

ALTRINCHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

CHURCH OFFICERS

**Susan Jesson, Church Secretary
David Smith, Finance and Property Committee**

CHARITY NAME

Altrincham United Reformed Church Charity

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER

1129206

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Elders/Trustees	Lambert Allan Megan Gilks Helen McGonnell David Smith Steve Wright Susan Jesson	Church Secretary
Treasurer	Andrew Entwisle	
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 23 Stamford New Road Altrincham WA14 1DB	
Charity address	Altrincham United Reformed Church (Trinity Hale) 81 Cecil Road Hale Altrincham WA15 9NT	

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Structure, governance and management

The Elders are the Trustees of the charity. The governing document of Altrincham United Reformed Church is the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church, which includes The Structure of the United Reformed Church and The United Reformed Church Acts of Parliament (1972, 1981 and 2000).

The function of the Elders Meeting and the Church Meeting are defined in the Structure of the United Reformed Church.

Serving Elders are Church members elected for a three year term by the Church Meeting. The Elders normally meet once a month and the meetings are usually chaired by the Church Secretary. They are responsible for the pastoral oversight and leadership of the local church. In the Elders Meeting they take counsel together for the whole congregation. It is their duty to make provision for Christian worship and education, to maintain proper standards of membership, and to promote witness and service to the community, mission at home and abroad, and the peace, unity and welfare of the church. Their responsibilities include making provision for the care and maintenance of church buildings and grounds, and oversight and management of church finances.

Church Meetings are normally held three times a year and are open to all members of the church. Unless The Structure of the United Reformed Church determines otherwise, major decisions affecting the church are usually made by the Church Meeting. Church Meetings during 2023 were held on 26th February and 13th August.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The object of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

The charity provides public worship open to all, pastoral support of the congregation, Christian education opportunities, all age social and recreational activities, provision of premises and services to the local community, and support of the worldwide church.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Church's aims and objectives, and in planning future activities and setting the grant making policy for the period.

Review of activities and achievements

Normally, services of public worship are conducted every Sunday morning, some Sunday evenings and also on special religious dates. These services are also available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

At various times during the year, opportunities are provided for members of the church and community, and adults and children, to engage in Christian education. These included for children and young people - Junior Church and twice weekly Toddler groups; and, for adults, regular meetings for worship and prayer, and social activities which included a dimension of Christian education.

Pastoral care was extended to members of the congregation, others associated with the church and members of the community.

Social and recreational activities, consistent with the charitable purposes of the church, included twice weekly Toddler Groups, and the twice monthly Guild. A weekly 'Open House Café' is open to the local community as well as church members. The church offers a "warm space" to the community at this Open House Café with hot drinks and snacks, and the hours have been extended. This is to help people in the local community to save on their home heating costs. Many of these groups also raised funds for outside charities.

The church premises were used by a number of community groups including local orchestras, choirs, a creative writing group, a dementia group, a slimming club and a children's sports group.

Trinity Hale Project

This project was completed in August 2022. It encompassed an upgrade to the church foyer including a meeting room, office and three toilets.

A new hall was built adjoining the church including a meeting room, 3 extra toilets including a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities. This new extension is now being used for church activities, hire by the local community and provision for other support groups.

The project was financed from the proceeds of the sale of the halls at the back of the church in July 2019, and from part of the proceeds of the sale of the manse in March 2020. The monies from these sales were held on our behalf by the North West Synod ("Synod") who made transfers to us as payments were required.

The halls proceeds have been totally accounted for, but there is still a balance on the manse proceeds which, although still held by Synod on our behalf, was brought into the church's Balance Sheet as of 31st December 2021.

Future Plans

During the year the church created a new paid post of 'Church and Outreach Worker'. Following a lengthy recruitment process Katharine Phillips was employed from 1st September 2023. Although this post did not work out as expected the church intends to readvertise the position in 2024.

Financial review

Unrestricted fund – this fund is used to finance the day to day running of the church. The Statement of Financial Activities shows a deficit for the year of £57,637 compared to a deficit of £11,572 last year.

We closed our building at Woodlands Timperley in December 2022. As noted last year this has resulted in a loss of rental income, but also the saving of the running costs. The building was sold in April 2023. Some of the lost income has been replaced by hirers/users of Woodlands Timperley transferring to Trinity Hale and this along with new users has seen income increase by 17%.

