

# DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1132113

## Details

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Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-10-14
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	United Reformed Church 53 West Street Dorking RH4 1BS
Phone	01306889644
Email	<a href="mailto:churchmeeting.dorkingurc@outlook.com">churchmeeting.dorkingurc@outlook.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk">www.dorkingurc.org.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** 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:** Worship services on Sunday. Womens own (social get together). Bible studies. Small Fry (for mothers and small children). Open doors (social for members and general public with cooked lunch). Messy church. Holiday at Home (1 week of outings and activities for the elderly).

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£131,898	£148,615	-	-
2023-12-31	£386,453	£242,703	-	-
2022-12-31	£150,308	£223,500	-	-
2021-12-31	£193,003	£171,500	-	-
2020-12-31	£125,410	£149,224	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christopher David Yeomans		2022-01-01
Christopher Michael Rogers		2026-01-01
David Langford		2022-01-01
Fiona Catherine Yeomans		2023-01-01
Jennifer Margaret Langford		2022-01-01
John Leonard Quincey		2026-01-01
Joseph Roy Grant Currie		2026-01-01
Linda Mainstone		2025-01-01
Nicole Yvette Perrier-Doe		2026-01-01
Philip George Grant Currie		2022-01-01
Roger Thomas Grant Currie		2026-01-01
Rosemary June Russell		2022-01-01

**DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132113

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# Accounts

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# Dorking United Reformed Church

founded in 1662

53 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS. Church Office: 01306 889644

Website: [www.dorkingurc.org.uk](http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk)

Pastor: Revd Siobhan Antoniou  
North Downs Surrey Pastorate  
From: September 2024

TRUSTEES' REPORT  
AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

*Living Jesus' love*

**Charity no. 1132113**

# Dorking United Reformed Church

## Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Registered address – 53 West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BS (Charity Number 1132113)

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The charitable objects of the Church are the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the scheme of union of the United Reformed Church. Our mission is "To live Jesus' love" and our vision is:-

- In union with Christ, you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his spirit (Eph 2:22)
- We will be a church community serving God every day; enabling people to explore their life with God and each other. We will seek to encourage discipleship and put faith into action.
- Our community will be focused on meaningful Christian worship. We will be a community that responds to needs, is welcoming and creates a spirit of openness and accessibility.
- Our buildings will be a place where people want to be, and where they are happy to bring others.

This is being achieved by following the 'Five Marks of Mission' which were adopted in 1997 by the 'Forum of Churches Together in England' of which the United Reformed Church is a member. Our Church Community Worker continues to be of great assistance to our Mission work.

### **MINISTRY AND MISSION**

**The Advent Season** began on 3 December with the lighting of the first candle in a service lead by Rev David Skitt, introducing the theme 'Love Came Down at Christmas'. Later in the day the Church once again joined in the Dorking Gala Day entitled: A very Dorkensian Christmas and hosted a Christmas Tree Competition for Local Schools in the Church Hall as well as a Celebration of Christmas Trees throughout the church premises. A Sheep Trail competition had also been set up by the Church around shops in the town and activities were held in the Church Hall along with Dorking Nursery School hosting a Sing Along, A Dance Presentation, The Rampant Roosters Morris Dancers and a performance by The Village School of Dance. On 10 December Revd Ted Bellingham led a Blue Church Service especially, but not exclusively, for those who find Christmas difficult. 17 December saw the All Age Nativity Service in the morning, which had had one's day rehearsal on 16 December, followed by Carols by Candlelight in the evening. Revd David Morgan led the Christmas Eve Worship and Christmas Day was an All Age Service.

Offerings received at the Christmas Services, the Christmas Post Box and other events were donated to **Dorking Foodbank and Ripple Africa**. Including other donations and 2 specific donations for the Foodbank, both charities received the sum of £668.05.

**Smallfry and Messy** held their own special Christmas events.

**SowtoGrow** continued to meet and use the planned theme of 'Love Came Down at Christmas' for the presentation of the winter garden space and this continued until after Easter when the theme changed to Walking the Way. Several organisations connected with the church contributed in many varied ways towards the themed garden including Messy Church, TAG, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows and Smallfry, culminating in a wonderful spring and summer display to be enjoyed by all who entered the church gates.

The New Theme for the autumn/winter season is entitled 'Heroes and Villains' and it is hoped that this will catch the imaginations of the church and its wider community and will culminate in an interesting display both in the garden and around the church.

Through the sterling efforts of one of the church's CCWs the church has been awarded a grant of £8,000 from Mole Valley District Council to enhance the use of the garden area for the wider community. Plans are underway to see how this can be accomplished with different ideas being incorporated to ensure this grant money is put to appropriately good use. It is planned that some of this funding will be used for a new summerhouse/quiet space and it is hoped that this will enable a wider section of the community to become involved.

**Narnia Group** continues to meet at a local pub, following different themes and contributing to the life of church in various ways including leading Sunday Worship on occasions. After Christmas they followed themes arising from the 'Just Asking' meetings led by Rev Ted Bellingham and are following the Heroes and Villains theme introduced in the autumn.

'**The Thursday Gathering**' continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month with worship from 11.00 to 11.30 am in the Little Chapel, followed by other social activities.

**Monthly Prayer Group** - From May this year, each third Thursday in the month from 10 - 11am has been designated as a particular Time for Prayer. A small group has gathered in the Living Room to pray and others have been invited to pray at home or wherever they may be.

**Open Doors/TAG (Thursday Afternoon Group) 10am-4pm** - The partnership with ALDAG came to an end at the end of 2023 with the church receiving half of its profits as agreed in the sum of £1700, which it was further agreed should be donated back to ALDAG. A new kitchen manager was appointed from January, who will work with the existing kitchen helpers who are keen to continue this work. These two events complement each other and it is hoped they will grow as the year moves on. At the end of January this group celebrated its first year of coming together and is going from strength to strength, with the all-inclusive game of Boccia bringing great

enthusiasm and joy to the group, with the hope that this may be further explored and expanded next year.

**Smallfry and Messy** – both still attracting people from the wider community and remaining an important part of the church's outreach programmes. A new part-time CCW was appointed in January, who comes with a great deal of experience and was appointed primarily to assist with Small Fry. Smallfry has been raising funds throughout the year for the National Autistic Society with a coffee morning (11/4/24) a sponsored walk around the church grounds (13/6/24) and other events, with a total of just under £500 being raised. One CCW has been helping with Smallfry as the other CCW has been using her time to set up CAMEO (see below)

**Just Asking** – a course exploring Christianity for both those who are engaged with the church and those who are seekers, ran 4 sessions on 14 and 28 January and 11 and 25 February led by Revd Ted Bellingham. This course was considered to be successful.

**A Lent session** – As part of the local Ministers' Fellowship, in Holy Week the church hosted Forty Hours of Prayer. Organised over three days, for each of 40 separate hours (to correspond to Jesus' time in the wilderness) prayers were lead in the Little Chapel often facilitated with specially provided prayer materials. Churches across Dorking were involved and over fifty different people contributed to its success.

**Dorking Area Food Bank** continued to be supported by the church and the wider community. TAG members decorate the church collection trolley following the themes chosen for particular seasons.

**Ikumbya Church in Africa**- It was agreed by the June church meeting that £3000 should be contributed towards a new roof for this church, with Eastwick Church in Bookham contributing a further £1000 to make this project possible. At the October church meeting members were shown photographs of the completed work, as well as extra work such as doors and windows, which had also been purchased with the funds. It is hoped a spiritual relationship will be developed with Ikumbya Church in the future.

## **WORSHIP**

The Pulpit Supply secretary – continued to endeavour finding ministers for the vacancy period which has proved more and more difficult; the Elders and others in the church arrange services where a minister cannot be present, with lay preachers helping out on occasions.

**The Prayer Diary** – continues to be used and each week the congregation is asked to pray for a particular church group or those making use of our church premises.

**MeaDoW Team** continues to meet every 2 months to look at Mission and Worship matters; these meetings are open to all who wish to attend, and have Eldership representation. From September the group was reformulated so that all church groups and those sponsored by the church, could send a representative to the meeting or submit reports to the Team. It is hoped that this will lead to a better line

of communication throughout the church, so that items of interest can be included at church meetings. MeaDoW continues to suggest themes for the church and its wider community to use in its worship sessions.

**25/2/24** – The Sunday Service was led by Revd Bridget Banks, Moderator of URC Southern Synod.

**10/3/24 - Mothering Sunday All Age Worship** led by CCW and serving Elders. Small bouquets of flowers were distributed by the children at the end of the service.

**Easter events:**

**6/3/24 – Messy Church** – 3.30-6.00pm – Easter message through handicrafts with a special service included.

**24/3/24 – Palm/Passion Sunday** service led by those involved in the Thursday Gathering services.

**27/3/24 – Small Fry** Easter Celebration with an Easter Message in church at 10:15am.

**28/3/24 – Maundy Thursday Service** – led by Revd Ted Bellingham

**29/3/24 – Good Friday Walk of Witness** to from Dorking Halls to St Martin's Churchyard for open air worship at 11.30pm.

**31/3/24 – Easter Sunday Service including communion** led by Revd Ted Bellingham.

**12/5/24** – 4pm Sunday Worship led by Revd Siobhan Antoniou in response to her call to worship from the 4-church pastorate, North Downs (Surrey), consisting of Dorking, Reigate Park, Banstead and Rehill URCs. It was well attended with invitations to the 4 churches. This was the last gathering of the 4 churches over the weekend when Siobhan had visited the other churches in the Pastorate, following which, over the following week, the 4 churches voted by 92% to call Siobhan to be the Minister to the new joint pastorate

**19/5/24 – Parade Service** on Pentecost Sunday attended by Brownies and Rainbows led by Revd David Morgan.

**7/7/24– All Age Worship** - led by the leaders and members of 'Young Church'

**7/9/24** – The Ordination and Induction Service of Revd Siobhan Antoniou, the new minister to the North Downs (Surrey) Pastorate incorporating, our church, Banstead, Reigate Park and Redhill URC churches was held at Reigate Park URC at 2pm, followed by tea, coffee and cakes in the church hall.

**8/9/24** – Revd Siobhan Antoniou's first service following her ordination.

**29/9/24 - All Age/Harvest Worship** – led by Revd Nigel Uden – nominated charities, National Autistic Society and the local Food Bank. Representation of the uniformed groups who meet at the church were present and were involved in the service.

**10/11/24 – Remembrance Sunday Worship** – All Age Service attended by Rainbows, Brownies and Beavers; Scouts and Girl Guides were on parade at the War Memorial in the town. The service was led by Revd Ted Bellingham with contributions from the Brownies. A well attended service. A wreath donated by Dorking URC was placed at the War Memorial by the Tait family.

Average attendance at Sunday Worship throughout the year has been approximately 45/50 with larger numbers on Communion Sundays and specific services such as baptisms.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**28/4/24 - Rotawalk '24** – ‘Walking the Way’ some of the church congregation joined in a 4 mile walk around Holmwood Common with any proceeds collected going to the National Autistic Society. Although the weather started off quite wet, the walk ended up in sunshine and was much enjoyed by those who completed the walk.

**30/6/24 - Joint Church Walk** – 2:30-4:45 – North Downs (Surrey) Pastorate Cluster of Churches with a walk around Dorking followed by a short café style service and tea and cakes.

**Annual Trip to Goring-by-Sea** – 21/7/24 – as usual this was a well attended day with good weather. Fun, games and fellowship helped the afternoon to be enjoyed by all who attended.

**OPEN HOME** - Open Home meets for a couple of hours on the second Wednesday morning of each month for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. It is light hearted conversation and takes place in the homes of its members or the church Living Room. All are welcome to attend.

**CAMEO** – The new CCW, was also tasked with setting up a group to help out with those over 60 who might need somewhere to find friendship and fellowship and from this a new Club was formed called **CAMEO** (Come and meet each other). Its inauguration was on 6/6/24 celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and is planned to meet on Thursday afternoons with sessions on games, exercise, dancing, art, films etc. In order for this to proceed assistance from outside the church community was needed.

15/2/24 – Coffee morning run by 12<sup>th</sup> Dorking Brownies which also included mini games, art work, dog treats/toys made by the Brownies with live Music from Nelson Porter. All in aid of the Celia Cross Greyhound Trust raised £510.

30/3/24 – A long standing member of the church raised £500 in lieu of birthday presents for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party held at the church with a large afternoon tea.

4/4/24 – Coffee morning 10-12noon run by a church member and friends and family in aid of St. Catherine's Hospice which raised £200.

11/4/24 – Coffee morning 10-12noon run by Smallfry in aid of The National Autistic Society.

13/6/24 – Smallfry held a walk around the church and its grounds by the toddlers and their parents/carers and raised £100.52 for their chosen charity The National Autistic Society. Further funds were raised at the end of term celebrations in July.

Coffee mornings were held in the Follett Hall during the summer holidays and run by volunteers from the church and wider community, on the following dates:

25/7/24, 1/8/24, 8/8/24, 15/8/24, 22/8/24, 29/8/24 and 5/9/24

In total, the monies raised during these coffee mornings was £1114 and these monies were distributed to the following local and wider causes:

Age Concern, Foxies Future, The Little Princess, Combat Stress, CRY, TAG and Alzheimer's

7/9/24 – 9am-12noon - FM&D asked volunteers to spare a couple of hours to help get the Main Hall ready for occupation following building and final acoustic works during the summer. Bacon sandwiches, tea and coffee were an added incentive.

14/9/24 – Heritage Open Day – the church and its gardens formed part of Dorking Heritage Day celebrations from 2-5pm with refreshments served either in the garden or the church hall, depending on the weather.

31/10/24 – 10am-12noon – Charity Coffee morning run by Nicola Mayne and the 12<sup>th</sup> Dorking Brownies in aid of Children in Need. Overall, this event raised £951, about 50% of which was raised at the coffee morning held at the church.

## **FINANCE AND BUILDINGS**

**Finance** – Church funds for 2024 have fallen below those of 2023 partly due to the proceeds from 'offertories' and 'lettings' having fallen behind budget. Also, with current utilities costs rising, our energy costs have continued to run higher than expected and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. We have been blessed with further gifts from members of the congregation and also the improvement in our investments which have helped with the much-needed improvements in the Main Hall.

The October church meeting agreed to decline a request from Synod to raise our M&M contribution for 2025 from £45,110 to £47,352 (5%). The reasons for this are: we have been without a minister since 2021 and we now have 25% of the time of our new minister; we still have to fund external ministers for the foreseeable future;

also, our membership has dropped to 90 which adversely affects our offertory. We have also requested that we have access to more information from Synod on how these figures are calculated and how the increased Synod fund will be used?

As we go forward, we are reviewing how we should use these gracious gifts from our members.

## **Buildings - FM&D Activity**

### **Lettings of rooms at the church premises**

Our Lettings Secretary, works tirelessly to let our premises as much as possible to off-set ever increasing utility costs. To this end letting rates to external hirers were increased in October 2023 and will be reviewed again next year.

We are thankful for excellent work done by volunteers from outside the Church.

Our thanks also go to the **FM&D Team** for the work that they have done in connection with the maintenance of our premises, and to the **Finance Team** who have managed our finances during a difficult time.

