

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1131065

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-08-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Christ Church U R C 164 New London Road Chelmsford CM2 0AW
Phone	01245 354529
Email	cchubdesk@gmail.com
Website	www.christchurchchelmsford.co.uk

Activities

Objects: The object of the Charity 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.

Activities: Christ Church Chelmsford exists for the public worship of God according to the principles and usages of the United Reformed Church. It believes that the priorities for the life of the congregation and its outreach in the local community should be preaching/teaching and spiritual direction, youth and children's work, pastoral care, and Church growth.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£215,459	£241,883	-	-
2024-12-31	£209,807	£298,620	-	-
2023-12-31	£198,195	£237,683	-	-
2022-12-31	£223,165	£265,878	-	-
2021-12-31	£221,667	£207,794	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Joanne Louise Clare-Young	Chair	2026-04-01
JEAN FRANCES BEGG MCASLAN		2026-01-01
Jane Elizabeth Humphreys		2022-01-01
Johannes Jacobus Fourie van Staden		2024-01-01
Sue Fleming		2015-01-01

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1131065

Accounts

CHARITY NUMBER 1131065

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2025

'Christ Church: a place which demonstrates God's welcoming love for all'

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

164 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

Charity Registration No. 1131065

Reference and administrative information

Trustees:

Sue Fleming

Jane Humphreys

Jean McAslan from 1 January 2026

Christine Sands to 31 December 2025

Corne van Staden to 8 April 2025

Johannes van Staden

Bankers: National Westminster Bank
High Street
Chelmsford

Independent Examiner: Peyton Tyler Mears
16 Middleborough
Colchester
CO1 1QT

Church Officers:

Chairman	Sue Fleming
Secretary	Sue Fleming
Treasurer	Jane Humphreys

The Trustees present their report and the examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Christ Church Chelmsford is a Church within the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church which is constituted under the United Reformed Church Act 1972 as amended by the United Reformed Church Act 1981 and the United Reformed Church Act 2000. The United Reformed Church Act 1972 is considered to be the Governing Document, in particular Parts I and II of the Schedules to the Act.

The Minister and serving Elders of Christ Church act as its trustees. They act in accordance with the constitution agreed at the Annual Church Meeting on 29 April 2018. The number of serving Elders is normally to be set to represent 10% of the number of those on the Roll of Members. Service is normally for no longer than 6 years. For each election, held every two years, nominations are sought from among those on the Roll of Church Members who may or may not have previously served as Elder in Christ Church or in another Church of the United Reformed Church. Elders elected for the first time are ordained to the role of Elder at the beginning of their period of service. All Elders are inducted at the beginning of each period of service.

The Elders have for many years been supported by two Committees – Finance and Fabric. Finance continues under the chairmanship of the Treasurer to manage the accountability of money, advise on major expenditure and to advise on management of investments. Fabric disbanded in March 2025 making way for a different relationship with the incoming Premises Manager.

All major policy decisions are taken in principle, and expenditure approved in principle, by the Elders before being put to the meeting of Church Members. In common with the practices of the United Reformed Church, the Church Meeting is the ultimate decision-making body of Christ Church.

The key management group within the church structure is made up of the Minister, the Church Secretary and the Treasurer. The first of these is remunerated by the denomination centrally at the same rate as all stipendiary ministers of word and sacrament serving the denomination. When no Minister is appointed to serve at Christ Church the Elders elect one of their number to be Chairman. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer offer their services in a purely voluntary capacity.

The Elders normally meet 8 to 10 times a year to review the activities of the church and to receive reports (normally on a quarterly basis) from the supporting committees. Recommendations are made to the Church Meeting which normally meets six or seven times a year.

Aims and Objectives

Christ Church Chelmsford exists for the public worship of God according to the principles and usages of the United Reformed Church. It believes that the priorities for the life of the congregation and its outreach in the local community should be preaching/teaching and spiritual direction, youth and children's work, pastoral care, and Church growth.

The strategy for achieving these aims and objectives is to hold regular services together with a wide range of activities throughout the week to support people of all ages, experience the love of God and grow in the faith. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and proposed future activities on a regular basis.

Achievements and Performance

We continued to hold worship each Sunday throughout 2025. We welcomed 20 people to lead worship, were grateful to two people who regularly supported congregational singing on the organ or piano (and occasionally other musicians), and we also made use of the Sunday worship from the URC. The small team of people able and willing to operate the AV system and sound system transformed the experience. Average numbers in worship fell slightly to 34 though many more than

that attended at some time. At the close of 2025 there were 65 Members on the Roll, a reduction of eight.

We held the biennial election of Elders in the autumn. We thanked Christine Sands for her period of 7 years' service this time (extended by the pandemic), and Corne' van Staden had stood down in April. We hoped to bring the number of serving Elders back to six, but on this occasion only Jean McAslan felt able to accept nomination. We are delighted to welcome Jean back to the serving eldership, and will review how to strengthen the leadership of the church and maintain effective pastoral care.

Christ Church became a founder member of the Chelmsford and SouthWest Essex Mission Partnership. This is a grouping of 11 churches including two Local Ecumenical Partnerships and two churches which are URC unions with another denomination. There was a joyful service at Grays URC to celebrate the formation of the Mission Partnership and we are now learning how to work together while recognising the individual characters of each church and the communities they serve. A vacancy was declared for a full-time minister to serve the Mission Partnership alongside the existing full-time minister, the Rev Gillian Thomson. In January 2026 the Rev Jo Clare-Young accepted the call to this ministry.

Consistent with our mission statement: 'Christ Church: a place which demonstrates God's welcoming love for all', we considered ways of being more inclusive, for example by helping neurodiverse people feel at home in worship by making fidget aids available. We obtained planning permission from Chelmsford City Council for minor external changes to the Vestibule entrance area to the church which will be part of an internal reorganisation to create an accessible toilet alongside an area to serve hot and cold drinks. This will enable us to significantly change how we use the upper level of the church for mission. We have developed links with a number of the regular hirers – for example, our Tuesday morning coffee time welcomes those attending the WEA talk. The weekly Wednesday morning knit and crochet sessions are open to all and provide a valued time for people to gather who may have no other engagement with the church. A monthly Bible study group started in January run by the members and we are delighted to have welcomed a new friend from a Methodist church.

Our Church Secretary continued to give her time generously to youth work. The Youth Club ran most Thursday evenings, Messy Church was held with St John's Moulsham Street each school holiday, and the three-day Holiday Club was held in July. The pre-loved uniform event held in August reached even more people than in 2024. Our fourth Christmas Fair and tree festival was welcomed by stallholders and members of the community of all ages. Sue and two young people attended the Greenbelt festival.

We are grateful for the support and guidance in developing our local mission and in becoming part of the Mission Partnership we have received from our Interim Moderator, Rev Dave Coaker. Our Premises Management team of six staff are also integral to the life of Christ Church. In May we said a fond farewell to Richard Jones as he retired after 12 years as our Premises Manager. At the same time we welcomed Kenton Church to that role, and appreciate the particular understanding he brings as an Elder of Billericay URC, another church within the Mission Partnership. We thank each member of the Premises Management team and our numerous volunteers who provide invaluable input to the life and activities of the church through their time and talents.

Financial review

Financial Statements

The financial statements, including the notes, have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102). The analysis of income and expenditure reflects the classification of activities, together with costs

relating to administration. The church does not sell goods or services, nor are there any other trading activities.

Statement of Financial Activities

At the end of 2025, overall assets totalled £705,254, a decrease of £8,798 on 2024. The budgeted items of the General Fund showed a deficit of £62,926 to which there was a budgeted contribution of £26,000 from the Underhill legacy.

Operating income totalled £215,459, an increase of £5,652. This resulted from a grant of £27,334 from Synod towards the roof repairs undertaken in 2024, offset by a fall of £14,000 in lettings income (£7000 of rental income from 166 New London Road was used to support the installation of an air source heat pump to replace the oil-fuelled heating system) and of £9000 in investment income (following the sale of investments in 2024).

Expenditure overall totalled £241,883, a decrease of nearly £57,000. Spending on centrally funded and local ministry fell by £8000, but the running costs for the premises increased by £12,000. Expenditure on the programme of repairs and maintenance following the quinquennial survey was largely limited to preparations for refurbishing the Vestibule area.

Activity on funds other than the General Fund

- Repairs and Maintenance: Expenditure totalled £22,373. Spending on routine maintenance was £16,000, in line with the annual provision. The main exceptional items were £3500 to correct piping in the boilers, and £690 to replace a broken window in the Sanctuary. Works to implement the recommendations from the quinquennial surveys included £1500 on minor works, and £4763 to secure planning permission and prepare for refurbishment of the Vestibule.
- Church Growth: £400 was donated to CTiC. £600 was used to help people experience church in different ways including reading Reform and attending Greenbelt. Expenditure was covered by investment income.
- Underhill Legacy: £3000 was spent on our work with children and young people and £26,000 budgeted to support the premises management team. Investment income covered £16,500 of this.
- Children and Young People: £55 spent to support a young person attending Greenbelt festival, and £250 to enable two young people to attend a URC event.
- Benevolent Fund: General giving totalled £985 plus Gift Aid. Donations of £450 each were made to Farleigh Hospice and Chelmsford Foodbank. Top-up contributions were made to the appeals for CHESS, the Disasters Emergency Committee, and Assure Pregnancy and Baby Loss Support.

Balance sheet

Following the sale of investments in December 2024, in January 2025 £100,000 was invested in Epworth Climate Stewardship Fund and £100,000 added to our holding of CCLA COIF Ethical Investment Fund. This Fund showed an unrealised loss for the year of £6,740 while the other Funds showed an unrealised gain of £22,000 for the year.

Reserves policy

General unrestricted funds are required to cover the regular planned activities of Christ Church including support of the Ministry and Mission Fund. The policy is to hold sufficient cash on deposit to cover three months' expenditure, and to hold medium term investments to cover one full year's expenditure. At the year end Christ Church held investments of £516,171 of which £4,484 relate to restricted funds and £91,173 support the General Fund. Almost all the remainder flow from the unrestricted legacy received during 2015. Cash on deposit and on account totalled £117,882.

Investment policy

Christ Church acknowledges the heritage of assets from congregations of past years, and recognises that there is a responsibility to the worshipping community of the future, whatever form that may take. Where Christ Church holds financial assets beyond what is required to meet the policy for expenditure on the restricted and unrestricted funds, we will normally seek to preserve the value of that capital for future generations.

Investments other than the cash deposits will normally be entrusted to the URC (Eastern Province) Trust to manage on our behalf in accordance with that Trust's financial policy. That Trust seeks to achieve as high an income as possible, subject to protecting the capital value of the funds against inflation. The investments are a mix of fixed interest and equity marketable securities. None of the investments should support practices which are against the church's conscience to the extent that they are against the conscience of Christians following the Ethical Investment Guidelines approved by the URC General Assembly from time to time.

Risk management

The Elders keep under review the ability to finance the agreed activities of the Church, and the risks presented by externalities such as changes to the regulatory framework relating to the management and use of the Church buildings complex. The most significant risks relate to the loss, either for a short or a long period, of key people, the majority of whom are volunteers.

Among the key risk controls used by the charity are:

- a written financial policy subject to periodic review
- clear financial authorisation and approval levels
- detailed summary accounts produced for scrutiny by Elders every quarter
- Elders and all those in regular contact with vulnerable people having been vetted through the DBS service, with appropriate safeguarding training
- A safeguarding policy for children and adults at risk
- A health and safety policy.

Through the risk management process established for the charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

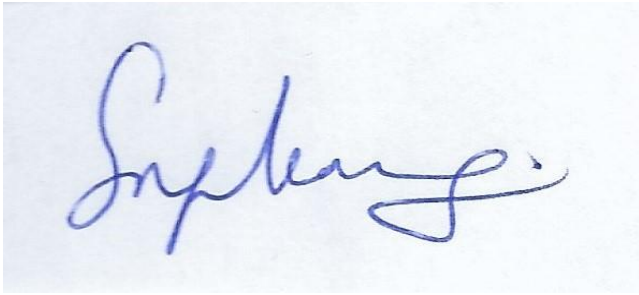
Plans for 2026

The priorities for 2026 are continuing to discern our mission within the community in Chelmsford, and taking that sense of purpose into our membership of the Chelmsford and SouthWest Essex Mission Partnership. We look forward to working with the Rev Jo Clare-Young.

We will continue with regular church activities, and to support them agreed a budget in December 2025 with a deficit of £42,000 on the General Fund, supported by other resources including the Underhill Fund. The remaining recommendations from the quinquennial surveys may now be implemented through the Vestibule project which seeks to improve the accessibility, energy efficiency and overall welcoming environment presented by the entrance area to our worship space. This work, and our approach to mission, will be reviewed with our minister once she is inducted.

In agreeing this report, the Elders, as trustees of the charity, have paid due regard to the guidance from the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit.

Approved by the Elders at the meeting on 3 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light blue background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Sue Fleming".

SUE FLEMING
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

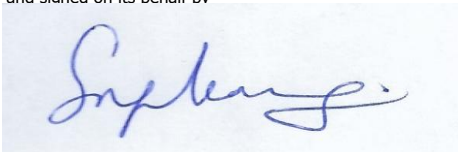
	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
		General £	Designated £	Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations, legacies and grants	2	54,373	27,334	4,358	86,065	58,243
Trading and other charitable activities	3	102,522	1,054	0	103,577	116,811
Investment income	4	5,747	19,761	309	25,818	34,753
Total		<u>162,643</u>	<u>48,149</u>	<u>4,667</u>	<u>215,459</u>	<u>209,807</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	7	0	0	7	83
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	6	39,288	0	0	39,288	41,964
Ministerial costs	7	2,129	0	0	2,129	7,870
Costs of church activities	8, 9	168,221	27,412	305	195,939	244,698
Grants payable and restricted donations passed on	10	0	0	4,520	4,520	4,004
Total		<u>209,646</u>	<u>27,412</u>	<u>0 4,825</u>	<u>241,883</u>	<u>298,620</u>
Income/(expenditure) before transfers		-47,003	20,736	-158	-26,425	-88,813
Transfers between funds	17.1	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-10,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		-37,003	10,736	-158	-26,425	-88,813
Realised Gains/(losses) on investments	13.2	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-1,417</u>
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investments	13.2	<u>10,996</u>	<u>6,102</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>17,627</u>	<u>3,125</u>
Net movement in funds		-26,007	16,838	371	-8,798	-87,106
Total funds b/fwd 1 January 2025		194,893	503,870	15,289	714,052	801,157
Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2025		<u>168,886</u>	<u>£ 520,708</u>	<u>£ 15,659</u>	<u>£ 705,253</u>	<u>£ 714,051</u>
			(Note 17)	(Note 18)		

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
		General £	Designated £			
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11, 12	69,210	0	0	69,210	78,821
Investments	13	<u>91,173</u>	<u>420,514</u>	<u>4,484</u>	<u>516,171</u>	<u>298,544</u>
		<u>160,383</u>	<u>420,514</u>	<u>4,484</u>	<u>585,381</u>	<u>377,365</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	14	10,059	0	422	10,481	13,738
Stock (Fairtrade)		200			200	236
Bank and cash balances		<u>5,413</u>	<u>100,846</u>	<u>11,623</u>	<u>117,882</u>	<u>326,432</u>
		<u>15,672</u>	<u>100,846</u>	<u>12,045</u>	<u>128,563</u>	<u>340,405</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors payable within one year	15	<u>7,169</u>	<u>652</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>8,691</u>	<u>3,719</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS						
		8,503	100,194	11,175	119,872	336,686
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES						
		<u>168,886</u>	<u>£ 520,708</u>	<u>£ 15,659</u>	<u>£ 705,253</u>	<u>£ 714,051</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year						
	16	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total assets of the charity						
		<u>£ 168,886</u>	<u>£ 520,708</u>	<u>£ 15,659</u>	<u>£ 705,253</u>	<u>£ 714,051</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY						
Restricted income funds:	18			15,659	15,659	15,288
Unrestricted income funds:						
General		168,886	0	0	168,886	194,893
Designated	17	<u>0</u>	<u>520,708</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>520,708</u>	<u>503,870</u>
Total Unrestricted					689,594	698,763
Total funds of the charity						
		<u>£ 168,886</u>	<u>£ 520,708</u>	<u>£ 15,659</u>	<u>£ 705,253</u>	<u>£ 714,051</u>

APPROVED by the Trustees at the Elders Meeting held on 3 March 2026
and signed on its behalf by



SUE FLEMING

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**1a **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019 - FRS102) issued by the Charity Commission, the Charities Act 2011, and the United Reformed Church guidance. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b **Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objects.

Designated funds are sums set aside out of general funds for specific designated purposes. They can be transferred back to unrestricted funds at any time

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant.

Christ Church has no endowment funds

1c **Tangible Fixed Assets**

Freehold property: The Trustees of the church buildings are the URC Eastern Province Trust who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with Christ Church URC Chelmsford. Expenditure incurred on the church buildings is written off in the year it is incurred.

