

**ADEYFIELD FREE CHURCH HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31ST MARCH 2024**

Adeyfield Free Church URC

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGES
Trustees and officers	3
Annual Report	4 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Statements	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements account	9 to 13

Adeyfield Free Church URC

Directors and Officers

Charity Number	1131868
The board of Trustees	Reverend P Stein H Lewis S Ford P Stuart P Annison D Kerry B Jackson Resigned 2023 S Grimsdale Y Davis Appointed April 2024
Church secretary	H Lewis
Registered office	Adeyfield Free Church Centre Maylands Avenue Hemel Hempstead Hertfordshire HP2 4GZ
Accountants	Gilberts Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors Pendragon House 65 London Road St Albans Hertfordshire AL1 1LJ

Adeyfield Free Church URC

Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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 (recently undated). At local level activities are under the direction of church meeting consisting of 45 members who have affirmed their Christian faith and support the objectives of the church.

Adeyfield Free Church continue to feel the impact of 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 and 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

Structure and Governance

Church Meetings are held bi-monthly in addition to an Annual General Meeting. During this year the Trustees (Elders) have held meetings approximately once a month, with additional meetings to update our constitution and to discuss the future of the church and fundraising. These meetings take the format of time for prayer and then the business needed to progress the many tasks required to administer our building alongside any other activities and 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.

Rev Paul Stein has been our pastor since 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 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 more young people once again frequenting the building.

Adeyfield Free Church URC

Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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 on Sunday mornings for worship, including communion on the second Sunday of the month. Young people's groups meet during the service times. Once a month we hold an all age service often celebrating occasions like Mother's day or Harvest Sunday, Nativity and Christingle. Various mid-week small groups, meeting either weekly or fortnightly, encourage people to spend time in a social setting where the Bible is studied and pastoral needs are prayed for.

In March 2024 we opened our Community Space adjacent to the reception area. This is open to the community on two days per week as a 'Meet & Eat' offering refreshments, a warm space, toddler play area, toy library and space for crafts and activities. One day per week a 'Senior Pals' group meets here for refreshments and activities. We hope to extend the use of this area over the next few years.

Fingerprints, our well established Christian pre-school and nursery, has had an increase in attendance of children this year, especially from the new housing local to the building. Counselling at AFC continues to establish itself in the community as an affordable counselling service.

We continue to support local charity, Playskill, who have their head office in our building and hold weekly sessions in term time working with children 0 to 5 years with physical disability needs. Cubs and Beavers continue to meet in the building and the groups are well attended. The church was asked to run additional events for Easter and Christmas for cubs and beavers from across Hemel Hempstead. Additional groups are planned, including Squirrels which cater for 4-6 year olds.

The church partners with Expressions Academy, an organisation which runs various activities from our building including Art socials, Bible journalling, Fitsteps dance classes and a Rock-a-bye Babies group for young mothers. They hope to run more holiday clubs and activities for young people in the future.

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. They hope to be able to run an additional session soon. This year we have supported Hightown Housing with an event for our local community. Other community events include celebration meals for Christmas and a summer BBQ. It is hoped to open up for more community based activities. The AFC Centre also provides spaces for many community activities run by outside groups including U3A and fitness classes.

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 sponsored by the church 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 Christians Against Poverty (CAP), Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter (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 Church

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

Adeyfield Free Church URC

Independent Examiner's Report to the Elders of Adeyfield United Reformed Church

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 30 April 2024, which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of Elders and examiner

The church's Elders are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's Elders consider that an audit is not required for the 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Elders concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no audit 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 statement below.

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 to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.

