

Water Lane United Reformed Church Charity

Charity Number 1129836

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended
31 December 2024

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Reference and Administrative Information

Address of Principal Charity

Water Lane United Reformed Church Charity
Water Lane
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 2JZ

Minister

(In vacancy)

Church Officers

Church Secretary – Gapsun Rhee
Church Treasurer – Anne Hunter

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
20 North Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 2LN

Legal Advisors

Veale Wasbrough Vizards
Second Floor
3 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2JB

Independent Examiner

Hayden Watson BSc (Hons) FCCA
The MHH Partnership
Elstree House
Watson's Yard,
High Street,
Cottenham
CB24 8RX

Corporate Trustee and Agent

United Reformed Church Eastern Province Trust
36 Duxford Road
Whittlesford
Cambridge
CB22 4ND

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees present their report and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. These are produced on the Receipts and Payments basis, taking advantage of the provisions of Section 133(1) of the Charities Act 2011.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Water Lane United Reformed Church Charity is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of Eastern Synod of the Church. It was registered on 27 May 2009 as Charity Number 1129836.

Water Lane Church is situated at Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2JZ, tel. 01279 755610.

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. Those who served from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Mrs A Hunter	Treasurer
Mrs J Pinnell	
Mr A Booth	
Ms G Rhee	Church Secretary
Mrs P Bayston	
Mrs A M Groves	
Mrs R Dickens	
Mrs Michelle Czajkowski	

The church buildings are vested in the Synod Trust having legal ownership of these premises as trustees and held for the benefit of Water Lane URC in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The activities of Water Lane URC 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 Water Lane Church. The governing document of the registered charity is a statement adopted by the Church Meeting on 1 March 2009.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the church and the care and maintenance of church premises and the manse. The Church Meeting (of all members wishing to attend) gives general guidance on the life and work of the church. The Elders' Meeting is composed of the minister in pastoral charge and up to 12 members of Water Lane URC nominated, and elected, by Church Meeting. Elders serve for 5 years, retired by rotation, their period of service may be extended by agreement of the Church Meeting. There is no limit on the number of consecutive periods of service. The elected members of the Elders' meeting are the trustees of the registered charity during their period of service as Elders.

The Elders' Meeting met 12 times during the year. It is assisted in the administration of the Church and its property by Finance & Property Committee (currently 4 members)

The Church Meeting met 6 times during 2024.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Water Lane Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building and described more specifically below:

Object of the charity

- a. Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
- b. Teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- c. Respond to human need by loving service
- d. Seek to transform unjust structures of society
- e. Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on the 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:

1. 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.
2. Promoting Christian values and service by the members of the congregation to the community for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Church Buildings

The church and hall are let out to benefit the local community and to provide funds for the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings whilst providing funds for Outreach.

Use of Volunteers

The dictionary definition of a volunteer is that of a person who offers service of their own free will and at Water Lane this means everyone who is a member or regular attender at worship. To be a Christian is to be a volunteer in the service of the Lord.

To the extent that Christians offer their services beyond the local church at synod or national level they remain volunteers, but their service is in a more regional context. This includes those who sit on committees, those who preach, teach and in any way contribute towards the furtherance of the kingdom of God in the United Reformed Church.

Most ministers of word and sacrament are paid directly from the Finance Office of the United Reformed Church in London. Other than that, we are all volunteers.

Organisational Structure

The United Reformed Church is a conciliate organisation. The Government of the Church is exercised through Church Meetings of Members. All major decisions (as required by the constitution) are referred to the Church Meeting. Church Meetings take place approximately every two months and there is an Annual Meeting of Church and Congregation. Extraordinary meetings are called as required. The body responsible for the overall executive and pastoral decisions is the Elders meeting which meets approximately once a month. The Finance &

Property Committee, which is responsible for administrative financial and property issues meets every two months. The Elders review and decide whether to act on the recommendations of the Finance & Property Committee.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The church continues to actively welcome any persons who wish to hear the Good News of the Kingdom of God. In line with many other churches in the UK membership has been in gradual decline. The Elders are aware of the changing profile of its congregation and are investigating likely causes and opportunities for encouraging more individuals, families and young people to worship with us.

During 2024 the church was concerned with planning for two future aspects critical aspects of church life, arrangements for future mission and ministry and the necessary redevelopment of the Church Estate.

