

SHREWSBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CHARITY INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Trustees:	Revd Carole Marsden Mervyn Davies (Treasurer) Sue Bonny (Church Secretary) Graham Tharby Rachel Coward
Charity Number:	1135733
Address:	Coleham Head Shrewsbury SY3 7BJ
Independent examiner:	William Strachan

SHREWSBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Trustees

Trustees serving during the year were as stated on page 1.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

Shrewsbury United Reformed Church is a constituent of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom that was formed by Act of Parliament in 1972. During 2009, the church applied to the Charity Commission for registration as a charity and this was granted on 29 April 2010 – Number 1135733 – in the name of Shrewsbury United Reformed Church.

The church itself is subject to the general procedures of the United Reformed Church as set out in the Scheme of Union and any subsequent amendments and additions. Members shall be those who subscribe to the Declaration of Faith as stated in the Scheme of Union and covenant fully to share in the life of the Church.

Organisation

The Church is governed and managed by a number of councils. The Councils of the Church comprise:-

- The Church Meeting
- The Elders Meeting
- The Finance Committee, appointed by the Church Meeting, and
- The Property Management Committee, also appointed by the Church Meeting.
- Other committees may be appointed for a specific purpose, such as for fundraising or the organisation of social events etc.

All committees report to the Church Meeting and have a 'linked' Elder who represents them at the Elders' Meeting.

SHREWSBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Election of Elders

Rules governing the election of Elders are as follows: -

1. The number of Serving Elders shall be determined by the Church Meeting on the recommendation of the Elders Meeting.
2. Elders are to serve for a period of three years and at the expiry of that time will retire but will not be eligible for re-election for a further term of three years until a period of one year has elapsed, other than the Church Secretaries who have a continuous appointment.
3. Notice of the pending election of Elders will be announced annually by a nomination form which will be issued to each Church member who may nominate up to the number of Elders required.
4. All Church Members are eligible to be nominated other than:
 - a) Retiring Elders
 - b) Those with less than one year's membership of Shrewsbury United Reformed Church at the time of the nomination.
5. Should a vacancy arise in the Eldership then, at the discretion of the Elders, a non-serving Elder may be invited to complete a year in which the vacancy occurs and at the subsequent election one additional Elder shall be elected to complete the term of office. (The Elder to serve for the shorter period will be decided between the Minister and the newly elected Elders).
6. The vacancy caused by the election of a new Church Secretary shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5. Upon giving up the post, a Church Secretary shall not be eligible for election as a Serving Elder for one year.
7. The Ordination and Induction of Elders will take place on the first Sunday in January and be conducted by the Minister, the Interim Moderator or Presiding Elder.

SHREWSBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Objectives and Activities

The objective of the Church is encompassed in its mission statement **“to show people they really matter to God”**.

To achieve this, the Church aims to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrines, principles and practices of the reformed tradition as upheld by the United Reformed Church in the Shropshire area and through the West Midlands Synod of the Church. The operations of the Church are broadly classified as Ministry and Mission (including children and youth work), training, property and administrative support.

A small number of members and support staff are paid for specific services, but all other assistance relating to administration of the church and supply of support to members and adherents is by volunteers. That includes assistance with services, outreach work, publicity, leading activity groups, maintenance and finance.

We are an inclusive Church that does not discriminate against people of differing creeds, gender, race or sexuality.

Public Benefit

In planning the charity's activities for the year, the Trustees and Elders kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Early in 2020 new Trustees were appointed to join Revd Carole Marsden and Graham Tharby. These were Mervyn Davies (Church Treasurer), Sue Bonny (Church Secretary), and Rachel Coward.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic saw changes in the life of our church that could never have been envisaged. We could not have imagined that we would be unable to meet on our premises for Sunday worship for more than a year!

However, it was a blessing to be able to make use of technology to continue worshipping in an alternative way. Many had not heard of zoom, but it was a joy to be able to use this as a platform to worship together, to see the faces of members of our fellowship and to continue to interact through online quiz nights, coffee mornings and entertainment evenings.

