

## **Adeyfield Free Church, Hemel Hempstead, United Reformed Church Charity**

### **Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2023**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Adeyfield Free Church (Registered Charity No. 1131868) is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain (URC), and is a member church of Thames North Synod of the URC. It operates in conformity with their Scheme of Union and Governing Document as well as a local constitution. At local level activities are under the direction of church meeting consisting of 50 members who have affirmed their Christian faith and support the objectives of the church.

Adeyfield Free Church continue to feel the impact of the COVID pandemic and this has been added to by the substantial increase in utility costs and the effects of the current Cost of Living on the whole country.

The Church Office telephone number is 01442 260175 / 07933 570594

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. Those who served this year are as follows:

Minister: Rev Paul Stein (50% scoping with St George's URC, Hemel Hempstead)

Church Secretary: Heather Lewis

Elder: Shirley Ford – Treasurer

Elder: Penny Stuart

Elder: Pamela Annison

Elder: Dave Kerry

Elder: Brian Jackson

Elder: Sue Grimsdale – joined in the Eldership in 2023

#### **STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE**

Church Meetings are held bi-monthly in addition to an Annual General Meeting. During this year the Trustees (Elders) have been trying to reduce the need to meet most weeks, seeking to reduce these meetings to one a month and to meet in-between times when the need arises. These meetings take the format of time for prayer and then the business needed to progress the many tasks required to complete the building alongside any other church related matters.

The Elders are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit (contained in Charity Commission publication "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit") and has regard to it in the administration of the Church. The Elders believe that the Church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

The church welcomed Rev Paul Stein as their pastor in November 2022. AFC share Paul with our sister church St George's URC.

Public worship is held in person each Sunday in the worship hall and small groups have continued to meet either using zoom, meeting in individuals houses or using one of the church meeting rooms. The church has seen activities for young people, children and outreach to the community continue to evolve this year and it has been a joy to see young people once again frequenting the building.

## **REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Adeyfield Free Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building, and described more specifically in its mission statement as 'Love Jesus, Love each other and Love our community'

Members of the church and adherents meet in small groups, either weekly or fortnightly, to spend time in a social setting where the Bible is studied and pastoral needs are prayed for.

Fingerprints, our Christian pre-school, has been open throughout the year and have had a good attendance of children over this time.

It is unfortunate that Messy Church SEN has not started again and this continues to be monitored and if the need arises volunteers will be sought to form the group again.

We have been able to open our building to the charity, Playskill, who meet weekly in term time and work with children 0 to 5 years with physical and mental disability needs. In August 2023 Playskill moved their head office to AFC as well as the charity work with the children on Fridays. It is hoped that Playskill will open another day in the week sometime in the New Year.

Cubs and Beavers continue to meet in the building and the groups are well attended. The leaders are hopeful of opening up a new Beavers group and the Squirrels group which will cater for the 4-6 age range.

The church partners with Expressions Academy, an organisation who runs, among other outreach events, holiday clubs during school holidays. This August Expressions, sponsored by Adeyfield Free Church together with two local Anglian churches, St Barnabas and Holy Trinity, organised a Holiday Club for children 5-11 years which was well attended and enjoyed by all who came. Expressions also ran two further HAPpy Holiday Clubs, a nationwide venture sponsored by the Government.

The carers' and toddlers' 'stay and play' group, Little Fish, continues to flourish and has recently started a waiting list for those wishing to attend.

Our outreach to the community events, including invites to a Sunday lunch each month have not recommenced but we have been able to welcome people to celebration meals, e.g. Christmas meal and a summer BBQ. It is hoped to open up for more community based activities over the coming months. Our pastor and the pastoral team oversee pastoral care and support for members and their families as well as for individuals and groups in the wider community.

Several groups which the church sponsors include a majority of people who are not otherwise connected with the church.

Adeyfield Free Church is a member of Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead and links with other churches in supporting initiatives including Pray Hemel, which meets monthly at different venues. Other community projects include CAP, DENS, Foodbank and Liberty Tea Rooms and Community Hub. Support continues for individuals and organizations elsewhere in the UK and abroad with similar mission objectives of promoting the Christian gospel and serving those in need.