Despite the savings on the running costs of Woodlands, for the majority of the year, costs have increased from 2022. The most significant increases were in respect of property cost and the increase in energy prices and the employment of the Church and Outreach Worker for part of the year.

Designated fund (Woodlands) – the fund was instigated in the year using the proceeds of the sale - £1,053,054. Of these funds £50,000 has been transferred to the unrestricted fund and £500,000 invested, the balance remains in a common investment fund for charities (COIF).

As a result of this sale the income of the Charity was in excess of the audit threshold of £1,000,000 for the year and the accounts should require a full audit. As this was a one-off transaction a dispensation was sought and acquired from the Charity Commission as detailed in the Independent Examiner's report.

Designated fund (manse fund) – this represents part of the proceeds of sale of the manse less amounts used to finance the Trinity Hale project. Any balance is to be used for missional purposes. This fund was closed in 2024.

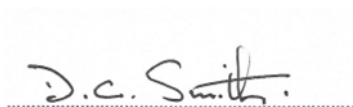
The financial results for the year, the accounting policies adopted and the amounts in each of these funds are disclosed in the attached Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet (collectively "the Accounts").

Reserves policy

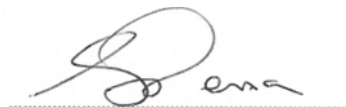
The unrestricted fund at the year-end amounted to £42,673 which along with the transfer of the Manse fund noted above the Elders consider adequate to cover future costs and emergency expenditure. They believe it is reasonable to assume that the church remains a going concern (see Note 1.2 to the Accounts).

The Elders' Meeting (the charity's Trustees) declare that they have **approved** the Trustees' Report above.

SIGNED on behalf of the Elders' meeting:



David Smith
Elder



Susan Jesson
Elder and Church Secretary

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Altrincham United Reformed Church Charity ("the Church") for the year ended 31st December 2023.

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

The income of the Charity was in excess of the audit threshold of £1,000,000 for the year. An audit dispensation was granted by the Charity Commission under Regulation 34(3)(b) of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. The dispensation, dated 14th August 2024, has allowed for an independent examination to take place instead of an audit (Regulation 31(f)) for the financial year ended 31st December 2023.

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: 11th September 2024

Teresa Fennell ACMA, CGMA
It Doesn't Have to Cost the Earth Ltd
47 St Dunstan's Close
Worcester, WR5 2AJ

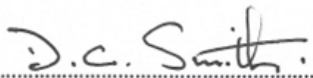
**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Manse Fund £	Designated Woodlands Fund £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Prior Year £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	33,528	-	-	33,528	44,136
Charitable activities	3	15,420	-	-	15,420	29,663
Investments	4, 16, 17	473	1,399	24,001	25,873	693
Other income	5	5,431	-	-	5,431	-
Separate material items	6	-	-	1,053,054	1,053,054	2,240
Trinity Hale project	7, 16, 17	-	-	-	-	1,000
		54,852	1,399	1,077,055	1,133,306	77,732
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	8	112,489	-	-	112,489	85,322
Separate material items	9	-	-	-	-	7,720
Trinity Hale project	11, 16	-	-	-	-	82,561
		112,489	-	-	112,489	175,603
Net income/-expenditure before investment gains/-losses		(57,637)	1,399	1,077,055	1,020,817	(97,871)
Realised gain on investments	12	-	-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		(57,637)	1,399	1,077,055	1,020,817	(97,871)
Total funds brought forward		50,310	69,963 (Note 17)	-	120,273	212,713
Transfers between funds		50,000	-	(50,000)	-	-
Unrealised gains from investments		-	-	25,793	25,793	-
Total funds carried forward		42,673	71,362	1,052,848	1,166,883	114,842

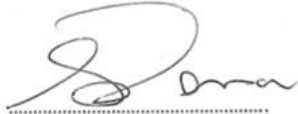
Balance Sheet
at 31st December 2023 and 2022