The church continued in ministerial vacancy throughout 2024 and up until the date of this report. We had the support of Rev. Nigel Uden as our Interim Moderator until his retirement in July 2025. We are now without an Interim Moderator but are about to enter the Four Rivers Mission Partnership along with churches from Whittlesford, Sawston, Clare, Safron Walden and Thaxted. A vacancy is due to be declared in October 2025 with a view to appointing a minister with primary oversight of Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden.

Following lockdown restraints on operations of church and hall lettings, several user groups closed altogether or made alternative arrangements due to the prospective closure of the hall.

Opportunities for fundraising have been slow to return to pre-lockdown levels as the church'. Our major fundraising effort is the bazaar in November. This was successful and raised £768 for charitable causes.

Our normal pattern of outreach activity includes:

- Providing financial contributions to specific Christian projects and through regular communion collections for worthy causes.
- Promoting 'Commitment for Life' financial giving through Christian Aid partners
- Occasional campaigning towards the goal of eradication of Third World debt and poverty.
- Being active members of Church Together in Bishop's Stortford, supporting its agreed activities such as the local street pastors.
- Providing regular coffee mornings that are available to the community.

As we move into the new mission partnership and the refurbished church building we are looking forward to the future opportunities that will arise from these positive changes.

Redevelopment of Church Estate

As of the date of this report, the Church has moved into the refurbished Church Building and ended the lease on the Church Hall with East Herts District Council. The first service was held in the Church on 21 September 2025. An open afternoon was held on October 4 2025 to re-introduce the building to the local community. A Service of Rededication of the Church will be held on 8 November 2025.

Many of the prior users of church hall are being accommodated in the refurbished church building. The significant exception is those activities that require an alcohol licence. We note that such regular users have found alternative venues in Bishop's Stortford.

The Synod Trustees completed the sale of the Church Hall with East Herts District Council (EHDC) at the end of September 2019. It was leased back to the Church by EHDC at a peppercorn rent until such time as the Church is ready to end the lease (once building works at the Church are complete). Throughout 2024 and until the end of September 2025 the hall continued to be used by the Church.

Proceeds of the Hall sale were held by Synod Trustees to fund the extension and reconfiguration of the Church building to facilitate a wider range of use, together with associated costs.

Planning permission for an extension and reconfiguration of the church was granted in Autumn 2022. Conditions are at present being fulfilled to ensure that this permission remains in perpetuity from November 2025. Our initial costings for the Church Extension prior to the hall being sold indicated the works would be covered by the proceeds of the Hall sale. However, the more complex design required to meet planning concerns together with the recent rapid price increases in building materials means this is no longer the case. The project has therefore been split into two phases. Phased 1 of the works incorporating the internal works to the Church building (pew removal, kitchen extension, new screen / vestry, heating system, lighting system, sound/visual system, front doors of church) began in January 2025 and was completed mid-September 2025. The Listed Building and Advisory Committee approved the removal of pews and the design concepts. Work is currently being undertaken regarding Phase 2 works which relate to a side extension – due to increase in costs this may need to be reduced in scope and may be subject to modifications to the planning granted.

In late 2022 we successfully applied for grant towards the works from the Town Council, who awarded us the maximum available sum of £50,000 based on the scheme that received planning consent. We are very grateful not only for the finance, but for the civic support for the project that it represents as it is very much our intention to make the enhanced Church building available for wider community use. Once work commenced in 2025, the Council paid the grant to the church.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity has opted to produce accounts on the Receipts and Payments basis for 2024, taking advantage of the provisions of Section 133(1) of the Charities Act 2011. The accounts take the form of a Receipts and Payments account for 2024 and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024. These figures are divided in columns between the separate categories of trust as indicated as best practice by the Charity Commission and show at the foot of the page the resulting changes in the trust totals. Subsequent notes give greater detail.

Running the church hall since lockdown has proved to be something of a drain on the church's financial resources. While we welcomed some new users since the pandemic, many organisations did not return, particularly given that the church hall was slated to close. Running costs stayed high, with much of the plant and equipment being at end of life. However, the church hall was vital to the continuity of the charity in 2025 when the church building itself closed for refurbishment. Now that the hall has been vacated, this area of expenditure has finished.

As noted above, many of the regular church hall users have been able to relocate their activities to the refurbished church building. We also anticipate that the building will be used by additional local organisations.

