

ALTRINCHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

CHARITY NAME

Altrincham United Reformed Church Charity

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER

1129206

ALTRINCHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

CONTENTS

PAGE

2	Administrative information
3	Trustees annual report
3	Structure, governance and management
3	Objectives and activities for the public benefit
4	Review of activities and achievements
4	Trinity Hale project and future plans
5	Financial review
5	Reserves policy
6	Independent Examiner's report
7	Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st December 2024
8	Balance sheet at 31st December 2024
9-15	Notes to the accounts

ALTRINCHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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	

ALTRINCHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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 2024 were held on 11th February, 28th July and 3rd November.

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 dance and pilates group. The hall was also hired on a number of occasions for children's parties.

Future Plans

During 2023 the church created a new paid post of 'Church and Outreach Worker'. As reported last year the occupant of the post resigned and the church readvertised the position in 2024. Following the advertising and interview process Dave Fraser was employed from 1st September 2024 and this has worked out very well for the church. Dave was employed on a freelance basis for the first few months and from February 2025 he was placed on a permanent 3 day a week contract for 3 years.

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 £37,296 compared to a deficit of £57,637 last year.

Income in the year has increased from 2023 by 24%. This is a result of legacies totalling £7,500 (2023: £nil) and letting income increasing by £4,869.

Expenditure has fallen from the previous year principally as 2023 included the legal and professional costs associated with the Woodlands sale.

Designated fund (Woodlands) – the fund was instigated in 2023 using the proceeds of the sale of this property - £1,053,054. The proceeds have been invested and the interest and dividends received used to offset the deficit in the unrestricted fund. The surplus in 2024 was £36,673.

Designated fund (manse fund) – this represents part of the proceeds of sale of the manse in 2020. This fund was closed in March 2024 with the proceeds transferred to the bank deposit account (see note 14).

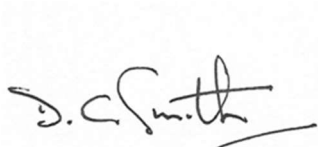
The financial results for the year, the accounting policies adopted and the amounts in each of these funds are disclosed in the attached Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet (collectively “the Accounts”).

Reserves policy

The unrestricted fund at the year-end amounted to £86,687 which 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 Parochial Church Council 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 2024.

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.

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:



DATE: 11th June 2025

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

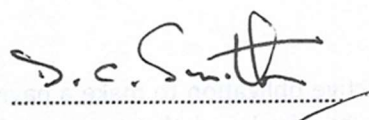
**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Manse Fund £	Designated Woodlands Fund £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Prior Year £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	41,000	-	-	41,000	33,528
Charitable activities	3	20,289	-	-	20,289	15,420
Investments	4	1,233	237	36,673	38,143	25,873
Other income	5	5,431	-	-	5,431	5,431
Separate material items	6	-	-	-	-	1,053,054
		67,952	237	36,673	104,863	1,133,306
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	105,248	-	-	105,248	112,489
		105,248	-	-	105,248	112,489
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(37,296)	237	36,673	(385)	1,020,817
Realised gain on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		(37,296)	237	36,673	(385)	1,020,817
Total funds brought forward		42,673	71,362 (Note 14)	1,052,848	1,166,883	120,273
Transfers between funds		81,310	(71,599)	(9,711)	-	-
Unrealised gains from investments		-	-	5,376	5,376	25,793
Total funds carried forward		86,687	-	1,085,187	1,171,874	1,166,883

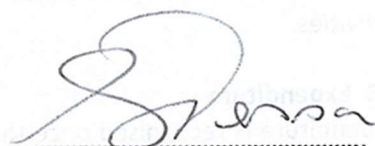
Balance Sheet
at 31st December 2024 and 2023

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Fixed asset investment	9	<u>531,169</u>	<u>525,793</u>
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	10	5,908	6,015
Cash at bank and in hand	11	<u>640,105</u>	<u>640,543</u>
		<u>646,013</u>	<u>646,558</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>5,307</u>	<u>5,468</u>
		<u>5,307</u>	<u>5,468</u>
Net current assets		<u>640,706</u>	<u>641,090</u>
Total net assets		<u>1,171,874</u>	<u>1,166,883</u>
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted fund	13.1	86,687	42,673
Designated fund - Manse fund	13.2 & 14	-	71,362
Designated fund - Woodlands fund	13.3 & 14	1,085,187	1,052,848
Total charity funds		<u>1,171,874</u>	<u>1,166,883</u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



David Smith
Elder



Susan Jesson
Elder and Church Secretary

10.6.2025.