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Fixed asset investment	12	<u>525,793</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	13	6,015	4,170
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>640,543</u>	<u>126,292</u>
		646,558	130,462
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>5,468</u>	<u>10,189</u>
		5,468	10,189
Net current assets		<u>641,090</u>	<u>120,272</u>
Total net assets		<u>1,166,883</u>	<u>120,272</u>
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted fund	16.1	42,673	50,310
Designated fund - Manse fund	16.3 & 17	71,362	69,963
Designated fund - Woodlands fund	16.2	1,052,848	-
Total charity funds		<u>1,166,883</u>	<u>120,273</u>

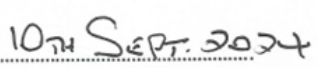
Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



David Smith
 Elder



Susan Jesson
 Elder and Church Secretary



Date

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these Accounts are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant Notes to the Accounts.

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16th July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Preparation of the Accounts on a going concern basis

Having considered projections of income and expenditure in the next 12 months, the Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient funds to pay all its liabilities as they fall due.

1.3 Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured.

Donations and legacies are recognised when the charity receives the funds.

1.4 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any purpose of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which the donor has specified are solely to be used for particular activities.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable reliability.

All expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

1.6 Fixed Asset Investment

Fixed asset investments are included at fair value. Any gain or loss, realised or unrealised, is accounted for in the income and expenditure account.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2023

1.7 Tangible fixed assets – freehold property

The Trustees of the church buildings are the United Reformed Church, North West Synod Trust, who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with the church. These assets are not tangible assets of the church and are not included in the Balance Sheet but are shown below.

The church was revalued on 25th October 2023 at £6,747,000 and the index linked insured values at 31st December 2023 are as follows:

	Buildings	Contents
	£	£
Insured values	<u>7,556,640</u>	<u>420,256</u>

1.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.9 Corporation Tax

As part of the United Reformed Church, the church is an excepted 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 Accounts.

1.10 Key estimates and accounting judgements

In applying the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions in determining the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities. The Trustees' judgements, estimates and assumptions are based on the best and most reliable evidence available at the time when the decisions are made, and are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be applicable. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in making such judgements, estimates and assumptions, the actual results and outcomes may differ.

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

1.11 Debtors and prepayments

Trade debtors are measured by the amount outstanding at the year-end date. Accrued income is measured based on the amount due but not yet invoiced at the year-end date. Prepayments are measured by the proportion that relates to periods after the year end date.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2023

Note	Unrestricted Fund		Prior Year £
	General Current Year £	Designated Current Year £	
2 Income from donations and legacies			
Standing orders and envelopes	22,943	-	24,664
Loose collections	2,505	-	1,428
Gift Aid tax refunds	6,013	-	5,796
General donations	2,023	-	1,040
Catering and refreshments	6	-	208
Legacies - for use at the Elders' discretion	-	-	11,000
Other items of income	38	-	-
	33,528	-	44,135
3 Income from charitable activities			
Trinity Hale lettings	15,420	-	13,170
Woodlands Timperley lettings	-	-	16,493
	15,420	-	29,663
4 Investment income			
Bank interest	2	-	-
Dividends	471	-	-
	473	-	-
5 Other income			
Orange site rentals	5,431	-	5,431
6 Separate material items of income			
Proceeds of sale of Woodlands (75% to church)	-	1,053,054	-
Orange site compensation (2021 - back rentals)	-	-	1,200
Sale of Woodlands furniture and equipment	-	-	1,040
	-	1,053,054	2,240
7 Trinity Hale Project			
Proceeds of sale of equipment	-	-	1,000
	-	-	1,000

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2023

Note	Unrestricted Fund	
	Current Year £	Prior Year £
8 Expenditure on charitable activities		
Ministry and mission:		
Ministry and mission fund	28,956	34,691
Other ministry and mission	14,190	2,346
Property costs:		
Trinity Hale	41,201	20,685
Woodlands Timperley	1,287	5,717
Caretaking and cleaning	10,920	11,513
Office and general administration	9,326	9,219
Accountancy costs	982	288
Independent examination fee	550	500
Legal and Professional costs	4,758	-
Bank charges	317	363
	112,489	85,321
9 Separate material items of expenditure		
Roof and path repairs	-	4,692
Purchase of a defibrillator	-	3,028
	-	7,720
10 Employee costs		
Salaries and wages	25,203	15,039
Social security costs	-	-
	25,203	15,039
No employees received any employee benefits		
Average head count in the year		
Charitable activities	2	2
Full time equivalent headcount in the year		
Charitable activities	1	1
11 Trinity Hale Project		
Expenditure on building the new hall	-	82,561