Pendragon House
65 London Road
St. Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 1LJ

Richard Hattrell
Gilberts
Chartered Accountant

Dated 31 January 2025

Adeyfield Free Church URC
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period ended 31st March 2024

	Note	2024 Unrestricted & Designated Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Income from :					
Donations from regular offerings	2	53,232	4,975	58,207	62,254
Other donations and grants	3	85,055	31,041	116,097	16,942
Charitable activities	4	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	5	38,765	-	38,765	32,737
Investments	6	367	-	367	
Total Income		<u>177,419</u>	<u>36,016</u>	<u>213,436</u>	<u>111,933</u>
Expenditure on :					
Charitable activities					
Support of outside causes	8	8,936	-	8,936	8,743
Ministry and mission	9	45,025	-	45,025	42,564
Activities directly relating to					
MANSE running costs		2,475	-	2,475	2094
the work of the Church	10	6,021	-	6,021	3,836
Church Running costs	11	88,509	32,631	121,140	77,697
Total Expenditure		<u>150,965</u>	<u>32,631</u>	<u>183,596</u>	<u>134,933</u>
Net Income for the Period		26,454	3,385	29,840	(23,000)
Gains and Losses on Investments					
Unrealised gains / (losses)		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Movement in Funds		26,454	3,385	29,840	(23,000)
Fund transfers		1,015	1,119	2,134	10,316
Balance brought forward at 1st April	13	<u>78,781</u>	<u>28,148</u>	<u>106,929</u>	<u>119,613</u>
Balance carried forward at 31st March	13	<u><u>106,250</u></u>	<u><u>32,652</u></u>	<u><u>138,903</u></u>	<u><u>106,929</u></u>

All recognised gains and losses for the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form part of these accounts.

Adeyfield Free Church URC

Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets			
Stocks			
Debtors	14	2,950	5,161
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>138,903</u>	<u>106,929</u>
		141,852	112,090
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>141,852</u>	<u>112,090</u>
Net Assets		<u><u>141,852</u></u>	<u><u>112,090</u></u>
Funds	16		
Unrestricted		109,076	82,699
Restricted		<u>32,776</u>	<u>29,391</u>
		<u><u>141,852</u></u>	<u><u>112,090</u></u>

Approved by the Elders on 28 Janaury 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

P Stein - Elder

P Stuart - Elder

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form part of these accounts.

Adeyfield Free Church URC

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period ended 31st March 2024

1 Accounting Policies

a) Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) and the Charities SORP applicable to Smaller Charities. They are prepared under historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

b) Income

Voluntary income

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the church.
- Planned giving receivable under gift aid is recognised only when received.
- Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the church are accounted for only when received.
- Funds raised by the church are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at the balance sheet date.

c) Expenditure

Allocation of expenditure

Expenditure is charged directly to the appropriate category where possible. Certain items of office overhead costs which cannot be allocated directly are apportioned between the categories on a basis reflecting the estimated split of resources used.

d) Fund Accounting

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

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restriction imposed by donors or by the purpose of the appeal.

f) Investments

Investments are valued at market value at the balance sheet date, and are kept up to date such that when investments are sold there is no gain or loss arising. As a result the Statement of Financial Activities only includes unrealised gains and losses arising from the revaluation of the investment portfolio throughout the year.

g) Current Assets

Amounts owing to the church at the balance sheet date in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Cash at bank includes short term deposits held either with the Lloyds and Santander.

Adeyfield Free Church URC
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the period ended 31st March 2024

2	Donations from regular offerings	2024	2024	2024	2023
		Unrestricted & Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
	Planned giving:				
	Offerings and gift aid donations	41,932	1,980	43,912	53,468
	Income tax recoverable on gift aid	11,300	2,995	14,295	8,786
		<u>53,232</u>	<u>4,975</u>	<u>58,207</u>	<u>62,254</u>
3	Other donations and grants				
	Donations and grants received	10,569	21,041	31,611	10,742
	Monies raised for named causes	8,470	10,000	18,470	6,186
	Synod Support	65,000	-	65,000	-
	Refund Salaries	1,016	-	1,016	14
		<u>85,055</u>	<u>31,041</u>	<u>116,097</u>	<u>16,942</u>
4	Charitable activities				
	Trading Income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
5	Other trading activities				
	Church lettings	38,765	-	38,765	32,737
	Manse income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>38,765</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,765</u>	<u>32,737</u>
6	Income from Investments				
	Interest and dividends	<u>367</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>367</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>-</u>
7	MANSE running costs			2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
	Council Tax, Water rates, Gas and Electricity	2,475	-	2,475	2,094
	Manse maintenance & Expenses	-	-	-	-
	Manse insurance	-	-	-	-
		<u>2,475</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,475</u>	<u>2,094</u>