During 2024 we continued to plan for the redevelopment project, paying out a further £5,000 on surveyors' fees for specifying works details and £1,973 on development insurance.

Overall the accounts show a cash surplus of £740 for the year, albeit with creditors of £3,017 against debtors of £1,519. Aside from the changes in activity envisaged in 2025 as set out above, the church has reduced its spend on utility bills by changing providers during 2024. Donations have held up during the year, alongside hall lettings. The work being undertaken on the church in 2025 is fully funded as described above. Phase 2 of the development will only be undertaken if and when appropriate finance is available, while leaving the charity with appropriate reserves to maintain its ongoing activities.

On this basis the Elders are satisfied that the charity can continue with its current objectives and activities for the foreseeable future.

This report was approved by the Elders' Meeting on ^{8th October} and was

signed on its behalf by  A. Booth.

position Elder

date 8th October 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

I report on the financial statements of Water Lane United Reformed Church Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 17.

Respective responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and considers that the audit requirement of Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters in connection with the examination came to my attention which gave me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities act or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



Signed by the Independent Examiner:

date: 15 October 2025

Hayden Watson BSc (Hons) FCCA
The MHH Partnership
Elstree House
Watson's Yard
High Street
Cottenham
CB24 8RX

Statement of Financial Activities

		<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>Prior Period Total Funds</i>
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts	<i>Note 2</i>					
Donations		21,424	284	1,581	23,289	19,989
Charitable activities		18,277	1,779	-	20,056	16,433
Fundraising (other trading activity)		-	1,619	768	2,386	2,389
Investments		47,351	-	-	47,351	47,235
Other		2,600	-	-	2,600	7,082
<i>Total</i>		<u>89,653</u>	<u>3,681</u>	<u>2,349</u>	<u>95,683</u>	<u>93,128</u>
Payments	<i>Note 3</i>					
URC Ministry and Mission		23,124	-	-	23,124	27,792
Other Ministry, Mission, Worship & Fellowship		17,639	-	-	17,639	15,957
Church Maintenance & Running Costs		16,855	-	-	16,855	18,725
Hall Maintenance & Running Costs		27,908	-	-	27,908	29,243
Church Estate Redevelopment		6,793	-	-	6,793	6,000
Raising Funds		-	-	-	-	600
Donations		-	-	2,444	2,444	2,921
<i>Total</i>		<u>92,499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,444</u>	<u>94,942</u>	<u>101,238</u>
Net Receipts /(Payments)		(2,846)	3,681	(95)	740	(8,111)
Draw down from investments		-	-	-	-	15,000
Transfers between funds		3,681	(3,681)	-	-	-
Bank and on call deposits at the start of the year		25,810	-	594	26,403	19,514
Bank and on call deposits at the end of the year		<u>£26,645</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£499</u>	<u>£27,144</u>	<u>£26,403</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at Year End

	<i>General Funds</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>Prior Period total funds</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Monetary Assets Note 6					
Cash Funds	26,645	-	499	27,144	26,403
Debtors	1,519	-	-	1,519	1,096
Gift Aid Recoverable	105	25	185	314	715
COIF deposit held as investment (Note 6)	48,000	-	-	48,000	48,000
	<u>76,268</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>684</u>	<u>76,977</u>	<u>76,214</u>
Liabilities					
Creditors	3,017	-	-	3,017	1,565
Net Monetary Assets	<u>£73,252</u>	<u>£25</u>	<u>£684</u>	<u>£73,960</u>	<u>£74,649</u>

Assets retained for church use are described Notes 7 and 8 of these financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:


A. Booth

Trustee Date: 8th October 2025

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policies

Receipts and Payments Accounting

Water Lane United Reformed Church has opted to produce a statement of Receipts and Payments and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with section 133(1) of the Charities Act 2011, given that the charity's income, from all sources, has not exceeded £250,000.

Most income is received on a cash basis and it is the church's normal practice to pay invoices on receipt.

Freehold property

The trustees of the church buildings and the Guild House are the URC (Eastern Province) Trust who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with Water Lane United Reformed Church. The Guild House is let to long term tenants. Rental receipts from this tenancy are received by Water Lane United Reformed Church and are disclosed in the receipts and payment account.

