



ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY 1130767

TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Reference and administration details

Address High Street, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1BN

Charity Registered No. 1130767

Interim Moderator Reverend S J Fender

Elders (Trustees) who have served between 1 January 2024 to the date of this report:

Mrs J Gibbs (Church Secretary)	
Mrs V Corrigan	
Mrs J Jones	
Mrs R Charter	
Mrs N Leckie	
Mr L McKenzie	resigned 14 October 2024
Mrs J Henderson	
Mr P S Botha	appointed 20 October 2024

Structure, governance and management

The church is a member church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain which was established by the 1972 United Reformed Church Acts. The church has its own constitution which is approved by the Church Meeting. The Trustees consider the Church Meeting to be the decision-making body of the local church.

The church was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission on 27 July 2009.

Elders are nominated to serve as Trustees, subject to their being elected by receiving at least 75% of the votes cast at a Church Meeting. An Elder must have been a church member for 2 years before they are eligible for nomination.

Reverend S J Fender continues to serve the church as Interim Moderator until a new Minister is called.

The church is situated in the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church. The Synod meets twice each year, and the church is represented by a Trustee or appointed Church Member. The church is involved in a number of local ecumenical activities.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to consider the major risks to which the church may be exposed and take the necessary measures to identify those risks and reduce them to an acceptable level.

Objectives and activities

The principal objective of the church is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

The Trustees consider that the most appropriate way to meet this objective is to provide acts of worship and promote Christian teaching which is in accordance with the traditions of the United Reformed Church. The Trustees also recognise the importance of working closely with other churches in St Neots to develop ecumenical relationships with other Christian groups.

The full accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 are set out on pages 5 to 10 of this report. The report of the Independent Examiner is set out on page 4.

A Minister in post is paid a salary by the United Reformed Church. In the absence of a Minister the Trustees arrange for worship to be led by church members and visiting preachers. A preaching fee of £40 plus travelling expenses is offered to everyone who leads worship. Mrs J Gibbs led worship on 11 (2023:15) separate occasions and was paid a total of £440 (2023: £522) during the year. None of the other Trustees received payment for their services to the church and the Trustees also acknowledge the contribution from many people who are part of the life of the church.

Achievements and performance

Acts of public worship normally takes place each Sunday morning. Holy Communion is normally celebrated on the third Sunday in each month. Other acts of worship and teaching take place throughout the year. The church is actively involved in Churches Together in St Neots including the Fair Trade and Christian Centre, ACTIOS (Assisting Christian Teaching in Our Schools), St Neots Christian Aid Group, and is a weekly participant in the work of St Neots Foodbank by acting as a distribution centre.

The Trustees are pleased to report that church life in 2024 has been more active than the previous post-Covid years. As well as being open for public worship each Sunday the church uses YouTube to broadcast those services to members and friends who are unable to worship in person. The services are streamed live, and they are also available using "catch up" through the church's website. and can also be viewed later, via YouTube.

Elders' Meetings and Church Meetings are held using a mixture of physical attendance and Zoom technology. Printed copies of the Sunday services have been supplied to Members and Friends without IT technology.

Church Membership stands at 42 and the average number attending Sunday worship is 36 (2023:35), with an average of 27 viewing the service on YouTube.

The church is currently in discussion with two other United Reformed Churches, and four Local Ecumenical Partnerships, with a view to setting up a Mission Partnership (The Mid Cambs Mission Partnership). Once established, the Mission Partnership will call a Minister to serve the three United Reformed churches, and to work closely with the leaders of the other churches in the group.

Financial results for the year

The costs of the church exceeded its income by £1,899. The normal activities of the church showed a deficit of £11,486 but the fundraising schemes generated an income of £9,587. Full details are given in the Receipts and Payments account on page 5 and in the supporting notes on pages 7 to 10.

The Trustees are pleased to report that the whole of the cost of replacing the lift was met by grants and donations.

The urgent repair work to the Tower has been carried out but it is likely that repairs to the stonework will be expensive. The church is waiting for quotes for this work. In the meantime, the fund-raising group continues to look for potential sources of grants from external donors and to identify projects that the church itself can use to raise money.