**VACANCY** – After 4 years of being without a Minister to lead the church forward, West Street became a Joint Pastorate in conjunction with Banstead, Redhill and Reigate Park URCS in order to be in a position to call a Minister as there were insufficient Ministers available for all churches in vacancy in the Southern Synod area. This was called The North Downs (Surrey) Pastorate. Representative Elders from each church formed a Vacancy Committee with a view to working out how to move forward in a way which would satisfy the 4 churches involved in the process. Eventually the churches were allowed to announce this Joint Pastorate vacancy and early in the year Revd Siobhan Antoniou, a graduating Minister, applied for the post and the Joint Pastorate Vacancy Committee agreed to move forward with the call. Over the weekend of 11-12 May Siobhan visited with members from the 4 churches and Preached with a View at Reigate Park URC on the Sunday morning. This was streamed so all members who could not attend Reigate Park would be able to see Siobhan's service online, as only those members who had heard Siobhan preach would be allowed to vote. Following this, the Vacancy Committee members organised meetings within their own churches for a voting process to take place with the results forwarded in sealed envelopes to the interim moderator, Revd Roger Jones in order for him to count the votes and advise Siobhan of the result. It had been agreed by the Vacancy Committee that an 80% acceptance across the 4 churches should be achieved in order to call Siobhan. Siobhan kindly accepted the call with a 90% overall affirmation vote and her Ordination took place at Reigate Park URC on 7/9/24; Siobhan and her family took residence in the Manse at this church during August. Once Siobhan had accepted this calling the Vacancy Committee was dissolved and a new group, with a representative from each of the 4 churches, either the Chair of Elders or a nominated representative, took effect and was called The Advisory Group. The Chair of Trustees was Dorking's nominated representative.

## **GENERAL**

**Church Meetings** were held following Sunday Worship on 24 March, 23 June, 6 October with the AGM being held on 24 November.

### **Weddings and Baptisms**

Weddings: 0.

Births: 0.

Baptisms: 0.

### **Membership**

The following members have passed away: 5

Accepted into Church membership this year: 2

Names removed from the Members Roll: 1

The current number of Church members is 86.

### **Conclusion**

There are many people in the church who work for the Lord but whose names do not appear in this report; we give grateful thanks to all who give of their time and talents helping our church to move forward in faith. We give a warm welcome to our new Minister, Siobhan, and hope that she and her family settle into a life serving the North Downs Surrey pastorate. This year has seen the beginnings of new ventures for the church which will need prayerful nurturing as they move forward and it is hoped our church family will offer their varied talents and time so that the tasks involved in helping these small seeds to grow will be shared by many.

## **Trustees**

The following individuals have served as Trustees over the period of this report and until the date of approval. Trustees serve a maximum continuous term of 6 years.

### Current Trustees

Mrs Jane Allan	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Jane Bellingham	Appointed 01-01-2023
Mr Phil Currie	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr Roger Currie	Appointed 01-01-2018
Mrs Jenny Langford	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr David Langford	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr Simon Moorhouse	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Liz Roger	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Rosemary Russell	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mrs Hilary Venn	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Chris Yeomans	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mrs Fiona Yeomans	Appointed 01-01-2023

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

**Elders' Meetings (Trustees plus Minister, Treasurer and Community Worker)** are held monthly throughout the year apart from the month of August. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'Church Growth Plan', the appointment of an organist, Safeguarding, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises and preparation for the Vacancy.

The **Church Meeting** currently meets once every three months. The average attendance is around thirty. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'growth plan' for the Church, the development of the buildings, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises, and the frequency of evening services.

The **Mission Committee** meets every two to three months. Its terms of reference are to support and strengthen the existing mission activities of the Church, to extend the mission of the Church to the wider local community, to ensure that the 'Five Marks of Mission' are visible within the Church life and to retain and increase Church membership.

The **Facilities, Management and Development (FM&D)** committee meets quarterly and looks after health and safety matters, building maintenance and, in recent years, the development of our premises.

The **Finance Committee** meets quarterly. The **Health and Safety Committee** meets four times per year. The **Worship Review and Planning Group** meet three to four times a year.

## Financial Review

Overall, the outcome for the year was satisfactory.

Total resources reduced by £73,000 in the year from £669,000 to £596,000.

The overall movements of note comprise:

- 1) Unrestricted funds recorded a deficit of £17,000 for 2024 (2023: £15,000) before transfers, as the running costs of the church remain high due to the impact of inflation over the past two years.
- 3) Designated funds reduced by £81,000 during the year, excluding a transfer of £24,500 to the general fund. Most of the £81,000 reduction was used to cover improvements to the church, including a new audio-visual system, new acoustic panelling, redecoration of the main church hall and building works in the basement and to exterior walls. The Manse fund recorded a deficit of £12,000 (2023: surplus £9,000). Other designated fund movements were offset by £12,000 of investment gains. No legacies were received during the year (2023: £180,000).
- 3) Restricted funds increased by £25,000 largely due to £27,000 of unrealised gains on the investment portfolio.

Full details of the fund movements are set out on Page 14.

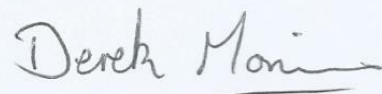
Approved 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Chair of Trustees



Mr Chris Yeomans

Chair of Finance Committee



Mr Derek Morrison

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorking United Reformed Church (Registered Charity 1132113)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dorking United Reformed Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 15.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

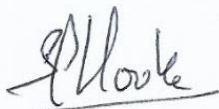
As the trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts 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 Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.



Steven Hooke BSc ACA

Ash Vale, GU12 5ER

Date: 12 June 2025

***Living Jesus' love***

**Charity no. 1132113**

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments		
Epworth Interest Funds	298,492	281,045
Epworth Equity Funds	243,587	221,874
	<u>542,079</u>	<u>502,919</u>
Cash at bank		
CafCash	7,100	7,982
CafGold	46,852	158,144
	<u>53,952</u>	<u>166,126</u>
Organisations	221	205
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>596,252</u></b>	<b><u>669,250</u></b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	23,869	16,741
Designated Funds	281,317	386,678
Restricted Funds	291,066	265,831
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>596,252</u></b>	<b><u>669,250</u></b>

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Income and Expenditure of Unrestricted Funds for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023		2024	2023
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Members &amp; friends</b>			<b>Ministerial</b>		
Offerories	39,856	41,489	Ministry & Mission	45,100	45,198
Tax Refund	15,860	17,285	Pastorate Minister's Expenses	1,349	-
Donations	8,112	3,284	Travel	111	-
Coffee (Net)	(1,340)	(430)	Telephone & Wi Fi	1,064	985
	<b>62,488</b>	<b>61,628</b>		<b>47,624</b>	<b>46,183</b>
 <b>Outside sources</b>			<b>Services</b>		
Rents	23,388	23,965	Pulpit supply	707	1,176
Lettings	33,854	28,896	Organists & choir	725	640
Investments	3,953	4,082	Tuning & repairs	280	280
Property & Development	8,215	23,710	Flowers	80	550
	<b>69,410</b>	<b>80,653</b>		<b>1,792</b>	<b>2,646</b>
			<b>Premises</b>		
			Caretaking	14,380	14,578
			Electricity	7,601	4,758
			Gas	13,640	15,150
			Insurance	6,216	6,443
			Water	1,298	802
			Maintenance	34,336	30,539
			Flats rental expenses	7,991	5,774
			Property & Development	7,493	47,076
				<b>92,955</b>	<b>125,120</b>
			<b>General</b>		
			Young Church	35	-
			Administration and Publicity	3,304	4,051
			Miscellaneous	1,814	1,525
			Donations	465	-
			Mission	616	44
			CTD Subscription	10	-
				<b>6,244</b>	<b>5,620</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>131,898</b>	<b>142,281</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>148,615</b>	<b>179,569</b>
<b>Result before transfers</b>	<b>(16,717)</b>	<b>(37,288)</b>			

## Dorking United Reformed Church FUNDS - 2024

Funds not invested are held in CafCash & CafGold Bank Accounts. The funds of the Church Organisations are held in their own bank accounts

	At 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Other Receipts	Transfers	Investment Gains/(Losses)	At 31 Dec 2024
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>							
General	11,807	123,683	(141,122)	(655)	24,500	-	18,213
Development & Property	4,934	8,215	(7,493)	-	-	-	5,656
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>16,741</b>	<b>131,898</b>	<b>(148,615)</b>	<b>(655)</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,869</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>							
Legacy, Gift & Memorial	46,906	1,495	(19,884)	-	(24,500)	-	4,017
Benevolent	3,631	877	(2,831)	-	2,400	-	4,077
Holiday at Home	606	-	-	-	-	-	606
Open Doors	1,519	3,325	(4,160)	-	(600)	-	84
Small Fry	1,263	1,801	(1,081)	-	-	-	1,983
Community worker	(6,171)	24,214	(36,223)	-	-	-	(18,180)
Special Collections	1,073	2,532	(2,815)	-	-	-	790
The Manse	48,208	14,073	(26,396)	-	-	-	35,885
Doreen Howes	50,550	-	(49,729)	-	-	-	821
	<b>147,585</b>	<b>48,317</b>	<b>(143,119)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(22,700)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,083</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>							
Roy Currie Memorial	1,800	-	-	-	(1,800)	-	-
<b>Total Funds in Bank Accounts</b>	<b>166,126</b>	<b>180,215</b>	<b>(291,734)</b>	<b>(655)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,952</b>
<b>Designated Funds - Invested</b>							
Doreen Howes	88,338	-	-	-	-	4,484	92,822
David Young	150,550	-	-	-	-	7,641	158,191
	<b>238,888</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,125</b>	<b>251,013</b>
<b>Restricted Funds - Invested</b>							
Roy Currie Memorial	33,075	-	-	-	-	3,353	36,428
The Mary Alexander Charity	51,020	-	-	-	-	5,332	56,352
Philip Henman Fund	179,936	-	-	-	-	18,350	198,286
	<b>264,031</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,035</b>	<b>291,066</b>
<b>Total all Restricted Funds</b>	<b>265,831</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,800)</b>	<b>27,035</b>	<b>291,066</b>
<b>Designated Funds - Church Organisations and the Development Fund</b>							
Messy Church	205	159	(143)	-	-	-	221
	<b>205</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>(143)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>Total all designated funds</b>	<b>386,678</b>	<b>48,476</b>	<b>(143,262)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(22,700)</b>	<b>12,125</b>	<b>281,317</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>669,250</b>	<b>180,374</b>	<b>(291,877)</b>	<b>(655)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,160</b>	<b>596,252</b>

**Dorking United Reformed Church**  
Notes to the Accounts 2024

**1. Accounting policies**

**(a) Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

**(b) Funds**

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.

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 for 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.

**DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132113

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# Accounts

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# Dorking United Reformed Church

founded in 1662

53 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS. Church Office: 01306 889644

Website: [www.dorkingurc.org.uk](http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk)

Pastor: Vacant

TRUSTEES' REPORT  
AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

**Dorking United Reformed Church**

*Living Jesus' love*

*Charity no. 1132113*

# Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Registered address – 53 West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BS (Charity Number 1132113)

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charitable objects of the Church are the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the scheme of union of the United Reformed Church. Our mission is "To live Jesus' love" and our vision is:-

- In union with Christ, you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his spirit (Eph 2:22)
- We will be a church community serving God every day; enabling people to explore their life with God and each other. We will seek to encourage discipleship and put faith into action.
- Our community will be focused on meaningful Christian worship. We will be a community that responds to needs, is welcoming and creates a spirit of openness and accessibility.
- Our buildings will be a place where people want to be, and where they are happy to bring others.

This is being achieved by following the 'Five Marks of Mission' which were adopted in 1997 by the 'Forum of Churches Together in England' of which the United Reformed Church is a member. Our Church Community Worker continues to be of great assistance to our Mission work.

The work of the Church from December 2021 continued without a Minister and was still feeling some of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## MINISTRY AND MISSION

**The Advent Season** began on 27 November with the lighting of the first candle in a service lead by MeaDoW, when they continued with the chosen theme of 'Trees', and the lighting of the candles continued throughout Advent. 18 December saw the annual Nativity Presentation by those young people connected to the wider church along with the evening Candlelit Service with many involved in the readings and a choir which had been put together by the CCW. Thanks were expressed to those who pulled together the young people for the Nativity Presentation. Christmas Day saw a Christmas Jumper wearing, All-Age Worship led by Revd Ted Bellingham.

**The Advent Course** led by Revd Ted Bellingham continued into December.

The church opened for the **Dorking Christmas Festival** on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, with a Christmas Tree Festival and refreshments were provided by 'The Friends of Dorking Nursery'. One of the dancing groups that uses the church premises also provided a display of their dancing.

Offerings received at the Christmas Services and The Christmas Post Box were donated to **Dorking Foodbank and Ripple Africa**. Including other donations and 2 specific donations

for the Foodbank, Ripple Africa received £1000 (equates to 2000 trees) and the Foodbank received £1305.

**DEC appeal for the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria** – the Elders agreed to send a donation of £500 from the church and the Churches Together street collection in Dorking raised £3298.

**SowtoGrow** continued to meet and use the planned theme of 'Trees' for the presentation of the garden space. A planning and support group was set up to coordinate ideas for future use of the garden space following the chosen themes from MeaDoW, as well as meeting regularly most Thursdays to work on the garden. The second theme for the year was 'Living Water' which was represented in the garden with a river of flowers flowing from the Cross towards the Well in which people were encouraged to write their wishes for a better world on a pebble and place in the Well. This was enthusiastically supported from both within the church and the wider community and the pebbles were placed on one of the church windowsills as part of the Harvest Festival celebrations which coincided with the Heritage Weekend when the church was open to all who wanted to walk in.

**Narnia Group** continues to meet at The White Horse, following different themes and contributing to the life of church in various ways including leading Sunday Worship on occasions.

'**The Thursday Gathering**' continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month with worship from 11.00 to 11.30 am in the Little Chapel, followed by other social activities. The monthly Prayer Group has now been included in the service and works well.

**Smallfry and Messy** – both still attracting people from the wider community and remain an important part of the church's outreach programmes.

**Messy Church** – has continued during the year and is felt to be an important part of the church's outreach.

**A Lent** study course studying Jesus' prayers commenced on 23 February and concluded on Maundy Thursday, 6 April, led by Revd Ted Bellingham and culminating in a Maundy Thursday worship service.

**Dorking Area Food Bank** continued to be supported by the church and the wider community.

**ALDAG (Ashtead Learning Difficulties Action Group)** provided coffee and cakes each Thursday morning enabling young people with learning difficulties to learn new skills and socialise. On 15 December a Christmas lunch was arranged in aid of the MNDA with a Christmas Cake Raffle and the opportunity to purchase homemade Christmas Delights, raising over £350 and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Charity coffee mornings were held on 22 December and 13 April – the latter included an Easter Treasure Hunt and raised £100 for the MNDA. A further MNDA coffee morning was held during the half term break in October, raising over £100 once again. During the winter months it was agreed between ALDAG and the Elders that the Thursday morning coffee/lunch should become a 'Warm Space' for those who needed to be able to access the heated hall and have a free warm drink as well as some company from those present. This arrangement changed in

April when ALDAG provided brunches, coffee and cakes until 11.30 and West Street agreed to continue with providing light lunches. From the summer of 2023 West Street took over full responsibility for the café/lunch facilities, renamed the Open Doors TAG café and continuing to provide work experience opportunities for adults with a learning disability.

**Creative Cuppa** produced 90 knitted Angels which were placed in the Food Bags produced by the Dorking Area Food Bank. They also knitted items for those who were struggling to keep warm during the winter months. Unfortunately this group had to close down but the supplies that were left were distributed between TAG, MYTime and local charity shops. Thanks were expressed to Joan Francis for her hard work in keeping Creative Cuppa going during difficult times.

**‘Just Asking’** – seekers course run by Revd Ted Bellingham with afternoon and evening slots running during July with a follow-up course in November.

