



Dorking United Reformed Church

founded in 1662

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

Website: www.dorkingurc.org.uk

Pastor: Vacant

TRUSTEES' REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2022

Dorking United Reformed Church

Living Jesus' love

Charity no. 1132113

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ending 31st 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.)

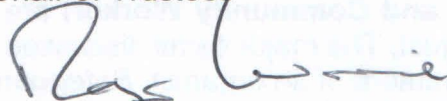
Full details of the fund movements are set out on Page 12.

Subsequent Events

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

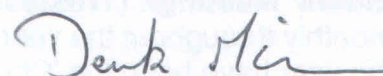
Approved 2nd April 2023

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').

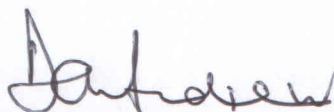
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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
ASSETS		
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
Total Assets	<u>504,073</u>	<u>432,446</u>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds	69,343	72,383
Designated Funds	184,670	65,322
Restricted Funds	250,061	294,741
Total Funds	<u>504,073</u>	<u>432,446</u>

DORKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

	2022	2021		2022	2021
INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Members & friends			Ministerial		
Offeratories	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
	71,550	77,298		52,697	53,149
Outside sources			Services		
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			
	78,758	59,854		1,620	1,491
			Premises		
			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	-
				164,725	73,635
			General		
			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
				4,458	5,772
Total income	150,308	137,151	Total Expenditure	223,500	134,047
Result before transfers	(73,192)	3,104			

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
Unrestricted funds							
General	72,383	150,308	(129,418)	15,013		(38,943)	69,343
Development & Property			(94,082)	12,558	42,581	38,943	-
Total Unrestricted funds	72,383	150,308	(223,500)	27,571	42,581	-	69,343

	At 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Other Receipts	Grants	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2022
Designated funds							
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
	63,246	137,839	(26,869)	-	8,272	-	182,488

Restricted funds

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

Restricted Funds - Invested

					Investment Losses	
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
	290,706	-	-	-	(45,451)	245,255

Total all Restricted Funds	294,741	772	-	-	-	(45,451)	250,061
-----------------------------------	----------------	------------	----------	----------	----------	-----------------	----------------

Designated Funds - Church Organisations

Small Fry	1,970	-	-				1,970
Messy Church	107	-	105			-	212
	2,077	-	105			-	2,182

Total all designated funds	65,322	137,839	(26,764)	-	8,272	-	184,670
-----------------------------------	---------------	----------------	-----------------	----------	--------------	----------	----------------

TOTAL ALL FUNDS	432,446	288,919	(250,264)	27,571	50,853	(45,451)	504,073
------------------------	----------------	----------------	------------------	---------------	---------------	-----------------	----------------