

St. Thomas' United Reformed Church, Watford

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2015 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Administrative information

St. Thomas' United Reformed Church, Watford, is part of the Scroll Church Local Ecumenical Partnership. This is a single congregation local ecumenical partnership (LEP) between St. Thomas' URC and North Watford Methodist Church. The constitution of The Scroll Church was adopted on 23rd September 2017 and established it as the charitable, unincorporated association governed by that Constitution. The Scroll Church is not required at present to register with the Charity Commission.

St. Thomas' United Reformed Church remains responsible for the management of the church property at 68 Langley Road, Watford and the manse at 185 Cassiobury Drive Watford. The properties are vested in URC Thames North Trust (company no. 75432) as trustees for the benefit of St. Thomas' URC in accordance with the statutory trusts applicable to URC properties. St Thomas' URC is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain and is a member of the Thames North Synod. It is administered 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 St. Thomas' URC. The financial activities of the Church were required by law to be registered as a charity. The governing document of the Charity was adopted by the Church Meeting on 28th June 2009. The Charity was registered by the Charity Commission on 10th August 2009 as Charity Number 1131058.

Planning permission was given during 2015 for the redevelopment of the Langley Road site with a smaller church and some houses. The Langley Road building was closed at the end of 2015 in preparation for this. Since January 2016 the congregation has worshipped with the North Watford Methodist Church in its premises at The Harebreaks, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 6NF and the LEP was established in 2017. The intention was to move to Langley Road when the redevelopment of the URC site was completed.

Further information about The Scroll Church can be found at <https://thescrollchurch.org>

Structure, Governance and Management

With the formation of the LEP, and in accordance with its constitution, the Trustees of The Scroll Church, known as the Leadership Team, exercise the functions of the Elders Meeting of St. Thomas' URC, and The Scroll Church congregational meeting (of all members wishing to attend) gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church.

The Trustees consist of the Minister having pastoral charge with up to twelve members elected by the congregation, six of URC origin and six of Methodist origin, whose period of service is three years. There is no limit on the number of consecutive periods of their service. Their responsibilities span the life and work of the congregation, the financial administration of the Church and the care and maintenance of Church premises and the manse.

The members of the Scroll Church Leadership Team who served from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Revd Dr Donna Fowler-Marchant
Mrs Catherine Baldwin (until July 2023)
Mr Jim Clark
Mrs Elaine Faires (from 18.02.24)
Mr Michael Hill
Mrs Margaret Ingram
Mrs Iren Jasko
Mr Vernon Lane
Mrs Wendy Nugent
Mrs Frances Raymond
Mrs Katie Scott
Dr Jean Stevenson
Mr Charles Vinan

The Scroll Church is one of seven Churches forming the South Herts Group of United Reformed Churches, a Local Area Group within the Thames North Synod, and one of 20 Churches in the Methodist West Hertfordshire and Borders Circuit which is part of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District of the Methodist Church.

Objectives and Activities

The activities of St Thomas' URC through the LEP are described in The Scroll Church's own report. There is nothing further to describe here.

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

Review of Activities and Achievements

The project to redevelop the Langley Road site has again made slow progress. The 2019 planning permission needed renewing but this was not progressed by the developer who subsequently indicated that the scheme is not viable.

Financial review

The registered charity's accounts are attached to this report. As previously reported, St. Thomas' Charity's income during 2023 was principally from the letting of the manse. Apart from costs in connection with the manse, ongoing expenses are principally for the residual maintenance, insurance and electricity costs of the Langley Road property, and the off-site storage of furniture which may be needed in the new building.

URC Thames North Trust holds for the church, investments known as the Church Maintenance Endowment and the Manse Maintenance Endowment Fund. Their use is restricted accordingly.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 7th July 2024 and is signed on their behalf by the Minister, the Revd. Dr. Donna Fowler-Marchant.

Donna R Fowler-Marchant
7 July 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
RECEIPTS						
Offerings for Scroll Church						-
Fund raising and donations				-	-	-
Monies raised for outside causes	3			-	-	-
Gift Aid tax repayments	9					
Legacies						
Property - church/hall/parking users					-	
Property - Manse letting		30,185.31			30,185.31	18,059.47
Property - Manse costs refunded					-	
Interest on Deposits	2			44.74	44.74	5.04
Total receipts		30,185.31		44.74	30,230.05	18,064.51
PAYMENTS						
Ministry & Mission Fund		1,200.00			1,200	-
Church running costs	4	708.00			708.00	454.11
Programme activity costs	5				-	
Support of outside causes	6				-	
Maintenance of church buildings					-	
Manse costs	7	4,478.20			4,478.20	23,567.06
New building project		2,772.00			2,772.00	2,424.00
Manse Endowment reinvestment		-			-	9,500.00
Total payments		9,158.20		-	9,158.20	35,945.17
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)		21,027.11		44.74	21,071.85	-17,880.66
TRANSFERS between funds					-	-
CASH FUNDS b/fwd 1 January		14,701.90		3,841.75	18,543.65	32,557.30
CASH FUNDS c/fwd 31 December	12	35,729.01		3,886.49	39,615.50	14,671.64