When restrictions eased for a time, it was possible to meet in person for Tuesday reflections. This was a great opportunity to see members and to share in worship. When restrictions returned these sessions continued again via zoom.

During the year, our church staff were frequently furloughed although this depended on which external users were allowed to meet on the premises. After the first lockdown support groups were able to meet regularly with restricted numbers. For a time, educational businesses involving children were allowed to meet but no other commercial bookings were possible.

Early in 2020 the office for the charity Village Water relocated to one of our upstairs rooms. The room was refurbished together with the upstairs kitchen in preparation for this. Other work on the property has been ongoing when permitted. Health and Safety risk assessments and checks have been carried out to ensure that best practice in all we do.

We missed seeing our young people during this time. Various mailings were sent out with activities for the young people to do. These were well received, together with opportunities for them to meet via zoom for things such as a pancake party.

House Groups were unable to meet but, in their place, a monthly fellowship evolved via zoom. At each meeting a member gave a short talk about an aspect of their life such as their occupation or a particular interest. Members enjoyed this time together and the glimpse it gave into lives of some of our members.

Messy Vintage had become an integral part of our church life when lockdown started. Many of those who attended being amongst the most vulnerable to COVID. Our Messy Vintage coordinator and her family worked tirelessly to maintain the links made and to provide material for use at home by producing Messy Vintage packs. These were very appreciated and a rarely a month went by without a letter of thanks being received in the church office.

Our choir and musicians, under the guiding hand of our choir master, provided many contributions for our online worship. Members would record pieces at home, send them to the choir master who collated them with great patience, expertise, and creativity before playing them in services.

Our newsletter also played a vital part in keeping our fellowship together. The editorial team worked hard to bring us a fresh and interesting issue each month. Stories, reminisces of times gone by, photographs, favourite hymns and word searches kept us all going.

As we were not able to run the election of Elders as normal, it was decided and approved that the term of office for each of the Elders who were in position would be extended temporarily to four years. The next election will be held in the autumn of 2021.

It is important to acknowledge and to thank the Revd Carole Marsden for all the hard work she put in to ensure that we were able to meet as a church to worship, to grow spiritually and to maintain our fellowship with each other during a difficult year.

We also need to thank all the people who helped throughout the year. The pastoral links, those who helped deliver newsletters or Messy Vintage packs, the gardening team who kept our grounds looking good, our flower arrangers who responded to pastoral needs and delivered flowers, our Junior Church team for keeping in touch with our young people, our maintenance team, finance team and our staff.

Shrewsbury URC

Charity No 1135733

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020		2019
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Collection - standing orders	44,431.96		44,431.96
Envelopes	9,340.05		9,340.05
Loose	2,151.40		2,151.40
Children's buckets	810.12		810.12
Legacy	3,000.00		3,000.00
Donations	554.00		554.00
Donations Church Groups	965.70		965.70
Gift Aid from HMRC	13,675.20	701.00	14,376.20
Fundraising	5,605.46		5,605.46
Income from Investments	6,246.70		6,246.70
Interest	-		0.00
Grants Current Year	-		0.00
Grants Prior Year	-		0.00
Toddlers	416.85		416.85
Messy Church & Holiday Club	207.05		207.05
Catering/coffee	237.30		237.30
Weddings & Funerals	1,498.10		1,498.10
Subscriptions - Reform etc	457.90		457.90
Members Car Parking	1,977.00		1,977.00
Room Hire	18,953.73		18,953.73
Commercial Car parking	8,890.00		8,890.00
Church House Rent	4,908.00		4,908.00
Church Office Income	194.30		194.30
Commitment for Life		2,222.00	2,222.00
Total Income	124,520.82	2,923.00	127,443.82