**Pastoral Training Course** held at the church but open to other churches in the area with 3 sessions – 1 November – Core Principles of Pastoral Care; 6 November – Listening Skills; 27 November – Boundaries, led by Revd Andy Twilley. This was well attended.

A part time Church Community Worker, left at the end of October in order to better support her aging parents. Thanks were expressed for her addition to the life of the church.

## **WORSHIP**

The endeavour to find ministers for the vacancy period which is proving more and more difficult continues; the Elders and others arrange services where a minister cannot be present, with lay preachers helping out on occasions.

**The Prayer Diary** – continues to be used and each week the congregation is asked to pray for a particular church group or those making use of our church premises.

**MeaDoW Team** continues to meet every 2 months to look at Mission and Worship matters; these meetings are open to all who wish to attend, and have Eldership representation. Terms of reference were presented to the Elders and the Church Meeting for their approval, and they were duly accepted. The Living Document ‘Adventures in Faith’ had been revisited at an Elders’ Away Day and further worked on by the MeaDoW Team during the year. This too was presented to both the Elders and a Church Meeting for final approval, which was given at the Church Meeting held on 25 June.

**1/1/2023-** a small service of worship was held in the Little Chapel with Berndard Moore leading the worship.

**26/2/23** – All Age Worship Service attended by the 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking Girlguiding and Scouts Groups as well as the Rainbows and Brownies. It was good to see the church filled with regular attendants and supporting family members.

**19/3/23 - Mothering Sunday All Age Worship** led by Revd Ted Bellingham. Small bouquets of flowers were distributed by the children at the end of the service.

## **Easter events:**

**29/3/23 – Small Fry** Easter Celebration in the Follett Hall with an Easter Message in church at 10:15am.

**2/4/23 – Palm/Passion Sunday** service led by Revd David Pitkeathly

**5/4/23 – Messy Church** – 3.30-6.00pm – Easter message through handicrafts with a special service included

**6/4/23 – Maundy Thursday Services** – 11am for The Gathering Group led by Rosemary Russell and at 7.30pm led by Revd Ted Bellingham, both were held in The Little Chapel.

**7/4/23 – Good Friday Walk of Witness** to St Martin's Churchyard for open air worship at 11.30pm.

**9/4/23 – Easter Sunday Service including communion** led by Revd Stephen Thornton.

**17/9/23 - All Age/Harvest Worship** – led by Revd Ted Bellingham with the help of Beavers and introducing the charity 'Drop in the Bucket' to the congregation.

**15/10/23 – All Age Worship** - led by the leaders and members of 'Young Church'

**12/11/23 – Remembrance Sunday Worship** – All Age Service attended by Brownies, Beavers, Scouts and Girl Guides led by Rev Ted Bellingham with contributions from the Brownies. A well attended service.

Average attendance at Sunday Worship throughout the year has been approximately 45 with larger numbers on Communion Sundays and specific services such as baptisms.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**21/1/23** – Family Charity Quiz Night in aid of the MNDA was held. This was well represented by church members, users of our premises and the wider community and raised £1000 in aid of the MNDA.

**18/2/23** – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Reunion of Small Fry. Families who have been part of Small Fry over the past 40 years were invited.

**Annual Trip to Goring-by-Sea** – 17 July was affected by the very hot weather so several people decided they could not make the journey. However over 30 did enjoy an afternoon on the beach and many entered the sea for a cooling swim.

**Breakfast Club** – it was decided this should be discontinued for the time being.

**Open Home** resumed after 3 years of not being able to meet due to Covid. The first meeting took place on Wednesday 8 February at 10.30 and meet the second Wednesday of each month at this time, with the exception of August.

**Charity Coffee Morning 16/2/23 10.00 am – 12.00 noon:** the coffee morning was to provide sponsorship to help pay towards the cost of attending the 25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree to be held in August in South Korea. The coffee morning managed to raise £258.29.

An Activities afternoon 1-4pm on Thursdays started in February and offers games, quizzes and arts and crafts with an emphasis of including those adults with additional needs. This has developed into **TAG** – ‘Thursday Afternoon Group’ with a specific emphasis on Adults with Learning Difficulties, but open to all who wish to join in. Elders are supporting this venture together with some funding from the church.

**Quiz Evening – 18/3/23 – 7pm-10pm – held by** ALDAG in the church hall.

During school holiday periods coffee mornings were run by volunteers raising funds for several different charities, many of which were local, with an overall sum of £1546.81 being raised. These coffee mornings were well attended with a lovely selection of cakes, biscuits, garden produce and other items, all helping to increase the funds raised and thus benefitting many charities as well as providing social interaction.

**Quiz Evening – 17/9/23 – 7pm-10pm** – in aid of The Freshwater Habitats Trust organised by one of the friends of the church had to be cancelled but it is hoped it will take place at another time.

## **BUILDINGS AND FINANCE**

**Finance** – Church accounts for 2023 have continued to meet our expectations overall although our proceeds from 'offertories' and 'lettings' have fallen behind budget. Also with current utilities costs rising our energy costs have been higher than expected and will continue to be so for another year. We have been blessed with further gifts from members of the congregation and also the improvement in our investments which have meant that overall we have grown our funds for 2023.

A new Independent Examiner was approved by the Finance Committee and the October Church Meeting.

The October church meeting agreed to decline a request from Synod to raise our M&M contribution for 2024 from £45,100 to £49,621 (10%). The reasons for this are: we have been without a minister since 2021 and we will only have 25% of the time of any future minister; we have had to fund external ministers over this period; we are updating the manse which will ultimately be returned to Synod; and our members since 2021 have dropped from 112 to 90 which adversely affects our offertory. Also no Synod accounts have been forthcoming for the past 4 years so there is no transparency around this requested increase.

## Buildings

### FM&D Activity 2023

It has been a very busy year as it always is with a group of aging buildings. In addition to regular maintenance activities this year we have:

- Installed three new electricity smart meters across the site.
- Instigated an acoustic survey of the Main Hall and subsequently installed acoustic panels to replace lower level notice boards.
- Carried out a fixed wiring test.
- Replaced doors in the Follett Hall and Main Hall Kitchen.
- Traced and repaired the damp plaster in the Main Hall.
- Carried out roof repairs over the Main Hall Toilets and Mission Office
- Carried out our annual fire risk assessment.
- Installed linked smoke and carbon monoxide sensors.
- Replaced several strip lights with new fittings and LED tubes.
- Re-decorated the lower half of the Main Hall with high level painting and installation of acoustic panels on the ceiling postponed until summer 2024.

In addition, FM&D has contributed to the Eco Church survey, monitors health and safety, the register of donations in memory of former members and provides line management to the Caretaker.

The Manse and Flats have been let throughout the year, the latter providing a source of income for the Church. Although we look after the Manse, we are only permitted to use the income for maintenance purposes and ownership together with all our premises remains with Southern Synod.

The team have been asked to investigate the sound and vision offering within the worship area and this together with similar facilities in the main hall will be the focus of our attention in 2024.

### Lettings of rooms at the church premises

Our Lettings Secretary works tirelessly to let our premises as much as possible to off-set ever increasing utility costs. To this end letting rates to external hirers were increased in October 2023 and will be reviewed again next year.

We are thankful for excellent work done by volunteers from outside the Church: our **'Letting Secretary'** and our **'Administrative Assistant'**.

Our thanks also go to the **FM&D Team** for the work that they have done in connection with the maintenance of our premises, and to the **Finance Team** who have managed our finances during a difficult time. **Ashted Learning Difficulties Action Group**

**VACANCY** – At the start of the year Banstead, Dorking, Reigate Park and Redhill churches were asked to consider forming a Pastorate, staffed by one full time Minister. Discussions were held with representatives of the other churches, under the guidance of the Rev David Skitt and the Rev Roger Jones. It was agreed that we should proceed with the Pastorate

and this was approved by the membership of each church. At the September Moderators meeting, the vacancy of the Pastorate was agreed and the details of it have been circulated to all URC Ministers. We are now waiting to see who will come forward.

## **GENERAL**

**Church Meetings** were held following Sunday Worship on 26 March, 25 June, 1 October with the AGM being held on 26 November. Elders Elections were not needed this year as there were no vacancies.

## **Weddings and Baptisms**

Weddings: 0.  
Births: 2.  
Baptisms: 2.

## **Membership**

The following members have passed away: 6  
Accepted into Church membership this year: 1  
Names removed from the Members Roll: 1  
The current number of Church members is 90.

## **Conclusion**

There are many people in the church who work for the Lord but whose name does not appear in this report; we give grateful thanks to all who give of their time and talents helping our church to move forward in faith.

Dealing with a vacancy presents many challenges but Elders are meeting these head on, accepting that we're going to have to rely on our own resources for a considerable amount of time even when, hopefully, a new minister is appointed for the Joint Pastorate. It is apparent that human resources for the many needs that the church supports are limited and, moving forward, changes may be needed as to exactly what and how these needs can be met but as a faithful and prayerful Christian community our hope is in the Lord and we know with certainty that He will show us the way forward.

## Trustees

The following individuals have served as Trustees over the period of this report and until the date of approval. Trustees serve a maximum continuous term of 6 years.

### Current Trustees

Mrs Jane Allan	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Jane Bellingham	Appointed 01-01-2023
Mr Phil Currie	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr Roger Currie	Appointed 01-01-2018
Mrs Jenny Langford	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr David Langford	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr Simon Moorhouse	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Liz Roger	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Rosemary Russell	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mrs Hilary Venn	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Chris Yeomans	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mrs Fiona Yeomans	Appointed 01-01-2023

## Structure, Governance and Management

**Elders' Meetings (Trustees plus Minister, Treasurer and Community Worker)** are held monthly throughout the year apart from the month of August. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'Church Growth Plan', the appointment of an organist, Safeguarding, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises and preparation for the Vacancy.

The **Church Meeting** currently meets once every three months. The average attendance is around thirty. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'growth plan' for the Church, the development of the buildings, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises, and the frequency of evening services.

The **Mission Committee** meets every two to three months. Its terms of reference are to support and strengthen the existing mission activities of the Church, to extend the mission of the Church to the wider local community, to ensure that the 'Five Marks of Mission' are visible within the Church life and to retain and increase Church membership.

The **Facilities, Management and Development (FM&D)** committee meets quarterly and looks after health and safety matters, building maintenance and, in recent years, the development of our premises.

The **Finance Committee** meets quarterly. **The Health and Safety Committee** meets four times per year. **The Worship Review and Planning Group** meet three to four times a year.

## Financial Review

Overall, the outcome for the year was satisfactory.

The accounts include the restatement of certain comparatives for 2022 due to the establishment of a designated fund relating to the Manse. Please see note 2 to the accounts.

Total resources increased by £165,000 in the year from £504,000 to £669,000.

The overall movements of note comprise:

- 1) The general fund recorded a deficit of £15,000 for 2023 largely due to the increased costs of running the Church, caused by inflationary pressures in the UK economy (e.g. gas and electricity costs increased by 111% compared to the prior year).
- 2) Property and development grants and donations of £24,000 (2022: £43,000) helped fund further investment of £47,000 (2022: £94,000) on the Church premises (2022: Grants and donations of £43,000).
- 3) Within the designated funds, legacies totalling £180,000 were received during the year (2022: £130,000). The newly established Manse fund recorded a surplus of £9,000 (2022: £23,000), although this was offset by reductions across other designated funds.
- 5) Unrealised gains on our investment portfolio increased reserves by £23,000. (2022: unrealised loss of £45,000).

Full details of the fund movements are set out on Page 14.

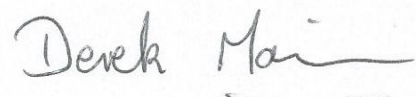
Approved 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024

Chair of Trustees



Mr Roger Currie

Chair of Finance Committee



Mr Derek Morrison

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorking United Reformed Church (Registered Charity 1132113)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dorking United Reformed Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

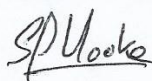
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.

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



Steven Hooke BSc ACA

Ash Vale, GU12 5ER

Date: 13 May 2024

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022*
<b>Assets</b>		
Investments		
Epworth Interest Funds	281,045	41,777
Epworth Equity Funds	221,874	203,478
	<u>502,919</u>	<u>245,255</u>
Cash at bank		
CafCash	7,982	6,714
CafGold	158,144	249,922
	<u>166,126</u>	<u>256,636</u>
Organisations	205	2,182
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>669,250</b></u>	<u><b>504,073</b></u>
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	16,741	30,266
Designated Funds	386,678	223,746
Restricted Funds	265,831	250,061
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>669,250</b></u>	<u><b>504,073</b></u>

\* Some of the 2022 comparatives have been restated. Please see the notes to the accounts.

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Income and Expenditure of Unrestricted Funds for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022*		2023	2022*
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Members &amp; friends</b>			<b>Ministerial</b>		
Offertories	41,489	43,588	Ministry & Mission	45,198	47,557
Tax Refund	17,285	19,164	Travel	-	130
Donations	3,284	9,593	Telephone & Wi Fi	985	754
Coffee (Net)	(430)	(795)			
				<b>46,183</b>	<b>48,440</b>
	<b>61,628</b>	<b>71,550</b>			
<b>Outside sources</b>			<b>Services</b>		
Rents	23,965	22,551	Pulpit supply	1,176	1,188
Lettings	28,896	26,839	Organists & choir	640	172
Investments	4,082	1,814	Tuning & repairs	280	260
Property & Development	23,710	-	Flowers	550	-
				<b>2,646</b>	<b>1,620</b>
	<b>80,653</b>	<b>51,203</b>	<b>Premises</b>		
			Caretaking	14,578	13,859
			Electricity	4,758	3,458
			Gas	15,150	6,770
			Insurance	6,443	6,090
			Water	802	616
			Maintenance	30,539	34,767
			Flats rental expenses	5,774	5,123
			Property & Development	47,076	94,042
				<b>125,120</b>	<b>164,725</b>
			<b>General</b>		
			Administration and Publicity	4,051	2,565
			Miscellaneous	1,525	1,032
			Donations	-	620
			Mission	44	168
			CTD Subscription	-	73
				<b>5,620</b>	<b>4,458</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>142,281</b>	<b>122,753</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>179,569</b>	<b>219,244</b>
<b>Result before transfers</b>	<b>(37,288)</b>	<b>(96,490)</b>			

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH FUNDS - 2023

Funds not invested are held in CafCash & CafGold Bank Accounts. The funds of the Church Organisations are held in their own bank accounts

	At 1 Jan 2023*	Income	Expenditure	Other Receipts	Transfers	Investment Gains/(Losses)	At 31 Dec 2023
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>							
General	30,266	118,571	(132,493)	(1,237)	(3,300)	-	11,807
Development & Property	-	23,710	(47,076)	-	28,300	-	4,934
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>30,266</b>	<b>142,281</b>	<b>(179,569)</b>	<b>(1,237)</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,741</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>							
Legacy, Gift & Memorial	178,401	-	(1,495)	-	(130,000)	-	46,906
Benevolent	3,803	2,114	(5,462)	-	3,176	-	3,631
Holiday at Home	606	-	-	-	-	-	606
Open Doors	1,043	476	-	-	-	-	1,519
Small Fry	365	1,586	(3,264)	-	2,576	-	1,263
Oasis Group	676	-	-	-	(676)	-	-
Community worker	(3,759)	23,643	(26,055)	-	-	-	(6,171)
Special Collections	1,353	1,783	(2,063)	-	-	-	1,073
The Manse	39,076	33,000	(23,868)	-	-	-	48,208
Doreen Howes	-	30,550	-	-	20,000	-	50,550
David Young	-	150,000	-	-	(150,000)	-	-
	<b>221,564</b>	<b>243,152</b>	<b>(62,207)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(254,924)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>147,585</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>							
Roy Currie Memorial	4,806	414	(920)	-	(2,500)	-	1,800
<b>Total Funds in Bank Accounts</b>	<b>256,636</b>	<b>385,847</b>	<b>(242,696)</b>	<b>(1,237)</b>	<b>(232,424)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>166,126</b>
<b>Designated funds - invested</b>							
Doreen Howes	-	-	-	-	85,000	3,338	88,338
David Young	-	-	-	-	150,000	550	150,550
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>235,000</b>	<b>3,888</b>	<b>238,888</b>
<b>Restricted Funds - Invested</b>							
Roy Currie Memorial	30,783	-	-	-	-	2,292	33,075
The Mary Alexander Charity	47,286	-	-	-	-	3,734	51,020
Philip Henman Fund	167,186	-	-	-	-	12,750	179,936
	<b>245,255</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,776</b>	<b>264,031</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>250,061</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>(920)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,500)</b>	<b>18,776</b>	<b>265,831</b>
<b>Designated Funds - Church Organisations and the Development Fund</b>							
Small Fry	1,970	606	-	-	(2,576)	-	-
Messy Church	212	-	(7)	-	-	-	205
	<b>2,182</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,576)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>223,746</b>	<b>243,758</b>	<b>(62,214)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(22,500)</b>	<b>3,888</b>	<b>386,678</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>504,073</b>	<b>386,453</b>	<b>(242,703)</b>	<b>(1,237)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,664</b>	<b>669,250</b>

\* Some of the 2022 comparatives have been restated. Please see the notes to the accounts.

