

The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2022

Administrative Information

The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, is a registered charity, number 1135083. The Church office is located within the Church and the contact details are:- The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RZ; Tel. 01962 849559

The Trustees who have served from 1st January 2022 to the date this report was approved were as follows:-

Minister: Rev Timothy Searle

Others: Mrs Christine Cook (until 12th March 2023)
Mrs Helen McTiffin (until 12th March 2023)
Mrs Johanna Pellatt
Mr Stephen Barber
Mr Martin Ramsey
Mr Timothy Clifford (until 13 March 2023]
Dr John Lander (from 12th March 2023)

The Church is in the process of appointing further trustees.

Structure, Governance and Management

The United Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in which the participating denominations are:- The Methodist Church of Great Britain; and
The United Reformed Church

The United Church is governed by its Constitution, which was adopted on 9th December 2009, and amended on 19th February 2010 and 21st March 2010. The Constitution may be amended at either an Annual or Special Congregational Meeting. The Charity shall be administered and managed by a body of Trustees, consisting of:-

- Ex officio Trustees, being the minister of the LEP for the time being;
- 8 elected trustees elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting; and
- Not more than 2 co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees, until the next annual Congregational Meeting

Elected Trustees shall hold office from the end of the Annual Congregational Meeting at which they are elected until the end of the third such Meeting after their appointment, but shall be eligible for re-election at that Meeting. There are currently no formal policies for the induction of Trustees.

At present the Church Council typically meets ten times during the year and must hold at least two meetings in each calendar year. The Church structure is presently in the process of changing with the formation of a number of Enabling Groups and the substitution of a Leadership Team that will replace the Church Council.

Grants to other charities and institutions are brought to a Church Meeting and agreed by that body.

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the charity is to advance the Christian faith, primarily in the community of Winchester and surrounding areas, in accordance with its principles and practices. In achieving its purpose it will engage in a range of activities either on its own or with others, including, but not restricted to:

- The celebration of public worship
- The teaching of the Christian faith
- Mission and Evangelism
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community including, but not restricted to, the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs, and
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas

This purpose was included in the Constitution that was approved by the Charity Commission.

Review of the activities and achievements

A worship service, open to the public, is normally held at 10.30 each Sunday. Attendance in Church has increased since Covid restrictions were eased. Use is still being made of Zoom for Church services and some business meetings, but the proportion of face-to-face meetings has increased while making provision for those who wish to remain socially distance and wear face masks. It is intended that the present mix of face-to-face and live streaming services will continue so that communal worship is accessible to those unable to travel to the Church because of, for example, illness and travel difficulties.

The membership of the Church on 31 December 2022 was 137. The change during the year was due to deaths and transfers, offset by the arrival of new members.

As well as teaching the Christian faith, including mission and evangelism, significant public events and facilities provided for the community during the year, examples being:-

- The coffee bar open Monday to Friday
- A NHS operated baby clinic on Thursdays for parents with young babies
- Joint working with other churches in the area to provide a chaplaincy service to businesses in the Winchester City Centre

Support for other charities in the UK and overseas, examples being:-

- The Winchester branch of MHA Communities provides support and friendship to older people living in their own homes across the Winchester district to help maintain independence, improve well-being, encourage inclusion and reduce isolation. The project included coffee and chat, IT support, mindfulness sessions, art therapy and gentle exercise, all of which are aimed at building confidence and encouraging attendees to reengage with their local community in a safe way. The pre-pandemic group activities were reintroduced, including regular exercise, singing and lunch groups as well as “at home” befriending visits.
- Fundraising and increasing public awareness of our specific overseas charities, notably Link to Hope which works with families and the elderly rebuilding lives and communities in Eastern Europe through education and social care initiatives.
- Donations were made to other charities included £1,500 to the Winchester City Centre chaplaincy, and a total of £3,600 to other local charities.
- The “Winchester Churches Christmas Project” provided help at Christmas 2022 to 34 families (53 adults and 57 children) plus 2 single people – a total of 112.

The United Church provides payroll service, and holds funds on behalf of Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy and also contributes towards the costs of the chaplaincy. Several members of the Church provide support to Syrian and Afghan resettled families. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine the Church started running "Meet and Greet" sessions on Saturday mornings, now attended by people from Ukraine, Iran and Afghanistan. Hot drinks, other refreshments, and many social activities are provided. Up to around 70 in number attend, and the support provided is greatly appreciated.

Various charities and other organisations meet in the Church. These include:-

- MHA Communities, Winchester - Singing for Well-Being, Exercise classes, Activity Day, and a Lunch Club
- Winchester Community Choir
- Waynflete Singers
- Winchester Music and Opera Society
- Blue Apple Theatre
- Hampshire Music Service Youth Choirs and Wind Ensemble
- NHS Southern Health Baby and Child Clinic
- Winchester Learning Disability Service

Financial Review

The original Reserves Policy was approved by the December 2007 Church Meeting, reviewed in 2013 and again at the Meeting on 24th November 2019. The present policy is; "To aim to maintain annual average financial assets of approximately 50% of routine annual expenditure, in addition to a Buildings Reserve of £150,000. This proportion to be reviewed within 5 years unless there is an earlier significant change in circumstances."

The routine annual expenditure of non-restricted funds in 2022 was £152,000, excluding approximately £12,500 of capital expenditure on the Church building, and the refund of an overpayment of a tax refund.

The Restricted Funds do not have a separate Reserves Policy as they are part of the overall activities of the Church and, if necessary, would be supported from other Church funds. As at 31st December 2022 the reserves were £185,826; after deducting £150,000, "financial assets" were approximately 24% of routine annual expenditure. In 2022 Unrestricted Incoming Resources increased by 36%, largely due to the lifting of Covid restrictions that enabled hiring and Coffee Bar income to increase. Unrestricted routine expenditure of £180,383 rose by 32%, principally caused by increased salary and utility costs. The net deficit in 2022 was £20, 978 compared with £20,180 a year earlier. Net assets carried forward at 31st December were £185,826.

This Annual Report, and the financial accounts for the year to 31 December 2022, were approved at the Church Meeting on 18 June 2023 and signed by the Meeting Chair.

John Lander (Treasurer) on behalf of United Church Winchester Trustees

June 2023

THE UNITED CHURCH, WINCHESTER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022				2021		
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES	£		£	£	£		£
Incoming resources from generated funds:							
Voluntary income	88,065		6,090	94,155	77,426	750	5,607
Tax Reclaim	33,506		0	33,506	17,013		0
Activities for generating funds	35,833		13,548	49,381	22,226		8,102
Investment income	2,003			2,003	21		
Grants	0			0	0		
Total incoming resources	159,407	0	19,638	179,045	116,686	750	13,709
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Charitable activities:							
Methodist/URC Assessment	77,352			77,352	77,352		
Costs of church activities	103,033			103,033	58,862		
Capital expenditure	0			0	662		
General			23,764	23,764			5,482
Governance costs							
Total resources expended	180,385	0	23,764	204,149	136,866	0	5,482
Net movement in funds	-20,978	0	-4,126	-25,104	-20,180	750	8,227
Total funds brought forward 1 January 2022	206,803	750	13,622	221,175	226,983	0	5,395
Total funds carried forward 31 December 2022	185,826	750	9,495	196,071	206,803	750	13,622



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
The United Church, Winchester

On accounts for the year
ended

31.12.2022

Charity no
(if any)

1135083

Set out on pages

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2022**.

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below *~~) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

10.03.2023

Name:

Roger A Brooks

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
