compassion/Bethany	-	336	-	336	196
Leprosy Mission	-	-	-	-	-
Water Aid	-	-	245	245	-
Commitment for Life	-	-	-	-	60
Ladies Fellowship B&B Charity	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Disasters Fund	-	-	-	-	-
(donations through Disasters Emergency and Christian Aid to distribute)	-	-	1,156	1,156	1,968
Support Fund	-	1,899	-	1,899	492
Ladies Fellowship Donation Fund	-	80	-	80	270
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,315</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>3,716</u>	<u>2,986</u>

11 EMPLOYEE COSTS AND PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

- 1 There were no employees with annual remuneration of £60,000 or more (2022: none).
- 2 No payments were made to trustees (2022: none).
- 3 Staff costs for 2023 £8,294 (Meeting Place Co-ordinator, Centre Manager); (2022: £8,700).

CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6

12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1d, the church and manse buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the Church and School buildings are insured for £5,495,508 and the Yard for £75,966. Contents of the Church and School are insured for £1,106,303
 Manse now insured by NW Synod URC

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT					
Brought forward	-	225,183	275,573	500,756	500,756
Balance at 31 December 2023	-	225,183	275,573	500,756	500,756

13 INVESTMENT ASSETS

13.1 The investment assets held at the balance sheet date comprise:

Fixed interest bonds and stock	-	25,164	-	25,164	35,009
Equity investments	-	16,163	-	16,163	15,428
Add cash held in portfolio	-	4,286	-	4,286	581
	-	45,613	-	45,613	51,018

13.2 The movements on investments over the year were:

Brought forward 1 January 2023 at carrying (market) value	-	51,018	-	51,018	83,269
Additions to investments at cost	-	10,568	-	10,568	-
Disposals at selling value	-	(10,500)	-	(10,500)	(25,000)
Realised gains/(losses) on disposals	-	236	-	236	-
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation investments	-	(5,708)	-	(5,708)	(7,251)
Rounding adjustment	-	(1)	-	(1)	-
	-	45,613	-	45,613	51,018

14 DEBTORS

Gift Aid Tax recoverable	6,292	544	67	6,903	6,107
	6,292	544	67	6,903	6,107

CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

The church currently operates 5 Designated Funds with the encouragement of the Church Meeting:

Fabric Committee Designated Fund	Previous funds for the maintenance and repair of the church, church buildings and manse premises were merged to form this fund; it receives income from investments and property rentals. The maintenance and repair is supervised by the Fabric Committee working with the Elders.
Support Fund	Fund to assist people in the church and the local community with problems and financial difficulties. This is administered discreetly by the Minister in conjunction with the Church Secretaries and Treasurer.
Tiddlers	Special collection from congregation to fund work with children in need throughout the world. Includes sponsoring the education of a specific child. Controlled by the Elders in conjunction with the Church Meeting
Ladies Fellowship Donations Fund	Funds set aside by the Ladies Fellowship to donate according to the wishes of the members.
Church Development Designated Fund	These funds are monies donated by church members and regular attendees towards the costs of new premises for the church's development. Donations by others are held as restricted funds set out under note 15.

CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8

15.1 The movements on the Designated Funds during the year were:

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fabric Committee Designated Fund		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	132,727	165,731
Income	19,927	8,269
Transfers in from other funds	-	1,000
Expenditure	(22,460)	(10,022)
Transfers out to other funds	-	(25,000)
Investment gains/losses	(5,708)	(7,251)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>124,486</u>	<u>132,727</u>
Support Fund		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	1,031	663
Income	870	860
Gift Aid donations and rebate received	740	-
Expenditure	(1,899)	(492)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>742</u>	<u>1,031</u>
Tiddlers Fund		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	29	-
Income	355	225
Expenditure	(336)	(196)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>48</u>	<u>29</u>
Ladies Fellowship Donations Fund		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	-	-
Income	80	270
Expenditure	(80)	(270)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Church Development Fund Account Designated Fund		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	147,586	200,498
Income:		
Donations	-	-
Gift Aid donations and rebate received	2,400	2,650
Transfers in from other funds	42,921	59,891
Expenditure	(15,966)	(4,155)
Ceiling repair	-	(111,298)
Transfers out to other funds	(2,938)	-
Balance 31/12/23	<u>174,003</u>	<u>147,586</u>
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2023	<u>299,279</u>	<u>281,373</u>

The following funds from 2022 were closed with zero balance during 2023:

None

The following funds from 2022 were closed and balance transferred during 2023:

None

CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9

16 RESTRICTED FUNDS

The church accounts include 10 Restricted Funds, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the church. Some of these funds were then closed, having fulfilled their purpose. These monies are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any other purpose, and represent:

Leprosy Mission	Fund for monies specifically raised for Leprosy Mission particularly from a bookstall after Sunday am service.
Water Aid	Fund set up primarily for project "Jars of change for jars of water" carried out in Lent.
Commitment for Life	Fund to support the national URC projects under the "Commitment for Life" umbrella.
Ladies Fellowship Bring and Buy Charity	Ladies Fellowship sponsored charity from their annual bring and buy sale.
Natural Disasters Fund	Monies specifically donated for funding any current disaster emergency appeals, either through Christain Aid or the Disasters Emergency Committee.
Flower Fund	Monies donated to the church for the expressed purpose of providing flower arrangements for the church
Church Development Restricted Fund	These funds are monies donated by others outside the church towards the costs of new premises for the church's development
Hollinshead Centre Appeal Account	This sets apart outside donations given by others raised through the appeal by our professional fund-raising team for funding the Hollinshead Centre as opposed to any other church development
Community Project Fund:	These are monies are funds set aside to fund community projects initiated by our community worker such as the Repair Café and The Meeting Place The community activities are now collectively known as The Hollinshead Centre
Open Kitchen	Monies donated and grants for providing hot meals for the homeless in Chorley on one day each week

