

WYLDE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1136135

Details

Other names	WYLDE GREEN URC CHARITY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-06-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Wylde Green United Reformed Church Britwell Road Sutton Coldfield West Midlands B73 5SW
Phone	0121 354 4838
Email	admin@wyldegreenurc.org.uk
Website	www.wyldegreenurc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEME OF UNION OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH.

Activities: Advancement of the Christian religion in the Sutton Coldfield area of Birmingham

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Birmingham City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£160,862	£152,986	-	-
2023-12-31	£164,981	£183,627	-	-
2022-12-31	£135,059	£128,053	-	-
2021-12-31	£111,075	£111,214	-	-
2020-12-31	£103,709	£89,570	-	-

Trustees

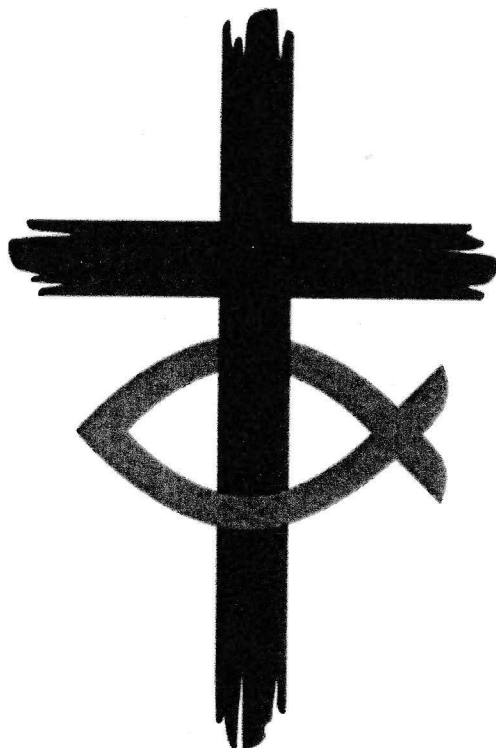
Name	Role	Appointed
Brian Bernard Coney		2024-01-01
Elizabeth Ann Coney		2024-01-01
Helen Rowe		2023-01-01
Jason James Gardner		2021-01-01
Kathryn Ann Willis		2020-01-01
Laura Anne Fowler		2020-01-01
Patricia Mary Lister		2021-01-01
Stephen Robert Goring		2024-01-01
Valerie Madill		2023-01-01

WYLDE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1136135

Accounts

**Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity
Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**



Contents

Trustee's Report	2-6
Independent Examiner's report	7
Statement of Financial Activities for the year	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Accounts	10-13

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Trustees Report

Reference and Administrative Details:

Wylde Green United Reformed Church is situated within the West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Wylde Green URC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1136135)

The correspondence address: Church Secretary Mrs Helen Rowe, 20 Beacon Road Sutton Coldfield B73 5ST

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Church is a constituent part of the United Reformed Church which was formed by Act of Parliament in 1972, as amended in 1981 and 2000. The Governing document of the Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity was adopted by the Church, at a Church Meeting on 15th July 2009 and registration with the Charity Commission was formally confirmed on 1st June 2010. The pastoral and financial oversight of the congregation is achieved through the local councils of the Church and the wider representative councils. These being the elected Elders that formally meet monthly both as Elders of the Church and as Trustees of the Charity and as part of the collective membership at the Church Meeting, which is open to all persons who have been formally admitted to membership of the Church and whose names are on the membership roll. The wider representative councils are the West Midlands Synod to which the Church is affiliated and the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

Governance

The Elders meet monthly both as Elders and where financial matters are concerned, as Trustees of the Church and are the principal management committee of the Church. The Elders Meeting consists of the Minister and of Elders elected by the collective church membership at Church Meeting. The Treasurer (formally known as the Convenor of the Finance Committee) and the Convenor of the Fabric Committee, if not elected Elders, can attend the Elders Meeting as ex-officio members. Elders serve for three years and are then eligible for re-election for a further three years, after which they must stand down for at least a year. The Financial management of the Church is regulated through the Financial Standing Instructions (or the Financial Constitution), which was adopted by the Church Meeting in 2000 and amended in 2003 and further revised and approved at the Church Meeting in November 2011. The detailed financial management is delegated to the Finance Committee, working within this Constitution. The membership of the Finance Committee is made up of officers with particular responsibilities and representatives of the Trustees and the Church Membership. Due to the size of the charity; the Trustees consider that an audit is not required for the 2024 year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that accordingly only an Independent Examination is needed.