## **REDEVELOPMENT OF ADEYFIELD FREE CHURCH**

We continue to be grateful to North Thames Synod for their ongoing guidance, help and support both financially and in practical matters.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £53,479  
Total receipts on designated funds were £41,947  
Total receipts on restricted funds were £7,721  
Gift Aid repayments were £8,786  
Total receipts for the year were £111,933

Expenditure from unrestricted funds was £93,195  
Expenditure from designated funds was £9,584  
Expenditure from restricted funds was £7,313  
Total Expenditure was £110,093

### Statement of the reserves policy.

Unrestricted Fund (this is the General Fund): The policy is to retain at least three months' expenditure as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 there are not sufficient reserves, mainly due to the increased expenditure relating to the new building we now occupy. This has been added to by the reduction in income due to members passing away or moving to other areas. It is anticipated that these funds will continue to be reduced as we support activities taking place in the church together with the high costs of running our new building.

Designated Fund (this is the Named Fund and Synod Loan Fund): The policy is not to retain reserves. It is expected that income will balance expenditure during each financial year.

Restricted Funds (these are the Youth and Building Funds): These are funds for specific long term projects so reserves are not held.

## **APPROVAL**

(Approved by the Trustees on .....31/10/23..... and signed on its behalf by Heather Lewis, Church Secretary.)

*Heather M. Lewis*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
Offerings		50,908		2,560	53,468	62,814
Fund raising and donations		2,563	3,024	5,156	10,742	19,756
Monies raised for named causes	3	0	6,186		6,186	6,451
Gift Aid tax repayments		7,370	739	678	8,786	15,847
Property - church/hall users	4	0	32,737		32,737	29,694
Grants/Legacies Received		0	0		0	3,457
Refunds Received		0	0		0	3,531
Bank interest & investment income		9	0	5	14	22
Balance						90
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>60,849</b>	<b>42,685</b>	<b>8,398</b>	<b>111,933</b>	<b>141,318</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
Ministry & Mission Fund		28,963	6,388		35,350	32,008
Ministry expenses		6,873	340		7,213	1,570
Admin/Cln/Ctr Mgr Pay + PAYE Tax		17,058	2,857		19,915	12,122
Youth Worker		0	0		0	0
Church running costs	5	22,183			22,183	20,579
Programme activity costs	6	965			965	3,319
Support of outside causes	7	4,232			4,232	11,714
Maintenance of church buildings	8	10,411			10,411	20,366
Maintenance of Manse	9	2,094			2,094	3,115
MAX Exp/Church Improvements		416		7,313	7,729	2,360
Balance						35
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>93,195</b>	<b>9,584</b>	<b>7,313</b>	<b>110,093</b>	<b>107,188</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)</b>		<b>-32,346</b>	<b>33,101</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>34,130</b>
<b>TRANSFERS between funds</b>	2	30,000	-30,000	0	0	0
<b>CASH FUNDS b/fwd 1 April 22</b>		<b>8,204</b>	<b>69,119</b>	<b>8,160</b>	<b>119,613</b>	<b>85,483</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS c/fwd 31 March 23</b>		<b>10,357</b>	<b>68,424</b>	<b>28,148</b>	<b>106,929</b>	<b>119,613</b>

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## Monetary assets

Cash		0	0	0	0	0
Bank current account		10,029	20,424	27,639	58,092	70,781
Deposit accounts		328	48,000	509	48,837	48,832
<b>Total monetary assets</b>	10	<b>10,357</b>	<b>68,424</b>	<b>28,148</b>	<b>106,929</b>	<b>119,613</b>

## Assets used for church purposes

Buildings under statutory trusts	11	Church buildings and manse
Church contents	11	Furnishings and equipment

## Liabilities

Significant creditors		0
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APPROVED by the Trustees on 31/10/23 and signed on their behalf

HEATHER LEWIS

(name)(signature)

Heather M Lewis

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

## NOTES

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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

**2 FUND ACCOUNTING**

**Unrestricted Funds** may be used by the church for any of its ordinary purposes.

**Designated Funds** represent unrestricted funds set aside by the church for specific designated purposes; they can be transferred back into general funds at the church's decision.