Tax

Water Lane United Reformed Church is a registered charity and thus 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 tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Fund Structure Policy

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds that are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The charity operates one designated fund, the Administrative Expense fund. Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes, and it is the policy of the Trustees to monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

2 Analysis of Receipts

	<i>General Fund £</i>	<i>Designated Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>Total Funds £</i>	<i>Prior Period Total Funds £</i>
Receipts from Donations and Legacies					
Freewill offerings	15,380	-	-	15,380	14,930
Income from legacies	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
Communion collections	-	-	688	688	927
Commitment for Life	-	-	495	495	453
Other donations	10	240	48	298	666
Income tax refunds	3,585	44	351	3,979	3,013
<i>Total</i>	<i>21,424</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>1,581</i>	<i>23,289</i>	<i>19,989</i>

Income tax refunds are claimed under Gift Aid or the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme.

	<i>General Fund £</i>	<i>Designated Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	<i>Total Funds £</i>	<i>Prior Period Total Funds £</i>
Receipts from Charitable Activities					
Hire of the Church	1,339	-	-	1,339	1,896
Hire of the Church Hall	13,411	-	-	13,411	9,327
Special Services	60	-	-	60	-
Car Parking	3,279	-	-	3,279	3,336
Coffee mornings	189	1,779	-	1,968	2,252
	<i>18,277</i>	<i>1,779</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>20,056</i>	<i>16,433</i>

The offering of facilities to the community falls within the charitable objectives and activities of the charity.

Coffee mornings are held as a time of fellowship for members of the congregation and others within the broader community. Receipts include the sale of baked goods provided by members of the church, the donated value of which is estimated at £600 (2023 £600).

	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>Prior Period Total Funds</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Money raising					
Bazaar	-	369	768	1,136	954
Bric-a-brac stall	-	1,250	-	1,250	1,435
	-	1,619	768	2,386	2,389

The bric-a-brac stall and bazaar relate materially to the onward sale of items donated by members of the congregation. Items are typically given on or near to the day of sale and it is impractical to estimate the fair value of such items other than via sale proceeds.

	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>Prior Period Total Funds</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Investments					
Guild House Rent	44,750	-	-	44,750	44,750
Coif Deposit Interest	2,404	-	-	2,404	2,345
Other interest received	197	-	-	197	140
	47,351	-	-	47,351	47,235

	£	£	£	£	£
Other Receipts					
Synod Energy Grant	-	-	-	-	5,222
Rent of outdoor space	2,600	-	-	2,600	1,800
Sundry income	-	-	-	-	60
	2,600	-	-	2,600	7,082

Water Lane Bar reopened as Water Lane Lounge in November 2022. The charity concluded negotiations for a lease with the new owners in early 2023 for outdoor space to put the bar's air conditioning units. Rent has been received from that date onwards.

3 Analysis of Payments

	<i>General Funds</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>Prior Period total funds</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds					
Legal fees re outdoor space lease	-	-	-	-	600

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Period Total Funds £
Payments relating to Charitable Activities					
URC Ministry and Mission Fund	23,124	-	-	23,124	27,792

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.

Other Ministry, Mission, Worship & Fellowship

Pulpit Supply	1,129	-	-	1,129	1,127
Organist	3,705	-	-	3,705	3,320
Administrator's salary (a)	6,433	-	-	6,433	5,973
Licences and subscriptions	642	-	-	642	613
Other direct costs	386	-	-	386	239
Share of support costs (see below)	5,345	-	-	5,345	4,555
Total	17,639	-	-	17,639	15,957

Maintenance and running costs – Church (b)

Repairs and renewals	1,254	-	-	1,254	669
Utilities	6,340	-	-	6,340	8,814
Cleaning and refuse collection (40%)	4,861	-	-	4,861	4,805
Grounds maintenance (40%)	1,028	-	-	1,028	829
Organ tuning and maintenance	294	-	-	294	169
Other direct costs	6	-	-	6	147
Share of support costs (see below)	3,072	-	-	3,072	3,293
Total	16,855	-	-	16,855	18,725

Maintenance and running costs – Hall (b)

Repairs and renewals	3,236	-	-	3,236	2,696
Utilities	12,339	-	-	12,339	14,545
Cleaning and refuse collection (60%)	7,292	-	-	7,292	7,207
Grounds (60%) maintenance	1,542	-	-	1,542	856
Other direct costs	48	-	-	48	48
Share of support costs (see below)	3,451	-	-	3,451	3,503
Total	27,908	-	-	27,908	29,243

Church Estate Redevelopment

	6,973	-	-	6,973	6,000
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Donations

	-		2,444	2,444	2,921
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Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	92,499	-	2,444	94,942	100,638
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- (a) The role of the paid administrator is to support the Minister, Church Secretary and Elders in the Ministry, Mission, Worship and Fellowship activities of the church.
(b) The Lettings Secretary, Treasurer and Bookkeeper are all unpaid volunteers.