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary assets						
Cash					-	0
Bank Current Account		35,729.01			35,729.01	14,675.64
Bank Deposit Account				3,886.49	3,886.49	3,836.71
Total monetary assets	8	35,729.01		3,886.49	39,615.50	18,512.35
Other assets						
Gift Aid recoverable	9	-		-	-	-
Assets used for church purposes						
Buildings under statutory trusts	10	Church buildings and manse				
Church contents	10					
Investments held for Church purposes	11	URC Thames North Trust				
Liabilities						
		None				

Approved by the Trustees on

and signed on their behalf:

trustee

The notes on pages 2 and 3 form part of this financial statement

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES

.1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 section 145(5), 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 charity for any of its ordinary purposes.

Designated Funds represent unrestricted funds set aside by the charity for specific designated purposes; they can be transferred back into general funds at the charity's decision. The charity has no Designated Funds.

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.

Fund name & purpose:	Balance b/fwd £	Receipts in year £	Payments in year £	Balance c/fwd £
Funds raised to equip new building	3,841.75	44.74	-	3,836.71
Totals for restricted funds	3,841.75	44.74	-	3,836.71

Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
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3 MONIES RAISED FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES

All activities take place as part of the Scroll Church LEP and are included in that Church's accounts

4 CHURCH RUNNING COSTS

Gas, electricity, water and waste	440.00		440.00	216.11
Insurance (see Note 11)	268.00		268.00	238.00
Licences and music			-	-
Cleaning/caretaking			-	-
Total church running costs	708.00	-	708.00	454

5 PROGRAMME ACTIVITY COSTS

Training			-	-
Sunday Club			-	-
Printing			-	-
Pulpit Supply			-	-
Other			-	-
Total programme activity costs	-	-	-	-

6 SUPPORT OF OUTSIDE CAUSES

Commitment for Life
Other external charities

All activities take place as part of the Scroll Church LEP and are included in that Church's accounts

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES - continued

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
7 MANSE COSTS					
Maintenance	29.08			29.08	13,907.00
Insurance	1,059.12			1,059.12	948.86
Managing agent's fees	3,240.00			3,240.00	2,828.16
Change of tenant	150.00			150.00	5,883.04
Total manse costs	4,478.20	-	-	4,478.20	17,684.02

8 MONETARY ASSETS

The charity's monetary assets are not held in segregated accounts, but for the purpose of this financial statement the total of each account is allocated appropriately over the various funds.

9 GIFT AID

There were no donations in 2023 on which to claim gift aid.

10 ASSETS USED FOR CHURCH PURPOSES

The church property at 68 Langley Road Watford WD19 4PN and the manse at 185 Cassiobury Drive, Watford WD17 3AL are vested in URC Thames North Trust as trustees and are not church assets. They are held for the benefit of St Thomas' United Reformed Church Watford in accordance with the statutory trusts applicable to URC properties under the URC Acts. As the church building is not in active use pending demolition and redevelopment, insurance cover is limited to public and employer's liability. Contents retained for possible future use are in store, and the cost includes insurance. The manse is insured for £724,274 and contents for £5,600.

11 INVESTMENTS HELD FOR CHURCH PURPOSES

URC Thames North Trust as trustee holds on behalf of St Thomas' United Reformed Church Watford investments from the disposal of property under the URC property trusts. Use of the capital and income is subject to the approval of Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church. Moneys paid to the charity are shown in these accounts.

The value of the investments and the treatment of the income is as follows:

	Market Value		Application of income
	<u>31.12.2023</u>	<u>31.12.2022</u>	
General Maintenance Endowment	14,101	13,204	Retained by Trust
Manse Maintenance Endowment	25,680	23,248	Retained by Trust
TOTAL	<u>39,781</u>	<u>36,453</u>	

12 RESTRICTED FUNDS

These are amounts shown in Note 2 collected for other charities (none in 2023) or for specific purposes of St Thomas' URC.

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The charity trustees take responsibility for the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 on pages 1 to 3, which have been prepared from the accounting records of the church.

Donald Fowler-Mancher

Signed for St Thomas' United Reformed Church Watford Charity by

7/7/24

, Trustee

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Thomas' United Reformed Church Watford Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirement of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed 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 give me cause to believe that in any material respect

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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:



5/8/ 2024

DAVID EDNEY.

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