Fund name & purpose:	Balance b/fwd £	Receipts in year £	Payments in year £	Transfers for year £	Balance c/fwd £
Youth Work Fund	48,106	0	0	0	48,106
Named/AFCC Inc	38,354	42,685	9,584	-30,000	41,455
<b>Totals for designated funds</b>	<b>86,460</b>	<b>42,685</b>	<b>9,584</b>	<b>-30,000</b>	<b>89,561</b>

**Restricted Funds** represent income which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of a trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. These funds can only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund for future expenditure on that specific purpose, or returned; it cannot be absorbed into general funds.

Fund name & purpose:	Balance b/fwd £	Receipts in year £	Payments in year £	Balance c/fwd £
Building Fund	8,250	8,398	7,313	9,335
<b>Totals for restricted funds</b>	<b>8,250</b>	<b>8,398</b>	<b>7,313</b>	<b>9,335</b>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
<b>3 MONIES RAISED FOR NAMED CAUSES</b>					
Website Refund	0	0	0	0	0
Christians Against Poverty	0	1,080	0	1,080	1,120
DENS	0	85	0	85	111
Daniel Gitau	0	409	0	409	150
Good News for All	0	0	0	0	0
Tearfund	0	0	0	0	0
Samaritons Purse	0	55	0	55	170
Janet Fawcett	0	0	0	0	290
Joel & Claire Harri	0	840	0	840	876
Paul & Rose Harvey	0	1,140	0	1,140	1,140
Discovery	0	470	0	470	1,020
Phone Contribution	0	0	0	0	11
Beaver Colony	0	2,107	0	2,107	1,563
<b>Totals raised for named causes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,186</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,186</b>	<b>6,451</b>

**4 PROPERTY INCOME**

Other lettings income	0	32,549	0	32,549	29,694
<b>Total property income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32,549</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32,549</b>	<b>29,694</b>

**5 CHURCH RUNNING COSTS**

Gas/Electricity	15,344	3,395	0	18,739	12,315
Insurance	2,243	561	0	2,804	2,606
Water	498	99	0	597	949
Ch Business Rates		6,862	0	6,862	
Telephone	1,106	254	0	1,360	1,322
Cleaning Supplies	307	22	0	329	
Stationery and photocopying	554	0	0	554	733
Other admin expenses	562	2,056	0	2,618	426
Website and Social Media	536	0	0	536	1,236
Licences and music	628	0	0	628	576
Payroll Fees	404	84	0	487	416
<b>Total church running costs</b>	<b>22,183</b>	<b>13,331</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35,514</b>	<b>20,579</b>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
<b>6 PROGRAMME ACTIVITY COSTS</b>					
Youth & Children's activities	299		0	299	797
Worship and Teaching	442		0	442	750
Social Ministry & Church Events	224	226	0	451	1,094
Beavers and Cubs	0	2,645		2,645	678
					0
<b>Total programme activity costs</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>3,319</b>
<b>7 SUPPORT OF NAMED CAUSES</b>					
DENS	200	90	0	290	339
Discovery	542	596	0	1,138	1,799
Expressions	340		0	340	0
Christians Against Poverty	450	1,350	0	1,800	1,945
Youth Across Hemel	0	0	0	0	700
Evangelical Alliance	80	0	0	80	80
Hardship	0	0	0	0	0
Good News for All	80	0	0	80	80
Tearfund	200	0	0	200	200
Through the Roof	150	0	0	150	300
Coffeemates	150	0	0	150	150
Churches Together	0	0	0	0	50
Samaritan's Purse	0	0	0	0	170
Community Action	0	0	0	0	0
Janet Fawcett	0	0	0	0	380
Daniel Gitau	800	0	0	800	955
Joel & Claire Harri	800	1,050	0	1,850	2,993
Paul & Rose Harvey	100	1,425	0	1,525	1,574
Expressions	340		0	340	0
Ladies day	0		0	0	0
<b>Total support of named causes</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>4,511</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,743</b>	<b>11,714</b>
<b>8 MAINTENANCE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS</b>					
Service Charge	1,193	3,522		4,715	3,741
Health and Safety	1,650			1,650	2,393
General Maintenance + Contracts	7,261		583	7,844	11,749
Cleaning	307	22		329	2,483
<b>Total maintenance of church buildings</b>	<b>10,411</b>	<b>3,544</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>14,538</b>	<b>20,366</b>
<b>9 MAINTENANCE OF MANSE</b>					
Council Tax, Water rates, Gas and Electricity	910	0		910	1,538
Manse maintenance & Expenses	1,184	0		1,184	951
Manse insurance	0	0		0	626
<b>Total maintenance of manse</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>3,115</b>