# **DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Notes to the Accounts 2023

## **1. Accounting policies**

### **(a) Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

### **(b) Funds**

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.

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 for 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.

## **2. Restatement of Comparatives for 2022**

The Church has the use of a Manse which is vested in URC Southern Synod Trust as trustees and is not a church asset. It is held for the benefit of Dorking United Reformed Church in accordance with the statutory trusts applicable to URC properties under the URC Acts.

As the Church does not currently have a Minister, the Manse has been let out on commercial terms. The income from the Manse is designated by the United Reformed Church in Great Britain for use towards the upkeep and repairs of the Manse. If these funds are not required for this purpose, they ultimately belong to the URC Southern Synod Trust.

In 2023, a separate designated fund has been established in respect of the Manse. The 2022 accounts included income and expenditure relating to the Manse in unrestricted funds. Certain comparatives have been restated to amounts they would have been, if the Manse designated fund treatment had been applied in 2022. The table below shows a summary of the restated balances.

## 2. Restatement of Comparatives for 2022 (continued)

£	Balance as reported in 2022	Restated balance in these accounts	Movement
<b>Balance sheet</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	69,343	30,266*	(39,077)
Designated Funds	184,670	223,746	39,076
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>			
Total income	150,308	122,753	(27,555)
Total expenditure	223,500	219,244	(4,256)

\*This number includes the correction of a £1 rounding difference in the 2022 accounts

**DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132113

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# Accounts

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# Dorking United Reformed Church

founded in 1662

53 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS. Church Office: 01306 889644

Website: [www.dorkingurc.org.uk](http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk)

Pastor: Vacant

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

AND

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

**Dorking United Reformed Church**

*Living Jesus' love*

**Charity no. 1132113**

## Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Registered address – 53 West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BS (Charity Number 1132113)

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charitable objects of the Church are the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the scheme of union of the United Reformed Church. Our mission is "To live Jesus' love" and our vision is:-

- In union with Christ, you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his spirit (Eph 2:22)
- We will be a church community serving God every day; enabling people to explore their life with God and each other. We will seek to encourage discipleship and put faith into action.
- Our community will be focused on meaningful Christian worship. We will be a community that responds to needs, is welcoming and creates a spirit of openness and accessibility.
- Our buildings will be a place where people want to be, and where they are happy to bring others.

This is being achieved by following the 'Five Marks of Mission' which were adopted in 1997 by the 'Forum of Churches Together in England' of which the United Reformed Church is a member. Our Church Community Worker continues to be of great assistance to our Mission work.

The work of the Church from December 2021 continued without a Minister and was still feeling some of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### MINISTRY AND MISSION

Seva Samajam Children's Home and Lady Nye School – additional classrooms were completed at the end of 2021.

'**Stepping Out**', which was the last of our three '**Termly Themes & Celebrations**' for 2021, continued into December with '**Stepping Out Towards the Stable**'. The church opened for the **Dorking Christmas Festival** on the 1st Sunday of Advent, with a Christmas Tree Festival, Stable Nativity Photo-booth and Messy Christmassy Crafts. Refreshments were provided by 'The Friends of Dorking Nursery'.

Offerings received at the Christmas Services amounted to £500 which was donated to '**The Belong Community Project**'.

The '**Coffee, Croissants & Conversation**' group, which had started to meet in October 2021 (as part of 'Stepping Out Together'), held their last meeting on 12th December. At the beginning of the year they changed their arrangements for meetings to Monday evenings at The Old House and became the Narnia Group.

**Sow to Grow** continued to meet and plan themes for the use of the garden space, using 'Finding the Way' for the spring display. A monthly, Friday evening planning and support

group was set up to coordinate ideas for future use of the garden space, as well as meeting the first Thursday of each month to work on the garden.

**'The Thursday Gathering'** continued to meet on the second Thursday of each month with worship from 11.00 to 11.30 am in the Little Chapel, followed by other social activities.

**DEC Afghanistan and Ukrainian Appeals** – Collectors were requested via the church service leaflet for both these appeals happening in Dorking High Street. It was agreed at March Elders' meeting and endorsed at the March Church Meeting, that the church would donate £500 to these appeals,

**Lent Course** for 6 weeks entitled 'Who is Christ?' commenced on 3 March; 22 people expressed interest – 18 met each Thursday afternoon in the Little Chapel and 4 used the booklet to work on at home.

**Dorking Area Food Bank** was supported with both human resources as well as food contributions. Elders agreed at their October meeting that this should be given more prominence in the church's outreach to the wider community, which was endorsed at the Elders Away Day.

**Charity Coffee Mornings** - When ALDAG were unable to provide refreshments on Thursday mornings, a number of volunteers held 14 charity coffee mornings raising over £1,000 for various charities and church needs including the Umbrella Appeal, Animal Welfare, Brownies, Ripple Africa, Children in Need, CRY, Friends of Dorking Hospital and MND.

**Charity Tea** – afternoon tea with singing from Rock Choir which took place on Saturday, 21 May in aid of Ukrainian Families. Over £200 was collected from those who attended.

**Sow to Grow Garden Open Day** - 17 September – ran from 1pm with tea/coffees/cakes provided by ALDAG, soup made from vegetables grown by SowToGrow, BBQ as well as dancing from a local group who use the church premises for practices, singing, cello recital and a sustainable clothing display. The weather was fine and the garden looked beautiful with still many vegetables producing their crops. Any money raised was put with money raised from the Harvest Appeal for Ripple Africa which, by November had raised over £500 with the expectation that more would be raised via the church's Facebook page.

**Advent Course** started on 10 November and ran for 6 weeks.

## **WORSHIP**

**The Prayer Diary** – continues to be used and each week the congregation is asked to pray for a particular group in the church or those making use of our church premises.

**MeaDoW Team** continues to meet every 2 months to look at Mission and Worship matters; these meetings are open to all who wish to attend, and have Eldership representation. MeaDoW led worship on the 3rd Sunday of Advent based on the theme, '**Stepping into the Light**'. **Christmas Services:** The All-Age Nativity worship on the 4th Sunday of Advent, led by young people associated with the Church, took the theme, '**Stepping into the Stable**'; Lessons and Carols by Candlelight service took place in the evening on the same Sunday;

and the Christmas Day Service was led by Elders. The Theme from September 2022 through to spring next year will be 'Trees'.

Pulpit secretary – continues to endeavour to find ministers for the vacancy period which is proving more and more difficult; the Elders and others arrange services where a minister cannot be present, with lay preachers helping out on occasions. Offertory and Communion resumed traditional formats in March 2022 as did Church refreshments following Sunday morning worship.

**20 March – All Age Worship, including Parade of the Uniformed Organisations** was led by The Narnia Group with the theme of 'Favourite Things'.

**27 March - Mothering Sunday Worship** was led by Revd David Skitt – all female attendees received small bunches of narcissi.

**10 April** - The Interim Moderator, led the service of immersive baptism for a new member to the church.

**A Maundy Thursday** service with readings, poems and hand washing, was organised by the Thursday Gathering group.

**The Good Friday Walk** to St Martin's Church was organised by Churches Together in Dorking. An uplifting **Easter Sunday Service** with those present congregating at the Garden Cross to decorate it with daffodils, followed by a well-attended coffee morning.

**5 June** - A special church service to celebrate Jubilee Sunday was led by some of the Elders, followed by a BBQ in the church garden, arranged by the Narnia group. £186 was raised which was presented to the church.

**25 September- All Age/Harvest Worship-** We are really grateful to everyone who made generous contributions of food gifts for Dorking Area Foodbank and £1 'acorns' for our overseas harvest charity, Ripple Africa's Tree Planting Program. Each of the £1 coins, which were displayed as 'acorns' on our painted tree will enable Ripple Africa to plant four trees in Malawi, that will provide food, income and sustainable timber, as well as helping the environment and climate change.

The church hosted Refugee Tales which stopped in Dorking, on a 5 day walk from Merstham to Winchester, where they enjoyed an evening of tales and music before staying overnight in the church hall and then heading off to Guildford. Refugee Tales organises walks in solidarity with people who have experienced immigration detention, those seeking asylum and refugees.

**Elders' Away Day** – took place on Saturday, 15 October at Reigate Park URC. There were 24 past and present Elders in attendance looking at how to move forward following COVID, and working towards a new Living Document for future reference for all church members and adherents.

Average attendance to Sunday Worship throughout the year has been approximately 45 with larger numbers on Communion Sundays.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**ALDAG** resumed Thursday coffee mornings in January and started offering a light lunch.

**Smallfry** resumed early in the year under the watchful eye of our Church Community Worker, with the Elders seeing this as an important part of reaching out to the wider community.

**Messy Church** – restarted when Covid restrictions allowed, but at the start of 2022 was in dire need of helpers; thankfully Messy still continues and is seen as an important part of the church's outreach to the wider community.

**Annual Trip to Goring-by-Sea** – 17 July was affected by the very hot weather so several people decided they could not make the journey. However over 30 did enjoy an afternoon on the beach and many entered the sea for a cooling swim.

**Breakfast Club**, prior to Sunday Worship, resumed on a monthly basis in September.

**Creative Cuppa** (monthly) has resumed encouraging people to bring their own craft projects, but also working on specific projects for the church themes throughout the year.

## BUILDINGS

As the country was coming out of COVID the Elders reviewed arrangements for wearing masks in the worship area and agreed that the 50:50 approach (masks worn under gallery areas and not in full height area) It has been noted that a number of elderly church members have been reluctant to return to services despite official 'opening up' after restrictions.

Extensive repair work has been carried out to the north wall of the Main Hall which has required scaffolding both inside and out. Repairs were carried out to the windows and all plaster had to be stripped off internally and new plaster applied together with waterproofing to the exterior. Both internal and external redecoration to this wall has been carried out. Synod has awarded a grant of 50% of the cost of works to the north wall. Damp ingress has also been found at the other end of the hall at the junction of the hall and the adjoining flats. This area is being investigated and repairs/replacement of some plaster in the area will be required with plans to complete the interior redecoration of the hall in 2023. Scaffolding has been erected around the Little Chapel and Living Room. This is to enable repairs to the brickwork, roofs, rainwater goods and chimney stacks, and the replacement of two windows to the Little Chapel after which external redecoration will be carried out. Also:

- Oasis Courtyard has been pressure washed
- New pump fitted to the Oasis water feature
- Little Chapel and Living Room boiler has been replaced
- Follett Hall floor has been polished and a new boiler may be required
- Manse repairs have been funded from its rental which goes to Synod

**Lettings of rooms at the church** premises are slowly getting back to normal but are still below pre-pandemic levels; Roger Walker will be chasing up late payers. Our letting agents are presently looking for new tenants for the Manse and necessary works are being undertaken during the vacancy.

We are thankful for excellent work done by volunteers from outside the Church: Denise Hooker (our **'Letting Secretary'**) and Judith Snelling (our **'Administrative Assistant'**).

Our thanks also go to the **FM&D Team** for the work that they have done in connection with the maintenance of our premises, and to the **Finance Team** who have managed our finances during a difficult time.

### **EcoChurch**

The Church Community Worker, introduced the concept of EcoChurch recently. A review of the suggestions in checklist format will be reviewed at the January 2023 FM&D meeting. It was noted that the church has already changed all the lights to LEDs.

### **GENERAL**

**Church Meetings** were held following Sunday Worship on 20 March, 26 June and 25 September, with the AGM being held on 20 November. Two Special Church Meetings were held on 30 January (to consider the church roll for 2022) and 1 May to ratify the Elders' recommendation of transference of Ted and Jane Bellingham from Eastwick Road Church. Ted and Jane's reinstatement as members of the church was unanimously agreed at this Special Church Meeting.

The November Church Meeting approved 6 new Elders to commence their terms of office from January 2022, namely – David and Jenny Langford, Chris Currie, Phil Currie, Rosemary Russell and Roger Currie who has extended his term for 1 year. They were inducted by Ted Bellingham at a church service on 24 January.

It was agreed by the Elders that the Church Community Worker could reduce his hours from 35 to 25 per week. A second Church Community Worker, will use the 10 hours per week, to work alongside the original Church Community Worker.

**Vacancy Committee** has met on several occasions over the year. Although there is no immediate prospect of being able to call a minister to the church, they have diligently looked through, adjusted and completed the many forms that are required for this process to proceed. The Committee is now looking at the possibility of a suitable shared pastorate with other local churches who find themselves in the same situation.

### **CONCLUSION**

There are many people in the church who work for the Lord but whose name does not appear in this report; we give grateful thanks to all who give of their time and talents helping our church to move forward in faith. Recovering from Covid has not been without its challenges, especially in this time of vacancy, but Elders are meeting this challenge head on, accepting that we're going to have to rely on our own resources for a considerable amount of time

## Weddings and Baptisms

Weddings: 1.

Births: 1.

Baptisms: 1.

## Membership

The following members have passed away: 7

Accepted into Church membership this year: 5

Names removed from the Members Roll: 6

The current number of Church members is 95.

## Conclusion

A number of people have been named in this report in connection with the work they do for the Church. There are many workers who have not been named. To all of them we say thank you. This is a challenging time for Dorking URC as we endeavour to recover from the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and work through a period of time without a Minister. So let us hold in our minds the words of the apostle Paul in his letter to the Church in Rome: "In view of all this, what can we say? If God is for us who can be against us? Certainly not God".

## Trustees

The following individuals have served as Trustees over the period of this report and until the date of approval. Trustees serve a maximum continuous term of 6 years.

### Current Trustees

Mrs Jane Allan	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Phil Currie	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr Roger Currie	Appointed 01-01-2018
Mrs Jenny Langford	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr David Langford	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr Simon Moorhouse	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Lynn Price	Appointed 01-01-2017
Mr John Quincey	Appointed 01-01-2017
Mrs Liz Roger	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Rosemary Russell	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mrs Hilary Venn	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Chris Yeomans	Appointed 01-01-2022

## Structure, Governance and Management

**Elders' Meetings (Trustees plus Minister, Treasurer and Community Worker)** are held monthly throughout the year apart from the month of August. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'Church Growth Plan', the appointment of an organist, Safeguarding, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises and preparation for the Vacancy.