Adeyfield Free Church URC
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the period ended 31st March 2024

	2024 Unrestricted & Designated Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
8 Support of outside causes				
DENS	220	-	220	290
Discovery	1,075	-	1,075	1,138
Expressions	122	-	122	340
Christians Against Poverty	1,800	-	1,800	1,800
Youth Across Hemel	700	-	700	-
Evangelical Alliance	80	-	80	80
Hardship	-	-	-	-
Good News for All	150	-	150	80
Tearfund	200	-	200	200
Through the Roof	150	-	150	150
Coffeemates	150	-	150	150
Churches Together	40	-	40	-
Samaritan's Purse	179	-	179	-
Community Action	-	-	-	-
Daniel Gitau	800	-	800	800
Joel & Claire Harri	1,650	-	1,650	1,850
Paul & Rose Harvey	1,525	-	1,525	1,525
Community Hire Donation Refund	95	-	95	340
Named Causes	8,936	-	8,936	8,743
	<u>8,936</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,936</u>	<u>8,743</u>
9 Ministry and mission costs				
Ministry & Mission Fund	40,084	-	40,084	35,350
Ministry expenses	4,940	-	4,940	7,213
	<u>45,025</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,025</u>	<u>42,564</u>
10 Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Youth & Children's activities	470	-	470	299
Worship and Teaching	602	-	602	442
Social Ministry & Church Events	1,964	-	1,964	451
Beavers and Cubs	2,985	-	2,985	2,645
	<u>6,021</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,021</u>	<u>3,836</u>

Adeyfield Free Church URC
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the period ended 31st March 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total
	& Designated			
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
11 Church Running costs				
Service Charge	6,573	-	6,573	4,715
Health and Safety	1,109	-	1,109	1,650
General Maintenance + Contracts	5,307	793	6,100	7,844
Cleaning	-	-	-	329
Gas/Electricity	32,208	-	32,208	18,739
Insurance	3,177	-	3,177	2,804
Water	881	-	881	597
Church/Cafe Business Rates	2,303	-	2,303	6,862
Telephone	1,473	-	1,473	1,360
Cleaning Supplies	348	290	638	329
Stationery and photocopying	2,278	-	2,278	554
Other admin expenses	491	-	491	2,618
Website and Social Media	405	-	405	536
Licences and music	723	-	723	628
Payroll / Pension Fees / PAYE Tax	1,914	-	1,914	487
Ch Improvements/Café	2,153	31,548	33,701	7,729
Admin/CIn/Ctr Mgr Pay	27,166	-	27,166	19,915
	<u>88,509</u>	<u>32,631</u>	<u>121,140</u>	<u>77,697</u>

12 Tangible Fixed Assets for Church Use

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 20th 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.

13 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.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Alliance & Leicester	83,646	47,601
Lloyds TSB Current #1	55,257	6,583
Deposit Account	-	52,745
	<u>138,903</u>	<u>106,929</u>

14 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	-	-
Gift Aid recoverable	2,950	5,161
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	<u>2,950</u>	<u>5,161</u>

Adeyfield Free Church URC
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the period ended 31st March 2024

15 Statement of Funds	1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Fund trfs	Inv. gains	31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	14,414	157,399	(139,455)	21,516	-	53,874
Designated funds						
AFCC Inc	14,137	7,379	-	(21,516)	-	-
Names Causes	6,042	12,561	(11,507)	-	-	7,096
Youth Fund	48,106	-	-			48,106
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total unrestricted funds	82,699	177,339	(150,962)	-	-	109,076
Restricted Funds						
Building Fund	29,391	36,016	(32,631)	-	-	32,776
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total restricted funds	29,391	36,016	(32,631)	-	-	32,776
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	112,090	213,355	(183,593)	-	-	141,852

Designated Funds

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.

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds all derive from bequests to the church, which had restrictions to be applied to the uses of the funds. These are as follows:-

Building fund - to be used for the maintenance of the church building.

The restricted funds are wholly represented by cash and other net current assets.