		£	£	£	£
2024	Support Costs	<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Independent Accounts Examination 1:1:1	-	-	-	-*
	Office costs 7:1:2	2,651	379	757	3,787
	Insurance 1:1:1	2,610	2,610	2,610	7,830
	Bank Charges 1:1:1	84	84	84	251
	Total	5,345	3,072	3,451	11,868

The 2024 invoice for accounts examination (£1,680) was paid in February 2025.

		£	£	£	£
2024	Church Estate Redevelopment	<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Professional costs	-	5,000		5,000
	Development insurance		1,973		1,973
	Total	-	6,973		6,973

		£	£	£	£
2023	Support Costs	<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Independent Accounts Examination 1:1:1	540	540	540	1,620
	Office costs 7:1:2	1,472	210	421	2,103
	Insurance 1:1:1	2,462	2,462	2,462	7,385
	Bank Charges 1:1:1	81	81	81	243
	Total	4,555	3,293	3,503	11,351

		£	£	£	£
2023	Church Estate Redevelopment	<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Professional costs	-	6,000		6,000
	Total	-	6,000		6,000

All costs are allocated equally across the three categories, with the exception of office costs which are split based on estimated usage and professional fees re property which are allocated across the church and hall where not directly attributed.

4 Payments to Trustees

Phyllis Bayston received £ 3,705 (2023 £3,320) in her role as church organist for which she invoices the charity monthly. Trustees other than the organist received no remuneration in the year (2024 - nil, 2023 - nil).

During the year, trustees other than the minister were reimbursed £112.97 in aggregate in respect of expenses incurred on behalf of the church (2023 - £182.65).

The church has been in vacancy throughout 2023 and 2024. Hence there have been no ministerial expenses payable to a trustee.

5 Employment Emoluments

	<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>Prior Period total funds</i>
	£	£
Part time administrator	6,433	5,973
Employees - part time administrator	.4	.4

6 Net Monetary Assets

	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Designated Fund</i>	<i>Restricted Fund</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>Prior Period Total Funds</i>
	£		£	£	£
Bank and Cash					
Expense Account	12,869	-	499	13,367	12,662
Deposit Account	13,766	-	-	13,766	13,563
Petty Cash	10	-	-	10	178
	<u>26,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>27,308</u>	<u>26,403</u>
Debtors					
Hall Lettings	1,519	-	-	1,519	1,096
Gift Aid Recoverable	105	25	185	314	715
Creditors					
Water Lane Bar Rent overpaid	200	-	-	200	-
Creditors	2,707	-	-	2,707	1,465
Payroll taxes due	110	-	-	110	100
	<u>3,017</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,017</u>	<u>1,565</u>

7 Assets for Church Purposes

For reasons explained in the accounting policies the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the Church is insured for around £6 million.

Other assets that the church owns are commensurate with the running of the church and include the organ, one electric piano, church fittings (including pulpit, lectern, communion table and chairs, pews), chairs and tables, kitchen fittings and equipment and office equipment including a basic computer and a second-hand photocopier. As a non-conformist church, the charity does not own assets of intrinsic high value such as items made of silver or gold or works of art.

8 Investments

For reasons explained in the accounting policies the Guild House is not a tangible fixed asset of the church. For insurance purposes the Guild House is insured for £1.3million. The Guild House is held as an investment property and generates a cash flow for the charity as shown in the receipts and payment account.

The remaining investment is the COIF deposit account, held on a long term basis, although some drawdowns are occurring to fund the professional fees on the church redevelopment project.