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2023

Note	Unrestricted Fund	
	Current Year £	Prior Year £
12 Fixed asset investments		
At start of year	-	-
Investment purchase	500,000	-
Unrealised gain	25,793	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At end of year	525,793	-
13 Debtors and prepayments		
Sundry debtor - reimburseable roof repairs	2,472	2,472
Prepayments and accrued income	3,543	1,698
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,015	4,170
14 Cash at bank and in hand		
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	527,055	-
Manse Fund (held by Synod) (see Notes 16 & 17)	71,361	69,963
RBS Savings Account	80	79
RBS Current Account	41,947	56,150
Petty Cash	100	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	640,543	126,292
15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued expenses	4,250	5,010
Accrued roof and path repairs	-	4,692
Rent received in advance	-	80
Pension	69	-
HMRC - PAYE	1,149	407
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,468	10,189

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2023

16 Funds of the charity

16.1 Unrestricted fund - this is the fund from which the church is run and administered.

16.2 Designated fund (Trinity Hale project) - this fund has financed the bulk of the Trinity Hale project. Work is now complete and the fund has been closed with the small remaining balance having been transferred to the unrestricted fund.

16.3 Designated fund (Manse Fund) - this comprises a proportion of the proceeds of the sale of the manse. Part of these have financed the Trinity Hale project with the balance to be used for missional purposes. Up to 31st December 2021, the funds were held by Synod, and not shown on the church Balance Sheet. Monies were transferred to the church as needed. On 31st December 2021, the balance on the fund, although still held by Synod, was recorded on the church Balance Sheet (see Note 17 below).

16.4 Designated fund (Woodlands Fund) - this comprises a proportion of the proceeds of the sale of the Woodlands premises during 2023. The balance on the fund, is shown in Note 17 below.

16.5 Restricted funds - where they exist, these can only be used for the specific purposes for which they were entrusted to the church. They are not at the disposal of the church for any other purpose.

17 History of funds held by Synod on behalf of the Church

Date	Detail	Sale of halls	Sale of Manse	Sale of Woodlands
04/07/2019	Proceeds of sale (100% to church)	1,032,119		
01/02/2020	Proceeds of sale (35% to church)		297,500	
Yr to 31/12/19	To Trinity Hale project	(400,000)		
01/03/2020	To church current account		(16,000)	
Yr to 31/12/20	To Trinity Hale project	(400,000)		
31/12/2020	Interest credited	1,556	1,853	
Yr to 31/12/21	To Trinity Hale project	(200,000)	(150,000)	
31/12/2021	Interest credited	9	917	
16/11/2021	To church current account	(33,684)		
31/12/2021	To church current account		(41,480)	
As at 31/12/21		-	92,790	-
21/01/2022	To church current account		(23,520)	
31/12/2022	Interest credited		693	
As at 31/12/22		-	69,963	-
04/04/2023	Proceeds of sale (75% to church)			1,053,054
31/07/2023	To church current account			(50,000)
31/12/2023	Unrealised gain on investment			25,793
31/12/2023	Interest credited		1,399	24,001
As at 31/12/23		-	71,362	1,052,848

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2023

18 Payments to Trustees and related party transactions

The Trustees all give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2022 - £nil).

Expenses were reimbursed to Mrs Susan Jesson, Church Secretary, in the sum of £705 (2022 - £177), Mr David Smith £152 (2022 - £269), Mrs Megan Gilks £167 (2022 - £70) and Mr Steve Wright £1,113 (2022 - £625). These were all for supplies purchased for the use of the church.

Donations of £5,933 (2022 - £6,388) were received in the year from Trustees.

There were no related party transactions during the year,

The church's insurance provides Trustee indemnity cover.

19 Contingent liability

At some time in the first half of 2024, repairs will be required to the original church boiler and alterations to the approach to the front door. These are estimated to cost in the region of £5000.

The church has committed to donating £5000 to Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in April 2024. This is a local debt counselling service based in Altrincham.