The **Church Meeting** currently meets once every three months. The average attendance is around thirty. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'growth plan' for the Church, the development of the buildings, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises, and the frequency of evening services.

The **Mission Committee** meets every two to three months. Its terms of reference are to support and strengthen the existing mission activities of the Church, to extend the mission of the Church to the wider local community, to ensure that the 'Five Marks of Mission' are visible within the Church life and to retain and increase Church membership.

The **Facilities, Management and Development (FM&D)** committee meets quarterly and looks after health and safety matters, building maintenance and, in recent years, the development of our premises.

The **Finance Committee** meets quarterly. The **Health and Safety Committee** meets four times per year. The **Worship Review and Planning Group** meet three to four times a year.

### Financial Review

Overall, the outcome for the year was satisfactory.

Total resources increased £71,000 in the year from £433,000 to £504,000.

The overall movements of note comprise :

- 1) Our rental income improved £19,000 from Hall Lettings and the Manse.
- 2) Our insurance claim for Covid costs resulted in a receipt of £17,000.
- 3) All other operating costs, net of income was a surplus of £3,000.
- 4) URC Grants of £43,000 and other Property Donations of £13,000 helped fund investment of £94,000 on the Church Premises at West Street. The balance came from general funds.

Further refurbishment work totalling £35,000 had been committed at 31 December 2022 and will be completed in 2023.

From our designated funds significant movement were:

- 5) A legacy received of £130,000.
- 6) A grant of £8,000 helped fund our Community Worker expense of £23,000.
- 7) Finally, an unrealized loss on our investment portfolio of 15% reduced reserves by £45,000. (Last year the unrealised gain was £34,000.)

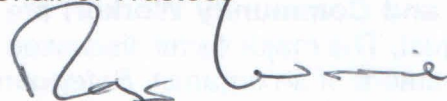
Full details of the fund movements are set out on Page 12.

### **Subsequent Events**

There have no material subsequent events since the balance sheet date.

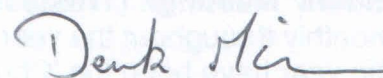
Approved 2nd April 2023

Chair of Trustees



Mr Roger Currie

Chair of Finance Committee



Mr Derek Morrison

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorking United Reformed Church (Registered Charity 1132113)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dorking United Reformed Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 12.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

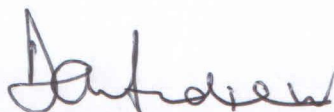
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.

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



Dan Andrew CA

Dorking RH4 2AF

Date: 2nd April 2023

# DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments		
Epworth Interest Funds	41,777	54,991
Epworth Equity Funds	<u>203,478</u>	<u>235,715</u>
	245,255	290,706
Cash at bank		
CafCash	6,714	8,526
CafGold	<u>249,922</u>	<u>131,136</u>
	256,637	139,662
Organisations	2,182	2,077
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>504,073</b></u>	<u><b>432,446</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	69,343	72,383
Designated Funds	184,670	65,322
Restricted Funds	250,061	294,741
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u><b>504,073</b></u>	<u><b>432,446</b></u>

  
Rev Andrew CA

Dr. David H. 24/1

2022 and April 2023

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Income and Expenditure of Unrestricted Funds for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021		2022	2021
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Members &amp; friends</b>			<b>Ministerial</b>		
Offerories	43,588	43,627	Ministry & Mission	47,557	45,409
Tax Refund	19,164	24,850	Travel	130	137
Donations	9,593	9,350	Manse Expenditure	4,256	6,343
Coffee (Net)	(795)	(529)	Telephone & Wi Fi	754	1,259
	<b>71,550</b>	<b>77,298</b>		<b>52,697</b>	<b>53,149</b>
<b>Outside sources</b>			<b>Services</b>		
Rents	22,551	21,051	Pulpit supply	1,188	1,191
Rents Manse	27,555	20,965	Organists & choir	172	300
Lettings	26,839	14,427	Tuning & repairs	260	-
Investments	1,814	3,411			
	<b>78,758</b>	<b>59,854</b>		<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,491</b>
			<b>Premises</b>		
			Caretaking	13,859	13,118
			Electricity	3,458	4,728
			Gas	6,770	1,430
			Insurance	6,090	5,948
			Water	616	1,085
			Maintenance	34,767	31,054
			Flats rental expenses	5,123	16,271
			Project Umbrella	94,042	-
				<b>164,725</b>	<b>73,635</b>
			<b>General</b>		
			Young Church	0	114
			Administration and Publicity	2,565	4,926
			Miscellaneous	1,032	358
			Donations	620	170
			Mission	168	204
			CTD Subscription	73	0
				<b>4,458</b>	<b>5,772</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>150,308</b>	<b>137,151</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>223,500</b>	<b>134,047</b>
<b>Result before transfers</b>	<b>(73,192)</b>	<b>3,104</b>			

# Dorking United Reformed Church

## FUNDS - 2022

Funds not invested are held in CafCash & CafGold Bank Accounts. The funds of the Church Organisations are held in their own bank accounts

	At 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Other Receipts	URC Grants	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2022
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>							
General	72,383	150,308	(129,418)	15,013		(38,943)	69,343
Development & Property			(94,082)	12,558	42,581	38,943	-
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>72,383</b>	<b>150,308</b>	<b>(223,500)</b>	<b>27,571</b>	<b>42,581</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,343</b>

	At 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Other Receipts	Grants	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2022
<b>Designated funds</b>							
Legacy, Gift & Memorial	50,451	130,247	(2,297)				178,401
Benevolent	5,230	-	(1,427)				3,803
Jessie Henman Memorial	4,834	0				(4,834)	-
Holiday at Home	606		-				606
Open Doors	1,043	-	-				1,043
Small Fry	-	365	-				365
Oasis Group	676						676
Plan for Growth	-	5,670	(22,535)		8,272	4,834	(3,759)
Special Collections	406	1,557	(609)				1,353
	<b>63,246</b>	<b>137,839</b>	<b>(26,869)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,272</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>182,488</b>

<b>Restricted funds</b>							
Roy Currie Memorial	4,034	772			-		4,806
<b>Total Funds in Bank Accou</b>	<b>139,663</b>	<b>288,919</b>	<b>(250,369)</b>	<b>27,571</b>	<b>50,853</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>256,637</b>

						Investment Losses	
<b>Restricted Funds - Invested</b>							
Roy Currie Memorial	36,531					(5,748)	30,783
The Mary Alexander Charity	56,036					(8,751)	47,286
Philip Henman Fund	198,139					(30,952)	167,186
	<b>290,706</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(45,451)</b>	<b>245,255</b>

<b>Total all Restricted Funds</b>	<b>294,741</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(45,451)</b>	<b>250,061</b>
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### Designated Funds - Church Organisations

Small Fry	1,970	-	-				1,970
Messy Church	107	-	105				212
	<b>2,077</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,182</b>

<b>Total all designated funds</b>	<b>65,322</b>	<b>137,839</b>	<b>(26,764)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,272</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>184,670</b>
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<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>432,446</b>	<b>288,919</b>	<b>(250,264)</b>	<b>27,571</b>	<b>50,853</b>	<b>(45,451)</b>	<b>504,073</b>
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**DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132113

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# Accounts

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# Dorking United Reformed Church

founded in 1662

53 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS. Church Office: 01306 889644

Website: [www.dorkingurc.org.uk](http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk)

Pastor: Reverend David Bedford  
- Retired May 2021

TRUSTEES' REPORT  
AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

*Living Jesus' love*

**Charity no. 1132113**

# Dorking United Reformed Church

## Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Registered address – 53 West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BS (Charity Number 1132113)

### Objectives and Activities

The charitable objects of the Church are the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the scheme of union of the United Reformed Church. Our mission is "To live Jesus' love" and our vision is:-

- In union with Christ, you too are being built together with all the others into a place where  
God lives through his spirit (Eph 2:22)
- We will be a church community serving God every day; enabling people to explore their life with God and each other. We will seek to encourage discipleship and put faith into action.
- Our community will be focused on meaningful Christian worship. We will be a community that responds to needs, is welcoming and creates a spirit of openness and accessibility.
- Our buildings will be a place where people want to be, and where they are happy to bring others.

This is being achieved by following the 'Five Marks of Mission' which were adopted in 1997 by the 'Forum of Churches Together in England' of which the United Reformed Church is a member. Our Church Community Worker continues to be of great assistance to our Mission work.

The work of the Church from December 2020 continued to be severely disrupted by the restrictions put into place by the UK Government in order to reduce the spread of **Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease**. Sunday services were not taking place at the church during November 2020 and other meetings and activities arranged by Church organisations had not taken place since March 2020.

Details of how our work has progressed since then are given below.

### Ministry & Mission

In the words of Pastor David Bedford: it was a “**different Christmas**” but the **same Jesus**”. A ‘Real Advent Calendar’ was made available to each of the young families known to the Church, plants were given to those members who were over 80 years of age and to members of the Gomshall Pastorate, and ‘Holiday at Home’ calendars were given to all who were on the mailing list. A leaflet listing daily Bible readings for Advent was sent to members and other regular worshippers, and was made more widely available from our outside leaflet dispensers. Videos of people from the Church community doing these readings could be accessed from our website as could Christmas videos produced for the members of ‘Small Fry’. The 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking Scout Group produced star shaped

lighted lanterns to light up the front garden and storyboards telling the Christmas story which were put up along the path leading to the main doors of the church. A 'knitted nativity', Christmas tree and 'font crib scene' were displayed in the vestibule. The members of 'Creative Cuppa' and one of our 'Life Groups' organised the knitting of 'Angels of Hope', which (with a Christmas message) were sent out with deliveries from the 'Dorking Area Foodbank' and the 'Dorking Community Fridge'. Members were encouraged to create a 'Window of Hope' in the front window of their homes as a witness to their neighbourhood. £520 was raised for each of our **Christmas Charities**, which were 'Dorking Community Fridge' and 'Crisis'.

Pastor David retired from full-time Ministry in May. He led his final service at the church on 9<sup>th</sup> May. An appreciation of his ministry and that of his wife, Lorna, was given at the March Church Meeting. The Revd Roger Jones (Minister at the Joint Pastorate of Ewell and Tolworth URCs) was appointed as our **Interim Moderator** for the duration of the Ministerial Vacancy.

The CCW started on the 5-year extension of his appointment as **Church Community Worker** (CCW) in January. The Elders' Meeting Secretary took on the role of 'CCW Line Manager', from Pastor David, in March. During the year he has overseen the production of a programme of three '**Termly Themes & Celebrations**' each theme being linked to an **All-Age Sunday Celebration** led by him. The themes were '**One Body**', '**Dreams and Visions**' and '**Stepping Out**'.

The **front garden and church vestibule** continue to be a valuable resource for mission. Displays around the theme of '**One Body**' were set up in the vestibule from January until Easter Day. In January the theme was 'One Body, Many Parts' (focussing on the activities that take place at the church); in February it was 'If One Part Suffers, the Whole Body Suffers' (reflecting on how interconnected and interdependent we are and our calling to support, encourage and protect one another spiritually & physically); and in March it was 'One Body Suffering for All' (focussing on the story of Joseph in the Old Testament and the death of Jesus on the Cross). Connected with this, and described in leaflets available to download from our website, were '**Paper People Prayer Activities**' and a '**40 Days of Lent Rainbow Challenge**'. The latter consisted of 40 activities (one for each day of Lent) plus 7 reflections, or videos to watch from our website (one for each of the Sundays during Lent). Like one body with many parts, a rainbow is light from the Sun broken down into a spectrum of colours, each with special qualities. People were also invited to collect packets of seeds from the summer house to grow plants for a '**Rainbow Garden**' which was created in the front garden at the church; this formed part of Dorking's entry into the 'South and South East in Bloom' competition, which received a Gold Award.

The '**Dreams and Visions**' theme (also linked to the story of Joseph) ran from April to September. This theme was pertinent in view of our present circumstances as we try to discern God's plan for the future of Dorking URC. Members, and others associated with the Church, were invited to share, with the Elders, their dreams and visions for themselves, their families, our local community and the Church. This could be done by describing them on a paper 'dream cloud' (which could be left in a 'dream catcher' net in the summer

house), by making a video or by creating something (a drawing, painting or piece of music, or by using building blocks). Over 70 'dream clouds' were collected and displayed in the vestibule. We were also invited to write down (on a "gold coin") examples of dreams and visions that have expanded into something greater than we could imagine (a

glimpse of “the Kingdom breaking in”) and to put the “coin” into a ‘Pot of Gold’ in the church vestibule.

The **‘Stepping Out’** theme was launched at the All-Age Harvest Festival Celebration in September, which was concerned with ‘Stepping Out Together in a Changing World’. The components of the theme were as follows: for October, ‘Stepping Out Together’ (thinking about our ‘gathered’ time: faith conversations with each other and ‘Small Groups’); for November, ‘Stepping Out by Ourselves’ (personal discipleship and thinking about the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC) ‘Learning Hubs’ and what we can learn from them); and for December, ‘Stepping Out Towards the Stable’. The display in the church garden was based on the disciple, Peter, stepping out of the boat towards Jesus when he walked on the water (Matthew 14).

From October, as part of ‘Stepping Out Together’, people have been invited for **‘Coffee, Croissants & Conversation’** in the Little Chapel for an hour from 9.15 am each Sunday. These gatherings enable people to experience small group sessions. It is hoped that they will encourage more meeting together of this kind to start up across the church community. The five **‘Life Groups’**, which were meeting before the COVID-19 pandemic, have yet to restart.

During the year, Chris has gathered together a group of people (known as the **‘Sow to Grow’** group) to work in the garden. He has also produced 4 four editions of **‘Scattered but Connected’**.

A **‘Prayer Box’** was placed in the Summerhouse in January and a poster and leaflets (available from the outside leaflet holder) invited visitors to put their prayer requests in the box for inclusion on our ‘Chain of Prayer’. This has been well used. Leaflets entitled ‘What the Bible says about Prayer’ invited people to say The Lord’s Prayer and gave some other suggestions for prayer.

On the Saturday before **Mothering Sunday**, members of the Church gave out posies of daffodils to women passing by in West Street. One new mother associated with the Church has been presented with a **‘Baby Bag’** containing useful things to help with caring for her baby.

The March Church Meeting endorsed a proposal from the Elder’s Meeting that the ‘Mission & Discipleship Team’ and ‘Worship Review & Planning Team’ (which had not met for over a year) be replaced by a new group to be called the **‘Mission, Discipleship & Worship Team’** (renamed **‘MeaDoW Team’** in June). The Team consists of a core of people, including two Serving Elders, the CCW and representatives from different areas of the church family, and is open to any regular worshipper who would like to participate. It meets every two months.

Payment of the money raised by our **Overseas Mission Appeal for the Lady Nye School in Chennai, India** was completed in March. The Appeal was for the provision of laundry appliances, but the amount raised (£8,077) turned out to be more than sufficient for this purpose. The amount left over covered the cost of refitting and redecorating the library, providing a new classroom and making a payment towards the cost of paying key staff (thus ameliorating the effect of a drop in donations due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

**Charity Coffee Mornings** were held in the Main Hall on Thursday mornings from 29<sup>th</sup> July until 2<sup>nd</sup> September in aid of 'Pancreatic Cancer UK', 'Cardiac Risk in the Young', 'Ashted Learning Difficulties Action Group', 'The Donkey Sanctuary', 'Friends of Dorking Community Hospital' and 'Animal Welfare'. A total of £820 was raised. The Coffee Mornings were followed, from 12.00 noon to 1.30pm, by '**Bring your own Picnic Time**'. All-Age Activities linked to the 'Dreams and Visions' theme ran throughout. Volunteers from '**The Community Wardrobe**' ran a Coffee Morning in October which raised £55 for that charity.