	<i>COIF deposit</i>	<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>
	£	£	£
At 1 January 2024	48,000	48,000	63,000
Drawdown in the year	-	-	15,000
At 31 December 2024	48,000	48,000	48,000

9 Designated Funds

The church operates one monetary designated fund, the **Administrative Expense Fund**, with the encouragement of Church Meeting. This fund is used to ring fence the proceeds of specific fundraising activities undertaken principally in order to defray local administrative expenses. Such funds are not taken into account in the calculation of our contribution to the wide URC Ministry and Mission fund. It was agreed that this decision could be reversed by consensus in Church Meeting and hence the fund is designated rather than restricted. The surplus on this fund is transferred at the end of each accounting year (other than in the unlikely event of sums raised exceeding local expenses).

<i>Administrative Expense Fund</i>		<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
		£	£
<i>At 1 January 2024</i>		0	0
<i>Donations</i>	Donations	240	355
	Gift Aid	47	-
<i>Charitable Money Raising</i>	Coffee Mornings	1,779	1,983
	Bazaar	369	318
	Bric-a-brac stall	1,250	1,435
<i>Total receipts</i>		3,681	4,091
<i>Payments</i>			
	Transfer to General Fund	3,681	4,007
	Transfer to Communion Fund	-	84
<i>Total transfers</i>		3,681	4,091
<i>As at 31 December 2024</i>		0	0

10 **Restricted Funds**

Charitable Fundraising

This fund records monies raised specifically for charities (outside of the Communion Fund described below). Where funds arise as the result of donations, tax recovered is also paid over to the charity. We held our annual bazaar in November 2024.

Commitment for Life

There is an annual appeal for Commitment for Life, a fund within the wider United Reformed Church. Donations are collected in November and December and are remitted when the appeal is complete.

Communion Fund

At every communion a collection is made for a specific charity and both the donation and the applicable tax recovered is paid to the charity concerned.

The church aims to pay over donations to other charities including relevant gift aid as soon as practicable after the donations are received. This may lead to a negative balance on a fund at a point in time when gift aid has been paid over prior to being claimed and received by the church.

		Charitable Fundraising	Commitment for Life	Communion Fund	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2024		291	303	0	594
Donations	Donations	48	495	688	1,496
	Gift Aid	6	91	254	302
Fundraising	Bazaar Stalls	768			
	Total Receipts	821	586	942	3,142
Payments	Paid over	1,123	394	92	2,330
	Transfer from administrative expense fund	--		-	-
As at 31 December 2024		(11)	495	15	928
Gift aid recoverable		12	0	10	83

		Charitable Fundraising	Commitment for Life	Communion Fund	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023		953	(25)	0	928
Donations	Donations	311	453	927	1,690
	Gift Aid received	95	-	83	178
Fundraising	Bazaar stalls	636	-	-	636
	Total Receipts	1,041	453	1,009	2,504
Payments	Paid over	1,703	125	1,093	2,921
	Transfer from administrative expense fund			84	84
As at 31 December 2023		291	303	0	594
Gift aid recoverable		6	91	155	252

Recipients of donations from Water Lane URC during the year

2023 Donations out	Charitable Fundraising Fund £	Commitment for Life Fund £	Communion Fund £	Total 2023 £
Herts & Essex Air Ambulance			66	66
MND Association	200		150	350
The Bible Society			50	50
British Red Cross	318		323	640
Cancer Research			36	36
Christian Aid	211		49	259
Shelter			113	113
Grove Cottage			21	21
Mind			51	51
Isabel Hospice	657			657
Holy Trinity Night Shelter	318			318
Refugee Council			54	54
YMCA			46	46
URC Commitment for Life		125		125
Total	1,703	125	1,093	2,921

2024 Donations out	Charitable Fundraising Fund £	Commitment for Life Fund £	Communion Fund £	Total 2024 £
Bible Society	-	-	35	35
British Red Cross	-	-	81	81
Mind	-	-	40	40
Shelter	163	-	125	288
Christian Aid	-	-	88	88
Bishop's Stortford Food Bank	384	-	-	384
Isabel Hospice	-	-	59	59
Holy Trinity Night Shelter	384	-	60	444
Herts & Essex Air Ambulance	-	-	71	71
MND Association	133	-	120	252
Grove Cottage	-	-	36	36
Refugee Council	-	-	41	41
Guys Cancer Charity	-	-	63	63
Rainbow Children's Trust	-	-	53	53
Marie Curie	-	-	56	56
Disaster Emergency Committee - Gaza	60	-	-	60
URC Commitment for Life		394	-	394
Total	1,123	394	927	2,444