The policy on reserves

Responsible financial stewardship calls for the Trustees to provide funds to enable the church to meet its liabilities as they fall due and to set aside a reasonable amount to cover costs that cannot be predicted. The Trustees consider that the equivalent of six months' normal expenditure is an appropriate amount. The level of reserves of the Unrestricted Fund at 31 December 2024 is acceptable but the Trustees continue to look for ways of increasing income and restricting expenditure to at least maintain this level of reserves. In the event of the church having reserves that were greatly in excess of its needs, the Trustees would recommend that the church should make donations to support the activities of organisations whose activities were in sympathy with the objectives of the church.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Mrs Jenny Gibbs
Church Secretary and Acting Chair of the Trustees
31 March 2025

ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the accounts on pages 5 to 10 for the year ended 31 December 2024 from the accounting records of the church.

W R Springbett

Date: 31 March 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

I report to the trustees of St Neots United Reformed Church (the Trust) on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

G Round BFP FCA

St Neots
Cambridgeshire

Date: 31 March 2025

ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total for 2024	Total for 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Offertory		20,993	-	-	20,993	22,675
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid		6,057	-	-	6,057	7,364
Fund raising and donations	3	-	11,804	-	11,804	40,340
Room hire		6,516	-	-	6,516	8,478
Rent from shop unit		17,359	-	-	17,359	10,313
Bank interest and investment income		1,144	-	-	1,144	1,065
Synod grant re utility costs		-	-	-	-	1,463
VAT reclaimed on Listed Places of Worship		-	-	-	-	1,340
Monies raised for outside causes	4	-	-	180	180	-
Total receipts		<u>52,069</u>	<u>11,804</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>64,053</u>	<u>93,038</u>
PAYMENTS						
Ministry & Mission Fund		25,992	-	-	25,992	25,008
Manse costs	5	-	-	-	-	70
Interim Moderator and Worship						
Leader's expenses	6	391	-	-	391	208
Church running costs	7	14,285	-	-	14,285	14,160
Church cleaning		6,670	-	-	6,670	6,973
Outreach	8	2,985	-	-	2,985	2,763
Support for outside causes	9	-	-	180	180	-
Maintenance of church building	10	13,233	-	-	13,233	2,957
Special projects	11	-	2,179	-	2,179	23,375
Costs of fund raising		-	37	-	37	-
Total payments		<u>63,556</u>	<u>2,216</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>65,952</u>	<u>75,514</u>
NET (PAYMENTS) / RECEIPTS		(11,487)	9,588	-	(1,899)	17,524
TRANSFERS		8,988	(8,988)	-	-	-
CASH FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2024		27,295	19,188	-	46,483	28,959
CASH FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024		<u>24,796</u>	<u>19,788</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,584</u>	<u>46,483</u>

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts

ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total for 2024	Total for 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Assets used for Church purposes (value for insurance purposes)						
Held under statutory trust						
Church building	13	7,907,821	-	-	7,907,821	7,460,208
Shop unit	13	899,251	-	-	899,251	848,350
		<u>8,807,072</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,807,072</u>	<u>8,308,558</u>
Organ		218,652	-	-	218,652	206,275
Furnishings and equipment	13	112,240	-	-	112,240	98,397
		<u>9,137,964</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,137,964</u>	<u>8,613,230</u>
Cash funds held						
COIF account		-	17,490	-	17,490	16,637
Barclays account		24,796	2,298	-	27,094	29,846
		<u>24,796</u>	<u>19,788</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,584</u>	<u>46,483</u>
Other assets (Money owed to the church)						
Gift Aid and GASDS receivable		3,951	-	-	3,951	4,248
Room Hire		1,295	-	-	1,295	499
VAT repayable		943	763	-	1,706	-
Amounts repayable by Synod		-	-	-	-	50
Accrued rent from shop unit		-	-	-	-	264
		<u>6,189</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,952</u>	<u>5,061</u>
Liabilities (Money owed by the church)						
Repayable within 12 months						
Church running costs		200	-	-	200	74
Gas, electricity and water		709	-	-	709	888
Church cleaning		346	-	-	346	555
Outreach		80	-	-	80	40
Rent received in advance		3,329	-	-	3,329	-
Fundraising		-	132	-	132	-
Church Leader's expenses		47	-	-	47	-
Maintenance of church building		-	-	-	-	120
		<u>4,711</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,843</u>	<u>1,677</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 31 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by Mrs Jenny Gibbs

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts

ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis available to small charities, and the United Reformed Church guidance.