Equipment: Depreciation is applied in a straight line over a period of 5 to 30 years, according to the nature of the asset, calculated to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives. Assets with purchase value below £100 are not capitalised but written off as expenditure

Investment assets: These are stated at mid-market values on the balance sheet date. Changes in valuation over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1d **Incoming Resources**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received. Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is probable and can be properly quantified.

All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

1e **Resources Expended**

The URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates.

Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

As much of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1f **Taxation**

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 financial statements.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
2. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS					
FreeWill Offerings (£702 per week; 2024 £700)	36,504	0	0	36,504	36,427
Cash offerings	1,316	0	0	1,316	2,110
Other donations to work of Christ Church	5,926	0	0	5,926	3,888
Benevolent fund donations	0	0	3,935	3,935	3,469
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	10,627	0	423	11,050	10,969
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0
Grant from Synod	0	27,334	0	27,334	1,380
	<u>£ 54,373</u>	<u>£ 27,334</u>	<u>£ 4,358</u>	<u>£ 86,065</u>	<u>£ 58,243</u>
3. TRADING AND OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
Church lettings	99,665	0	0	99,665	113,042
Fund raising activities	268	476	0	744	979
Duplicating and office services	207	0	0	207	236
Fairtrade	1,418	0	0	1,418	1,435
Minibus use	237	0	0	237	70
Youth work	0	578	0	578	584
Day Centre	0	0	0	0	0
Coffee and other sundry income	728	0	0	728	464
	<u>£ 102,523</u>	<u>£ 1,054</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 103,577</u>	<u>£ 116,810</u>
4. INVESTMENT INCOME					
Dividends and distributions	5,424	16,781	231	22,436	33,131
Bank interest	324	2,980	78	3,382	1,621
	<u>£ 5,748</u>	<u>£ 19,761</u>	<u>£ 309</u>	<u>£ 25,818</u>	<u>£ 34,752</u>
5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS					
Cost of fund raising	7	0	0	7	83
	<u>£ 7</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 7</u>	<u>£ 83</u>

6. MINISTRY & MISSION FUND

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. This annual budget amounts to some £19million, 63% of which relates to minister costs, and 85% is provided through the Ministry & Mission Fund contributions from churches.

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
7. MINISTERIAL COSTS					
Expenses of Minister, including visitors	1,998	0	0	1,998	2,470
Manse service charges inc insurance	131	0	0	131	0
Manse repairs	0	0	0	0	5,400
	<u>£ 2,129</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 2,129</u>	<u>£ 7,870</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8. COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	General	Designated	Funds	2025	2024
Church costs:	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	9,479	0	0	9,479	9,429
Utilities	26,575	0	0	26,575	24,050
Buildings maintenance	0	22,373	0	22,373	83,507
Premises management*	106,389	0	0	106,389	99,942
Communications costs*	5,128	0	0	5,128	5,182
Music*	4,463	0	0	4,463	2,966
Equipment (not capitalised)	0	0	0	0	0
Children & young people	0	3,631	305	3,936	3,575
Fairtrade	1,418	0	0	1,418	1,435
Minibus*	5,783	0	0	5,783	3,744
Day centre	0	0	0	0	0
Other running costs	1,695	1,409	0	3,104	3,616
	£ 160,930	£ 27,413	£ 305	£ 188,648	£ 237,446
* indicates depreciation included					
Support costs:					
	Governance costs	860	0	860	816
Depreciation of furniture and equipment	6,431	#REF!	0	#REF!	6,435
	£ 7,291	£ #REF!	£ 0	£ #REF!	£ 7,251
9. PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES					
Salaries and wages	97,859				
Social security costs	9,074				
Pension costs	1,605				
Total staff costs	£ 108,538				
of which £8588 covered by Employers Allowance					

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2024: nil)

Eligible Christ Church employees have been enrolled in the NEST pension scheme since February 2017

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with Christ Church in the year (2024: nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: nil).

No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: nil).

The trustees are the key management personnel of the charity

The average monthly head count was 6 employees (2024: 6 employees).

10. GRANTS PAYABLE AND RESTRICTED DONATIONS PASSED ON

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	General	Designated	Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolent Fund including appeals	0	0	4,520	4,520	4,004
	£ 0	£ 0	£ 4,520	£ 4,520	£ 4,004

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds				TOTAL	TOTAL
	Prem Magt	Office	Music	Bus	General	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward 1 January 2025	1,418	1,284	354	14,273	61,492	78,821
Additions in year			0	0		0
Depreciation for year	-121	-1,195	-80	-1,784	-6,431	-9,611
Carried forward 31 December 2025	1,297	89	274	12,489	55,061	69,210

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1c, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the church buildings are valued at £13,585,669. The organ is insured for £1,202,586, and other church contents are insured for £572,102

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	General	Designated	Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
13. INVESTMENT ASSETS					
13.1 The investment assets held at the balance sheet date comprise:					
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	5,354	101,898	629	107,881	14,623
COIF Property Fund	12,505	210,219	0	222,724	218,149
Epworth Climate Stewardship Fund		108,397		108,397	0
Charifund income units - Thompson grave	1,293	0	3,855	5,148	4,388
Charifund income units - general	72,021	0	0	72,021	61,384
	<u>£ 91,173</u>	<u>£ 420,514</u>	<u>£ 4,484</u>	<u>£ 516,171</u>	<u>£ 298,544</u>
13.2 The movements on investments over the year were:					
Brought forward 1 January 2025	90,177	204,412	3,955	298,544	627,187
Additions	-10,000	210,000	0	200,000	0
Disposals				0	-330,351
Realised gains/(losses)				0	-1,417
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	10996	6,102	529	17,627	3,125
	<u>£ 91,173</u>	<u>£ 420,514</u>	<u>£ 4,484</u>	<u>£ 516,171</u>	<u>£ 298,544</u>
14. DEBTORS					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	2,426	0	0	2,426	2,688
Benevolent Fund including tax recoverable	0	0	422	422	326
Rent for rooms	5,267	0	0	5,267	8,186
Cash float & sundry dues	112	0	0	112	100
Collections 28 December 2025	23	0	0	23	0
Ingatestone contribution to pastorate	23	0	0	23	0
Interest on share sale proceeds	0	0	0	0	216
Prepayments	2,209	0	0	2,209	2,222
	<u>£ 10,059</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 422</u>	<u>£ 10,481</u>	<u>£ 13,738</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors payable within one year:					
Appeals	0	0	870	870	866
Church running costs	5,790	0	0	5,790	2,397
Repairs and maintenance	0	502	0	502	456
Youth work	0	150	0	150	0
Room hire received in advance	1379			1,379	0
	<u>£ 7,169</u>	<u>£ 652</u>	<u>£ 870</u>	<u>£ 8,691</u>	<u>£ 3,719</u>
16. LONG TERM LIABILITIES					
Nil					
17. DESIGNATED FUNDS					
The church operates 5 Designated Funds with the encouragement of Church Meeting:					
Repairs and maintenance - established and used to fund the proper maintenance of the buildings and property, and to ensure that funds are available on a long term basis to deal with expensive work without distorting annual figures. Funded by provision from the general fund, and exceptionally by the Underhill legacy.					
Church growth fund - established in 2005 to support and encourage the growth of the people of the Church rather than its property					
Music fund - established initially by legacy, now supported by donations and, when appropriate, by transfer from the general fund. Its purpose is to ensure that funds are available to develop the music in Church					
Underhill fund - established in 2015 to manage and deploy the legacy from Irene Underhill					
Day Centre Fund - holds residual monies from running of Day Centre lunches (suspended 2022)					

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

17.1 The movements on the Designated Funds during the year were:

	Repairs	Church growth	Music	Underhill	Day Centre	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2025	29,127	67,610	5,963	400,407	763	503,870	576,460
Transfer from general fund	16,000	0	0	0	0	16,000	16,000
Receipts	27,334	476	0	578	0	28,388	2,360
Investment income		224	12	16,545	0	16,781	27,553
Interest	1,145	1,688	12	135	0	2,980	1,042
	<u>73,606</u>	<u>69,998</u>	<u>5,987</u>	<u>417,665</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>568,019</u>	<u>623,415</u>
Expenditure in year	-22,373	-1,409	0	-3,631	0	-27,413	-94,083
Transfer to General Fund	0	0	0	-26,000	0	-26,000	-24,747
Realised gain					0	0	-1,885
change in investment value	0	-460	-25	6,587	0	6,102	1,169
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2025	<u>£ 51,233</u>	<u>68,129</u>	<u>5,962</u>	<u>394,621</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>520,708</u>	<u>£ 503,870</u>

The Repairs and Maintenance Fund expenditure comprised:

	£	Manse:	£
Church:			
Quinquennial survey report minor works	1,528		
Sanctuary window repair	690		
Boiler pipework	3,520		
Vestibule project	4,763		
Service contracts and routine maintenance	11,485		
Miscellaneous	387		
	<u>£ 22,373</u>		<u>0</u>

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The church accounts include 4 Restricted Funds, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the church. These monies are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any other purpose, and represent:

Organ fund - initially established and funded from a legacy, now supported by donations and fund-raising. Its purpose is to support long term major repairs and development of the organ (routine maintenance is met by the general fund)

Thompson grave maintenance - the terms of the legacy in 1973 stipulated that £2000 must be retained to maintain the grave

Children and young people fund - established in 2014 from the specific bequest of Irene Underhill and the residual amounts of the Forbes Fund and the Youth Events Fund to provide a single fund to support work with children and younger people.

Benevolent Fund - established 2023 when the separate Communion Fund was closed. Offerings support those in need within and beyond Christ Church, including money given for specific appeals

18.1 The movements on the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	Organ	Children/ young people	Thompson	Benevolent	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2025	7,723	2327	4,556	683	15,289	14,869
Investment income	16	4	211	0	231	239
Interest	36	26	16	0	78	156
Donations	0	0	0	4358	4,358	3,897
	<u>7,775</u>	<u>2,357</u>	<u>4,783</u>	<u>5,040</u>	<u>19,955</u>	<u>19,161</u>
Expenditure in year	0	-305	0	-4,520	-4,825	-4,024
Realised gain			0	0	0	49
change in investment value	-33	-7	569	0	529	102
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2025	<u>£ 7,742</u>	<u>2,045</u>	<u>5,352</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>£ 15,659</u>	<u>£ 15,288</u>

Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Year Ended 31st December 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford ('the church') for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the church you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the church's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Church 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 financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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.

PEYTON TYLER MEARS
Chartered accountant

Middleborough House
16 Middleborough
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1QT

25th February 2026.

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1131065

Accounts

CHARITY NUMBER 1131065

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2024

'Christ Church: a place which demonstrates God's welcoming love for all'

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

164 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

Charity Registration No. 1131065

Reference and administrative information

Trustees:

Margaret Atkinson to 31 December 2024

Sue Fleming

Jane Humphreys

Christine Sands

Corne van Staden

Johannes van Staden

Bankers: National Westminster Bank

High Street

Chelmsford

Independent Examiner: Peyton Tyler Mears

16 Middleborough

Colchester

CO1 1QT

Church Officers:

Chairman Sue Fleming

Secretary Sue Fleming

Treasurer Jane Humphreys

The Trustees present their report and the examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Christ Church Chelmsford is a Church within the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church which is constituted under the United Reformed Church Act 1972 as amended by the United Reformed Church Act 1981 and the United Reformed Church Act 2000. The United Reformed Church Act 1972 is considered to be the Governing Document, in particular Parts I and II of the Schedules to the Act.

The Minister and serving Elders of Christ Church act as its trustees. They act in accordance with the constitution agreed at the Annual Church Meeting on 29 April 2018. The number of serving Elders is normally to be set to represent 10% of the number of those on the Roll of Members. Service is normally for no longer than 6 years. For each election, held every two years, nominations are sought from among those on the Roll of Church Members who may or may not have previously served as Elder in Christ Church or in another Church of the United Reformed Church. Elders elected for the first time are ordained to the role of Elder at the beginning of their period of service. All Elders are inducted at the beginning of each period of service.

The Elders are supported by two Committees:

- Finance
- Fabric

All major policy decisions are taken in principle, and expenditure approved in principle, by the Elders before being put to the meeting of Church Members. In common with the practices of the United Reformed Church, the Church Meeting is the ultimate decision-making body of Christ Church.

The key management group within the church structure is made up of the Minister, the Church Secretary and the Treasurer. The first of these is remunerated by the denomination centrally at the same rate as all stipendiary ministers of word and sacrament serving the denomination. When no Minister is appointed to serve at Christ Church the Elders elect one of their number to be Chairman. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer offer their services in a purely voluntary capacity.

The Elders normally meet 8 to 10 times a year to review the activities of the church and to receive reports (normally on a quarterly basis) from the supporting committees. Recommendations are made to the Church Meeting which normally meets six or seven times a year.

Aims and Objectives

Christ Church Chelmsford exists for the public worship of God according to the principles and usages of the United Reformed Church. It believes that the priorities for the life of the congregation and its outreach in the local community should be preaching/teaching and spiritual direction, youth and children's work, pastoral care, and Church growth.

The strategy for achieving these aims and objectives is to hold regular services together with a wide range of activities throughout the week to support people of all ages experience the love of God and grow in the faith. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and proposed future activities on a regular basis.

Achievements and Performance

Despite being in ministerial vacancy, we continued to hold morning worship each Sunday throughout 2024. We welcomed 19 people to lead worship, were grateful to 3 people who regularly supported congregational singing on the organ or piano, and sampled the Sunday worship from the URC. The very small team of people able and willing to operate the AV system and sound system transformed the experience. Average numbers in worship fell slightly to 35 though many more than

that attended at some time. At the close of 2024 there were 73 Members on the Roll, a reduction of five.

2024 was a year for reflection and discussion on the future of Christ Church's activities locally and in the wider area. As part of a broader review of the deployment of ministry in the Eastern Synod of the URC, it was proposed that Christ Church should be part of a new grouping of 11 churches to be known as the Chelmsford and SouthWest Essex Mission Partnership. This Mission Partnership was formally agreed in early 2025, and a vacancy declared for a minister to serve the Mission Partnership with particular pastoral care of Christ Church Chelmsford and Ingatestone URCs.

Responding to the challenge to identify a vision for a clear mission to the local community in Chelmsford while caring for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the current congregation, a small group met for six months. The aim was to help the church agree a vision, and to identify ways of revitalising the existing congregation. In July Church Meeting agreed a new mission statement: 'Christ Church: a place which demonstrates God's welcoming love for all.' In August we hosted the exhibition 'Open to All' by the artist and theologian Rev Elizabeth Gray-King. This attracted over 80 visitors and generated funds for the Open Table Network of LGBTQIA+ people of faith.

Sue Fleming, our Church Secretary and arranger of worship leaders, continued to give her time generously to youth work. The Youth Club ran most Thursday evenings, Messy Church was held with St John's Moulsham each school holiday, and the three-day Holiday Club was held in August. We received a Faith in Action award for the pre-loved uniform event held in July. Our third Christmas Fair and tree festival was welcomed by stallholders and members of the community of all ages.

We are grateful for the support and guidance in developing our local mission and in becoming part of the Mission Partnership we have received from our Interim Moderator, Rev Dave Coaker, who took over the role from Rev Barnabas Shin. We also appreciated the support with worship and Bible study from Rev Guy Goodall who has now moved away. Our Premises Management team of six staff continually strive to make the premises a welcoming place for all, and our numerous volunteers provide invaluable input to the life and activities of the church through their time and talents.

Financial review

Financial Statements

The financial statements, including the notes, have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102). The analysis of income and expenditure reflects the classification of activities, together with costs relating to administration. The church does not sell goods or services, nor are there any other trading activities.

Statement of Financial Activities

At the end of 2024, overall assets totalled £714,051, a decrease of £87,106 on 2023. The budgeted items of the General Fund showed a deficit of £42,453 to which there was a budgeted contribution of £22,000 from the Underhill legacy.

Operating income totalled £209,807, an increase of £11,000. This resulted from an increase of over £20,000 from room lettings offset by a fall of £9000 in voluntary giving (we received no legacies, and ad hoc donations fell).

Expenditure overall totalled £298,620, an increase of over £60,000. While spending on centrally funded and local ministry remained steady, the running costs for the premises increased by £14,000 and we started on a programme of repairs and maintenance following the quinquennial survey.

Activity on other funds:

- Church Growth: £400 was donated to CTiC. £800 was used to support the Open To All exhibition, the Christmas Fair and other church activities.
- Repairs and Maintenance: Expenditure totalled £88,907. Spending on routine maintenance was over £33,000, more than double the annual provision. The main exceptional items were £5700 for redecoration of the manse prior to letting, £3955 for LED lighting for the lower level main building, £3108 for external signage, £1500 for replacing external safety lighting, and £2760 for quinquennial survey reports (to which Synod contributed £1380). Works to implement the recommendations from the quinquennial surveys so far have included over £56,000 on roof repairs, primarily to the Youth Hall and Farthing Hall. After the year end Synod approved grant funding to reimburse 50% of the costs of specified works.
- Underhill Legacy: Investment income covered our work with children and young people and the budgeted subsidy for the premises management team. Elders agreed that £100,000 should be transferred to the Repairs and Maintenance Fund to support the premises development work.
- Day Centre: No Day Centre activities, but £2747 was used to replace the dishwasher and hot water boiler in the kitchen.
- Children and Young People: £20 spent to support a young person attending Greenbelt festival.
- Benevolent Fund: General giving totalled £855 plus Gift Aid. Donations of £300 each were made to Farleigh Hospice, Chelmsford Foodbank and the URC/Methodist appeal for Gaza/Lebanon. Top-up contributions were made to the appeals for CHESS, Christian Aid, and the Trussell Trust.