We have continued to support the '**Dorking Area Foodbank**' and '**FareShare**' schemes, for which there has been a high demand.

### **Worship**

As they had been since March 2020, "**virtual worship**" **Sunday services** continued to be made available to members and other regular worshippers each week up until Pastor David's retirement in May; either by email, or as a printed copy, or as a video which could be downloaded from our website. Thereafter their availability depended on the person leading the worship and has now ceased.

**Sunday services resumed at the church on 6<sup>th</sup> December** (with arrangements made for hand sanitization and to keep at least 2 metres distance between different households; face coverings had to be worn), and also continued to be produced in "virtual" form. Instead of our usual 'Into the December Darkness' service, Pastor David & Lorna, and a few others, gathered in the Church Garden in the evening on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December for a short '**Light in the Darkness**' service at which candles were lit and names spoken as requested. The usual Sunday 'All-Age Nativity' and 'Readings & Carols by Candlelight' services did not take place. A video of an '**All-Age Nativity Service**' could be accessed from our website on Christmas Eve; this was produced by Sue Yeomans and had the theme, 'The Light the World needs Today'. The service for **Christmas Day** was only produced in "virtual" form but arrangements were made to enable regular worshippers to exchange Christmas Greetings from 10.30 am by means of the video conferencing tool, 'Zoom'. There was no service on the last Sunday in December.

The restrictions put into place to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 disease were increased on 6<sup>th</sup> January and the Elders decided to follow the advice of the URC Synod Moderators to **discontinue worship at the church with effect from Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January** (even though the restrictions did not require this). "Virtual worship" services continued to be made available and members of the congregation were invited to contribute Prayers of Intercession and videos of them either reading from the Birthday Book, or giving reasons for choosing a favourite hymn for inclusion in the worship.

**The first of our All-Age Sunday Celebrations** was held in March. It was based on the 'One Body' theme described earlier in this report. Members of the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, and others associated with the Church (members and non-members) contributed videoed readings, prayers, songs, and a talk. There were 43 individual contributions, some of them based on the contributor's own ideas.

**Sunday worship at the church resumed on Easter Day, 4<sup>th</sup> April** (with arrangements put in place to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 disease as described above) and continued to be produced in “virtual form”. ‘**Young Church**’ also resumed its ‘Friends on Faith Adventures’ meetings in the Follett Hall on the first Sunday of each month and the maximum number of attendees permitted was 15. ‘Activity Packs’ were prepared in advance for the children to use and ‘Activity Sheets’ were made available for the other Sundays in the month when ‘Young Church’ was not meeting. The post of ‘Young Church Co-ordinator’ became vacant when Lorna Bedford moved away from Dorking in May.

**Pastor David led his final service at the church on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May** attended by 88 people. This completed a series of 21 services on the theme ‘Church Jesus is Building’ which had begun in September 2020. Videoed tributes to David & Lorna were given by people who had worked with David during his internship with the United Church of Jamaica and with him and Lorna at the five Pastorates that they had served over a period of 33 years up until 2016. The Chair of the Trustees gave a tribute and presentation from Dorking URC.

**The second All-Age Sunday Celebration** was held in July and was based on the ‘Dreams and Visions’ theme. As we worshipped God we reflected on Joseph’s dreams for himself, our dreams, God’s vision for us and what happens when we place our dreams and visions into God’s hands. Contributions to the worship came from a family associated with ‘Messy Church’ and ‘Small Fry’, and from members of ‘Conquest Art’, ‘My Time for Young Carers’, the 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking Brownies and St John’s School. Dorking.

**From Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July**, following the relaxation of the restrictions put in place to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 disease, we were able to return cushions and Bibles to the pews and make all pews available to members of the congregation. Face coverings only needed to be worn when moving around the church. Otherwise, they were optional, although people who choose not to wear them were asked to sit in the central area where there is more ventilation.

**The All-Age Sunday Celebration** was the **Harvest Festival Service** in September. This launched the ‘Stepping Out’ theme. Ahead of the Celebration, people were invited to join in a ‘**Past and Future Hands**’ activity which involved drawing round both hands, cutting out the shapes and writing about a recent achievement they were proud of (the ‘fruit’) on one ‘hand’ and about something they were hoping to achieve over the next year (the ‘seed’) on the other. These were on display in the church. The Celebration involved videos and contributions from a number of people and introduced us to ‘**Eco Church**’. Donations of items for the ‘Dorking Area Foodbank’ were invited and envelopes for donations to ‘Tearfund’ were provided.

**The Sunday All-Age Celebrations** involve a wide age range of people (some contributing by means of videos) including those who rarely come to church. They enable people to take part in the work and worship of the Church and in so doing to use their particular talents. We continue to develop this way of involving people with the Church, so that those on the fringes may feel that they want to become more involved.

The **Remembrance Sunday Service** was well attended. The windows in the church were decorated with a display of individual paper poppies, each painted by a member of

the Uniformed Organisations. Each poppy was dedicated to a person who is commemorated on the War Memorials in the church.

The normal practice of Elders serving **Communion** to members of the congregation in the pews resumed in September. Publication of the '**Sunday Leaflet**' and the availability of **hymn books** (for those who find it difficult to read words on the screens resumed in October). Musical accompaniment was provided (on the organ and piano) for our worship on the first Sunday in November and, for the time being, will continue to do so on the first Sunday of each month. IT team has done a excellent job in providing the videos for us to sing along with, although not all of them have proved to be entirely user-friendly for congregational worship.

**The average attendance at Sunday worship** (up to 31<sup>st</sup> October), over the 35 Sundays that the church was open for worship, was 36.

'**Messy Church**' resumed meetings in the Main Hall in September. Prior to this its members shared activities posted on our website, which offered links to resources from other 'Messy Churches'. '**Messy Matters**' has continued to be published.

### **Social Activities**

Due to the ongoing restrictions, social activities could not take place on the church premises from December through to August.

'**Small Fry**' held meetings in the Church Garden on Wednesday afternoons from the beginning of June until the end of the school summer term. Meetings in the Main Hall recommenced in September.

'**Open Doors**' has not resumed and from September has been replaced by '**The Open Doors Café with ALDAG**'. This is run in partnership with the 'Ashtead Learning Difficulties Action Group', which is using the Café to give their trainee young adults work experience to build up their confidence and curricula vitae.

'**Oasis**', '**Open Home**' and '**Conquest Art**' have not yet resumed and it was not possible to run '**Holiday at Home**' this year.

A group from the 'MeaDoW Team' started '**The Thursday Gathering**' in November. This will meet on the second Thursday of each month from 11.00 am starting with worship in the Little Chapel followed by refreshments at the 'Café' and other activities (such as board games and quizzes).

During the restrictions, the members of '**Dorking My Time**' and '**My Time+**' received 'Craft Packs' and used 'Zoom' to share in craft sessions. Social media websites also helped them to keep in touch. Both groups are now meeting at the church.

The members of the **uniformed organisations** (Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies & Rainbows) met online using 'Zoom' and through social media websites, and from June were able to resume meetings outside. Indoor meetings resumed in September. A new '**Explorer Scout Group**' commenced fortnightly meetings in September on Tuesday

evenings in the Follett Hall. It provides Explorer Scouting (for those aged 14 to 18 years) for the Dorking District.

### **Buildings and Finance**

The members of the Facilities Management & Development and Finance Team continued with their scheduled meetings throughout the restrictions by using 'Zoom' before resuming in person meetings in July.

During the restrictions, our caretaker, continued to carry out **maintenance work around our premises.**

In December, the **Main Hall kitchen** was given a thorough clean, some of the plumbing was modified and the flooring was replaced. Plaster, which had been damaged by damp, was stripped from the internal walls at the West Street end of the **Main Hall**, and from the adjoining fire exit lobby. Water appears to have got in around the window frames. Work will be done to stop this and when the walls are dry they will be re-plastered. A Special Church Meeting in October (held by use of email, post and telephone) agreed that an application be made to the URC (Southern Synod) Trust Ltd for a grant to cover 50% of the total cost. The grant was awarded.

Repairs to the **roof above the flats** have been carried out.

Following a resolution passed at the March Church Meeting an application was made to the URC (Southern Synod) Trust Ltd to carry out essential **maintenance work on the exterior Little Chapel end of the church** building. The total cost of the work (referred to as 'Project Umbrella Phase 2') will be about £50,000 and the Trust gave a grant of 50% of the cost. 'Arthur & Ivor Pound' stepped up (from last year) to appeal for funds for this project.

**Lettings of rooms at the church premises** are slowly getting back to normal and the **Manse** has been let for one year.

A number of members and others associated with the Church formed a 'working party' in October to expedite work in the **Church Garden**. The major parts of the work were to clear the area behind the summerhouse and to cut back the yew hedge. Further work is to be carried out by a contractor.

The URC Surrey & Sussex Synod Area asked for a contribution of £56,388 to their '**Maintenance of Ministry Fund**' for 2021, but in view of our present financial circumstances, our Finance Team, decided to offer 80% of this (£45,110) instead. The Synod agreed to this reduction and to accept the same amount for 2022.

**A claim of £40,000** on our insurance policy for loss of income during 2020 due to the COVID-19 disease pandemic resulted in a payment of £15,000 in May 2021. The Finance Team continue to pursue the outstanding payment and will make a claim for 2021.

We are thankful for excellent work done by volunteers from outside the Church: Denise Hooker (our **'Letting Secretary'**) and Judith Snelling (our **'Administrative Assistant'**).

Our thanks also go to the **FM&D Team** for the work that they have done in connection with the maintenance of our premises, and to the **Finance Team** who have managed our finances during a difficult time.

## **General**

We have had our full complement of 12 **Serving Elders** this year and their Meetings have been held monthly on Zoom. During the time that we have been without a Minister they have led Sunday worship on three occasions when no one else has been found to do so. They held a **'Dreams and Visions Eldership Workshop'** in May, facilitated by a former member. The purpose of this was to discuss the challenges faced by the Church and to start the process of discerning the way forward. They also held a special meeting in August to consider LICC 'Learning Hubs' and the launching of 'Small Groups' (mentioned earlier in this report).

The Pulpit Supply Secretary has done an excellent job in booking worship leaders and, although she works a year ahead, some of the Sundays are proving difficult to fill. The number of Churches without a Minister has increased whereas the number of available worship leaders has decreased.

The March Church Meeting endorsed the appointment of the Chair of the **'Vacancy Committee'** which is managing the process of calling a new Minister. The 12 people appointed to the Committee represent a cross-section of people from our membership. The URC Southern Synod Pastoral Committee appointed the Revd. Roger Jones (Minister at Ewell & Tolworth URCs) to be our **'Interim Moderator'** and he also attends the Committee meetings. The **'Mission Criteria'** document has been submitted to the URC Southern Synod and a meeting of the Committee with two members from the URC Surrey & Sussex Synod Area Pastoral Committee will take place at the end of November to discuss the scoping of the Church (the proportion of a Minister's time allocated to the Church).

Pastoral Care is an important part of the Church's work, particularly during the pandemic and in view of a predominantly elderly membership. In the absence of a Minister, the Pastoral Co-ordinator is bearing the burden of coordinating this work assisted by those who are willing to offer pastoral care.

The June Church Meeting was the first to be at the church since the March 2020 Meeting. The September Meeting carried a proposal that all future Church Meetings shall take place on Sundays following the service of worship.

In September, a number of people associated with the Church participated in a national event organised by 'Rotary' called **'RotaWalk 21'**. The local walk was circular around Holmwood Common. The entry fee was paid by the Church and those who did the walk were invited to raise money for the 'Arthur & Ivor Pound Appeal' through sponsorship.

## **Weddings and Baptisms**

Weddings: 1.

Births: 1.

There have been no baptisms.

## **Membership**

The following members have passed away: 4

No one has been accepted into Church membership this year.

There were 2 members removed from the list of members at their request

The current number of Church members is 103, which is five fewer than at this time last year.

## **Conclusion**

A number of people have been named in this report in connection with the work they do for the Church. There are many workers who have not been named. To all of them we say thank you. This is a challenging time for Dorking URC as we endeavour to recover from the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and work through a period of time without a Minister. So let us hold in our minds the words of the apostle Paul in his letter to the Church in Rome: "In view of all this, what can we say? If God is for us who can be against us? Certainly not God".

## **Trustees**

The following individuals have served as Trustees over the period of this report and until the date of approval. Trustees serve a maximum continuous term of 6 years.

### Current Trustees

Mrs Jane Allan	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Phil Currie	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr Roger Currie	Appointed 01-01-2018
Mrs Jenny Langford	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr David Langford	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mr Simon Moorhouse	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Lynn Price	Appointed 01-01-2017
Mr John Quincey	Appointed 01-01-2017
Mrs Liz Roger	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Rosemary Russell	Appointed 01-01-2022
Mrs Hilary Venn	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Chris Yeomans	Appointed 01-01-2022

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

**Elders' Meetings (Trustees plus Minister, Treasurer and Community Worker)** are held monthly throughout the year apart from the month of August. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'Church Growth Plan', the appointment of an organist, Safeguarding, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises and preparation for the Vacancy.

The **Church Meeting** currently meets once every three months. The average attendance is around thirty. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'growth plan' for the Church, the development of the buildings, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises, and the frequency of evening services.

The **Mission Committee** meets every two to three months. Its terms of reference are to support and strengthen the existing mission activities of the Church, to extend the mission of the Church to the wider local community, to ensure that the 'Five Marks of Mission' are visible within the Church life and to retain and increase Church membership.

The **Facilities, Management and Development (FM&D)** committee meets quarterly and looks after health and safety matters, building maintenance and, in recent years, the development of our premises.

The **Finance Committee** meets quarterly. The **Health and Safety Committee** meets four times per year. The **Worship Review and Planning Group** meet three to four times a year.

## **Financial Review**

Overall, the outcome for the year was satisfactory in the circumstances.

Total resources increased by £72,000 in the year from £362,000 to £434,000.

The overall movements comprise:-

- 1) The Manse rental income less its costs added £15,000 to our reserves
- 2) An unrealised gain on our investment portfolio of £34,000.
- 3) A donation of £20,000 into restricted funds
- 4) Special Collections monies owed were disbursed this year totalling £11,000.
- 5) Increased offertories, the insurance claim and lower running costs both contributed to a net remaining inflow of £14,000.

Full details of the fund movements are set out on Page 15.

## **Subsequent Events**

Based on the unaudited management accounts presented quarterly to the Trustees there has been no material change in the net assets of the Church since the date of these accounts.