**10 MONETARY ASSETS**

The church monies are not held in segregated accounts, but for the sake of this financial statement the total of each account is allocated appropriately over the various funds.

**11 ASSETS USED FOR CHURCH PURPOSES**

The manse at 78 Poynders Hill was sold by the trust in August 2022. The proceeds of this sale are lodged with URC Thames North Synod Trust.

The church building at Maylands Avenue was handed over to the church on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The building is vested in URC Thames North Synod Trust as trustees and is not a church asset. The building is held on a 999 year lease from Hightown Housing Association. The Shell and Core of the building is insured by the landlord. Tenant's Improvements to the building is valued for insurance purposes at £3,908,428 and is insured by the church. The church contents are insured, by the church, for £115,452.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

## TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 3 for the year ended 31 March 2023 from the accounting records of the Church.

(name)

(signature)

(date)

Shirley A Ford

SA Ford.

15/11/23.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Adeyfield Free Church URC for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

Having satisfied ourselves that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is our responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act);

state whether particular matters have come to our attention;

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b)

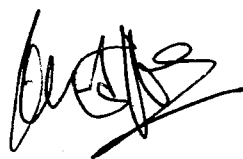
Signed by the Independent Examiners:

Paul W Bradford

Date: 15/11/2023

Name and address of the Independent Examiners:

PAUL WILLIAM BRADFORD  
23 MISSDEN DRIVE  
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD  
HP3 8QR.



IAN WOLSTENCROFT  
20 TANNSMORE CLOSE  
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD  
AB11 1SLH

<b>Represented by:</b>	31 Mar 2020	31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2022
<b>Cash at Bank</b>			
Lloyds TSB Current #1	2,722.69	457.00	3,561.69
Alliance & Leicester	33,762.56	36,300.00	67,219.52
Deposit accounts – BM	48,726.29	48,726.00	48,832.48
URC	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Cash at Bank</b>	<u>85,211.54</u>	<u>85,483.00</u>	<u>119,613.69</u>

<b>Reserves Movement</b>	31 Mar 2020	Surplus 21	31 Mar 2021	Surplus 22	31 Mar 2022
Current	30,409.59	-22205.59	8,204.00	-1876.03	6,327.97
Building Fund	6,276.38	1883.62	8,160.00	19195.44	27,355.44
Named Fund	419.95	357.29	777.24	4767.58	5,544.82
Youth Fund	48,105.62	0.00	48,105.62		48,105.62
AFCC Income			20,236.00		32,279.84
<b>Total</b>	<u>85,211.54</u>		<u>85,482.86</u>		<u>119,613.69</u>

**Restricted Funds:-**

**Building fund**

Income	18,042.00	23341.00
Transfer In	0.00	0.00
Expenditure	19,599.00	4146.00
	<u>-1,557.00</u>	<u>27487.00</u>

**Designated Funds:-**

**Youth Fund**

Income	0.00	0.00
Expenditure	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**AFCC Income Fund**

Income	20,286.12	29,593.75
Transfer Out		-4,900.00
Expenditure	-649.75	-12,631.28
	<u>20,935.87</u>	<u>47,125.03</u>