

Shrewsbury URC

Charity No

1135733

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

Receipts

	2023		2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Collection - standing orders	50,086.75		50,086.75
Envelopes	6,677.05		6,677.05
Loose	5,011.42		5,011.42
Children's buckets	167.49		167.49
Donations	4,738.59		4,738.59
Donations Church Groups	883.10		883.10
Gift Aid from HMRC	12,851.41	865.00	13,716.41
Fundraising	2,869.48		2,869.48
Income from Investments	7,745.57		7,745.57
Grants Current Year	2,736.00		2,736.00
Toddlers	1,861.70		1,861.70
Messy Church	366.10		366.10
Catering/coffee	1,200.40		1,200.40
Weddings & Funerals	160.00		160.00
Subscriptions - Reform etc	0.00		0.00
Members Car Parking	2,060.00		2,060.00
Room Hire	40,980.15		40,980.15
Commercial Car parking	6,987.00		6,987.00
Church House Rent	3,472.27		3,472.27
Church Office Income	243.30		243.30
Commitment for Life		2,432.16	2,432.16
Total Income	151,097.78	3,297.16	154,394.94

Payments

	2023		2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Ministry & Mission	58,188.00		58,188.00
Council Tax	-112.08		-112.08
Pulpit Supply	220.00		220.00
Ministers expenses	5,358.62		5,358.62
Local Salaries	18,471.17		18,471.17
Catering	422.62		422.62
Office Costs/Printing & Stationary	3,760.97		3,760.97
Outreach & Subscriptions	1,809.16		1,809.16
Residential Synod	225.00		225.00
Fundraising	119.82		119.82
Organ maintenance and music	0.00	640.00	640.00
Youth	572.25		572.25
Messy Church & Holiday Club	510.66		510.66
Toddlers	184.28		184.28
Messy Vintage	565.08		565.08
Training	700.00		700.00
Building repairs/maintenance	20,489.29		20,489.29
Development	1,800.00		1,800.00
Gas, Electric & Water	21,155.38		21,155.38
Insurance	11,137.91		11,137.91
Equipment	915.29		915.29
Commitment for Life	0.00		0.00
Bank charges	248.44		248.44
Sundries	1,260.49		1,260.49
Total Payments	148,002.35	640.00	148,642.35
Surplus/(Deficit)	3,095.43	2,657.16	5,752.59
Brought Forward	27,373.57	7,730.05	35,103.62
Carried Forward	30,469.00	10,387.21	40,856.21

Statement of Assets

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Monetary assets HSBC Shrewsbury				
Current a/c	3,674.43	0.00	3,674.43	4,763
Shrewsbury – Deposit a/c -	6,454.11		6,454.11	7,336
HSBC Shrewsbury – Donation a/c	95.50		95.50	0
COIF deposit account	20,244.96	10,387.21	30,632.17	23,004
	30,469.00	10,387.21	40,856.21	35,104
Investments	233,865.35		233,865.35	211,513
Total Assets	264,334.35	10,387.21	274,721.56	246,616

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

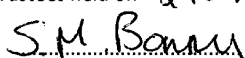
	General				Total
Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Youth	Manse	Messy Vintage	Unrestricted
	£	£	£		£
Receipts	150830.29	167.49		100.00	151,097.78
Payments	-147430.10	-572.25			-148,002.35
Surplus/(Deficit)	3400.19	-404.76	0.00	100.00	3,095.43
Cashfund Brought Forward	1738.04	17,879.83	5,755.70	2,000.00	27,373.57
	5138.23	17,475.07	5,755.70	2,100.00	30,469.00
Investments	233865.35				233,865.35
	239003.58	17,475.07	5,755.70	2,100.00	264,334.35

	Commitment for		Total Restricted
Restricted	Life	Legacy -Organ	
	£	£	
Receipts	3,297.16		3,297.16
Payments	0.00	-640.00	-640.00
Net Receipts/(Payments)	3,297.16	-640.00	2,657.16
Brought Forward	701.00	7,029.05	7,730.05
Carried Forward	3,998.16	6,389.05	10,387.21

Approval by Trustees

These accounts were approved by a meeting of the Trustees held on 29 October 2024


Mervyn Davies, Treasurer


Sue Bonny, Secretary

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Shrewsbury United Reformed Church

I report on the accounts of the Account set on pages 1 and 2 for the year ended 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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.

Basis of examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

Name: **WILLIAM BARR STRACHAN**

Relevant professional qualification if any:

Address: **22 RYELANDS, RADSROOK, SHREWSBURY SY3 9BZ**

Date: **30 October 2024**

Shrewsbury United Reformed Church
Trustees Annual Report
For Year ended 31 December 2023

Charity Number 1135733

Purpose

The purpose of the charity is the promotion of religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of United Reformed Church and associated community and mission activities.

Governing Document

The charity was established by trust deed dated 16 September 2009.