2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds may be used by the church for any of its ordinary purposes

Designated funds represent unrestricted funds that the church has set aside for specific designated purposes: they can be transferred back into general funds by the decision of the Church Meeting.

Fund name and purpose	Balance b/f	Receipts in the year	Payments in the year	Transfers in the year	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Shop Rents COIF reserve - to provide funds should the shop unit become vacant	7,314	-	-	-	7,314
Fundraising for projects (see notes 3 and 11)	11,874	11,804	2,216	(8,988)	12,474
Total for Designated funds	<u>19,188</u>	<u>11,804</u>	<u>2,216</u>	<u>(8,988)</u>	<u>19,788</u>

Restricted funds represent income which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of a trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. These funds can only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund for future expenditure on that specific purpose, or returned; it cannot be absorbed into general funds. In the case of the lift, the amount spent in the previous year was £6,664. The Restricted Donations for the lift received in the year were for the whole cost of the lift and the Trustees consider that it is appropriate to transfer this amount to General Reserves from which the payment of £6,664 was made in the previous year. With this exception, the Trustees consider that the only restricted funds are those liable for return if unable to be spent. The liability is extinguished when those funds are utilised as required.

Fund name and purpose	Balance b/f	Receipts in the year	Payments in the year	Transfers in the year	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Repairs to The Tower	-	11,804	2,216	(8,988)	600
Total for Designated funds	<u>-</u>	<u>11,804</u>	<u>2,216</u>	<u>(8,988)</u>	<u>600</u>

Wilcox Trust

The Wilcox Trust was established in Australia on 3 March 1916 to give financial assistance towards providing a Manse for the Minister, using the investment income received in the year which was £101 (2023 £167). This is included in the figure for Bank interest and investment income on page 5. The Trustees of the church have no influence over the management of the Trust or of the distribution of the investment income. Consequently, the Trustees do not consider The Wilcox Trust to be an endowment fund belonging to the church,

ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total for 2024	Total for 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
3 Fundraising and donations					
Repairs to the Tower					
The Collaboration Choir	-	600	-	600	-
The Benefact Trust	-	-	-	-	900
Other donations	-	-	-	-	1,000
Replacement of the lift					
Grant from Eastern Synod of the URC	-	-	-	-	8,587
Grant from St Neots Town Council	-	-	-	-	5,000
The Bernard Sunley Foundation	-	-	-	-	5,000
The Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	-	2,500
The Benefact Trust	-	-	-	-	900
Other donations	-	-	-	-	350
Christmas Tree Festival	-	1,295	-	1,295	-
Gift Day	-	3,155	-	3,155	6,645
Saturday and Sunday coffee	-	2,897	-	2,897	2,462
Craft Group	-	505	-	505	616
Spring Fayre	-	778	-	778	817
Other donations and fundraising events	-	2,574	-	2,574	2,267
Bequest from Tom Busby	-	-	-	-	2,064
Bequest from Mike Colsell	-	-	-	-	1,000
Donations for Newsletter (Outreach)	-	-	-	-	232
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,804</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,804</u>	<u>40,340</u>
4 Monies raised for outside causes (Restricted Fund)					
"Youth for Christ" Appeal	-	-	180	180	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>
5 Manse costs					
Manse repairs	-	-	-	-	70
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70</u>
6 Interim Moderator's / Worship Leader's expenses					
Interim Moderator	93	-	-	93	135
Worship Leader	298	-	-	298	73
	<u>391</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>208</u>

ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total for 2024	Total for 2023
	£	£	£	£
7 Church running costs				
Insurance	6,004	-	6,004	5,384
Heat, light and water	5,782	-	5,782	6,069
Bookings Secretary	1,347	-	1,347	1,171
Postage, stationery and telephone	32	-	32	13
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	540
Communications (licences & broadband)	1,007	-	1,007	983
Advertising	113	-	113	-
	<u>14,285</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,285</u>	<u>14,160</u>
8 Outreach				
Pulpit Supply (see Note 16)	1,518	-	1,518	1,349
Donations - Foodbank, CTSN, Actios	885	-	885	820
Newsletter	582	-	582	536
Worship materials	-	-	-	58
	<u>2,985</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,985</u>	<u>2,763</u>
9 Support for outside causes (restricted fund)				
"Youth for Christ" Appeal	-	180	180	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>
10 Maintenance of church building				
Electrical repairs	3,389	-	3,389	232
Maintenance contracts	1,243	-	1,243	847
Plumbing repairs	1,280	-	1,280	-
Other repairs and maintenance	835	-	835	1,199
New capital items and replacements	1,242	-	1,242	175
Roofing repairs	5,244	-	5,244	-
Lightning conductor test	-	-	-	504
	<u>13,233</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,233</u>	<u>2,957</u>
11 Special projects				
	£	£	£	£
Repairs to the Tower	-	2,179	2,179	7,676
Replacement of the lift	-	-	-	15,699
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>23,375</u>

ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12 Monetary assets

The church monies are not held in separate bank accounts, but for the sake of clarity in these accounts the total of each account is allocated appropriately over the various funds.

13 Assets used for church purposes

The church building and the shop unit are vested in URC Eastern Synod Trust as trustees and are not church assets. They are held for the benefit of St Neots United Reformed Church in accordance with the statutory trusts applicable to URC properties under the URC Acts. The valuations for the year ended 31 December 2024 are the insured values as at 25 March 2025. The trustees consider that these values are more relevant to these accounts than the insured values at 25 March 2024. The comparative figures show the insured values at 25 March 2024.

14 Assets held for church purposes

URC Eastern Synod has not advised the church of any amount it was holding on behalf of the church at 31 December 2024 (2023 £nil). The use of any such money would be decided by the Church

15 Rent deposit account

The lease of the shop at 20 Moores Walk was renewed in 2021 for 25 years. The tenant has paid a rent deposit currently standing at £3,610.00 (2023 £3,535.92). The money is held in a separate bank account. The tenant is entitled to the interest. The Trustees consider that the rent deposit account should not be included within these accounts as they do not expect the title to the amount in the rent deposit account to pass to the church.

16 Payments to Trustees

In the absence of a Minister the Trustees have arranged for worship to be led by church members and visiting preachers. A preaching fee of £40 plus travelling expenses is offered to everyone who leads worship. Mrs J Gibbs led worship on 11 (2023:15) separate occasions and was paid a total of £440 (2023: £522) during the year. None of the Trustees received any payment for acting as Trustees.

17 Segregation of duties

The Trustees are satisfied that there is an adequate system of internal control, including segregation of duties and scrutiny over the income and expenditure of the church.



High Street, ST NEOTS, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1BN

31 March 2025

Mr G Round BFP FCA
The Maples
Fydell Court,
St Neots,
Cambridgeshire,
PE19 1UJ

Dear Sir,

St Neots United Reformed Church: accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

In accordance with the requirements of The General Directions, issued by the Charity Commission, we are writing to confirm the following matters relating to your Independent Examination of the accounts and the accounting records in respect of the year ended 31 December 2024.

1. All of the accounting records of St Neots United Reformed Church ("the church"), together with any other information which we reasonably feel might be relevant to your examination, have been made available to you. The accounting records correctly reflect all of the receipts and payments for the church for the year.
2. We are satisfied that we have put in place and maintained adequate internal financial controls.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility to prepare accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act.
4. We are satisfied that the church is not required to prepare accruals accounts or to have the accounts audited.
5. We confirm that the Unrestricted, Designated and Restricted Funds are correctly reported. We confirm that there are no Endowed Funds that need to be reported in the accounts.
6. The Trustees consider that the church has sufficient financial resources and anticipated income to enable it to meet its known and anticipated commitments as they fall due for payment for a period of twelve months from the date of this letter.
7. We are not aware of any breaches of the constitution of the church, nor of any litigation, either active or anticipated, against the church or any other claim upon the assets of the church up to the date of this letter.
8. We are not aware of any matter that should be disclosed in the Report of the Trustees or the accounts that has not been appropriately disclosed therein.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Mrs Jenny Gibbs
Church Secretary and Church Leader