The Church Meeting was held six times in the year, one of which was an AGM. The Church Meeting endorses (or not) the decisions of the Trustees on Financial matters and regulates and approves (or not) all other matters associated with the running of the Church. Church Meetings can be attended by anyone connected with the Church, but voting is restricted to members of the Church.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

In September 2019 Revd Dr Christopher Dowd was inducted as the Minister of Wylde Green United Reformed Church. He is an enthusiastic Minister with many innovative ideas to help the Church progress.

Table of Elders

Name	Date Elected	Date Stood Down	Office Held
Laura Fowler	November 2019		
Jason Gardner	November 2020		
Mike Harris	November 2021	November 2024	
Pat Lister	November 2020		
Bev Lyne	November 2018	November 2024	Church Secretary
Val Madill	November 2022		
Helen Rowe	November 2022		
Kathryn Willis	November 2019		
Steve Goring	November 2023		
Liz Coney	November 2023		
Brian Coney	November 2023		

Other Post Holders

Youth Worker

In December our Youth Worker, Faye Boyd, started in post. This is 3 year post jointly funded by West Midlands Synod and Sutton Municipal Charities (a local charity). She supported the Christmas services and activities and started to get to know the church membership and local community.

Trainee CRCW

At the November church meeting Bev Lyne, a long time member of the church, was unanimously supported by the members to candidate as a non stipendiary CRCW.

Aims and Objectives

The Church operates within the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church and the Governing Document approved by the membership at Church Meeting.

The objectives of the church can be summarised as 'the advancement of religion' but specifically quantified by the following:

- To provide regular public worship for all
- To promote the Christian faith
- To teach the faith to all ages
- To provide training, nurture and activities for children and young people
- To serve the community
- To give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty
- To provide premises and resources for community groups and activities.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

The Church's Mission Statement is:

'Making the love of Jesus a reality in the community seven days a week. Reaching out, welcoming in.'

Activities and Performance

The number of church members as at 31st December 2024 was: 85.

The number of Junior Church children and young people at the same date was: 16.

During 2024 we continued our church services at 11am on Sunday mornings and we were able to offer a digital Zoom service for those not able to join us in person. We introduced with a monthly rotation of service styles for Sunday evening: Soul Space; a time of quiet and reflection in the sanctuary with quiet music followed by Compline; Film and discussion, Discussion group exploring such issues as the general election and assisted dying. Other services included daily morning and evening online prayers and our 4.30pm phone in service on Sunday afternoons and an Open Table communion once a month aimed at the LBGT+ community. Once a month there is family time for the children and parents of the church. We have started a grief support group for the community running twice a month. Our midweek prayer lunch on Wednesdays continued to thrive. For those in our fellowship who are not online, we continued to prepare and deliver a weekly pack, which included daily liturgy, prayers, Sunday sermon and prayers for others. Weekly Bible Study continued on line and in person and included people from as far as Cardiff and Yorkshire. Christian Education continued also with several study days. We held morning Holy Week Prayers and Breakfast at Easter, and invited the local Ministers from different Christian traditions to lead the services each day. We did an re enactment of the last supper on Maundy Thursday and held a Taizé service on Good Friday.

It was a great joy to hold Sunday services on the church field. Worshipping God outside for Easter Day sunrise service, pet service, carols and fireworks etc as well as church fairs.

We continued our social events throughout the year with concerts, films, quizzes, and fairs. As an expression of our concern for the environment and the fragility of God's creation our Wylder&Greener Eco group continued work in preparing our community garden space with a grow to share ethos and using the LOAF principles of Locally Grown, Organic, Animal Friendly and Fairtrade. The Eco group also organised several children's Eco sessions during the year to increase awareness and develop learning and continued the work of increasing the wildlife and diversity on the church field. We held several events to raise awareness of Fair-Trade issues including a fair-trade breakfast and autumn coffee morning. In July we enjoyed a sponsored walk from Wylde Green URC to Lichfield Cathedral; a distance of 14 miles; to raise funds for a community defibrillator and bleed kit to site on the outside of the church. The fundraising was so successful we were able to purchase a second defibrillator which has been installed elsewhere in the community. Our older person chair exercise class to promote health and well being continues to be a popular weekly event and we also enjoy the tea and chat afterwards! Over the winter months we again offered a warm welcome space where we served breakfast, board games and prepared crafts and other activities for families to enjoy. We have welcomed the local repair café to our premises once a month which has proved very popular. We have continued to decorate our Church doors to share our Christian ethos with our neighbours. Our outside prayer box continues to be well used by people in the locality, and the prayers form part of our morning worship. Our crafty

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

knitters have continued regular decoration of the post box situated outside our church and the scenes have included Father's day, Easter, Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Day.