Date

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2024

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 2024

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 2024 are as follows:

	Buildings	Contents
	£	£
Insured values	<u>8,934,124</u>	<u>470,687</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 2024

Note	Unrestricted Fund		Prior Year £
	General Current Year £	Designated Current Year £	
2 Income from donations and legacies			
Standing orders and envelopes	24,337	-	22,943
Loose collections	1,416	-	2,505
Gift Aid tax refunds	5,661	-	6,013
General donations	1,250	-	2,023
Catering and refreshments	380	-	6
Legacies - for use at the Elders' discretion	7,500	-	-
Other items of income	456	-	38
	41,000	-	33,528
3 Income from charitable activities			
Trinity Hale lettings	20,289	-	15,420
	20,289	-	15,420
4 Investment income			
Bank deposit account interest	1,233	-	2
COIF account interest (see note 14)	-	27,200	25,400
Dividends	-	9,711	471
	1,233	36,910	25,873
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
	-	-	1,053,054

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

Note	Unrestricted Fund	
	Current Year £	Prior Year £
7 Expenditure on charitable activities		
Ministry and mission:		
Ministry and mission fund	26,973	28,956
Other ministry and mission	13,818	14,190
Charitable donations	280	-
Property costs:		
Trinity Hale	39,594	41,201
Woodlands Timperley	-	1,287
Caretaking and cleaning	11,674	10,920
Office and general administration	9,937	9,326
Accountancy costs	2,080	982
Independent examination fee	575	550
Legal and Professional costs	-	4,758
Bank charges	317	317
	105,248	112,489
8 Employee costs		
Salaries and wages	21,214	25,203
Social security costs	-	-
	21,214	25,203
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

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

Note	Unrestricted Fund	
	Current Year £	Prior Year £
9 Fixed asset investments		
At start of year	525,793	-
Investment purchase	-	500,000
Unrealised gain	5,376	25,793
At end of year	531,169	525,793
10 Debtors and prepayments		
Sundry debtor - reimburseable roof repairs	2,472	2,472
Prepayments and accrued income	3,436	3,543
	5,908	6,015
11 Cash at bank and in hand		
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	554,018	527,055
Manse Fund (held by Synod) (see Notes 13 & 14)	-	71,361
RBS Savings Account	72,912	80
RBS Current Account	13,119	41,947
Petty Cash	56	100
	640,105	640,543
12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued expenses	4,504	4,250
Pension	-	69
HMRC - PAYE	803	1,149
	5,307	5,468

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

13 Funds of the charity

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

13.2 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 14 below). During the year the fund was closed and monied transferred to the bank deposit account.

13.3 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 14 below.

13.4 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.

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

Date	Detail	Sale of Manse	Sale of Woodlands
01/02/2020	Proceeds of sale (35% to church)	297,500	
01/03/2020	To church current account	(16,000)	
31/12/2020	Interest credited	1,853	
Yr to 31/12/21	To Trinity Hale project	(150,000)	
31/12/2021	Interest credited	917	
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
	Interest credited during year	1,399	24,001
As at 31/12/23		71,362	1,052,848
19/03/2024	To church deposit account	(71,599)	
31/12/2024	Unrealised gain on investment		5,376
	Interest credited during year	237	26,963
As at 31/12/24		-	1,085,187

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

15 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 £1,232 (2023 - £705), Mr David Smith £Nil (2023 - £152), Mrs Megan Gilks £71 (2023 - £167) and Mr Steve Wright £459 (2023 - £1,113). These were all for supplies purchased for the use of the church.

Donations of £6,152 (2023 - £5,933) were received in the year from Trustees.

There were no related party transactions during the year,

The church's insurance provides Trustee indemnity cover.

16 Contingent liability

At some time in the first half of 2025 our car park will need to be resurfaced. The cost is estimated to be in the region of £11,000 + VAT.