Balance sheet

Our holding of CCLA Ethical Investment Fund was reduced in May 2024 by £30,351 to generate working capital. This sale realised a gain of £1075. In November £300,000 of the holding in CCLA Property Fund was sold for reinvestment in more readily accessible funds. This sale realised a loss of £2492. £100,000 of the proceeds was placed in our two interest-bearing accounts, while the remaining £200,000 was held for our account by Synod pending investment equally in two funds in January. Our remaining investments showed an unrealised gain of £3,100 for the year.

Reserves policy

General unrestricted funds are required to cover the regular planned activities of Christ Church including support of the Ministry and Mission Fund. The policy is to hold sufficient cash on deposit to cover three months' expenditure, and to hold medium term investments to cover one full year's expenditure. At the year end Christ Church held investments of £298,544 of which £3,955 relate to restricted funds and £90,177 support the General Fund. Almost all the remainder flow from the unrestricted legacy received during 2015. Cash on deposit and on account totalled £326,432, of which £200,000 was earmarked for investment.

Investment policy

Christ Church acknowledges the heritage of assets from congregations of past years, and recognises that there is a responsibility to the worshipping community of the future, whatever form that may take. Where Christ Church holds financial assets beyond what is required to meet the policy for expenditure on the restricted and unrestricted funds, we will normally seek to preserve the value of that capital for future generations.

Investments other than the cash deposits to cover three months' expenditure will normally be entrusted to the URC (Eastern Province) Trust to manage on our behalf in accordance with that Trust's financial policy. That Trust seeks to achieve as high an income as possible, subject to protecting the capital value of the funds against inflation. The investments are a mix of fixed interest and equity marketable securities. None of the investments should support practices which are

against the church's conscience to the extent that they are against the conscience of Christians following the Ethical Investment Guidelines approved by the URC General Assembly from time to time.

Risk management

The Elders keep under review the ability to finance the agreed activities of the Church, and the risks presented by externalities such as changes to the regulatory framework relating to the management and use of the Church buildings complex. The most significant risks relate to the loss, either for a short or a long period, of key people, the majority of whom are volunteers.

Among the key risk controls used by the charity are:

- a written financial policy subject to periodic review
- clear financial authorisation and approval levels
- detailed summary accounts produced for scrutiny by Elders every quarter
- Elders and all those in regular contact with vulnerable people having been vetted through the DBS service, with appropriate safeguarding training
- A safeguarding policy for children and adults at risk
- A health and safety policy.

Through the risk management process established for the charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

Plans for 2025

The priorities for 2025 are continuing to discern our mission within the community in Chelmsford, and taking that sense of purpose into our membership of the newly-formed Chelmsford and SouthWest Essex Mission Partnership. We hope and pray that there will be a positive response to the declaration of the ministerial vacancy to serve Christ Church Chelmsford and Ingatestone within that Mission Partnership.

With the Mission Statement agreed in July 2024, we will continue to explore ways of making Christ Church a place which demonstrates God's welcoming love for all. Part of this will involve linking members of the congregation as church friends for groups which regularly use our premises. We will also explore Inclusive Church as a framework for development, and for potential collaboration with other churches locally.

We will continue with regular church activities, and to support them agreed a budget in December 2024 with a deficit of £46,000 on the General Fund, supported by other resources including the Underhill Fund. We have more to do to implement the recommendations from the quinquennial surveys, but are looking at the same time to improve the accessibility, energy efficiency and overall welcoming environment presented by the entrance area to our worship space. We will invest much of the rent from the former caretaker's house into installing a 'green' heating system for that property, consistent with our aim to be an eco Church.

In agreeing this report, the Elders, as trustees of the charity, have paid due regard to the guidance from the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit.

Approved by the Elders at the meeting on 11 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

SUE FLEMING
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
		General £	Designated £	Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations, legacies and grants	2	52,966	1,380	3,897	58,243	67,462
Trading and other charitable activities	3	115,831	980	0	116,811	95,374
Investment income	4	5,762	28,595	395	34,753	35,359
Total		<u>174,559</u>	<u>30,956</u>	<u>4,292</u>	<u>209,807</u>	<u>198,195</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	83	0	0	83	980
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	6	41,964	0	0	41,964	47,844
Ministerial costs	7	2,470	5,400	0	7,870	3,278
Costs of church activities	8, 9	155,995	88,683	20	244,698	179,202
Grants payable and restricted donations passed on	10	0	0	4,004	4,004	6,379
Total		<u>200,513</u>	<u>94,083</u>	<u>0 4,024</u>	<u>298,620</u>	<u>237,683</u>
Income/(expenditure) before transfers		-25,955	-63,127	268	-88,814	-39,488
Transfers between funds	17.1	<u>8,747</u>	<u>-8,747</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		-17,208	-71,874	268	-88,814	-39,488
Realised Gains/(losses) on investments	13.2	<u>419</u>	<u>-1,885</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>-1,417</u>	<u>1,365</u>
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investment:	13.2	<u>1,854</u>	<u>1,169</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>3,125</u>	<u>-32,311</u>
Net movement in funds		-14,935	-72,590	419	-87,106	-70,435
Total funds b/fwd 1 January 2024		209,828	576,460	14,869	801,157	871,592
Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2024		<u>£ 194,893</u>	<u>£ 503,870</u>	<u>£ 15,287</u>	<u>£ 714,051</u>	<u>£ 801,157</u>
			(Note 17)	(Note 18)		

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
		General £	Designated £			
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11, 12	78,821	0	0	78,821	86,175
Investments	13	<u>90,177</u>	<u>204,412</u>	<u>3,955</u>	<u>298,544</u>	<u>627,186</u>
		<u>168,998</u>	<u>204,412</u>	<u>3,955</u>	<u>377,365</u>	<u>713,361</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	14	13,196	216	326	13,738	6,626
Stock (Fairtrade)		236			236	705
Bank and cash balances		<u>14,861</u>	<u>299,699</u>	<u>11,872</u>	<u>326,432</u>	<u>87,106</u>
		<u>28,292</u>	<u>299,915</u>	<u>12,198</u>	<u>340,405</u>	<u>94,437</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors payable within one year	15	<u>2,397</u>	<u>456</u>	<u>866</u>	<u>3,719</u>	<u>6,641</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS						
		25,895	299,459	11,332	336,686	87,796
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES						
		<u>£ 194,893</u>	<u>£ 503,871</u>	<u>£ 15,287</u>	<u>£ 714,051</u>	<u>£ 801,157</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total assets of the charity		<u>194,893</u>	<u>503,871</u>	<u>15,287</u>	<u>714,051</u>	<u>801,157</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY						
Restricted income funds:	18			15,287	15,287	14,869
Unrestricted income funds:						
General		194,893	0	0	194,893	209,827
Designated	17	<u>0</u>	<u>503,870</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>503,870</u>	<u>576,461</u>
Total Unrestricted					698,763	786,288
Total funds of the charity		<u>£ 194,893</u>	<u>£ 503,870</u>	<u>£ 15,287</u>	<u>£ 714,051</u>	<u>£ 801,157</u>

APPROVED by the Trustees at the Elders Meeting held on 11 March 2025
and signed on its behalf by

SUE FLEMING

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**1.ACCOUNTING POLICIES****1a.Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015 - FRS102) issued by the Charity Commission, the Charities Act 2011, and the United Reformed Church guidance. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b.Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objects.

Designated funds are sums set aside out of general funds for specific designated purposes. They can be transferred back to unrestricted funds at any time

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant.

Christ Church has no endowment funds

1c.Tangible Fixed Assets

Freehold property: The Trustees of the church buildings are the URC Eastern Province Trust who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with Christ Church URC Chelmsford. Expenditure incurred on the church buildings is written off in the year it is incurred.

Equipment: Depreciation is applied in a straight line over a period of 5 to 30 years, according to the nature of the asset, calculated to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives. Assets with purchase value below £100 are not capitalised but written off as expenditure

Investment assets: These are stated at mid-market values on the balance sheet date. Changes in valuation over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1d.Incoming Resources

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is probable and can be properly quantified.

All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

1e.Resources Expended

The URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates.

Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

As much of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1f.Taxation

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 financial statements.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
2. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS					
FreeWill Offerings(£700 per week;2023 £724)	36,427	0	0	36,427	37,624
Cash offerings	2,110	0	0	2,110	2,141
Other donations to work of Christ Church	3,883	0	5	3,888	6,557
Benevolent fund donations	0	0	3469	3,469	5,471
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	10,546	0	423	10,969	12,946
Legacies	0	0	0	0	1,000
Grant from Synod	0	1,380	0	1,380	1,724
	<u>£ 52,966</u>	<u>£ 1,380</u>	<u>£ 3,897</u>	<u>£ 58,243</u>	<u>£ 67,463</u>
3. TRADING AND OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
Church lettings	113,042	0	0	113,042	90,224
Fund raising activities	583	396	0	979	1,650
Duplicating and office services	236	0	0	236	308
Fairtrade	1,435	0	0	1,435	1,691
Minibus use	70	0	0	70	99
Youth work	0	584	0	584	912
Day Centre	0	0	0	0	0
Coffee and other sundry income	464	0	0	464	490
	<u>£ 115,831</u>	<u>£ 980</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 116,811</u>	<u>£ 95,374</u>
4. INVESTMENT INCOME					
Dividends and distributions	5,339	27,553	239	33,131	33,701
Bank interest	423	1,042	156	1,621	1,657
	<u>5,762</u>	<u>£ 28,595</u>	<u>£ 395</u>	<u>£ 34,753</u>	<u>£ 35,358</u>
5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS					
Cost of fund raising	83	0	0	83	980
	<u>83</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 83</u>	<u>£ 980</u>

6. MINISTRY & MISSION FUND

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. This annual budget amounts to some £19million, 66% of which relates to minister costs, and 83% is provided through the Ministry & Mission Fund contributions from churches.

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
7. MINISTERIAL COSTS					
Expenses of Minister, including visitors	2,470	0	0	2,470	2,968
Manse service charges inc insurance	0	0	0	0	-312
Manse repairs	0	5,400	0	5,400	622
	<u>2,470</u>	<u>£ 5,400</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 7,870</u>	<u>£ 3,278</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	General	Designated	Funds	2024	2023
Church costs:	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	9,429	0	0	9,429	8,774
Utilities	24,050	0	0	24,050	17,074
Buildings maintenance	0	83,507	0	83,507	24,996
Premises management*	99,942	0	0	99,942	91,054
Communications costs*	5,182	0	0	5,182	5,489
Music*	2,966	0	0	2,966	3,256
Equipment (not capitalised)	0	0	0	0	60
Children & young people	0	3,555	20	3,575	12,483
Fairtrade	1,435	0	0	1,435	1,691
Minibus*	3,744	0	0	3,744	4,109
Day centre	0	0	0	0	1,000
Other running costs	1,995	1,621	0	3,616	2,007
	£ 148,744	£ 88,683	£ 20	£ 237,447	£ 171,993
* indicates depreciation included					
Support costs:					
	Governance costs	816	0	816	780
Depreciation of furniture and equipment		6,435	0	6,435	6,429
		£ 7,251	£ 0	£ 7,251	£ 7,209

9. PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES

Salaries and wages	93,241
Social security costs	5,476 of which £5476 covered by Employers Allowance
Pension costs	1,510
Total staff costs	<u>100,227</u>

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: nil)

Eligible Christ Church employees have been enrolled in the NEST pension scheme since February 2017

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with Christ Church in the year (2023: nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2023: nil).

No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: nil).

The trustees are the key management personnel of the charity

The average monthly head count was 6 employees (2023: 5 employees).

10. GRANTS PAYABLE AND RESTRICTED DONATIONS PASSED ON

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	General	Designated	Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolent Fund including appeals	0	0	4,004	4,004	6,379
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,004</u>	<u>4,004</u>	<u>6,379</u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds				General	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Prem Magt	Office	Music	Bus		2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Brought forward 1 January 2024	1,410	2,542	434	16,057	65,732	86,175	95,273
Additions in year	129		0	0	2,195	2,324	609
Depreciation for year	-121	-1,258	-80	-1,784	-6,435	-9,678	-9,707
Carried forward 31 December 2024	<u>1,418</u>	<u>1,284</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>14,273</u>	<u>61,492</u>	<u>78,821</u>	<u>86,175</u>

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1c, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the church buildings are valued at £13,090,039. The organ is insured for £1,134,515, and other church contents are insured for £542,225

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
13. INVESTMENT ASSETS					
13.1 The investment assets held at the balance sheet date comprise:					
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	5,689	8,265	669	14,623	43,484
COIF Property Fund	22,002	196,147	0	218,149	519,601
Charifund income units - Thompson grave	1,102	0	3,286	4,388	4,276
Charifund income units - general	61,384	0	0	61,384	59,825
	<u>£ 90,177</u>	<u>£ 204,412</u>	<u>£ 3,955</u>	<u>£ 298,544</u>	<u>£ 627,186</u>
13.2 The movements on investments over the year were:					
Brought forward 1 January 2024	99,710	522,282	5,195	627,187	708,133
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	-11,806	-317,154	-1,391	-330,351	-50,000
Realised gains(losses)	419	-1,885	49	-1,417	1,365
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	1854	1,169	102	3,125	-32,311
	<u>£ 90,177</u>	<u>£ 204,412</u>	<u>£ 3,955</u>	<u>£ 298,544</u>	<u>£ 627,187</u>
14. DEBTORS					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	2,688	0	0	2,688	2,499
Benevolent Fund tax recoverable	0	0	326	326	498
Voluntary giving 31 December 2023	0	0	0	0	147
Rent for rooms	8,186	0	0	8,186	1,080
Cash float & sundry dues	100	0	0	100	208
Minibus hire	0	0	0	0	11
Fairtrade cash	0	0	0	0	68
Interest on share sale proceeds	0	216	0	216	0
Prepayments	2,222	0	0	2,222	2,115
	<u>13,196</u>	<u>£ 216</u>	<u>£ 326</u>	<u>£ 13,738</u>	<u>£ 6,626</u>
15. CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors payable within one year:					
Appeals	0	0	866	866	1,929
Church running costs	2,397	0	0	2,397	2,522
Repairs and maintenance	0	456	0	456	1,559
Youth work	0	0	0	0	250
Room hire received in advance	0	0	0	0	381
	<u>2,397</u>	<u>£ 456</u>	<u>£ 866</u>	<u>£ 3,719</u>	<u>£ 6,641</u>
16. LONG TERM LIABILITIES					
Nil					
17. DESIGNATED FUNDS					
The church operates 5 Designated Funds with the encouragement of Church Meeting:					
Repairs and maintenance - established and used to fund the proper maintenance of the buildings and property, and to ensure that funds are available on a long term basis to deal with expensive work without distorting annual figures. Funded by provision from the general fund, and exceptionally by the Underhill legacy					
Church growth fund - established in 2005 to support and encourage the growth of the people of the Church rather than its property					
Music fund - established initially by legacy, now supported by donations and, when appropriate, by transfer from the general fund. Its purpose is to ensure that funds are available to develop the music in Church.					
Underhill fund - established in 2015 to manage and deploy the legacy from Irene Underhill					
Day Centre Fund - holds residual monies from running of Day Centre lunches (suspended 2022)					

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

17.1 The movements on the Designated Funds during the year were:

	Repairs	Church growth	Music	Underhill	Day Centre	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2024	473	67,028	5,822	499,627	3,510	576,460	616,778
Transfer from general fund	16,000	0	0	0	0	16,000	18,000
Receipts	1,380	396		584	0	2,360	3,399
Investment income		451	24	27,078	0	27,553	28,022
Interest	181	559	73	229	0	1,042	851
	18,034	68,434	5,919	527,518	3,510	623,416	667,050
Expenditure in year	-88,907	-1,621	0	-3,555	0	-94,083	-40,389
Transfer between Designated funds	100,000	0	0	-100,000	0	0	0
Transfer to General Fund	0	0	0	-22,000	-2,747	-24,747	-20,000
Realised gain		575	32	-2,492	0	-1,885	990
change in investment value	0	222	12	935	0	1,169	-31,192
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2024	£ 29,127	£ 67,610	£ 5,963	£ 400,407	£ 763	£ 503,870	£ 576,460

The Repairs and Maintenance Fund expenditure comprised:

Church:	£	Manse:	£
Quinquennial survey reports	1,380	decoration	5265
Legionella reports	816	gutter cleaning	110
Horse chestnut replacement	282	parking permit	25
LED lighting for hall and rooms	2,056		
Roof repairs	56,360		
External signage	3,108		
Lightning conductor fixing	893		
Fire door retainers	834		
Fire risk assessment	684		
Service contracts and routine maintenance	14,987		
Miscellaneous	727		
	£ 82,127		£ 5,400

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The church accounts include 4 Restricted Funds, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the church. These monies are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any other purpose, and represent:

Organ fund - initially established and funded from a legacy, now supported by donations and fund-raising. Its purpose is to support long term major repairs and development of the organ (routine maintenance is met by the general fund)

Thompson grave maintenance - the terms of the legacy in 1973 stipulated that £2000 must be retained to maintain the grave

Children and young people fund - established in 2014 from the specific bequest of Irene Underhill and the residual amounts of the Forbes Fund and the Youth Events Fund to provide a single fund to support work with children and younger people.