Approved 28<sup>th</sup> July .2022

Chair of Trustees



Mr Roger Currie

Chair of Finance Committee



Mr Derek Morrison

# DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

## Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments		
Epworth Interest Funds	54,991	51,573
Epworth Equity Funds	235,715	180,632
	<u>290,706</u>	<u>232,205</u>
Cash at bank		
CafCash	8,526	5,155
CafGold	131,136	121,273
	<u>139,662</u>	<u>126,427</u>
Organisations	2,077	3,350
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>432,446</b></u>	<u><b>361,983</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	72,383	51,361
Designated Funds	65,322	74,775
Restricted Funds	294,741	235,847
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u><b>432,446</b></u>	<u><b>361,983</b></u>

**DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Members & friends	77,298			77,298	72,035
Other sources	59,854	50,459	5,392	115,705	77,177
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>137,151</b>	<b>50,459</b>	<b>5,392</b>	<b>193,003</b>	<b>149,212</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Ministerial	53,149			53,149	60,715
Services	1,491			1,491	819
Premises	73,635			73,635	81,364
General	5,772	37,453	-	43,225	38,519
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>134,047</b>	<b>37,453</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>171,500</b>	<b>181,418</b>
<b>Surplus for year before transfers</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>13,007</b>	<b>5,392</b>	<b>21,503</b>	<b>(32,206)</b>
Other receipts	13,931	-	-	13,931	-
Transfers between funds	3,987	(22,457)	20,000	1,530	-
Unrealised investment gains / (losses)	-	-	33,502	33,502	(4,736)
Rounding	1	(4)	1	(2)	(1)
<b>Net movement for the year</b>	<b>21,023</b>	<b>(9,454)</b>	<b>58,895</b>	<b>70,464</b>	<b>(36,942)</b>
<b>Opening balances at 1 January 2020</b>	<b>51,360</b>	<b>74,775</b>	<b>235,847</b>	<b>361,982</b>	<b>398,925</b>
<b>Closing balances 31 December 2021</b>	<b>72,383</b>	<b>65,322</b>	<b>294,742</b>	<b>432,446</b>	<b>361,983</b>

## Dorking United Reformed Church FUNDS - 2021

Funds not invested are held in CafCash & CafGold Bank Accounts. The funds of the Church Organisations are held in their own bank accounts

	At 1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenditure	Other Receipts	Transfers	Unrealised gains	At 31 Dec 2021
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>							
General	51,361	137,151	(134,047)	8,631	9,287		72,383
Development & Property	-	5,300			(5,300)		-
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>51,361</b>	<b>142,451</b>	<b>(134,047)</b>	<b>8,631</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,383</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>							
Legacy, Gift & Memorial	44,951	5,500					50,451
Benevolent	4,321	908					5,230
Jessie Henman Memorial	4,834						4,834
Pastoral Contact	3,844				(3,844)		-
Holiday at Home	640		(34)				606
Messy Church	315				(315)		-
Open Doors			(111)		1,154		1,043
Oasis Group	676						676
Plan for Growth	279	22,173	(24,155)		1,702		-
Special Collections	11,564	21,548	(12,704)		(20,000)		408
Rounding	1					(3)	(2)
	<b>71,425</b>	<b>50,129</b>	<b>(37,004)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(21,303)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>63,246</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>							
Roy Currie Memorial	3,643	5,392			(5,000)		4,034
<b>Total Funds in Bank Accounts</b>	<b>126,429</b>	<b>197,972</b>	<b>(176,051)</b>	<b>8,631</b>	<b>(22,315)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>139,663</b>
<b>Restricted Funds - Invested</b>							
Roy Currie Memorial	8,760				25,000	2,772	36,531
The Mary Alexander Charity	49,259					6,777	56,036
Philip Henman Fund	174,185					23,954	198,139
	<b>232,204</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>33,502</b>	<b>290,706</b>
<b>Total all Restricted Funds</b>	<b>235,847</b>	<b>5,392</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>33,502</b>	<b>294,741</b>
<b>Designated Funds - Church Organisations</b>							
Small Fry	1,962	330	(322)				1,970
Messy Church	234	-	(127)				107
Open Doors	1,154				(1,154)		0
	<b>3,350</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>(449)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,154)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,077</b>
<b>Total all designated funds</b>	<b>74,775</b>	<b>50,459</b>	<b>(37,453)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(22,457)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>65,322</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>361,982</b>	<b>198,302</b>	<b>(171,500)</b>	<b>8,631</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>33,500</b>	<b>432,446</b>

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorking United Reformed Church (Registered Charity 1132113)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dorking United Reformed Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 12 to 15.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts 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 Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.

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



Dan Andrew CA

Dorking RH4 2AF

Date: 28th July 2022

**DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132113

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# Accounts

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# Dorking United Reformed Church

founded in 1662

53 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS. Church Office: 01306 889644

Website: [www.dorkingurc.org.uk](http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk)

Pastor: Reverend David Bedford

(Retired May 2021)

TRUSTEES' REPORT  
AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020

*Living Jesus' love*

**Charity no. 1132113**

# Dorking United Reformed Church

## Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Registered address – 53 West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BS (Charity Number 1132113)

### Objectives and Activities

The charitable objects of the Church are the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the scheme of union of the United Reformed Church. Our mission is "To live Jesus' love" and our vision is:-

- In union with Christ you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his spirit (Eph 2:22)
- We will be a church community serving God every day; enabling people to explore their life with God and each other. We will seek to encourage discipleship and put faith into action.
- Our community will be focused on meaningful Christian worship. We will be a community that responds to needs, is welcoming and creates a spirit of openness and accessibility.
- Our buildings will be a place where people want to be, and where they are happy to bring others.

This is being achieved by following the 'Five Marks of Mission' which were adopted in 1997 by the 'Forum of Churches Together in England' of which the United Reformed Church is a member. The appointment of a part-time Church Community Worker in January 2015 has been of great assistance to our mission work.

This year, the work of the Church has been severely disrupted by the restrictions put into place by the UK Government in order to reduce the spread of **Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease**. Sunday services and other meetings and activities arranged by Church organisations ceased to take place at the church and in people's homes with effect from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

However, the work of the Church did not stop entirely. In the words of Pastor David proclaimed on a poster outside the church: "the Church hasn't been closed, so it doesn't need to be re-opened. We have simply stopped worshipping in our buildings for some time to protect our people and our local community. The Church does not require a building to be the Church. It needs people to follow the teaching of Jesus: to "love God and to love one another". It needs YOU!"

Details of how our work has been adapted are given below.

## Ministry & Mission

As a result of taking part in the national '**Christmas Angel**' project, members knitted over 80 angels which, with a Christmas message, were distributed around public and community spaces in Dorking.

Our involvement with **Dorking Street Pastors** ceased as it no longer operates in Dorking due to there being insufficient need for its services.

'**The Happiness Course**', piloted by the 'Community Life Group' in October 2019, ran again in February 2020, this time open to all; 24 people signed up to attend, 6 of whom were from outside the 'core' Church.

Before the restrictions were put into place, the **Charity Coffee Mornings**, which take place on Thursday mornings when 'Open Doors' has a break.

In one of his weekly reports given to the Elders' Meeting as the restrictions took hold, Pastor David said, "I have never been as active pastorally - an emotional roller coaster, caring directly or indirectly for 570 precious people and having more and more in depth and profound conversations with believers and non-believers alike".

The restrictions have slowed progress on our '**Deeper, Higher, Wider – An Adventure in Faith, 2018-2023**' strategy and the '**Mission & Discipleship Team**' has ceased to meet. The 'Exploring Evangelism' course, which was scheduled to take place during June (having been postponed from 2019) had to be cancelled, as did a series of talks, to be given by Pastor David in October & November, on the theme of 'When Jesus Returns'.

Throughout the restrictions the **garden at the front of the church** has proved to be a valuable resource for mission. A sign outside the gates invited people into the garden where 'Scripture Stations', a 'Prayer Pond' and a 'Prayer Tree' were set up. Visitors were invited to hang prayer requests on the tree and these were put on our 'Chain of Prayer' and prayed by the members of the 'Prayer Life Group'. Various resources were available for collection and return, such as packs for 'Messy Church' and 'All-Age Activities' packs. Packets of seeds were available to sow at home to raise plants for the garden. The plants (sunflowers, calendulas, marigolds and pumpkins) formed a '**Mayflower Sunrise Display**' to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the Pilgrim Fathers to North America on the 'Mayflower'. The display was captioned with the words of Pastor John Robinson: "The Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth from his word". The display formed part of Dorking's entry in this year's 'Britain in Bloom' competition which won a silver gilt award. In October, it was replaced by another display, created by a garden designer (Annie) from outside the Church, which had the '**Parable of the Sower**' as its theme.

Displays were also set up in the church vestibule and could be seen from the garden. The first was **the Lent Cross** (mentioned later in this report). This was followed by one which gave thanks for the **National Health Service** and the job done by those who work in hospitals and care homes. Lastly there was a display entitled '**Journey Through Psalms**', which was linked with one of our worship themes.

During the restrictions people were asked, by '**Churches Together in England**', to light a candle to shine through a window every Sunday evening at 7.00 pm as a symbol of the

“light of life”, Jesus Christ. Later we were encouraged to respond to the **‘Thy Kingdom Come’** (a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus) request to say the Lord’s Prayer at 12.00 noon each day. From August, **‘Churches Together in Dorking’** arranged monthly Sunday evening **‘Dependence Day’** Prayer Gatherings (using the video conferencing tool, ‘Zoom’) to acknowledge our dependence on God.

Chris Currie produced two editions of **‘Community News’** and a newsletter, entitled **‘Scattered but Connected’**, to keep people in touch with all that was going on at the church. Some people joined a group using the **‘WhatsApp’** messenger service to keep in contact with each other and to receive a daily scripture text from Pastor David. To quote Chris from the summer edition of **‘Community News’**: “The Dorking URC community is not a set of buildings in West Street, it is a network of people and relationships that can function in multiple places, connected by phone, letter, email, text, websites, social media and chance meetings - a group of people seeking relationship with God and grappling with what that might mean.”

The March Church Meeting agreed to a recommendation from the Elders’ Meeting that the post of **Church Community Worker** be extended for a further 5 years from January 2021 at the current level of 35 hours per week. Our current CCW, accepted an invitation from the Elders’ Meeting to remain in that role for the further 5 years. The number of members on his **‘Support Group’** has been enlarged to six. Recent discussions have been based on a document put together by CCW, which outlines his thinking on the role and how it interplays with the Church core and the many activities that take place within the wider “church family” and the peripheral community.

We have continued to support the **‘Dorking Area Foodbank’** and **‘FareShare’** schemes, upon which there has been a high demand this year.

Three new mothers associated with the Church were each presented with a **‘Baby Bag’** containing useful things to help with caring for their baby.

## **Worship**

Pastor David has preached, at our **Sunday worship**, on the themes of **‘Preparing the Bride’** (a series of 2 during Advent), **‘On Your Marks!’** (a series of 21, based on the Gospel according to Mark, starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in January and ending on the penultimate Sunday in May), **‘Psalms to Grow By!’** (a series of 14 starting on the last Sunday in May (Pentecost) and finishing on the last Sunday in August) and the current **‘Church Jesus is Building’** which will continue into next year. These are in addition to themes used for All-Age Worship and during Advent, Christmas and Easter, and by visiting preachers.

As for the past three years, a service of reflective readings, entitled **‘Into the December Darkness’** was held on the first Sunday in December for those who struggle with Christmas because of loss or for other reasons. A tour of the **Christmas Tree Festival** (which had the theme, ‘The Gift’) was offered and refreshments were served. The **‘Carols by Candlelight’** service took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday the service featured an **All-Age Nativity** entitled **‘Shine Star Shine’**, which had been rehearsed the day before. The theme for the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve was **‘Welcoming the Christ Child’** and that for Christmas Day was **‘Celebrating the Saviour’s**

Day'. The services were well attended except for the 'Christingle' (held in the afternoon on Christmas Eve) and Midnight services.

An electronic copy of the Church '**Memorial Book**' now enables selected pages to be projected on to the screens when we 'Honour the Saints' on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday service of each month.

A '**Lent Cross**' was set up in the church for the 6 Sundays of Lent. Each Sunday, items associated with the crucifixion of Jesus were added. This continued into the time of the restrictions when the Cross was moved so that it (and the accompanying liturgy) could be seen through the front doors of the church. Palm Crosses were available in the Church Garden during Holy Week. 'Pontius Pilate's Story, A Delicate Balance', which was scheduled to be presented on Maundy Thursday evening, had to be cancelled, as did the Churches Together in Dorking 'Walk of Witness' on Good Friday. Copies of 'Live Lent', a booklet setting out a course of 40 reflections for Lent, were made available to regular worshippers. There was also a version for children.

Due to the restrictions, **Sunday services were discontinued with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> March** and the '**Worship Review & Planning Team**' ceased to meet. Instead, a "**virtual worship**" service was made available to members and other regular worshippers each week, either by email or as a printed copy. A **video** of the service, led by Pastor David & Lorna Bedford from the Manse, could be downloaded from our website and often had well over 200 views. Members were invited to contribute **Prayers of Intercession** and, for the first Sunday of each month, some people produced videos of themselves reading from the '**Birthday Book**'. '**Honouring the Saints**' was facilitated by the availability of a copy of the relevant pages of the Church Memorial Book on our website or in printed form.

Opportunity was provided for people to have '**virtual coffee**' with each other at 11.30 am each Sunday (by using 'Zoom'); this ceased at the end of August, but resumed in November. The members of '**Quest**' have also used 'Zoom' for their meetings and, in addition, have kept in touch by using 'WhatsApp'.

Each week, alongside the "virtual service", Pastor David has given details of online services provided by the URC and of the 'Daily Hope Prayer Line' provided by the Church of England. **Sunday services resumed at the church with a service in the garden on 30<sup>th</sup> August and, with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> September, in the church** (with arrangements made for hand sanitization and to keep at least 2 metres distance between different households; face coverings had to be worn). Before a **Communion** service, each member of the congregation had to collect a ramekin containing the bread and wine (in a disposable cup). An average number of about 20 people attended these services, which **continued to be produced in the "virtual" form as well.**

The '**Young Church**' resumed its monthly 'Friends on Faith Adventures' meetings in the Follett Hall on the first Sunday in September; the maximum number of attendees permitted was 15. 'Activity Packs' were prepared in advance for the children to use and 'Activity Sheets' were made available for the Sundays when 'Young Church' was not meeting.

Our 'Scattered but Connected' All- Age **Harvest Festival** service on 27<sup>th</sup> September was led by Chris Currie and had the theme 'New Beginnings'. It made reference to blessings that have developed from seed to fruit during the restrictions and the new beginning

experienced by the Pilgrim Fathers. The worship was videoed in advance and people from a wide variety of organisations associated with the Church took part (from their homes). There were other ways of becoming involved in advance: by making a video of the 'Parable of the Sower' or the sailing of the 'Mayflower', by drawing a picture or taking a photograph and by growing sets of grass seed in different soils (hard, rocky, weedy & good) and taking photographs of the results. The service was linked to the 'Link to Hope' Shoebox Appeal and giving to the 'Dorking Area Foodbank'. Monetary donations could be made via our website.

**Sunday services and other activities at the church had to be discontinued again with effect from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November.** The "virtual" **Remembrance Sunday service** on 8<sup>th</sup> November, videoed in advance, was led by Pastor David from the Manse and included videos taken at the church: members of our Guide group reading out the names of the 47 'West Street' men who were killed in the two World Wars and those from our Scout Group leading the 'Act of Remembrance'. Prayers of intercession were led by members of our Beaver group.

During the restrictions, '**Messy Church**' continued as '**Messy Church at Home Online**', which could be accessed via our website and 'Facebook' pages. Details of activities were released each month for that month's session. The activities have had themes such as 'Dusty Drawings', 'Always with Us', 'Pray, Pray, Pray' and 'Dazzling Disciples'. About 60 children and adults have made use of the activities each month. The monthly '**Messy Matters**' has continued to be published.

## **Social Activities**

The '**Holiday at Home Tea and Entertainment**' in February attracted a good number of people. The event provided an opportunity for advertising this year's '**Holiday at Home**'. Before the restrictions '**Creative Cuppa**' was going well (the meetings were said to have "a nice atmosphere"), as did those of '**Conquest Art**'. '**Oasis**' meetings were attracting a greater number of people from the Church, particularly those from the 'Afternoon Life Group'. Following a small increase in the price of light refreshments and lunches, '**Open Doors**' was covering its costs having made a loss last year. '**My Time +**' had ceased to meet at the church due to lack of volunteers to run the group.

