

**SHREWSBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**CHARITY INFORMATION**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**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 2022**

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

#### **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 2022**

### **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 2022**

### **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**

The beginning of 2022 was once again influenced by the restrictions of the Covid pandemic, with masks, social distancing etc. It was wonderful that as the year progressed, we were able to dispense with the masks, stand to sing, use all the pews and to have refreshments after the service once again. As our confidence grew it was good to see various groups meeting and for members to be able to socialise and to share fellowship with each other once again. However, it was decided that for the foreseeable future evening communion service would continue to be via zoom.

Several notable things took place during 2022. Firstly, the church decided to become part of the Area Pastorate and the area group spent a lot of time producing the profile for a second minister, discussing finances and how the system would work. Towards the end of the year the profile was issued, and an application received from Mark Rodgers an ordinand from Northern College. Mark was invited to Preach with a View early in 2023.

It was a pleasure for the Church to host the Area World Day of Prayer in March. Good feedback was received from the participating members.

In May our minister the Revd Carole Marsden went on sabbatical for three months. Upon her return she informed us that she had been called to serve at Cliff College in Derbyshire. Carole

left mid-December, a sad occasion for us all and she is greatly missed. However, we wish her every blessing in her new role and thank her for all her work during the time she was with us.

It was also a pleasure during the year for the Church Meeting to approve and support a member's application for Lay Preacher training and another member's application for Non-Stipendiary Ministry. We send our blessings to both as they work towards this.

In the office there was a change of staffing as our Administrator retired and a new employee appointed. Our thanks go to the retiring Administrator for the many years of service to our church.

During the year we held our first same sex marriage which was a delightful occasion.

During 2022 many consultation meetings were held to consider proposals for the development of our premises. This culminated in a steering group being appointed to discuss the ideas in detail, taking into consideration points raised by members, and to produce an architect's brief. Work on this is still ongoing and will continue into 2023.

Due to the relaxation of Covid restrictions it was good to be able to embark upon training of members for various roles in the latter half of 2022. Pastoral links were invited to training from the Samaritans and ten members undertook the intermediate level safeguarding training. Elders attended a comprehensive Health and Safety briefing update, presented by our Health and Safety Officer. The Church Secretary attended an online DBS training session.

Junior Church staff were involved in a review of children's work together with Richard Knott, the Children's and Youth Development officer from Synod. This culminated in the church being designated a URC Children and Youth friendly church.

Thank you to all who have served our church in anyway over the year to enable us to worship together, maintain fellowship, and to grow spiritually. Thank you for all the support you have given me, I greatly appreciate it.

# Shrewsbury URC

Charity No 1135733

## Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Receipts

	2022			2021
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Collection - standing orders	43,140.96		43,140.96	45,091
Envelopes	9,827.00		9,827.00	9,803
Loose	3,032.41		3,032.41	805
Children's buckets	651.80		651.80	328
Legacy	-		-	4,500
Donations	4,389.30		4,389.30	3,072
Donations Church Groups	797.61		797.61	623
Gift Aid from HMRC	12,416.49	557.50	12,973.99	13,133
Fundraising	3,272.33		3,272.33	2,373
Income from Investments	6,682.07		6,682.07	6,387
Grants Current Year	1,230.81		1,230.81	7,483
Toddlers	1,145.55		1,145.55	124
Catering/coffee	933.24		933.24	113
Weddings & Funerals	611.50		611.50	4,443
Subscriptions - Reform etc	23.97		23.97	354
Members Car Parking	2,121.00		2,121.00	1,785
Room Hire	40,012.90		40,012.90	23,059
Commercial Car parking	7,031.25		7,031.25	6,900
Church House Rent	5,101.20		5,101.20	3,977
Commitment for Life		3,452.00	3,452.00	2,567
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>142,623.39</b>	<b>4,009.50</b>	<b>146,632.89</b>	<b>136,920</b>

### Payments

	2022			2021
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Ministry & Mission	71,520.00		71,520.00	68,112
Council Tax	2,395.70		2,395.70	2,308
Pulpit Supply	340.00		340.00	40
Ministers expenses	2,472.59		2,472.59	1,906
Local Salaries	20,878.52		20,878.52	13,429
Catering	332.69		332.69	0
Office Costs/Printing & Stationary	4,556.75		4,556.75	4,240
Outreach & Subs/ reform	1,730.98		1,730.98	2,181
Fundraising	22.14		22.14	127
Organ maintenance and music	-	600.00	600.00	290
Youth	2,073.00		2,073.00	1,582
Toddlers	97.77		97.77	60
Messy Vintage	602.32		602.32	314
Training	1,450.00		1,450.00	
Building repairs/maintenance	11,318.14		11,318.14	30,307
Development	5,291.58		5,291.58	0
Gas, Electric & Water	5,990.42		5,990.42	9,744
Insurance	10,030.79		10,030.79	10,504
Equipment	2,073.14		2,073.14	1,088
Commitment for Life	-	12,623.00	12,623.00	0
Bank charges	264.32		264.32	
Sundries	1,136.50		1,136.50	1,597
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>144,977.35</b>	<b>13,223.00</b>	<b>158,200.35</b>	<b>147,829</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>- 2,353.96</b>	<b>- 9,213.50</b>	<b>- 11,567.46</b>	<b>-10,909</b>
Brought Forward	29,727.53	16,943.55	46,671.08	57,580
Carried Forward	27,373.57	7,730.05	35,103.62	46,671

# Statement of Assets

	2022			2021
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Monetary assets HSBC Shrewsbury				
Current a/c	4,369.07	393.83	4,762.90	7,512.44
Shrewsbury – Deposit a/c -	-	7,336.22	7,336.22	22,806.28
COIF deposit account	23,004.49		23,004.49	16,352.36
	27,373.56	7,730.05	35,103.61	46,671.08
Investments	211,512.88		211,512.88	242,455.74
Total Assets	238,886.44	7,730.05	246,616.49	289,126.82

## 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

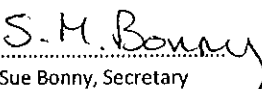
	General				Total
	Unrestricted	Youth	Manse	Messy Vintage	Unrestricted
	£	£	£		£
Receipts	141,971.59	651.80			142,623.39
Payments	-142,904.35	-2,073.00	0.00		-144,977.35
Surplus/(Deficit)	-932.76	-1,421.20	0.00	0.00	-2,353.96
					0.00
Cashfund Brought Forward	2,670.80	19,301.03	5,755.70	2,000.00	29,727.53
	1,738.04	17,879.83	5,755.70	2,000.00	27,373.57
Investments	211,512.88				211,512.88
	213,250.92	17,879.83	5,755.70	2,000.00	238,886.45

	Commitment for		Total Restricted
	Life	Legacy -Organ	
	£	£	
Receipts	4,009.50		4,009.50
Payments	-12,623.00	-600.00	-600.00
Net Receipts/(Payments)	-8,613.50	-600.00	-9,213.50
Brought Forward	9,314.50	7,629.05	16,943.55
Carried Forward	701.00	7,029.05	7,730.05

## 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

31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

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 31/12/2022.

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

Charity No 1135733

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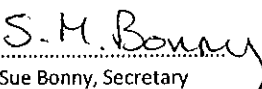
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# CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

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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

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