Benevolent Fund - established 2023 when the separate Communion Fund was closed. Offerings support those in need within and beyond Christ Church, including money given for specific appeals

18.1 The movements on the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	Organ	Children/ young people	Thompson	Benevolent	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2024	7,525	2290	4,260	794	14,869	14,139
Investment income	32	6	201	0	239	226
Interest	109	35	12	0	156	217
Donations	0	5	0	3892	3,897	6,526
	7,666	2,336	4,473	4,686	19,161	21,108
Expenditure in year	0	-20	0	-4,004	-4,024	-6,400
Realised gain	41	8	0	0	49	43
change in investment value	16	3	83	0	102	118
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2024	£ 7,723	£ 2,327	£ 4,556	£ 682	£ 15,288	£ 14,869

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the accounts on pages 1 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2024

.....
JANE HUMPHREYS 25th January 2025

Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Year Ended 31st December 2024

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

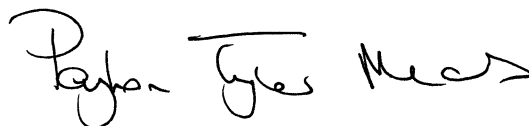
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

PEYTON TYLER MEARS
Chartered accountant

Middleborough House
16 Middleborough
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1QT



3rd March 2025.

Accounts

CHARITY NUMBER 1131065

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2023

'Christ's Church alive in our community'

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

164 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

Charity Registration No. 1131065

Reference and administrative information

Trustees:

Margaret Atkinson

Sue Fleming

Jane Humphreys

Jean McAslan to 31 December 2023

Helen Poulter to 23 March 2023

Christine Sands

Corne van Staden from 1 January 2024

Johannes van Staden from 1 January 2024

Bankers: National Westminster Bank

High Street

Chelmsford

Independent Examiner: Peyton Tyler Mears

16 Middleborough

Colchester

CO1 1QT

Church Officers:

Chairman Sue Fleming

Secretary Sue Fleming

Treasurer Jane Humphreys

The Trustees present their report and the examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

Christ Church Chelmsford is a Church within the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church which is constituted under the United Reformed Church Act 1972 as amended by the United Reformed Church Act 1981 and the United Reformed Church Act 2000. The United Reformed Church Act 1972 is considered to be the Governing Document, in particular Parts I and II of the Schedules to the Act.

The Minister and serving Elders of Christ Church act as its trustees. They act in accordance with the constitution agreed at the Annual Church Meeting on 29 April 2018. The number of serving Elders is normally to be set to represent 10% of the number of those on the Roll of Members. Service is normally for no longer than 6 years. For each election, held every two years, nominations are sought from among those on the Roll of Church Members who may or may not have previously served as Elder in Christ Church or in another Church of the United Reformed Church. Elders elected for the first time are ordained to the role of Elder at the beginning of their period of service. All Elders are inducted at the beginning of each period of service.

The Elders are supported by two Committees:

- Finance
- Fabric

and receive regular reports from¹:

- Family Church Council
- Legacy Management Group

All major policy decisions are taken in principle, and expenditure approved in principle, by the Elders before being put to the meeting of Church Members. In common with the practices of the United Reformed Church, the Church Meeting is the ultimate decision-making body of Christ Church.

The key management group within the church structure is made up of the Minister, the Church Secretary and the Treasurer. The first of these is remunerated by the denomination centrally at the same rate as all stipendiary ministers of word and sacrament serving the denomination. When no Minister is appointed to serve at Christ Church the Elders elect one of their number to be Chairman. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer offer their services in a purely voluntary capacity.

The Elders normally meet 8 to 10 times a year to review the activities of the church and to receive reports (normally on a quarterly basis) from the supporting committees. Recommendations are made to the Church Meeting which normally meets six or seven times a year.

Aims and Objectives

Christ Church Chelmsford exists for the public worship of God according to the principles and usages of the United Reformed Church. It believes that the priorities for the life of the congregation and its outreach in the local community should be preaching/teaching and spiritual direction, youth and children's work, pastoral care, and Church growth.

The strategy for achieving these aims and objectives is to hold regular services together with a wide range of activities throughout the week to support people of all ages experience the love of God and grow in the faith. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and proposed future activities on a regular basis.

¹Legacy Management Group did not meet in 2023

Achievements and Performance

Despite being in ministerial vacancy, we continued to hold morning worship each Sunday throughout 2023 other than Christmas Eve. We welcomed 17 people to lead worship, were grateful to 3 people who regularly supported congregational singing on the organ or piano, and sampled the Sunday worship from the URC. The very small team of people able and willing to operate the AV system and sound system transformed the experience. Numbers in worship fell slightly to 35-40 though many more than that attended at some time. At the close of 2023 there were 78 Members on the Roll, a reduction of eight.

In March Helen Poulter stood down as a serving Elder for family reasons, and Jean McAslan completed her period of seven years' service (this time, extended due to the pandemic) in December. We are so grateful for all that they have brought to the life of Christ Church, and wish them rest and renewal in the months and years ahead. At the Elders Election held in the autumn Corne and Johannes van Staden were elected to serve from 1 January 2024.

At the end of March we said farewell to our Youth Pastor, Jonathan Fowler, and wished him well as he took up a new post in Scotland. Sadly this also led to the closure of the Toddlers Group as Christine and Veronica felt unable to continue without one or more younger adults to share the leadership. We thank them for their many years of happy service to young families. Somehow Sue found time and energy to lead Messy Church at Christ Church, plan and run Holiday Club for three mornings in July for 20 children (with welcome support from Nicola Grieves, CYDO), and keep the small Youth Group active on Thursday evenings. Sue also ran our first Messy Vintage sessions designed for older folk, and once again master-minded a successful Christmas Fair.

Our premises continue to be highly valued as a place to meet, with around 30 groups regularly hiring space for their activities. An arrangement for CHES to make the Farthing Hall a key location for their weekday support activities for homeless people was not successful, though through CHES we now host Advance Advocacy and Non-Violence Community Education ('Advance' – a charity run by women for women) one day a week. Our halls are also home to 25th Chelmsford Scouts, and Rainbows, who are always welcome to our services, particularly at Harvest and Gift Day. This intense use of our premises for both church activities and hirers would not be possible without our Premises Management Team of five part-time staff, including, from January 2023, Julie Nguyen in the role of office administrator and bookkeeper. We are also grateful to the many volunteers who provide support in a variety of ways.

As we seek to discern the way forward for Christ Church, we have appreciated the support given to us by three ministers in particular. The Rev Guy Goodall, with the agreement of the Methodist Church, has led three series of Bible studies, provided pastoral care, and led worship. The Rev Barnabas Shin took up the role of Interim Moderator in September, taking early steps to get to know the Elders and the congregation so that he might help guide us through the period of vacancy. Andy Drake, an ordained Baptist minister currently working as CEO of YMCA Essex, facilitated our Awayday in October. He helped us to identify that, at present, we have the people and the resources to change course and grow as a church, but the next five years will be critical.

Financial review

Financial Statements

The financial statements, including the notes, have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102). The analysis of income and expenditure reflects the classification of activities, together with costs relating to administration. The church does not sell goods or services, nor are there any other trading activities.

Statement of Financial Activities

At the end of 2023, overall assets totalled £801,157, a decrease of £70,435 on 2022. The budgeted items of the General Fund showed a deficit of £49,309 to which there was a budgeted contribution of £20,000 from the Underhill legacy.

Operating income totalled £198,195, a decrease of £25,000, mainly accounted for by the 2022 total including an insurance payment of £23,115 for business disruption due to Covid-19 during 2021. The fall in numbers of Church Members and regular worshippers was reflected in lower voluntary giving, but income from lettings recovered to pre-pandemic levels (with the exception of the lightly-used Farthing Hall). We received a grant of £1724 from Synod for the final six months of employing our Youth Pastor. We were also very grateful to receive a legacy of £1000 from George Brown who died aged nearly 101 in May 2022, not long after transferring his membership from Great Baddow URC.

Expenditure overall totalled £237,683, a fall of over £28,000. Spending on budgeted items increased by over £18,000 as we increased our commitment to the Ministry and Mission Fund by nearly £6000, and faced increases in almost all running costs due to the increased cost of living. Ministerial expenses fell by £4000 as we were in vacancy.

Activity on other funds:

- Church Growth: £200 was donated to CTiC. £400 was used to support an Easter activity and the October 'Awayday'.
- Repairs and Maintenance: Expenditure totalled £19,621. Routine maintenance reduced to £12,000 of which half was for grounds maintenance. The highest exceptional item was nearly £3500 for the assessment, felling and removal of a diseased horse chestnut tree. £2000 was transferred from the General Fund, in addition to the budgeted £16,000, to meet the shortfall.
- Underhill Legacy: Investment income covered our work with children and young people, and this Fund subsidised the premises management team.
- Jubilee Fund: the remarkable 'Jesus' window in the Chapel was completely renovated at a cost of £5997. The Jubilee Fund was closed, with the balance of £907 transferred to the Repairs and Maintenance Fund.
- Day Centre: No Day Centre activities, but £1000 was donated to Chelmsford Foodbank.
- Children and Young People: £21 spent on an activity afternoon arranged by Synod.
- Communion Fund/Benevolent Fund: The separate Communion Fund bank account was closed and the balance used to prime a new Benevolent Fund. This Fund is to be used for donations, made at Communion services or any other time, to support those in need within the church family or beyond Christ Church. This includes specific appeals at Harvest, Christmas and other times. £6379 was disbursed to CHESS, the DEC appeal for the Turkey-Syria earthquake, Farleigh Hospice, HomeStart, Chelmsford Foodbank, Christian Aid Middle East appeal, the Glove Project and Methodist Special School (the Gambia).

Balance sheet

Our holding of CCLA Ethical Investment Fund was reduced in May 2023 to generate £50,000 for working capital. This sale realised a gain of £1365. Most of the cash is held in interest-bearing accounts with Redwood Bank and NatWest. Our remaining investments showed an unrealised loss of £32,000 for the year.

Reserves policy

General unrestricted funds are required to cover the regular planned activities of Christ Church including support of the Ministry and Mission Fund. The policy is to hold sufficient cash on deposit to cover three months' expenditure, and to hold medium term investments to cover one full year's expenditure. At the year end Christ Church held investments of £627,186 of which £5,196 relate to

restricted funds and £99,709 support the General Fund. Almost all the remainder flow from the unrestricted legacy received during 2015. Cash on deposit and on account totalled £87,106.

Investment policy

Christ Church acknowledges the heritage of assets from congregations of past years, and recognises that there is a responsibility to the worshipping community of the future, whatever form that may take. Where Christ Church holds financial assets beyond what is required to meet the policy for expenditure on the restricted and unrestricted funds, we will normally seek to preserve the value of that capital for future generations.

Investments other than the cash deposits to cover three months' expenditure will normally be entrusted to the URC (Eastern Province) Trust to manage on our behalf in accordance with that Trust's financial policy. That Trust seeks to achieve as high an income as possible, subject to protecting the capital value of the funds against inflation. The investments are a mix of fixed interest and equity marketable securities. None of the investments should support practices which are against the church's conscience to the extent that they are against the conscience of Christians following the Ethical Investment Guidelines approved by the URC General Assembly from time to time.

Risk management

The Elders keep under review the ability to finance the agreed activities of the Church, and the risks presented by externalities such as changes to the regulatory framework relating to the management and use of the Church buildings complex. The most significant risks relate to the loss, either for a short or a long period, of key people, the majority of whom are volunteers.

Among the key risk controls used by the charity are:

- a written financial policy subject to periodic review
- clear financial authorisation and approval levels
- detailed summary accounts produced for scrutiny by Elders every quarter
- Elders and all those in regular contact with vulnerable people having been vetted through the DBS service, with appropriate safeguarding training
- A safeguarding policy for children and adults at risk
- A health and safety policy.

Through the risk management process established for the charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

Plans for 2024

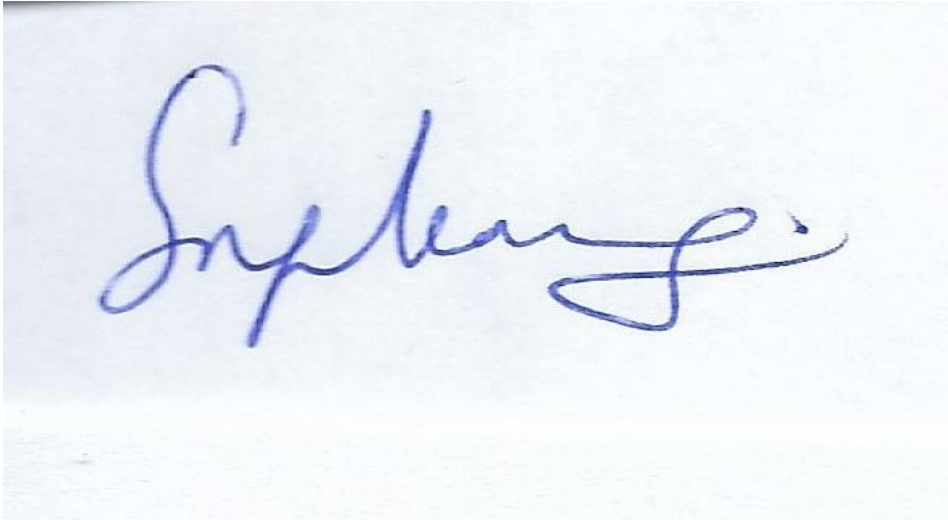
The priority for 2024 is to continue the process of discerning what sort of church we should be for the future. In a follow-up to the October Awayday, we have consulted the congregation about how to use the resources we have (people, money, premises) and in particular the scope for serving the local community with a mission. The challenge from the second Awayday, facilitated by Andy Drake in January, was to decide by July on a vision for a clear mission while caring for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the current congregation. Christ Church should then take this clarity of vision into talks with other URCs about forming a Mission Partnership within Eastern Synod.

We will continue with regular church activities, and to support them agreed a budget in December 2023 with a deficit of £45,000 on the General Fund, supported by other resources including the Underhill Fund. We have used the Underhill Fund to make major improvements to the premises since 2015, as well as investing in people. We are nevertheless aware of a growing number of potentially expensive maintenance issues as our buildings are now over 50 years old. To help

assess them we will commission a quinquennial survey, and then prioritise action, taking into account affordability and our vision.

In agreeing this report, the Elders, as trustees of the charity, have paid due regard to the guidance from the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit.

Approved by the Elders at the meeting on 5 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored surface. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Sue Fleming'.

SUE FLEMING
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
		General £	Designated £			
INCOME FROM:						
Donations, legacies and grants	2	59,212	1,724	6,526	67,462	71,833
Trading and other charitable activities	3	93,699	1,675	0	95,374	108,413
Investment income	4	6,043	28,873	443	35,359	42,918
Total		<u>158,953</u>	<u>32,272</u>	<u>6,969</u>	<u>198,195</u>	<u>223,165</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	520	460	0	980	2,468
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	6	47,844	0	0	47,844	41,964
Ministerial costs	7	2,656	622	0	3,278	11,178
Costs of church activities	8, 9	139,875	39,306	21	179,202	201,426
Grants payable and restricted donations passed on	10	0	0	6,379	6,379	8,843
Total		<u>190,895</u>	<u>40,389</u>	<u>0</u> <u>6,400</u>	<u>237,683</u>	<u>265,878</u>
Income/(expenditure) before transfers		-31,941	-8,116	569	-39,488	-42,713
Transfers between funds	17.1	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-2,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		-29,941	-10,116	569	-39,488	-42,713
Realised Gains/(losses) on investments	13.2	<u>332</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>1,365</u>	<u>-12,911</u>
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investments	13.2	<u>-1,237</u>	<u>-31,192</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>-32,311</u>	<u>-99,080</u>
Net movement in funds		-30,847	-40,318	730	-70,435	-154,704
Total funds b/fwd 1 January 2023		240,674	616,779	14,139	871,592	1,026,297
Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2023		<u>209,827</u>	<u>£ 576,461</u>	<u>£ 14,869</u>	<u>£ 801,157</u>	<u>£ 871,593</u>

(Note 17)

(Note 18)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
		General £	Designated £			
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11, 12	86,175	0	0	86,175	95,273
Investments	13	<u>99,709</u>	<u>522,281</u>	<u>5,196</u>	<u>627,186</u>	<u>708,132</u>
		<u>185,884</u>	<u>522,281</u>	<u>5,196</u>	<u>713,361</u>	<u>803,406</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	14	6,069	0	558	6,627	10,302
Stock (Fairtrade)		705			705	454
Bank and cash balances		<u>20,073</u>	<u>55,989</u>	<u>11,044</u>	<u>87,106</u>	<u>60,247</u>
		<u>26,847</u>	<u>55,989</u>	<u>11,602</u>	<u>94,438</u>	<u>71,003</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors payable within one year	15	<u>2,903</u>	<u>1,809</u>	<u>1,929</u>	<u>6,641</u>	<u>2,816</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS						
		23,943	54,180	9,673	87,796	68,187
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES						
		<u>209,828</u>	<u>£ 576,461</u>	<u>£ 14,869</u>	<u>£ 801,157</u>	<u>£ 871,593</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total assets of the charity		<u>209,828</u>	<u>576,461</u>	<u>14,869</u>	<u>801,157</u>	<u>871,593</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY						
Restricted income funds:	18			14,869	14,869	14,139
Unrestricted income funds:						
General		209,827	0	0	209,827	240,674
Designated	17	<u>0</u>	<u>576,461</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>576,461</u>	<u>616,778</u>
Total Unrestricted					786,288	857,453
Total funds of the charity		<u>209,827</u>	<u>£ 576,461</u>	<u>£ 14,869</u>	<u>£ 801,157</u>	<u>£ 871,593</u>

APPROVED by the Trustees at the Elders Meeting held on 5 March 2024
and signed on its behalf by

SUE FLEMING

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****1a. Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015 - FRS102) issued by the Charity Commission, the Charities Act 2011, and the United Reformed Church guidance. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objects.