Payments

	2020		2019
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Ministry & Mission formula	66,533.05		66,533.05
Synod Support	-16,530.00		-16,530.00
Council Tax	2,214.27		2,214.27
Pulpit Supply	40.00		40.00
Ministers expenses	3,990.79		3,990.79
Local Salaries	13,177.55		13,177.55
Catering	220.20		220.20
Office Costs/Printing & Stationary	3,693.34		3,693.34
Legal Fees/Licencing	1,526.00		1,526.00
Outreach & Subs/ reform	977.64		977.64
Residential Synod	0.00		0.00
Fundraising	0.00		0.00
Organ maintenance and music	0.00	195.00	195.00
Youth	574.19		574.19
Messy Church & Holiday Club	222.43		222.43
Toddlers	23.36		23.36
Patchwork Choir	70.20		70.20
Messy Vintage	263.30		263.30
Building repairs/maintenance	5,939.03		5,939.03
Manse repair	0.00		0.00
Development	52.38		52.38
Gas	2,553.29		2,553.29
Electricity	879.00		879.00
Water	506.62		506.62
Insurance	6,485.57		6,485.57
Equipment	309.92		309.92
Commitment for Life	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundries	498.00		498.00
Total Payments	94,220.13	195.00	94,415.13
Surplus/(Deficit)	30,300.69	2,728.00	33,028.69
Purchase of Investments	0.00		0.00
Total Movement on Funds	30,300.69	2,728.00	33,028.69
Brought Forward	13,314.10	11,237.55	24,551.65
Carried Forward	43,614.79	13,965.55	57,580.34

Statement of Assets

	2020			2019
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Monetary assets HSBC Shrewsbury				
Current a/c	10,408.18	-	10,408.18	5,627
Shrewsbury – Deposit a/c -	23,238.41	13,964.59	37,203.00	15,185
HSBC Shrewsbury – Donation a/c		0.96	0.96	0
COIF deposit account	9,968.20		9,968.20	3,739
CCLA – COIF deposit account				
	43,614.79	13,965.55	57,580.34	24,552
Investments	212,849.59		209,158.92	196,173
Total Assets	256,464.38	13,965.55	266,739.26	220,725

Manse

The Church has an interest in the ownership of the minister's manse at 12 Woodwynd Close, Shrewsbury, the Legal title is with United Reformed Church West Midlands Trust Limited.

Details of Funds


	General Unrestricted	Youth	Manse	Total Unrestricted
	£	£	£	£
Receipts	123,710.70	810.12		124,520.82
Payments	-93,575.74	-644.39	0.00	-94,220.13
Surplus/(Deficit)	30,134.96	165.73	0.00	30,300.69
Cashfund Brought Forward	-12,830.55	20,388.95	5,755.70	13,314.10
	17,304.41	20,554.68	5,755.70	43,614.79
Investments	212,849.59			212,849.59
	230,154.00	20,554.68	5,755.70	256,464.38

	Commitment for Life	Legacy -Organ	Total Restricted
	£	£	£
Receipts	2,923.00		2,923.00
Payments	0.00	-195.00	-195.00
Net Receipts/(Payments)	2,923.00	-195.00	2,728.00
Brought Forward	3,123.50	8,114.05	11,237.55
Carried Forward	6,046.50	7,919.05	13,965.55

Approval by Trustees

These accounts were approved by a meeting of the Trustees held on 14 March 2024


Mervyn Davies, Treasurer


Sue Bonny, Secretary



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

SHREWSBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

31st DECEMBER 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1135733

Set out on pages

One and Two

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the 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 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:

Will B Strachan

Date:

13 March 2024

Name:

WILLIAM BARR STRACHAN

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

RETIRED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

22 RYELANDS

RADBROOK

SHREWSBURY SY3 9BZ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

No matters of concern

Shrewsbury URC

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Sue Bonny, Secretary



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

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Independent Examiner's Report

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members of

Charity Name

SHREWSBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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Signed:

Will B Strachan

Date:

13 March 2024

Name:

WILLIAM BARR STRACHAN

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

RETIRED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

22 RYELANDS

RADBROOK

SHREWSBURY SY3 9BZ

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No matters of concern