Trustees

Elders are selected by the church membership, from amongst the elder Trustees are nominated to serve as Trustees. The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Sue Bonny

Mervyn Davies

Rachel Coward Resigned 15 March 2024

Graham Tharby Resigned 15 March 2024

Carole Marsden Resigned 15 March 2024

Principal Address

Church House, Coleham Head, Shrewsbury, SY3 7BJ

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they note the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and further confirm that they seek to undertake activities of benefit to the public and the community both local and distant.

Achievements during the year

The beginning of 2023 saw the start of our vacancy period and the changes that would be implemented as the plans to become an Area Pastorate were implemented. We were fortunate that we already had an applicant for one of the posts. In February we had a weekend where Mark Rodgers an ordinand from Northern College came to Preach with a View. This involved Mark visiting the various churches around Shropshire including a visit to Messy Vintage on the Friday afternoon and a social evening in Shrewsbury on the Saturday. It was a delight to have members from the area churches joining us for worship on the Sunday morning. This culminated in a call being issued and accepted by Mark.

In January and February, we trialled holding our Sunday morning worship in St Nicholas Hall to reduce heating costs. There were some initial teething problems, but overall, it was a successful undertaking and gave a different feel to our worship.

In February, Messy Church opened its door for the first time since Covid and is going from strength to strength. Our thanks go to the team who are actively involved in these sessions.

In February, we ran a First Aid Training Course. Attendees reported back that the course was enjoyable, informative and the trainer was excellent. All those took part passed and we now have a total of eight trained first aiders.

In April, we were fortunate to be able to hold a second Preach with a View weekend. It was lovely to be able to welcome the Reverend Camilla Veitch to the area and again a programme was put together to allow Camilla to visit the different churches, with another joint service here in Shrewsbury. I was delighted that this again resulted in a call being issued and accepted.

Early in the year, the Church meeting decided to resume retiring collections for different charities each month. This was in addition to the Christmas charity collections. Charities selected by the church meeting included: The Samaritans, Street Pastors, Operation Sabre, The Ark, Leprosy Mission, Christian Aid and Food Share tables.

During 2023 we continued to welcome new visitors into our church services, and it was a delight to be able to welcome seven new members. This included four young men from the Lion Hotel. Although some of them have now moved on to other places, it was a privilege for us to be able to spend time with them and to learn of their stories.

In August the Ordination and Induction service for Mark took place in Shrewsbury. It was a wonderful occasion and a privilege to share in and to welcome Mark into Ministry. Following on a few weeks later it was a pleasure to travel to Christ Church, Oswestry to be part of in the Camilla's Induction service. Again, this was another joyous occasion, and we are very blessed to have two ministers in place so quickly.

Messy Vintage has continued to thrive during the year. For many of our senior members it is one of their highlights of the month. It is a joy to see the participants engaging in and enjoying the many activities on offer. Our thanks go to all involved for their dedication and hard work in producing such a varied programme.

Elders have continued to meet monthly during the year with Elders leading devotions, chairing the meeting, and providing refreshments. A variety of topics were discussed throughout the year including Church Meeting frequency, the Area Constitution, hopes and dreams for the pastorate, safeguarding, ministry with the elderly, Health and Safety and evening communion.

In November it was a privilege for us to host an area visit by Bishop Sameer Khimla and Raja Moses from the Diocese of Durgapur in the Church of North India. This provided an opportunity for members to hear firsthand about the work in the Diocese.

At various times in the year, we experienced and took part in many special services, including those at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were well attended with our Christmas collections being taken for Embrace the Middle East and the Shropshire Staffordshire Cheshire Blood Bikes.

During the year we celebrated many milestone events with members of our fellowship such as Golden Weddings and birthdays and we remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have had family bereavements.

Throughout the year there have been challenges and joys and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have served our church in anyway, enabling us to worship together, maintain fellowship, and to grow spiritually. We would also like to thank you for all the support received from Elders and the congregation, especially during the period of the vacancy, it has been much appreciated.

Financial Review

Our total income increased to £154,394 thanks to an increase in congregational giving and increased investment income. We controlled our expenditure as a result of a large increase in fuel costs but we invested in improving the energy efficiency of our buildings helped by external grants. By careful control of expenditure we managed a small surplus on unrestricted funds.

At the year end we had cash funds of £40,856 plus a further £233,865 of investments held in Ethical Investments with CCLA.

Reserves

Unrestricted Funds are held for General Purposes plus funds for Youth work, Maintenance of Manses and a grant to Messy Vintage to support ministry with senior members of our community. Restricted Funds are held for donations to Commitment for Life appeal and maintenance of the church organ.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves are held to support the ongoing work of the church and to have funds available should the opportunity present itself to undertake projects for Mission or in relation to our buildings. We seek to hold 26 weeks running costs, current reserves amount to approximately 32 weeks which the Trustees believe acceptable.

The trustees approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

S. M. Bonny

Date 29 October 2024 .