Designated funds are sums set aside out of general funds for specific designated purposes. They can be transferred back to unrestricted funds at any time

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant.

Christ Church has no endowment funds

1c. Tangible Fixed Assets

Freehold property: The Trustees of the church buildings are the URC Eastern Province Trust who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with Christ Church URC Chelmsford.

Expenditure incurred on the church buildings is written off in the year it is incurred.

Equipment: Depreciation is applied in a straight line over a period of 5 to 30 years, according to the nature of the asset, calculated to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives. Assets with purchase value below £100 are not capitalised but written off as expenditure

Investment assets: These are stated at mid-market values on the balance sheet date. Changes in valuation over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1d. Incoming Resources

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is probable and can be properly quantified.

All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

1e. Resources Expended

The URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates.

Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

As much of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1f. Taxation

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 financial statements.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
2. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS					
FreeWill Offerings(£724per week;2022 £814)	37,624	0	0	37,624	42,357
Cash offerings	2,141	0	0	2,141	1,743
Other donations to work of Christ Church	6,535	0	22	6,557	4,101
Benevolent fund donations	0	0	5471	5,471	8,878
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	11,912	0	1,034	12,946	11,048
Legacies	1,000	0	0	1,000	0
Grant from Synod	0	1,724	0	1,724	3,707
	<u>£ 59,212</u>	<u>£ 1,724</u>	<u>£ 6,526</u>	<u>£ 67,462</u>	<u>£ 71,834</u>

3. TRADING AND OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Church lettings	90,224	0	0	90,224	79,550
Fund raising events	887	764	0	1,650	2,588
Duplicating and office services	308	0	0	308	294
Fairtrade	1,691	0	0	1,691	1,333
Minibus use	99	0	0	99	0
Youth work	0	912	0	912	648
Day Centre	0	0	0	0	13
Coffee and other sundry income	490	0	0	490	871
Insurance payment for business disruption	0	0	0	0	23,115
	<u>£ 93,699</u>	<u>£ 1,675</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 95,374</u>	<u>£ 108,412</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

Dividends and distributions	5,453	28,022	226	33,701	42,284
Bank interest	589	851	217	1,657	634
	<u>£ 6,043</u>	<u>£ 28,873</u>	<u>£ 443</u>	<u>£ 35,359</u>	<u>£ 42,918</u>

5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

Cost of fund raising events	520	460	0	980	2,468
	<u>£ 520</u>	<u>£ 460</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 980</u>	<u>£ 2,468</u>

6. MINISTRY & MISSION FUND

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. This annual budget amounts to some £20million, 82% of which relates to minister costs, and 87% is provided through the Ministry & Mission Fund contributions from churches.

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
7. MINISTERIAL COSTS					
Expenses of Minister, including visitors	2,968	0	0	2,968	4,772
Manse service charges inc insurance	-312	0	0	-312	2,131
Manse repairs	0	622	0	622	4,275
	<u>£ 2,656</u>	<u>£ 622</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 3,278</u>	<u>£ 11,178</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8. COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	General	Designated			
Church costs:	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	8,774	0	0	8,774	7,664
Utilities	17,074	0	0	17,074	15,193
Buildings maintenance	0	24,996	0	24,996	36,792
Premises management*	91,054	0	0	91,054	77,556
Communications costs*	5,489	0	0	5,489	7,666
Music*	3,256	0	0	3,256	2,988
Equipment (not capitalised)	60	0	0	60	0
Children & young people	0	12,462	21	12,483	34,629
Fairtrade	1,691	0	0	1,691	1,333
Minibus*	4,109	0	0	4,109	4,336
Day centre	0	1,000	0	1,000	0
Other running costs	1,159	848	0	2,007	3,892
	£ 132,666	£ 39,306	£ 21	£ 171,993	£ 192,049
* indicates depreciation included					
Support costs:					
Governance costs	780	0	0	780	720
Depreciation of furniture and equipment	6,429	0	0	6,429	7,527
Interest on loan	0	0	0	0	1,131
	£ 7,209	£ 0	£ 0	£ 7,209	£ 9,378

9. PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES

Salaries and wages	90,067
Social security costs	5,580 of which £3996 covered by Employers Allowance
Pension costs	1,669
Total staff costs	£ 97,316

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: nil)

Eligible Christ Church employees have been enrolled in the NEST pension scheme since February 2017

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with Christ Church in the year (2022: nil),

neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2022: nil).

No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: nil).

The trustees are the key management personnel of the charity

The average monthly head count was 5 employees (2022: 7 employees).

10. GRANTS PAYABLE AND RESTRICTED DONATIONS PASSED ON

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	General	Designated			
Appeals and special offerings	£	£	£	£	£
Communion Fund	0	0	6,379	6,379	3,451
	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 5,392
	£ 0	£ 0	£ 6,379	£ 6,379	£ 8,843

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds				General	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	Prem Magt	Office	Music	Bus			
Brought forward 1 January 2023	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Additions in year	1,565	3,801	514	17,841	71,552	95,273	104,244
Depreciation for year	-155	-1,259	-80	-1,784	-6,429	-9,707	-10,874
Carried forward 31 December 2023	1,410	2,542	434	16,057	65,732	86,175	£ 95,273

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1c, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the church buildings are valued at £11,687,486. The organ is insured for £1,012,959, and other church contents are insured by the church for £505,818

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
	General £	Designated £			
13. INVESTMENT ASSETS					
13.1 The investment assets held at the balance sheet date comprise:					
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	16,914	24,577	1,993	43,484	88,298
COIF Property Fund	21,897	497,704	0	519,601	554,191
Charifund income units - Thompson grave	1,073	0	3,203	4,276	4,379
Charifund income units - general	59,825	0	0	59,825	61,264
	<u>£ 99,709</u>	<u>£ 522,281</u>	<u>£ 5,196</u>	<u>£ 627,186</u>	<u>£ 708,132</u>
13.2 The movements on investments over the year were:					
Brought forward 1 January 2023	102,756	598,793	6,584	708,133	1,034,720
Transfer of assets	10,000	-10,000		0	
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	-12,141	-36,309	-1,550	-50,000	-214,596
Realised gains/(losses)	332	990	43	1,365	-12,911
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	-1237	-31,192	118	-32,311	-99,080
	<u>£ 99,710</u>	<u>£ 522,282</u>	<u>£ 5,195</u>	<u>£ 627,187</u>	<u>£ 708,133</u>
14. DEBTORS					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	2,499	0	0	2,499	2,367
Appeals tax recoverable	0	0	498	498	566
Fuel deposit held by Tesco	0	0	0	0	100
Voluntary giving 31 December	87	0	60	147	0
Rent for rooms	1,080	0	0	1,080	4,244
Cash float & sundry dues	208	0	0	208	100
Minibus hire	11	0	0	11	0
Fairtrade cash	68	0	0	68	564
Refund of manse expenses	0	0	0	0	514
Prepayments	2,115	0	0	2,115	1,848
	<u>£ 6,069</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 558</u>	<u>£ 6,627</u>	<u>£ 10,303</u>
15. CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors payable within one year:					
Appeals	0	0	1,929	1,929	1,010
Church running costs	2,522	0	0	2,522	307
Repairs and maintenance	0	1,559	0	1,559	425
Youth work	0	250	0	250	0
Room hire received in advance	381	0	0	381	
Interest on loan	0	0	0	0	1,074
	<u>£ 2,903</u>	<u>£ 1,809</u>	<u>£ 1,929</u>	<u>£ 6,641</u>	<u>£ 2,816</u>
16. LONG TERM LIABILITIES					
Loan from URCEPT November 2016 (to 2026)		0		0	214,253
Repayment of capital		0		0	-214,253
Balance outstanding 31 December 2022		0		0	0
17. DESIGNATED FUNDS					
The church operates 6 Designated Funds with the encouragement of Church Meeting:					
Repairs and maintenance - established and used to fund the proper maintenance of the buildings and property, and to ensure that funds are available on a long term basis to deal with expensive work without distorting annual figures. Funded by provision from the general fund, and exceptionally by the Underhill legacy					
Church growth fund - established in 2005 to support and encourage the growth of the people of the Church rather than its property					
Music fund - established initially by legacy, now supported by donations and, when appropriate, by transfer from the general fund. Its purpose is to ensure that funds are available to develop the music in Church.					
Underhill fund - established in 2015 to manage and deploy the legacy from Irene Underhill					
Jubilee fund - established 2020 to manage the celebrations for the first 50 years of Christ Church and any projects arising. Closed 2023 balance of £907 transferred to Repairs					
Day Centre Fund - holds residual monies from running of Day Centre lunches (suspended 2022)					

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

17.1 The movements on the Designated Funds during the year were:

	Repairs £	Church growth £	Music £	Underhill £	Day Centre £	Jubilee £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2023	839	63,295	5,508	535,720	4,510	6,905	616,777	748,519
Transfer from general fund	18,000	0	0	0	0	0	18,000	21,000
Receipts	0	764		2,636	0	0	3,399	6,949
Investment income	112	1,049	63	26,798	0	0	28,022	37,067
Interest	41	713	97	0	0	0	851	300
	18,992	65,821	5,668	565,154	4,510	6,905	667,049	813,835
Expenditure in year	-19,621	-1,308	0	-12,462	-1,000	-5,998	-40,389	-80,252
Transfer between Designated funds	907	0	0	0	0	-907	0	0
Transfer to General Fund	0	0	0	-20,000	0	0	-20,000	-15,000
Realised gain	195	682	46	67	0	0	990	-12,911
change in investment value	0	1,832	108	-33,132	0	0	-31,192	-88,894
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2023	£ 473	67,027	5,822	499,626	3,510	0	576,459	£ 616,778

The Repairs and Maintenance Fund expenditure comprised:

	Church: £	Manse: £
Security lighting	1,316	plumbing repairs 560
Plant room clearance	1,415	garden work 42
Horse chestnut removal	3,474	parking permit 20
Service contracts and routine maintenance	12,257	
Miscellaneous	537	
	£ 19,000	622

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The church accounts include 4 Restricted Funds, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the church. These monies are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any other purpose, and represent:

Organ fund - initially established and funded from a legacy, now supported by donations and fund-raising. Its purpose is to support long term major repairs and development of the organ (routine maintenance is met by the general fund)

Thompson grave maintenance - the terms of the legacy stipulated that £2000 must be retained to maintain the grave

Children and young people fund - established in 2014 from the specific bequest of Irene Underhill and the residual amounts of the Forbes Fund and the Youth Events Fund to provide a single fund to support work with children and younger people.

In 2023 the separate account for offerings to the Communion fund was closed. Offerings to support those in need within and beyond Christ Church are now held in the Benevolent Fund. This includes monies previously shown as Appeals

18.1 The movements on the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	Organ £	Children/ young people £	Thompson £	Benevolent	Communion	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2023	7,112	2184	4,174	0	669	14,139	15,385
Investment income	66	14	146	0		226	289
Interest	150	50	17	0		217	93
Donations	0	22	0	6241	263	6,526	5,427
	7,328	2,270	4,337	6,241	932	21,108	21,194
Expenditure in year	0	-21		-6,379		-6,400	-6,353
Transfer between Restricted Funds				932	-932	0	0
Realised gain	33	10	0	0		43	0
change in investment value	164	31	-77	0		118	-703
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2023	£ 7,525	2,290	4,260	794	0	£ 14,869	£ 14,138

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the accounts on pages 1 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2023

.....
 JANE HUMPHREYS 30th January 2024

Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Year Ended 31st December 2023

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

PEYTON TYLER MEARS
Chartered accountant

Middleborough House
16 Middleborough
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1QT



19th March 2024.

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1131065

Accounts

CHARITY NUMBER 1131065

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2022

'Christ's Church alive in our community'

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

164 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

Charity Registration No. 1131065

Reference and administrative information

Trustees:

Margaret Atkinson

Sue Fleming

Jane Humphreys

Jean McAslan

Helen Poulter

Christine Sands

Paul Stein to 31 October 2022

Rosemary Stratton to 31 December 2022

Bankers: National Westminster Bank

High Street

Chelmsford

Independent Examiner: Peyton Tyler Mears

16 Middleborough

Colchester

CO1 1QT

Church Officers:

Chairman Rev Paul Stein to 31 October 2022, then Sue Fleming

Secretary Sue Fleming

Treasurer Jane Humphreys

The Trustees present their report and the examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Structure, Governance and Management

Christ Church Chelmsford is a Church within the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church which is constituted under the United Reformed Church Act 1972 as amended by the United Reformed Church Act 1981 and the United Reformed Church Act 2000. The United Reformed Church Act 1972 is considered to be the Governing Document, in particular Parts I and II of the Schedules to the Act.

The Minister and serving Elders of Christ Church act as its trustees. They act in accordance with the constitution agreed at the Annual Church Meeting on 29 April 2018. The number of serving Elders is normally to be set to represent 10% of the number of those on the Roll of Members. Service is normally for no longer than 6 years. For each election, held every two years, nominations are sought from among those on the Roll of Church Members who may or may not have previously served as Elder in Christ Church or in another Church of the United Reformed Church. Elders elected for the first time are ordained to the role of Elder at the beginning of their period of service. All Elders are inducted at the beginning of each period of service.

The Elders are supported by two Committees:

- Finance
- Fabric

and receive regular reports from¹:

- Family Church Council
- Legacy Management Group

All major policy decisions are taken in principle, and expenditure approved in principle, by the Elders before being put to the meeting of Church Members. In common with the practices of the United Reformed Church, the Church Meeting is the ultimate decision-making body of Christ Church.

The key management group within the church structure is made up of the Minister, the Church Secretary and the Treasurer. The first of these is remunerated by the denomination centrally at the same rate as all stipendiary ministers of word and sacrament serving the denomination. When no Minister is appointed to serve at Christ Church the Elders elect one of their number to be Chairman. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer offer their services in a purely voluntary capacity.

The Elders normally meet 8 to 10 times a year to review the activities of the church and to receive reports (normally on a quarterly basis) from the supporting committees. Recommendations are made to the Church Meeting which normally meets six or seven times a year.

Aims and Objectives

Christ Church Chelmsford exists for the public worship of God according to the principles and usages of the United Reformed Church. It believes that the priorities for the life of the congregation and its outreach in the local community should be preaching/teaching and spiritual direction, youth and children's work, pastoral care, and Church growth.

The strategy for achieving these aims and objectives is to hold regular services together with a wide range of activities throughout the week to support people of all ages experience the love of God and grow in the faith. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and proposed future activities on a regular basis. In 2015 the church family engaged in a Local Ministry and Mission Review resulting in the adoption of a new Mission Manifesto at the church meeting on 2 December 2015.

¹Legacy Management Group have not met during the coronavirus pandemic

Achievements and Performance

2022 has been a turbulent year for Christ Church with positives as well as negatives. It was the first full year without a lockdown in three years. That gave us confidence to organise a series of events for 'Jubilee 22' to celebrate the first 50 years of Christ Church (delayed by the pandemic from 2020), the first 50 years of the URC and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Our minister Paul Stein left us in October 2022 for a new pastorate in Hemel Hempstead. He had had a tricky first pastorate with us at Christ Church with unprecedented lockdowns, rulings affecting church life, ever-changing technology to be able to continue as church even though not in the church building. During his time at Christ Church he had tried to follow what we had asked for when we called him which was to bring contemporary worship to Christ Church. It is fair to say that he and the family will be missed by many at Christ Church.

We also said goodbye to Jean Burrows who had been our office administrator since 2015. Amy Hicks joined us in June to replace Jean, and due to personal reasons she unfortunately resigned in December 2022. We also said goodbye to Steve Barnes when he retired in April having been part of the premises management team since 2013. On a positive note we welcomed Andrew Tanoh-Mensah as a replacement.

Most church activities rely on volunteers – as the notes to the financial statements say 'this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable'. We have been particularly fortunate that for much of the last 35 years Norman Sands has diligently managed the cashbooks (and more). He retired as Bursar at the end of 2022 with our grateful thanks.