Due to the restrictions, no social activities have taken place at the church since 19<sup>th</sup> March.

People involved with various groups, including 'Brownies', 'Messy Church', 'My Time for Young Carers', 'Rainbows', 'Small Fry' and 'Young Church' contributed the ideas that brought into being the '**All-Age Activities**' packs mentioned earlier in this report. In addition to being available as printed copies, they could be downloaded from our website. Also available from our website were postings of '**Families, Children & Young People's News**' and '**Sing Along with Small Fry**'. '**Dorking My Time**' leaders have supported the children who come to their meetings in various ways including the production of a bi-weekly 'My Time Monster Mag'. 'Be Me' produced a leaflet for teenagers which was made available to members of 'Dorking My Time' and the uniformed organisations (which could also access online activities).

To mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **VE Day** on 8<sup>th</sup> May, some of the members of 'Young Church' wrote to elderly members of our congregation to invite them to share their memories of the Second World War. 24 elderly people were involved in this exchange.

Our 'Annual Trip to the Seaside' in July and 'Holiday at Home' in August were cancelled. Preparations for 'Holiday at Home' had started, but instead 130 copies of a brochure, entitled '**Holiday at Home, at Home**', were produced and sent out to those who had attended in the past. The brochure included 'Pause for Thought' based on holidays, a 'Going & Growing' general knowledge quiz, a 'Poem on Heaven', a CD recording of a singalong and a stamped addressed postcard to enable people to share their favourite holiday memories. The feedback from those who received the brochure was "excellent".

## **Buildings and Finance**

During the restrictions, the members of the Facilities Management & Development and Finance Teams were able to continue with their scheduled meetings by using 'Zoom'.

The '**Umbrella Appeal**' continued to raise funds to pay back money borrowed from other Church funds to pay the bills for 'Project Umbrella' (repairs to the church roof and improvements to the passageway between the church and the Main Hall). Donations raised by the **Christmas Post Box** and the **Christmas Greetings Card** contributed to the Appeal. It is hoped that, during 2021, work can be completed on the external parts of the Little Chapel, Living Room and Upper Room (formerly 'Youth Lounge'), so the Appeal will continue.

The **Main Hall kitchen boiler** has been replaced and pipe-work installed to service the heating of the Roy Currie Room and Mission Office independently from the Hall. Work on the roof and exterior of the Main Hall undertaken to deal with interior dampness, has been completed. The exteriors of the doors to the Main Hall facing on to the front garden and the window frames either side have been repainted. The flat roof over the entrance to the **Follett Hall** has been repaired, new guttering has been installed and the interior of the Hall redecorated. The **Roy Currie Room, Living Room** and **Summer House** have also been redecorated. Maintenance work has been carried out in the **Oasis Courtyard**, which included repairs to the water feature. Two new seats have been installed in the front garden.

The shower room at the **Manse** has been refurbished and a new dishwasher fitted in the kitchen.

**A great deal of time and energy has gone into creating risk assessments**, and planning and communicating with hirers and church-based groups, to reduce the risk of spread of the COVID-19 virus. The premises have been made "COVID Secure" as far as we can. Notices, hand sanitizers and one-way systems have been installed throughout. At present we are only using the 'worship area' and Main and Follett Halls with strict limits on numbers. The kitchens, Roy Currie Room, Living Room and Little Chapel are not being let or, at present, used by our own groups due to their size and the need for social distancing.

**Income from offertories and lettings has fallen considerably** during the time that restrictions have been in place. A letter concerning Church funds was sent to members, in September. Members were asked to "give a bit more", if they felt able to do so, to reduce the monthly deficit. In a few cases, lettings restarted in September, but have now stopped

again. In response to a request from the URC Southern Synod, the Elders' Meeting replied: "the Church should be okay to resume operation but is concerned that several of its congregation will be unable to return to church and there is a question mark about its capacity to cope with its income stream".

We are thankful for excellent work done by volunteers from outside the Church.

Our thanks also go to the FM&D Team for the work that they have done (particularly in connection with making the premises "COVID secure") and to our Caretaker.

## **General**

**Pastor David** told the September Church Meeting that he plans to retire in May 2021 following 42 years of ministry (including training) and to lead his final Sunday service at Dorking URC on 9<sup>th</sup> May. He stepped down from his role as Chaplain at Dorking Community Hospital at the end of July.

David Beard stepped down from being the Local Church Leader at **Gomshall URC** in August following 18 years of service, and the members decided to close their Chapel (which had existed for 199 years) with the last service being on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

This year we have had a full complement of 12 **Serving Elders** two of whom were newly ordained in January.

During the restrictions, the **Elders' Meeting** used 'Zoom' to meet, at first on a weekly basis and then fortnightly, returning to monthly in October. A '**Forward Planning Working Group**', consisting of 3 Serving Elders has been formed to consider our emergence from the current restrictions and the forthcoming ministerial vacancy.

**The June Church Meeting** was cancelled to avoid exclusion of members who were unable to access 'Zoom'. However, in order to enable the business of the Church to continue, the September Meeting and November AGM took place using 'Zoom'. Members who were unable to use 'Zoom' received printed copies of the agenda and other documents in advance and were invited to send their questions and opinions to the Church Meeting Secretary before the Meeting.

**Pastoral Care** of members and other regular worshippers has been a priority during the restrictions. The Serving Elders endeavoured to regularly contact the households allocated to them. Pastoral Care continued to be provided by Pastor David (who often made over 20 pastoral phone calls per day) and the Pastoral Team, assisted by those who were willing to offer such care. Added to this was a network of care (for example getting shopping and having a chat on the telephone) offered through the 'Life Groups' and in other ways. The Church Benevolent Fund has been used to good effect.

## **Weddings and Baptisms**

Weddings: 1

Births: 3

Infant Dedication/Blessing: 1

## **Membership**

A regular member of the congregation, died in July. Members who were able to do so gathered in the Church Garden on 21<sup>st</sup> July for a Service of Thanksgiving for his life. No one has been accepted into Church membership this year. No one has had their name removed from the roll of members. One member revoked her membership. The current number of Church members is 109, which is one fewer than at this time last year.

## **Conclusion**

A number of people have been named in this report, in connection with the work they do for the Church. There are many workers who have not been named. To all of them we say thank you. This has been a more challenging year than usual and we particularly thank our CCW, and Pastor David (assisted by Lorna) for the extra work that they have had to do in adapting to this situation.

## **Trustees**

The following individuals have served as Trustees over the period of this report and until the date of approval. Trustees serve a maximum continuous term of 6 years.

### Current Trustees

Mrs Jane Allan	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Roger Currie	Reappointed 01-01-2018
Mrs Bethen Evans	Appointed 01-01-2017
Mr Simon Moorhouse	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Derek Morrison	Appointed 01-01-2019
Mrs Lynn Price	Appointed 01-01-2017
Mr John Quincey	Appointed 01-01-2017
Mrs Liz Roger	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mr Steve Tait	Appointed 01-01-2019
Mrs Hilary Venn	Appointed 01-01-2020
Mrs Kae Wicks	Appointed 01-01-2019
Mrs Fiona Yeomans	Reappointed 01-01-2019

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

**Elders' Meetings (Trustees plus Minister, Treasurer and Community Worker)** are held monthly throughout the year apart from the month of August. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'Church Growth Plan', the appointment of an organist, Safeguarding, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises and preparation for the Vacancy.

The **Church Meeting** currently meets once every three months. The average attendance is around thirty. The major items discussed over the year have been the 'growth plan' for the Church, the development of the buildings, a review of the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on church premises, and the frequency of evening services.

The **Mission Committee** meets every two to three months. Its terms of reference are to support and strengthen the existing mission activities of the Church, to extend the mission of the Church to the wider local community, to ensure that the 'Five Marks of Mission' are visible within the Church life and to retain and increase Church membership.

The **Facilities, Management and Development (FM&D)** committee meets quarterly and looks after health and safety matters, building maintenance and, in recent years, the development of our premises.

The **Finance Committee** meets quarterly. The **Health and Safety Committee** meets four times per year. The **Worship Review and Planning Group** meet three to four times a year.

## Financial Review

### Financial Review

Overall, the outcome for the year was satisfactory in the circumstances.

Total resources decreased by £37,000 in the year from £399,000 to £362,000.

The overall movements comprise:-

- 1) General operating income less costs resulted in a deficit of £24,000 mainly due to reduced lettings income. Offertories and donations income held up and costs were also similar to the previous year.
- 2) Plan for Growth/Community Worker expenditure exceeded donations by £12,000.
- 3) An unrealised loss on our investment portfolio of £5,000.
- 4) Benevolent and Legacy Fund receipts of £6,000 helped offset the above

Full details of the fund movements are set out on Page 15.

### **Other Fund changes**

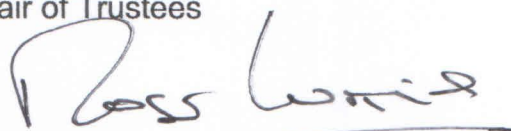
During the year the Trustees were able to consolidate the Philip Henman Funds into one. In addition, the remaining balance on the Mary Alexander Fund of £49,000 will become unrestricted funds by the end of this year.

### **Subsequent Events**

Based on the unaudited management accounts presented quarterly to the Trustees there has been no material change in the net assets of the Church since the date of these accounts.

Approved 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

Chair of Trustees



Mr Roger Currie

Chair of Finance Committee



Mr Derek Morrison

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments		
Epworth Interest Funds	51,573	49,050
Epworth Equity Funds	180,632	187,893
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	232,205	236,943
Cash at bank		
CafCash	5,155	6,526
CafGold	121,273	138,005
CafCash Development	-	13,742
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	126,428	158,273
Organisations	3,350	3,688
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>361,983</b>	<b>398,904</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	51,361	42,330
Designated Funds	74,775	116,016
Restricted Funds	235,847	240,559
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>361,983</b>	<b>398,904</b>

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Members & friends	72,035	-	-	72,035	73,319
Other sources	53,375	23,654	147	77,177	222,598
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>125,410</b>	<b>23,654</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>149,212</b>	<b>295,917</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Ministerial	60,715	-	-	60,715	64,844
Services	695	-	124	819	2,944
Premises	81,364	-	-	81,364	60,382
General	6,449	32,070	-	38,519	167,480
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>149,224</b>	<b>32,070</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>181,418</b>	<b>295,649</b>
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus for year before transfers</b>	<b>(23,814)</b>	<b>(8,416)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>(32,206)</b>	<b>268</b>
Transfers between funds	32,845	(32,845)	-	-	-
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investment funds	-	-	(4,736)	(4,736)	23,599
Rounding					(3)
<b>Net movement for the year</b>	<b>9,031</b>	<b>(41,261)</b>	<b>(4,712)</b>	<b>(36,942)</b>	<b>23,864</b>
Opening balances at 1 January 2020	42,330	116,016	240,559	398,904	375,040
<b>Closing balances at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>51,361</b>	<b>74,755</b>	<b>235,847</b>	<b>361,962</b>	<b>398,904</b>

## DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Income and Expenditure of Unrestricted Funds for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019		2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Members &amp; friends</b>			<b>Ministerial</b>		
Offeratories	44,780	47,826	Ministry & Mission	46,858	51,144
Tax Refund	15,244	15,129	Travel	1,953	2,835
Donations	11,993	10,349	Manse	10,102	8,925
Coffee (Net)	18	15	Telephone & Wi Fi	1,802	1,940
	<b>72,035</b>	<b>73,319</b>		<b>60,715</b>	<b>64,844</b>
<b>Outside sources</b>			<b>Services</b>		
Rents	19,845	20,890	Organists & choir	455	2,579
Events/Other	4,263	120	Tuning & repairs	240	365
Lettings	14,203	40,164			
Investments	3,867	7,342		<b>695</b>	<b>2,944</b>
Project Umbrella Grants & Donations	11,197	-			
			<b>Premises</b>		
	<b>53,375</b>	<b>68,515</b>	Caretaking	13,126	12,553
			Electricity	3,036	2,956
			Gas	5,706	5,696
			Insurance	4,776	4,931
			Water	-	1,031
			Maintenance	36,813	28,926
			Flats rental expenses	4,816	4,289
			Project Umbrella	13,092	-
				<b>81,364</b>	<b>60,382</b>
			<b>General</b>		
			Young Church	10	228
			Administration, Publicity etc.	3,747	5,506
			Miscellaneous	1,687	2,424
			Donations	50	75
			Mission	835	819
			CTD Subscription	120	120
				<b>6,449</b>	<b>9,173</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>125,410</b>	<b>141,835</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>149,224</b>	<b>137,342</b>
<b>Deficit before transfers</b>	<b>(23,814)</b>	<b>4,493</b>			

## Dorking United Reformed Church FUNDS - 2020

Funds not invested are held in CafCash & CafGold Bank Accounts. The funds of the Church Organisations are held in their own bank accounts

	At 1 Jan 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Unrealised (losses)/gains & Roundings	At 31 Dec 2020
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General	42,330	125,410	(149,224)	32,845		51,361
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>42,330</b>	<b>125,410</b>	<b>(149,224)</b>	<b>32,845</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,361</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Development & Property	30,590	2,255		(32,845)		-
Legacy, Gift & Memorial	44,148	953	(150)			44,951
Benevolent	605	5,010	(1,294)			4,321
Jessie Henman Memorial	4,834					4,834
Pastoral Contact	3,844					3,844
Holiday at Home	1,702	701	(1,762)			640
Messy Church	315					315
Oasis Group	728	15	(67)			676
Plan for Growth	11,629	11,779	(23,129)			279
Rounding	4					4
Special Collections	13,932	1,262	(3,630)			11,564
	<b>112,331</b>	<b>21,974</b>	<b>(30,031)</b>	<b>(32,845)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71,428</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Roy Currie Memorial	3,619	147	(124)			3,643
<b>Total Funds in Bank Accounts</b>	<b>158,279</b>	<b>147,531</b>	<b>(179,379)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>126,432</b>
<b>Restricted Funds - Invested</b>						
Roy Currie Memorial	8,949				(190)	8,760
The Mary Alexander Charity	50,000				(741)	49,259
Philip Henman Fund (re Jessie)	55,011			(55,011)		-
Philip Henman Fund (re Fabric)	122,979			(122,979)		-
Philip Henman Fund				177,990	(3,806)	174,185
	<b>236,940</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,736)</b>	<b>232,204</b>
<b>Total all Restricted Funds</b>	<b>240,559</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>(124)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,736)</b>	<b>235,847</b>
<b>Designated Funds - Church Organisations</b>						
Open Doors	1,111	1,480	(1,437)			1,154
Small Fry	2,343	200	(581)			1,962
Messy Church	234		(20)			214
	<b>3,688</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>(2,039)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,330</b>
<b>Total all designated funds</b>	<b>116,016</b>	<b>23,654</b>	<b>(32,070)</b>	<b>(32,845)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74,755</b>
<b>Total all designated funds</b>	<b>398,904</b>	<b>149,212</b>	<b>(181,418)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,736)</b>	<b>361,962</b>

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorking United Reformed Church (Registered Charity 1132113)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dorking United Reformed Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 12 to 15.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

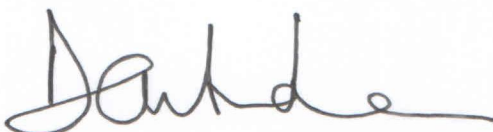
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.

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



Dan Andrew CA

Dorking RH4 2AF

Date: 1 September 2021