16.1 The movements on the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Leprosy Mission		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	-	-
Income; the Leprosy Bookstall didn't run in 2021 on account of Covid and has not resumed since	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
Balance 31/12/23	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Water Aid		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	-	-
Income;		
donations received; including gift aid donations	245	-
gift aid to pass on	-	-
No collections made in 2022 but donation sent from Support Fund		
Expenditure	(245)	-
Balance 31/12/23	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Commitment for Life		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	-	-
Income; donations	-	60
Expenditure	-	(60)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Ladies Fellowship Bring and Buy Charity		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	-	-
Income; this was not held in 2022	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
Balance 31/12/23	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Flower Fund		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	323	570
Income; donations	497	465
Expenditure	(496)	(712)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>324</u>	<u>323</u>
Natural Disasters Fund		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	-	-
Income;		
Donations	1,364	1,990
Gift aid donations	-	-
Gift aid to pass on	-	-
Expenditure	(1,156)	(1,968)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>208</u>	<u>-</u>
Church Development Fund Account Restricted Fund		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	106,078	106,078
Income:		
Donations	532	-
Gift Aid donations and rebate received	8	-
Grants received	-	2,598
Transfers in from other funds	181	10,000
Expenditure	-	-
Transfers out to other funds	-	(12,598)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>106,799</u>	<u>106,078</u>
Hollinshead Centre Appeal Account		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23	24	125
Income:		
Donations	-	-
Special efforts	-	3,325
Transfers in from other funds	-	124
Expenditure	-	-
Transfers out to other funds	-	(3,550)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>
Community Project Fund for The Hollinshead Centre		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23 (corrected)	29,810	5,614
Income:		
Donations	6,722	4,244
Gift Aid donations and rebate received	361	-
Grants received	27,010	28,932
Transfers in from other funds	-	15,563
Expenditure	(35,422)	(22,793)
Transfers out to other funds	(780)	(1,750)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>27,701</u>	<u>29,810</u>
Open Kitchen		
Balance b/fwd 01/01/23; includes float of 254	4,723	-
Income	554	3,519
Transfers in from other funds	147	1,750
Expenditure	(833)	(800)
Balance 31/12/23	<u>4,591</u>	<u>4,469</u>
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2023	<u>£ 139,647</u>	<u>£ 141,389</u>

The following funds from 2022 were closed with zero balance during 2023:
None

CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11

17 MONIES RING-FENCED FOR PROPOSED CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Capital ring-fenced for church development	-	45,613	-	45,613	157,096
Funds ring-fenced for church development	-	174,003	106,823	280,826	259,792
Restricted funds for Hollinshead Centre	-	-	32,292	32,292	-
Donations to be passed on	-	48	208	256	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>219,664</u>	<u>139,323</u>	<u>358,987</u>	<u>416,888</u>

18 2022 COMPARATIVES

			Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL
	Note	General	Designated			2022
		£	£	£		£
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	2	48,610	7,048	10,271		65,929
Other trading activities	3	1,645	-	3,325		4,970
Investments	4	29,226	7,888	7		37,121
Other	5	13,378	381	31,530		45,289
Total income		<u>92,859</u>	<u>15,317</u>	<u>45,133</u>		<u>153,309</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities:						
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	6	47,096	-	-		47,096
Ministerial costs	7	3,445	3,764	-		7,209
Costs of church activities	8	23,159	121,891	23,642		168,692
Grants payable and restricted donations passed on	9	-	958	2,028		2,986
Total expenditure		<u>73,700</u>	<u>126,613</u>	<u>25,670</u>		<u>225,983</u>
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	12.2	-	(7,251)	-		7,251
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE		19,159	(118,547)	19,463		(79,925)
Transfers between funds		(8,403)	(1,136)	9,539		-
Net movement in funds		10,756	(119,683)	29,002		(79,925)
1 total funds b/fwd 1 January 2022		71,646	401,056	112,387		585,089
Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2022		<u>82,402</u>	<u>281,373</u>	<u>141,389</u>		<u>505,164</u>

19 Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions during the year 2023.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

TRUSTEES' AND TREASURERS' STATEMENT

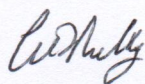
We, with the Charity Trustees, acknowledge responsibility for the preparation of the accounts and we have therefore prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 12 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

We do not consider that an audit is required for this year.

We have made reasonable enquiries of the Trustees/Elders and other relevant organisations.

Church Treasurer

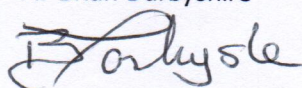
Dr Grahame Barkby



18.9.2024

Treasurer Fabric Committee

Mr Brian Darbyshire



18.9.2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
CHORLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Chorley United Reformed Church (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1-13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

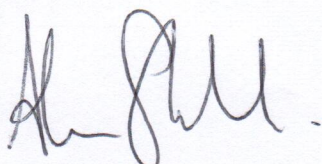
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 Charity 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.



A J Syddall M.A., F.C.A.
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
P B Syddall & Co
Grafton House
81 Chorley Old Road
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 3AJ

Date: 26/9/2024