Church numbers in worship have remained on average between 40-50 per week. At the close of 2022 there were 86 Members on the Roll, a net reduction of three.

Toddler group has remained a constant, for the first time opening in the summer for the weeks in August. We are grateful to Jonathan, Christine and Veronica who have continued to run the toddler group. Youth club has continued with low numbers but good friendships being formed. Messy church has continued in collaboration with St Johns, again a variation of numbers at each session. Holiday club went ahead supported by Nicola Grieves with over 15 children attending each morning. We were sorry to receive in November the resignation of Jonathan Fowler as our Children and Youth pastor.

In March we registered with A Rocha to be an Eco -Church, received our bronze award in June 2022 and are now working on our silver.

A new group formed in the summer of 2022 for under 55s. This is mainly a social group but who support each other through messages when apart.

Christmas fair and tree festival brought over 300 people through our doors. We aim to build on its success in 2023 with the date already being set for December 2nd.

Chelmsford City Council in March gave planning permission to remodel the premises to provide a new welcome and reception area at the lower level linked to the upper level by a modern accessible lift. However given the other challenges currently facing Christ Church we are not currently taking forward major changes to the premises.

Financial review

Financial Statements

The financial statements, including the notes, have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" 2015 (FRS102). The analysis of income and expenditure reflects the classification of activities, together with costs relating to administration. The church does not sell goods or services, nor are there any other trading activities.

Statement of Financial Activities

At the end of 2022, overall assets totalled £871,593, a decrease of £154,704 on 2021. The budgeted items of the General Fund showed a deficit of £41,357 to which there was a budgeted contribution of £15,000 from the Underhill legacy.

Operating income totalled £223,165, a small increase of £1500. Our insurers paid a further £23,115 for business disruption due to Covid-19 during 2021, and we received £3707 in grant support from Synod for our Youth Pastor. Voluntary giving by the church family was sustained, and income from lettings recovered, though there was no hirer for the Farthing Hall to replace the phlebotomy clinic.

Expenditure overall totalled £265,878, an increase of £58,084. Spending on budgeted items increased by nearly £24,000 as we increased our commitment to the Ministry and Mission Fund by nearly £6000, and faced increases in almost all running costs including staff, utilities, communications and insurance. These costs were largely a reflection of resuming regular activities rather than increased cost of living.

Activity on other funds:

- Church Growth: £1000 was donated to the Bible Society for Ukrainian language Bibles for displaced people. £400 was used for Lent study materials and Christmas Fair expenses.
- Repairs and Maintenance: Expenditure totalled £41,067. Routine maintenance was nearly £18,500 of which half was for grounds maintenance. Room 5 was refurbished at a cost of £10,250, and £4852 covered costs of securing planning permission to instal a new lift and lower level reception area. £9000 was transferred from the General Fund, in addition to the budgeted £12,000, to meet the shortfall.
- Underhill Legacy: Investment income covered the work of our Children and Youth Pastor, and this Fund subsidised the premises management team.
- Jubilee Fund: events to celebrate the first 50 years of Christ Church (and the URC) made a loss of nearly £300.
- Day Centre: lack of volunteers meant lunches were only offered for a few weeks.
- Children and Young People: £900 spent on equipment for the Youth Club, and £60 for Toddlers
- Communion Fund: Eight standard offertories were received which enabled disbursement of gifts to local Community Projects provided by The Salvation Army, The Chelmsford Food Bank and the Chelmsford Street Pastors plus a small 'top up' to the 2021 Christmas collection for CHESS - in total £782. Additionally the Communion Fund offered the means of supporting humanitarian relief work funded by the Disasters Emergency Committee: The Afghanistan Crisis, The Ukrainian Crisis and the Pakistan Flood Appeal. In total £4610 was gifted to the DEC Appeals.

In addition to giving to the Communion Fund, £3451 was raised for charitable purposes outside Christ Church.

Balance sheet

The remaining £214,253 was cleared from the loan from Synod taken out in 2016. This was done in two steps, by selling CCLA Property Fund holdings of £100,000 in May (realising a gain of £4465) and £114,596 in December (included interest to June, realising a loss of £17,376). Our remaining investments showed a loss of £99,000 for the year.

Reserves policy

General unrestricted funds are required to cover the regular planned activities of Christ Church including support of the Ministry and Mission Fund. The policy is to hold sufficient cash on deposit to cover three months' expenditure, and to hold medium term investments to cover one full year's expenditure. At the year end Christ Church held investments of £708,132 of which £6,586 relate to

restricted funds and £102,755 support the General Fund. Almost all the remainder flow from the unrestricted legacy received during 2015. Cash on deposit and on account totalled £60,247.

Investment policy

Christ Church acknowledges the heritage of assets from congregations of past years, and recognises that there is a responsibility to the worshipping community of the future, whatever form that may take. Where Christ Church holds financial assets beyond what is required to meet the policy for expenditure on the restricted and unrestricted funds, we will normally seek to preserve the value of that capital for future generations.

Investments other than the cash deposits to cover three month's expenditure will normally be entrusted to the URC (Eastern Province) Trust to manage on our behalf in accordance with that Trust's financial policy. That Trust seeks to achieve as high an income as possible, subject to protecting the capital value of the funds against inflation. The investments are a mix of fixed interest and equity marketable securities. None of the investments should support practices which are against the church's conscience to the extent that they are against the conscience of Christians following the Ethical Investment Guidelines approved by the URC General Assembly from time to time.

Risk management

The Elders keep under review the ability to finance the agreed activities of the Church, and the risks presented by externalities such as changes to the regulatory framework relating to the management and use of the Church buildings complex. The most significant risks relate to the loss, either for a short or a long period, of key people, the majority of whom are volunteers.

Among the key risk controls used by the charity are:

- a written financial policy subject to periodic review
- clear financial authorisation and approval levels
- detailed summary accounts produced for scrutiny by Elders every quarter
- Elders and all those in regular contact with vulnerable people having been vetted through the DBS service, with appropriate safeguarding training
- A safeguarding policy for children and adults at risk
- A health and safety policy.

Through the risk management process established for the charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed. The risk register has been updated to address the changing circumstances from the pandemic.

Plans for 2023

Although in some ways church life has moved into a new post-pandemic rhythm of worship and activities, much is still uncertain. We expect to be in ministerial vacancy throughout 2023, and our Children and Youth Pastor leaves at the end of March. We hope to be able to continue with current regular activities, and will look out for new ways in which we can be Christ's Church in our community. In December 2022 we agreed a budget for a deficit of £40,000 on the General Fund, supported by other resources, particularly the Underhill Fund. Following an inspection in July 2022 on behalf of our insurers, we will need to spend more (amount yet to be determined) on repairs and maintenance to comply with health and safety regulations. We are grateful that we have premises much appreciated by the local community and are exploring ways of using them better to meet local needs. Wherever possible we will choose to show God's love by investing in people rather than premises.

In agreeing this report, the Elders, as trustees of the charity, have paid due regard to the guidance from the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit.

Approved by the Elders at the meeting on 13 March 2023 and signed on their behalf by



SUE FLEMING
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
		General	Designated			
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:						
Donations, legacies and grants	2	59,249	3,707	8,878	71,833	98,400
Trading and other charitable activities	3	105,171	3,242	0	108,413	80,136
Investment income	4	5,169	37,367	382	42,918	43,131
Total		<u>169,589</u>	<u>44,316</u>	<u>9,260</u>	<u>223,165</u>	<u>221,667</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	0	2,468	0	2,468	0
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	6	41,964	0	0	41,964	36,000
Ministerial costs	7	6,903	4,275	0	11,178	9,691
Costs of church activities	8, 9	126,956	73,509	960	201,426	155,292
Grants payable and restricted donations passed on	10	0	0	8,843	8,843	6,812
Total		<u>175,823</u>	<u>80,252</u>	<u>9,804</u>	<u>265,878</u>	<u>207,794</u>
Income/(expenditure) before transfers		-6,234	-35,936	-544	-42,713	13,873
Transfers between funds	17.1	<u>-6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		-12,234	-29,936	-544	-42,713	13,873
Realised Gains/(losses) on investments	13.2	<u>0</u>	<u>-12,911</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-12,911</u>	<u>0</u>
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investments	13.2	<u>-9,484</u>	<u>-88,894</u>	<u>-702</u>	<u>-99,080</u>	<u>127,419</u>
Net movement in funds		-21,718	-131,741	-1,246	-154,704	141,292
Total funds b/fwd 1 January 2022		262,392	748,520	15,385	1,026,297	885,005
Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2022		<u>£ 240,674</u>	<u>£ 616,779</u>	<u>£ 14,139</u>	<u>£ 871,593</u>	<u>£ 1,026,297</u>

(Note 17)

(Note 18)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
		General £	Designated £			
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11, 12	95,273	0	0	95,273	104,244
Investments	13	<u>102,755</u>	<u>598,792</u>	<u>6,585</u>	<u>708,132</u>	<u>1,034,720</u>
		<u>198,028</u>	<u>598,792</u>	<u>6,585</u>	<u>803,405</u>	<u>1,138,964</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	14	9,686	0	616	10,302	10,122
Stock (Traidcraft)		454			454	0
Bank and cash balances		<u>32,813</u>	<u>19,486</u>	<u>7,948</u>	<u>60,247</u>	<u>92,347</u>
		<u>42,953</u>	<u>19,486</u>	<u>8,564</u>	<u>71,003</u>	<u>102,469</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors payable within one year	15	<u>307</u>	<u>1,499</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>2,816</u>	<u>883</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS						
		42,646	17,987	7,554	68,187	101,586
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>£ 240,674</u>	<u>£ 616,779</u>	<u>£ 14,139</u>	<u>£ 871,593</u>	<u>£ 1,240,550</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>214,253</u>
Total assets of the charity		<u>240,674</u>	<u>616,779</u>	<u>14,139</u>	<u>871,593</u>	<u>1,026,297</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY						
Restricted income funds:	18			14,139	14,139	15,385
Unrestricted income funds:						
General		240,674	0	0	240,674	262,392
Designated	17	<u>0</u>	<u>616,779</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>616,779</u>	<u>748,519</u>
Total Unrestricted					<u>857,453</u>	<u>1,010,912</u>
Total funds of the charity		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£ 871,593</u>	<u>£ 1,026,297</u>

APPROVED by the Trustees at the Elders Meeting held on 13 March 2023
and signed on its behalf by

SUE FLEMING

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**1.ACCOUNTING POLICIES****1a.Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015 - FRS102) issued by the Charity Commission, the Charities Act 2011, and the United Reformed Church guidance. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b.Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objects.

Designated funds are sums set aside out of general funds for specific designated purposes. They can be transferred back to unrestricted funds at any time

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant.

Christ Church has no endowment funds

1c.Tangible Fixed Assets

Freehold property: The Trustees of the church buildings are the URC Eastern Province Trust who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with Christ Church URC Chelmsford. Expenditure incurred on the church buildings is written off in the year it is incurred.

Equipment: Depreciation is applied in a straight line over a period of 5 to 30 years, according to the nature of the asset, calculated to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives. Assets with purchase value below £100 are not capitalised but written off as expenditure

Investment assets: These are stated at mid-market values on the balance sheet date. Changes in valuation over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1d.Incoming Resources

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received. Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is probable and can be properly quantified. All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

1e.

The URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates.

Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

As much of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1f.Taxation

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 financial statements.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
2. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS					
FreeWill Offerings(£814 per week;2021 £816)	42,357	0	0	42,357	42,451
Cash offerings	1,743	0	0	1,743	610
Other donations to work of Christ Church	4,101	0	0	4,101	4,646
Communion fund donations	0	0	5,427	5,427	1,265
Appeals and special offerings	0	0	3,451	3,451	2,681
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	11,048	0	0	11,048	11,171
Legacies	0	0	0	0	15,002
Grant from Synod	0	3,707	0	3,707	0
Grants related to Covid-19	0	0	0	0	20,574
	<u>£ 59,249</u>	<u>£ 3,707</u>	<u>£ 8,878</u>	<u>£ 71,833</u>	<u>£ 96,400</u>
3. TRADING AND OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
Church lettings	79,550	0	0	79,550	50,818
Fund raising events	8	2,581	0	2,588	0
Duplicating and office services	294	0	0	294	131
Traidcraft	1,333	0	0	1,333	0
Minibus use	0	0	0	0	4
Youth work	0	648	0	648	641
Day Centre	0	13	0	13	116
Coffee and other sundry income	871	0	0	871	426
Insurance payment for business disruption	23,115	0	0	23,115	28,000
	<u>£ 105,171</u>	<u>£ 3,242</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 108,413</u>	<u>£ 80,136</u>
4. INVESTMENT INCOME					
Dividends and distributions	4,928	37,067	289	42,284	43,119
Bank interest	241	300	93	634	12
	<u>£ 5,169</u>	<u>£ 37,367</u>	<u>£ 382</u>	<u>£ 42,918</u>	<u>£ 43,131</u>
5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS					
Cost of fund raising events	0	2,468	0	2,468	0
	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 2,468</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 2,468</u>	<u>£ 0</u>
6. MINISTRY & MISSION FUND					
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. This annual budget amounts to some £20million, 82% of which relates to minister costs, and 87% is provided through the Ministry & Mission Fund contributions from churches.					
7. MINISTERIAL COSTS					
Expenses of Minister, including visitors	4,772	0	0	4,772	2,458
Manse service charges inc insurance	2,131	0	0	2,131	6,083
Manse repairs	0	4,275	0	4,275	1,150
	<u>£ 6,903</u>	<u>£ 4,275</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 11,178</u>	<u>£ 9,691</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

8.COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	General	Designated			
Church costs:	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	7,664	0	0	7,664	6,369
Utilities	15,193	0	0	15,193	11,249
Buildings maintenance	0	36,792	0	36,792	12,529
Premises management*	77,556	0	0	77,556	70,911
Communications costs*	7,188	0	0	7,188	3,870
Music*	2,988	0	0	2,988	888
Equipment (not capitalised)	0	0	0	0	0
Postage	478	0	0	478	455
Children & young people	0	33,669	960	34,629	32,371
Traidcraft	1,333	0	0	1,333	0
Minibus*	4,336	0	0	4,336	2,305
Day centre	0	0	0	0	2,000
Other running costs	1,973	1,919	0	3,892	1,682
	<u>£ 118,709</u>	<u>£ 72,379</u>	<u>£ 960</u>	<u>£ 192,048</u>	<u>£ 144,639</u>
- indicates depreciation included					
Support costs:					
governance	720	0	0	720	720
Depreciation of furniture and equipment	7,527	0	0	7,527	8,172
Interest on loan	0	1,131	0	1,131	1,760
	<u>£ 8,247</u>	<u>£ 1,131</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 9,378</u>	<u>£ 10,652</u>

9.PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES

Salaries and wages	96,583				
Social security costs	5,691				
Pension costs	2,402				
Total staff costs	<u>£ 104,676</u>				

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: nil)

Eligible Christ Church employees have been enrolled in the NEST pension scheme since February 2017

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with Christ Church in the year (2021: nil),

neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2021: nil).

No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: nil).

The trustees are the key management personnel of the charity

The average monthly head count was 7 employees (2021: 7 employees).

10. GRANTS PAYABLE AND RESTRICTED DONATIONS PASSED ON

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Appeals and special offerings	0	0	3,451	3,451	2,681
Communion Fund	0	0	5,392	5,392	1,631
Donations to North Avenue Youth Centre	0	0	0	0	2,500
	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 8,843</u>	<u>£ 8,843</u>	<u>£ 6,812</u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds				General	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	Prem Mag	Office	Music Bus				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward 1 January 2022	1,788	4,662	594	19,625	77,575	104,244	110,104
Additions in year		399	0	0	1,504	1,903	5,580
Depreciation for year		-223	-1,260	-80	-1,784	-10,874	-11,440
Carried forward 31 December 2022	<u>1,565</u>	<u>3,801</u>	<u>514</u>	<u>17,841</u>	<u>71,552</u>	<u>95,273</u>	<u>£ 104,244</u>

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1c, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the church buildings are valued at £10,217,368. The organ is insured for £904,427, and other church contents are insured by the church for £439,859

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
13. INVESTMENT ASSETS					
13.1 The investment assets held at the balance sheet date comprise:					
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	27,037	57,956	3,305	88,298	101,883
COIF Property Fund	13,355	540,836	0	554,191	863,322
Charifund income units - Thompson grave	1,099	0	3,280	4,379	4,637
Charifund income units - general	61,264	0	0	61,264	64,878
	<u>£ 102,755</u>	<u>£ 598,792</u>	<u>£ 6,585</u>	<u>£ 708,132</u>	<u>£ 1,034,720</u>
13.2 The movements on investments over the year were:					
Brought forward 1 January 2022	97,239	930,194	7,287	1,034,720	907,301
Transfer of assets	15,000	-15,000	0	0	0
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	-214,596	0	-214,596	0
Realised gains/(losses)	0	-12,911	0	-12,911	0
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	-9,484	-88,894	-702	-99,080	127,419
	<u>£ 102,755</u>	<u>£ 598,792</u>	<u>£ 6,585</u>	<u>£ 708,132</u>	<u>£ 1,034,720</u>
14. DEBTORS					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	2,317	0	50	2,367	2,394
Appeals tax recoverable	0	0	566	566	60
Fuel deposit held by Tesco	100	0	0	100	100
Rent for rooms	4,244	0	0	4,244	5,977
Cash float	100	0	0	100	100
Traidcraft cash in hand	564	0	0	564	0
Interest due	0	0	0	0	7
Refund of manse expenses	514	0	0	514	0
Prepayments	1,848	0	0	1,848	1,484
	<u>£ 9,686</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 616</u>	<u>£ 10,302</u>	<u>£ 10,122</u>
15. CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors payable within one year:					
Appeals	0	0	1,010	1,010	597
Church running costs	307	0	0	307	0
Repairs and maintenance	0	425	0	425	0
Interest on loan	0	1,074	0	1,074	286
	<u>£ 307</u>	<u>£ 1,499</u>	<u>£ 1,010</u>	<u>£ 2,816</u>	<u>£ 883</u>
16. LONG TERM LIABILITIES					
Loan from URCEPT November 2016 (to 2026)		214,253		214,253	214,253
Repayment of capital		<u>214,253</u>		<u>214,253</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance outstanding 31 December 2022		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>214,253</u>
17. DESIGNATED FUNDS					
The church operates 6 Designated Funds with the encouragement of Church Meeting:					
Repairs and maintenance - established and used to fund the proper maintenance of the buildings and property, and to ensure					
Church growth fund - established in 2005 to support and encourage the growth of the people of the Church rather than its property					
Music fund - established initially by legacy, now supported by donations and, when appropriate, by transfer from the general fund. Its					
Underhill fund - established in 2015 to manage and deploy the legacy from Irene Underhill					
Legacy fund - established 2011 to hold legacies pending their expenditure on purposes indicated by the legatee. Currently unfunded					
Jubilee fund - established 2020 to manage the celebrations for the first 50 years of Christ Church and any projects arising					
In addition, in April 2016 the Day Centre combined its cash activities with the rest of the Church activities.					

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

17.1 The movements on the Designated Funds during the year were:

	Repairs	Church growth	Music	Underhill	Day Centre	Jubilee	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2022	21,722	70,070	5,824	639,092	4,497	7,314	748,519	648,065
Transfer from general fund	21,000	0	0	0	0	0	21,000	12,000
Receipts		522		4,355	13	2,059	6,949	757
Investment income	222	1,418	88	35,339	0	0	37,067	38,881
Interest	62	205	33	0	0	0	300	0
	43,006	72,215	5,945	678,786	4,510	9,373	813,835	699,703
Expenditure in year	-41,067	-1,919	0	-34,799	0	-2,468	-80,252	-51,310
Transfer between Designated funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to General Fund	0	0	0	-15,000	0	0	-15,000	-15,000
Realised gain	0	0	0	-12,911	0	0	-12,911	0
change in investment value	-1,100	-7,001	-437	-80,356	0	0	-88,894	115,126
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2022	£ 839	63,295	5,508	535,720	4,510	6,905	616,778	£ 748,519

The Repairs and Maintenance Fund expenditure comprised:

Church:	£	Manse:	£
Premises development plans	4,852	plumbing repairs	3700
Room 5 refurb	10,252	Trees pruning	480
Drainage check	714	security light	95
Fireproofing curtains	1,074		
Chapel window scaffolding	600		
Service contracts and routine maintenance	18,464		
Miscellaneous	836		
	<u>£ 36,792</u>		<u>4,275</u>

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The church accounts include 3 Restricted Funds, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the church. These monies are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any other purpose, and represent:

Organ fund - initially established and funded from a legacy, now supported by donations and fund-raising. Its purpose is to support long term major repairs and development of the organ (routine maintenance is met by the general fund)

Thompson grave maintenance - the terms of the legacy stipulated that £2000 must be retained to maintain the grave

Children and young people fund - established in 2014 from the specific bequest of Irene Underhill and the residual amounts of the Forbes Fund and the Youth Events Fund to provide a single fund to support work with children and younger people.

Christ Church also receives donations at Communion services to be used for benevolent acts and which are held in a separate account

In addition, monies raised by appeal for specific charitable purposes external to Christ Church are considered to be restricted in purpose

Appeals amounted to £3451 in 2022

18.1 The movements on the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	Organ	Children/ young people	Thompson	Communion	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£		£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2022	7,379	3197	4,175	634	15,385	16,109
Investment income	84	20	185	0	289	250
Interest	58	27	8	0	93	0
Donations	0	0	0	5427	5,427	1,265
	7,521	3,244	4,368	6,061	21,194	17,624
Expenditure in year	0	-960		-5392	-6,353	-3,095
change in investment value	-409	-100	-194		-703	856
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2022	£ 7,112	2,184	4,174	669	£ 14,139	£ 15,385

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the accounts on pages 1 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2022

.....
JANE HUMPHREYS 31st January 2023

Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Year Ended 31st December 2022

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

PEYTON TYLER MEARS
Chartered accountant

Middleborough House
16 Middleborough
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1QT

23rd February 2023.

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1131065

Accounts

CHARITY NUMBER 1131065

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2021

'Christ's Church alive in our community'

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD

164 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

Charity Registration No. 1131065

Reference and administrative information

Trustees:

Margaret Atkinson

Pat Bruguier to 31 December 2021

Anthony Camp to 31 July 2021

Sue Fleming

Jane Humphreys from 1 January 2022

Jean McAslan

Helen Poulter

Christine Sands

Paul Stein

Rosemary Stratton

John Tyler to 31 December 2021

Bankers: National Westminster Bank

High Street

Chelmsford

Independent Examiner: Peyton Tyler Mears

16 Middleborough

Colchester

CO1 1QT

Church Officers:

Chairman Rev Paul Stein

Secretary Sue Fleming

Treasurer Jane Humphreys

The Trustees present their report and the examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" 2015 (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Structure, Governance and Management

Christ Church Chelmsford is a Church within the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church which is constituted under the United Reformed Church Act 1972 as amended by the United Reformed Church Act 1981 and the United Reformed Church Act 2000. The United Reformed Church Act 1972 is considered to be the Governing Document, in particular Parts I and II of the Schedules to the Act.

The Minister and serving Elders of Christ Church act as its trustees. They act in accordance with the constitution agreed at the Annual Church Meeting on 29 April 2018. The number of serving Elders is normally to be set to represent 10% of the number of those on the Roll of Members. Service is normally for no longer than 6 years. For each election, held every two years, nominations are sought from among those on the Roll of Church Members who may or may not have previously served as Elder in Christ Church or in another Church of the United Reformed Church. Elders elected for the first time are ordained to the role of Elder at the beginning of their period of service. All Elders are inducted at the beginning of each period of service. An election was held in 2021, delayed from 2020, with 3 people stepping down during the year and one person appointed to serve from 1 January 2022.

The Elders are supported by two Committees:

- Finance
- Fabric

and receive regular reports from¹:

- Family Church Council
- Legacy Management Group

All major policy decisions are taken in principle, and expenditure approved in principle, by the Elders before being put to the meeting of Church Members. In common with the practices of the United Reformed Church, the Church Meeting is the ultimate decision-making body of Christ Church.

The key management group within the church structure is made up of the Minister, the Church Secretary and the Treasurer. The first of these is remunerated by the denomination centrally at the same rate as all stipendiary ministers of word and sacrament serving the denomination. When no Minister is appointed to serve at Christ Church the Elders elect one of their number to be Chairman. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer offer their services in a purely voluntary capacity.

The Elders normally meet 6 to 8 times a year to review the activities of the church and to receive reports (normally on a quarterly basis) from the supporting committees. Recommendations are made to the Church Meeting which normally meets six or seven times a year.

Aims and Objectives

Christ Church Chelmsford exists for the public worship of God according to the principles and usages of the United Reformed Church. It believes that the priorities for the life of the congregation and its outreach in the local community should be preaching/teaching and spiritual direction, youth and children's work, pastoral care, and Church growth.

The strategy for achieving these aims and objectives is to hold regular services together with a wide range of activities throughout the week to support people of all ages experience the love of God and

¹ Family Church Council, and Legacy Management Group have been suspended during the coronavirus pandemic

grow in the faith. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and proposed future activities on a regular basis. In 2015 the church family engaged in a Local Ministry and Mission Review resulting in the adoption of a new Mission Manifesto at the church meeting on 2 December 2015.

Achievements and Performance

At the beginning of 2021 the country was again in lockdown. This time Places of Worship were not required by law to shut but advice from the URC at both Assembly and Synod levels left the Trustees in no doubt that the responsible decision was to close the premises.

Once again, as in 2020, the Minister, the Revd Paul Stein, recorded his message each Sunday and uploaded it to YouTube. The upgrade of the AV system in the Sanctuary planned to allow streaming of Services was delayed so that the church could take advantage of technical advice to be offered by Synod. Despite frequent difficulties with the existing system the Minister continued to make his messages available online after the reopening of the church for worship until ever-increasing technical problems eventually made that impossible. The congregation was blessed to have had this link with Paul, his teaching and pastoral care at all times especially when in-person contact was impossible.

The church reopened on 9th May with considerable restrictions in place.....records for Track and Trace, two-metre social distancing, a one-way system for entry and exit, the wearing of masks, no singing, minimal social contact etc. Numbers in the congregation on Sundays became fairly constant at an average of 35 – 40. To allow the congregation to celebrate Communion as safely as possible the minister obtained a supply of individual, sealed Communion pots and those were used throughout the remainder of the year. In September it was possible to reduce social distancing to one metre but another month was to pass before we could make mask-wearing a matter of personal choice. Eventually singing (masked) was permitted and the congregation could share refreshments after worship. In the latter part of the year we were able to hold special Services to celebrate Harvest, to remember and honour those who had died in the previous year, to offer gifts for local families and charities and to support Operation Christmas Child. In Advent, despite anxieties over the rapidly increasing numbers of cases of Omicron (and the resultant re-imposition of mandatory wearing of face-masks), we rejoiced with a Service of Lessons and Carols although concerned for our Minister who suffered a very debilitating bout of Covid and was unable to be with us. We were extremely grateful to Joyce and Keith Berry who came to the rescue and delighted when Paul was well enough (just!) to lead our praise on Christmas Day.

During the year we were saddened by the deaths of four members and grieved too for their families whose pain was worsened by the many restrictions. On a happier note, Church meeting was glad later in the year to be able to welcome formally two new members by transfer of membership from local churches which had closed. At the close of 2021 the roll numbered 89.

During 2021 our Children and Youth Pastor, Jonathan Fowler, succeeded, in spite of the many obstacles created by lockdown, in developing the initiatives and contacts he'd begun in his first few months in post at the end of 2020. The weekly on-line Youth Club transferred to face-to-face sessions as soon as this was feasible, Messy Church (shared with St. John's Church of England) resumed and Jonathan planned and lead a very successful 3-day Holiday Club (of necessity limited in numbers attending) in July. In due course it was possible to reopen the weekly Parent and Toddler group and for him to establish regular contact with Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. He continued to network with other youth leaders in the city and later in the year became directly involved with members of Made for More, a ministry to local schools, in mentoring and supporting students in one of the city's High Schools. He has been ably supported in all that he has done by Sue Fleming, his Line Manager, and the Trustees thank them both for all that has been achieved.

Christ Church now has no permanent, paid organist and we have been grateful to have the regular support on organ and piano of a member, Meryl Cantor. The Trustees wish to record thanks to her and to others who have taken over the organ stool when she was unavailable.

Of necessity Elders (Trustees) and the members of the Finance Committee met on-line at usual intervals until it was possible to resume in-person gatherings and Church Meetings were held again from 1st August. The Minister and Elders made every effort to maintain by phone and/or email regular pastoral contact with members and friends when no visits were allowed and understand and respect the hesitation still felt by some about returning to worship with us. The regular on-line "Coffee and Chat" continued as did the "Weekly Update," giving news of Worship plans and much more. This information has also been sent by post where necessary and the Trustees are very aware of its importance and thank the Minister and others who contribute to it. They also thank Jean Burrows, the office administrator, who edits and distributes it in addition to producing a monthly publication, "Friendship Friday," which cheers all who read it.

Weekday activities resumed slowly in the Autumn. The loyal small band of friends in the Activity Group were glad to lead the way and soup-and-sandwich lunches also for a relatively small number soon followed. Those who regularly go out together for Sunday lunch were able to enjoy doing so again and a Fellowship Tea held in November was very popular. Sadly and to everyone's disappointment, the community Christmas lunch planned for mid-December was a victim of the advancing wave of Omicron and had to be cancelled.

At the end of a challenging and at times very difficult year the Trustees would like to record their warm thanks to our minister, Paul, for his constant, faithful and wise leadership, for all his hard work (often unseen) and unwavering compassionate care. We are thankful too for Jonathan, our Youth Pastor, and for all that he has achieved within the church and in the wider community.

We recognise how much we owe to the Treasurer Jane, Bursar Norman and the Finance Committee whose work and advice underpin so much of what we do. Throughout the year the congregation's regular giving has remained strong and that has been publicly and gratefully acknowledged by the Minister and Treasurer. In addition special collections in aid of several local charities have been well supported as has a DEC appeal for funds to provide aid in Haiti.

We are grateful too to our Premises Team, lead by Manager, Richard, who in the face of furloughing and ever-changing regulations have cheerfully supported the life of the church. Their task has been even harder since the very sad and sudden death of a member of the team early in the year and the retirement of another some months later. Recruiting new staff has proved to be very difficult and the willingness of those who remain to work flexibly has been greatly appreciated.

Finally, the Trustees wish to thank the whole church family for their prayers and support in a very testing time.

Financial review

Financial Statements

The financial statements, including the notes, have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" 2015 (FRS102). The analysis of income and expenditure reflects the classification of activities, together with costs relating to administration. The church does not sell goods or services, nor are there any other trading activities.

Statement of Financial Activities

At the end of 2021, overall assets totalled £1,026,297, an increase of £141,292 on 2020. The budgeted items of the General Fund showed a deficit of £27,878 to which there was a budgeted contribution of £15,000 from the Underhill legacy.

Operating income totalled £221,667, an increase of over £10,000 due to three exceptional items offsetting the continuing low level of income from lettings. Our insurers have paid £28,000 for business disruption due to Covid-19 during 2020, we claimed £20,574 from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and we received legacies of £10,000 from Betty Lomas and £5000 from Wilma Smith. Income from lettings was over £2000 less than in 2020 as the phlebotomy clinic moved out at

the end of March after ten years, and coronavirus regulations only allowed for a full range of activities from mid July.

Expenditure overall totalled £207,794, a decrease of £27,259. Spending on budgeted items fell by over £60,000 as we reduced our commitment to the Ministry and Mission Fund by over £15,500 and to the Repairs and Maintenance Fund by £18,000. We continued to pay our staff in full while they were covered by the furlough scheme. Our restricted ability to use the premises for worship and for other activities led to savings of over £28,000.

Activity on other funds:

- Repairs and Maintenance: Routine maintenance (with some catching up from 2020) totalled £13,700 including £1150 at the manse.
- Underhill Legacy: £2,500 was given to North Avenue Youth Centre. Investment income covered the work of our Children and Youth Pastor, and this Fund subsidised the premises management team.
- Day Centre: only generated £116 income as limited lunches did not resume until November. Donations were made to the two Harvest charities.
- Children and Young People: £1000 donated to the 25th Chelmsford Scouts
- Thompson Grave Maintenance: thorough cleaning and repair carried out for £463.
- Communion Fund: Communion Services re-started in May but the monies received through the offertories were at a much lower level of giving than in pre Covid times. However, the much reduced level of expenditure in 2020 enabled an accumulation of funds to be carried over to 2021 from which, gifts were sent to South East and Central Essex MIND Ltd, the Prison Fellowship (Angel Tree Project), two gifts to support individual personal needs, a small top-up to the 2020 Christmas Day collection for CHEAD and a substantial gift to the Disasters Emergency Committee (Haiti Earthquake) appeal in September. In total a sum of £1,631.25 was expended.

In addition to giving to the Communion Fund, £2681 was raised for charitable purposes outside Christ Church.

Balance sheet

There were no changes to our investments in 2021. All increased in value by a total of £127,419. Interest on the CCLA COIF savings account averaged 0.01%. In December we opened an account with Redwood Bank paying 0.9% and plan to move all cash not required for current activities to that account.

Reserves policy

General unrestricted funds are required to cover the regular planned activities of Christ Church including support of the Ministry and Mission Fund. The policy is to hold sufficient cash on deposit to cover three months' expenditure, and to hold medium term investments to cover one full year's expenditure. At the year end Christ Church held investments of £1,034,720 of which £7,288 relate to restricted funds and £97,239 support the General Fund. Almost all the remainder flow from the unrestricted legacy received during 2015. Cash on deposit and on account totalled £92,347.

Investment policy

Christ Church acknowledges the heritage of assets from congregations of past years, and recognises that there is a responsibility to the worshipping community of the future, whatever form that may take. Where Christ Church holds financial assets beyond what is required to meet the policy for expenditure on the restricted and unrestricted funds, we will normally seek to preserve the value of that capital for future generations.

Investments other than the cash deposits to cover three month's expenditure will normally be entrusted to the URC (Eastern Province) Trust to manage on our behalf in accordance with that

Trust's financial policy. That Trust seeks to achieve as high an income as possible, subject to protecting the capital value of the funds against inflation. The investments are a mix of fixed interest and equity marketable securities. None of the investments should support practices which are against the church's conscience to the extent that they are against the conscience of Christians following the Ethical Investment Guidelines approved by the URC General Assembly from time to time.

Risk management

The Elders keep under review the ability to finance the agreed activities of the Church, and the risks presented by externalities such as changes to the regulatory framework relating to the management and use of the Church buildings complex.

The most significant risks relate to the loss, either for a short or a long period, of key people, the majority of whom are volunteers.

Among the key risk controls used by the charity are:

- a written financial policy subject to periodic review (reviewed October 2021);
- clear financial authorisation and approval levels (reviewed October 2021);
- detailed summary accounts produced for scrutiny by Elders every quarter;
- Elders and all those in regular contact with vulnerable people having been vetted through the DBS service, with appropriate safeguarding training
- A safeguarding policy for children and adults at risk (reviewed July 2020)
- A written health and safety policy.
- A data protection policy agreed July 2018

Through the risk management process established for the charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed. The risk register has been updated to address the changing circumstances of the pandemic.

Plans for 2022

After the disruption caused by operating for nearly two years under Covid regulations, much about the future is uncertain. In December the Church Meeting agreed a budget which recognised that our regular activities are likely to operate at a significant loss for at least the next year. We are fortunate to have a good level of reserves which could, if necessary, cover such losses for five to ten years. At the end of 2021 we submitted plans to Chelmsford City Council for permission to remodel the premises to provide a new welcome and reception area at the lower level linked to the upper level by a modern accessible lift. These plans would give effect to the Premises Development Plan which we agreed in January 2020, pre-pandemic, but it is by no means clear today that implementing any or all of these plans should be our post-pandemic priority. The year ahead will be one of discernment, developing our work with children and young people and their families, and seeking the way ahead in worship and witness to the community.

In agreeing this report, the Elders, as trustees of the charity, have paid due regard to the guidance from the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit.

Approved by the Elders at the meeting on 8 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by



REV PAUL STEIN
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
		General £	Designated £	Funds £	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations, legacies and grants	2	94,454	0	3,946	98,400	108,449
Trading and other charitable activities	3	79,379	757	0	80,136	56,448
Investment income	4	4,000	38,881	250	43,131	46,693
Total		<u>177,833</u>	<u>39,638</u>	<u>4,196</u>	<u>221,667</u>	<u>211,590</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	0	0	0	0	70
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	6	36,000	0	0	36,000	51,516
Ministerial costs	7	8,541	1,150	0	9,691	4,211
Costs of church activities	8, 9	106,168	47,660	1,463	155,291	165,274
Grants payable and restricted donations passed on	10	0	2,500	4,312	6,812	13,982
Total		<u>150,709</u>	<u>51,310</u>	<u>0 5,775</u>	<u>207,794</u>	<u>235,053</u>
Income/(expenditure) before transfers		27,125	-11,672	-1,580	13,873	-23,463
Transfers between funds	17.1	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-3,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		30,125	-14,672	-1,580	13,873	-23,463
Realised Gains/(losses) on investment:	13.2	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,222</u>
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investme	13.2	<u>11,436</u>	<u>115,127</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>127,419</u>	<u>-49,714</u>
Net movement in funds		41,561	100,455	-724	141,292	-70,955
Total funds b/fwd 1 January 2021		220,831	648,065	16,109	885,005	955,960
Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2021		<u>£ 262,392</u>	<u>£ 748,520</u>	<u>£ 15,385</u>	<u>£ 1,026,297</u>	<u>£ 885,005</u>

(Note 17)

(Note 18)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
		General	Designated			
		£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11, 12	104,244	0	0	104,244	110,104
Investments	13	97,239	930,194	7,288	1,034,720	907,301
		<u>201,483</u>	<u>930,194</u>	<u>7,288</u>	<u>1,138,964</u>	<u>1,017,405</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	14	9,993	0	128	10,122	15,428
Bank and cash balances		50,915	32,866	8,566	92,347	67,842
		<u>60,909</u>	<u>32,866</u>	<u>8,694</u>	<u>102,469</u>	<u>83,270</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors payable within one year	15	0	286	597	883	1,417
NET CURRENT ASSETS						
		60,909	32,580	8,097	101,586	81,853
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES						
		<u>£ 262,392</u>	<u>£ 962,773</u>	<u>£ 15,385</u>	<u>£ 1,240,550</u>	<u>£ 1,099,258</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	0	214,253	0	214,253	214,253
Total assets of the charity		<u>262,392</u>	<u>748,520</u>	<u>15,385</u>	<u>1,026,297</u>	<u>885,005</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY						
Restricted income funds:	18			15,385	15,385	16,109
Unrestricted income funds:						
General		262,392	0	0	262,392	220,831
Designated	17	0	748,520	0	748,520	648,064
Total Unrestricted					1,010,912	868,895
Total funds of the charity		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£ 1,026,297</u>	<u>£ 885,004</u>

APPROVED by the Trustees at the Elders Meeting held on 8 March 2022
and signed on its behalf by



PAUL STEIN

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1	ACCOUNTING POLICIES
1a	Basis of Accounting The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015 - FRS102) issued by the Charity Commission, the Charities Act 2011, and the United Reformed Church guidance. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.
1b	Fund Accounting Unrestricted funds are general funds available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objects. Designated funds are sums set aside out of general funds for specific designated purposes. They can be transferred back to unrestricted funds at any time Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant. Christ Church has no endowment funds
1c	Tangible Fixed Assets Freehold property: The Trustees of the church buildings are the URC Eastern Province Trust who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with Christ Church URC Chelmsford. Expenditure incurred on the church buildings is written off in the year it is incurred. Equipment: Depreciation is applied in a straight line over a period of 5 to 30 years, according to the nature of the asset, calculated to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives. Assets with purchase value below £100 are not capitalised but written off as expenditure Investment assets: These are stated at mid-market values on the balance sheet date. Changes in valuation over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.
1d	Incoming Resources All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received. Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received. Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is probable and can be properly quantified. All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.
1e	Resources Expended The URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates. Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.
1f	Taxation 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 financial statements.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
2. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS					
FreeWill Offerings(£816 per week;2020 £862)	42,451	0	0	42,451	44,840
Cash offerings	610	0	0	610	1,399
Other donations to work of Christ Church	4,646	0	0	4,646	10,631
Communion fund donations	0	0	1265	1,265	650
Appeals and special offerings	0	0	2,681	2,681	3,583
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	11,171	0	0	11,171	9,667
Legacies	15,002	0	0	15,002	0
Grants related to Covid-19	20,574	0	0	20,574	37,677
	<u>£ 94,454</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 3,946</u>	<u>£ 98,400</u>	<u>£ 108,449</u>
3. TRADING AND OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
Church lettings	50,818	0	0	50,818	53,084
Fund raising events	0	0	0	0	253
Duplicating and office services	131	0	0	131	41
Minibus use	4	0	0	4	197
Youth work	0	641	0	641	1,197
Day Centre	0	116	0	116	1,138
Coffee, flowers and other sundry income	426	0	0	426	538
Insurance payment for business disruption	28,000	0	0	28,000	0
	<u>£ 79,379</u>	<u>£ 757</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 80,136</u>	<u>£ 56,448</u>
4. INVESTMENT INCOME					
Dividends and distributions	3,988	38,881	250	43,119	46,595
Bank interest	12	0	0	12	98
	<u>£ 4,000</u>	<u>£ 38,881</u>	<u>£ 250</u>	<u>£ 43,131</u>	<u>£ 46,693</u>
5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS					
Cost of fund raising events	0	0	0	0	70
	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 70</u>
6. MINISTRY & MISSION FUND					
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. This annual budget amounts to some £20million, 83% of which relates to minister costs, and 91% is provided through the Ministry & Mission Fund contributions from churches.					

	General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
7. MINISTERIAL COSTS					
Expenses of Minister, including visitors	2,458	0	0	2,458	2,356
Manse service charges inc insurance	6,083	0	0	6,083	805
Manse repairs	0	1,150	0	1,150	1,050
	<u>£ 8,541</u>	<u>£ 1,150</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 9,691</u>	<u>£ 4,211</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

8. COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	General	Designated			
Church costs:	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	6,369	0	0	6,369	6,028
Utilities	11,249	0	0	11,249	12,764
Buildings maintenance	0	12,529	0	12,529	10,396
Premises management*	70,911	0	0	70,911	89,857
Office costs*	2,961	0	0	2,961	3,501
Music*	888	0	0	888	9,812
Equipment (not capitalised)	0	0	0	0	69
Telephone	909	0	0	909	1,420
Postage	455	0	0	455	425
Children & young people	0	31,371	1,000	32,371	11,015
Minibus*	2,305	0	0	2,305	3,671
Day centre	0	2,000	0	2,000	2,585
Other running costs	1,229	0	463	1,692	2,643
	£ 97,276	£ 45,900	£ 1,463	£ 144,639	£ 154,184
* indicates depreciation included					
Support costs:					
Governance costs	720	0	0	720	720
Depreciation of furniture and equipment	8,172	0	0	8,172	8,405
Interest on loan	0	1,760	0	1,760	1,964
	£ 8,892	£ 1,760	£ 0	£ 10,652	£ 11,089

9. PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES

Salaries and wages	90,478				
Social security costs	4,598	of which £3497 covered by Employers Allowance			
Pension costs	2,040				
Total staff costs	£ 97,116				

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: nil)

Eligible Christ Church employees have been enrolled in the NEST pension scheme since February 2017

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with Christ Church in the year (2020: nil),

neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2020: nil).

No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: nil).

The trustees are the key management personnel of the charity

The average monthly head count was 7 employees (2020: 8 employees).

10. GRANTS PAYABLE AND RESTRICTED DONATIONS PASSED ON

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	General	Designated			
Appeals and special offerings	0	0	2,681	2,681	3,795
Communion Fund	0	0	1,631	1,631	188
Donations to North Avenue Youth Centre	0	2,500	0	2,500	10,000
	£ 0	£ 2,500	£ 4,312	£ 6,812	£ 13,982

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds					TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	Prem Magt	Office	Music	Bus	General		
Brought forward 1 January 2021	2,012	262	674	21,409	85,747	110,104	120,939
Additions in year		5,580	0	0	0	5,580	421
Depreciation for year	-224	-1,180	-80	-1,784	-8,172	-11,440	-11,256
Carried forward 31 December 2021	1,788	4,662	594	19,625	77,575	104,244	110,104

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1c, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the church buildings are valued at £9,848,671. The organ is insured for £861,359, and other church contents are insured by the church for £442,602

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
	General £	Designated £			
13. INVESTMENT ASSETS					
13.1 The investment assets held at the balance sheet date comprise:					
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	31,197	66,872	3,814	101,883	89,983
COIF Property Fund	0	863,322	0	863,322	756,006
Charifund income units - Thompson grave	1,163	0	3,474	4,637	4,082
Charifund income units - general	64,878	0	0	64,878	57,231
	<u>£ 97,239</u>	<u>£ 930,194</u>	<u>£ 7,288</u>	<u>£ 1,034,720</u>	<u>£ 907,301</u>
13.2 The movements on investments over the year were:					
Brought forward 1 January 2021	85,803	815,067	6,431	907,301	1,054,793
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0	-100,000
Realised gains	0	0	0	0	2,222
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	11,437	115,126	856	127,419	-49,714
	<u>£ 97,240</u>	<u>£ 930,193</u>	<u>£ 7,287</u>	<u>£ 1,034,720</u>	<u>£ 907,301</u>
14. DEBTORS					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	2,325	0	69	2,394	2,888
Appeals tax recoverable	0	0	60	60	648
Fuel deposit held by Tesco	100	0	0	100	100
Rent for rooms	5,977	0	0	5,977	8,153
Cash float	100	0	0	100	100
FWO	0	0	0	0	289
Grant - HMRC JRS	0	0	0	0	1,846
Interest due	7	0	0	7	0
Prepayments	1,484	0	0	1,484	1,405
	<u>£ 9,993</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 129</u>	<u>£ 10,122</u>	<u>£ 15,428</u>
15. CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors payable within one year:					
Appeals	0	0	597	597	1,174
Church running costs	0	0	0	0	0
Repairs and maintenance	0	0	0	0	0
Interest on loan	0	286	0	286	243
	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 286</u>	<u>£ 597</u>	<u>£ 883</u>	<u>£ 1,417</u>
16. LONG TERM LIABILITIES					
Loan from URCEPT November 2016 (to 2026)		214,253		214,253	314,253
Repayment of capital				0	-100,000
Balance outstanding 31 December 2021		<u>214,253</u>		<u>214,253</u>	<u>214,253</u>
17. DESIGNATED FUNDS					
The church operates 6 Designated Funds with the encouragement of Church Meeting:					
Repairs and maintenance - established and used to fund the proper maintenance of the buildings and property, and to ensure that funds are available on a long term basis to deal with expensive work without distorting annual figures. Funded by provision from the general fund, and exceptionally by the Underhill legacy					
Church growth fund - established in 2005 to support and encourage the growth of the people of the Church rather than its property					
Music fund - established initially by legacy, now supported by donations and, when appropriate, by transfer from the general fund. Its purpose is to ensure that funds are available to develop the music in Church.					
Underhill fund - established in 2015 to manage and deploy the legacy from Irene Underhill					
Legacy fund - established 2011 to hold legacies pending their expenditure on purposes indicated by the legatee. Currently unfunded					
Jubilee fund - established 2020 to manage the celebrations for the first 50 years of Christ Church and any projects arising					
In addition, in April 2016 the Day Centre combined its cash activities with the rest of the Church activities.					

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHELMSFORD
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

17.1 The movements on the Designated Funds during the year were:

	Repairs	Church growth	Music	Underhill	Day Centre	Jubilee	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2021	22,217	62,541	5,353	544,259	6,381	7,314	648,065	659,887
Transfer from general fund	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	12,000	30,000
Receipts				641	116	0	757	9,769
Investment income	220	1,396	88	37,177	0	0	38,881	42,508
Interest				0	0	0	0	44
	<u>34,437</u>	<u>63,937</u>	<u>5,441</u>	<u>582,077</u>	<u>6,497</u>	<u>7,314</u>	<u>699,703</u>	<u>742,208</u>
Expenditure in year	-13,679	0	0	-35,631	-2,000	0	-51,310	-37,435
Transfer between Designated funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to General Fund	0	0	0	-15,000	0	0	-15,000	-20,000
Realised gain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,222
change in investment value	964	6,133	383	107,646	0	0	115,126	-38,931
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2021	<u>£ 21,722</u>	<u>70,070</u>	<u>5,824</u>	<u>639,092</u>	<u>4,497</u>	<u>7,314</u>	<u>748,519</u>	<u>£ 648,064</u>

The Repairs and Maintenance Fund expenditure comprised:

	£	Manse:	£
Premises development plans	0	plumbing repairs	424
		Trees pruning	380
		security contract	188
		Boiler service	158
Service contracts and routine maintenance	12,054		
Miscellaneous	474		
	<u>£ 12,528</u>		<u>1,150</u>

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The church accounts include 3 Restricted Funds, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the church. These monies are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any other purpose, and represent:

Organ fund - initially established and funded from a legacy, now supported by donations and fund-raising. Its purpose is to support long term major repairs and development of the organ (routine maintenance is met by the general fund)

Thompson grave maintenance - the terms of the legacy stipulated that £2000 must be retained to maintain the grave

Children and young people fund - established in 2014 from the specific bequest of Irene Underhill and the residual amounts of the Forbes Fund and the Youth Events Fund to provide a single fund to support work with children and younger people.

Christ Church also receives donations at Communion services to be used for benevolent acts and which are held in a separate account

In addition, monies raised by appeal for specific charitable purposes external to Christ Church are considered to be restricted in purpose

Appeals amounted to £2681 in 2021

18.1 The movements on the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	Organ	Children/ young people	Thompson	Communion	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£		£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2021	6,941	4104	4,063	1001	16,109	15,830
Investment income	80	5	165	0	250	249
Interest				0	0	21
Donations	0	0	0	1265	1,265	650
	<u>7,021</u>	<u>4,109</u>	<u>4,228</u>	<u>2,266</u>	<u>17,624</u>	<u>16,750</u>
Expenditure in year	0	-1,000	-463	-1631	-3,094	-188
change in investment value	358	88	410	0	856	-454
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2021	<u>7,379</u>	<u>3,197</u>	<u>4,175</u>	<u>634</u>	<u>£ 15,385</u>	<u>£ 16,109</u>

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the accounts on pages 1 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2021

.....
 JANE HUMPHREYS 31st January 2022

Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Christ Church United Reformed Church Chelmsford

Year Ended 31st December 2021

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

PEYTON TYLER MEARS
Chartered accountant

Middleborough House
16 Middleborough
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1QT

23rd February 2022.