Britwell Fair Trade and Eco Shop CIC continued to run with additions of new Eco Friendly products and a refill station for cleaning products. The shop has four charities it supports and profits are donated to: The Fair Trade Foundation, Climate Coalition, Transform Trade and a local community charity. The shop continued to open on Saturday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Sunday after the church service. We also were successful in opening after our university concerts held throughout the year.

We are delighted that the Hen Welfare Trust continue to use our field to rehome hens. This was arranged three times during 2024.

Following the successful church holidays held over the last few years we travelled this year to Swansea. Twelve people travelled from Wylde Green and we were joined by Rev Dr Janet Tollington who led daily Bible Study.

Our Junior Church was run and co-ordinated by Susan Jones. Junior Church was active on Sundays and catered for babies through to teenagers. During the school holidays we ran a breakfast and crafts club for a week, with children from junior church and from our local community.

The Church also has 6 uniformed organisations: A Guide Unit (currently not meeting), one Brownie pack, one Rainbow Unit, a Scout Troop, a Cub Scout pack and a Beaver Colony. The scouts held their annual bonfire night fundraising event in November. We also provided room space for some Uniformed groups connected to a different church.

Adult Groups and activities which are part of the Church include:

A Badminton club, a book group, the Church Choir, a Sunday lunch at a local restaurant for those people who live alone, and family lunches held at the church and in the grounds. We hosted a monthly film club, and several community Food Courts and began a weekly gentle chair exercise group. Our Wylder&Greener Eco Group met regularly and took positive actions which gained us a silver award. We are now working hard to achieve gold status. A variety of other organisations not directly connected with the Church, use the Church premises each week and pay a rental for their use of the facilities.

We were very happy to welcome students from Birmingham University to perform regular Sunday afternoon concerts and continued to delight in the orchestral concert performances from Enigma Brass, Sutton Wind Band and the Black Country Big Band. We held a Proms event where Enigma Brass, Sutton Wind Band, Black Country Big Band and The Peoples Show choir all performed over the space of an afternoon. Refreshments were available and the event was well supported by the community.

The church was involved in collections for Papyrus, a young person's suicide prevention charity, Christian Aid, and supported the Leprosy Mission, Birmingham City Mission, a local food bank and St Basils homeless charity, as well as appeals made by the Disasters Emergency Committee. This year we

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

paraded the streets in December with the Christmas Santa Float, raising funds for Acorns Children's Hospice. A group of members joined the Christians at Gay Pride in Birmingham city centre.

Our Christmas events and services included Blue Christmas which took place on the 21st of December, the shortest day of the year, Carols and Fireworks, a community event on the church field, Beer and Carols which took place at our local Deli shop, a 70s sing along nativity service and a more traditional crib service as well as our regular Christmas Eve, Midnight and Christmas Day services. The Christmas charities we supported were Christian Aid Sudan appeal, Papyrus (a local suicide prevention charity), Centrepont and Medicine Sans Frontier.

Church Premises

The condition of the Church, Manse and other associated buildings is of constant concern and a large part of our annual budget is devoted to the routine repairs, maintenance and upkeep of these facilities.

External contractors were employed to carry out specific duties such as the regular servicing of the fire system, the heating system and lightning protection.

The Church has been the recipient of a number of bequests and it is the duty of the Eldership to ensure the responsible use of these funds and as such the Elders have liaised with the Fabric and Finance Committees in order to discuss and plan how these funds should be used to support the objectives of the church.

There are two principal concerns that face the Charity on an on-going basis:

- The reliability of 'Congregational Giving' as its major income
- A fabric 'disaster'

The Church has a team whose particular responsibilities are being aware of and implementing the Health and Safety requirements on the premises; as part of this we are fully aware of the varying needs of our members and visitors and print the details of the provisions we have for those with disabilities or special needs at the back of the Church Handbook.

Prepared on behalf of the Trustees by Helen Rowe

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Trustee: *Helen Rowe*

Date: *12th October 2025*

Trustee: *BB Conroy*

Date: *12/oct/2025*

Wylde Green United Reformed Church

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Wylde Green URC

I report on the accounts of Wylde Green United Reformed Church for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items presented with those records and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirement (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act: and (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed on 26 June 2025 by

Monk

Roger Monk
Independent Examiner

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	General Funds	Legacy Fund	People & Outreach Funds	Fabric Projects Fund	Total Funds	Total Funds
					2024	2023
Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources						
	48,352	-	-	-	48,352	60,346
Congregational giving						
	14,026	-	-	-	14,026	16,262
Tax recovered						
	51,028	-	-	-	51,028	44,434
Lettings						
Donations and grants	2	32,143	-	-	32,143	34,814
Investment income		1,199	-	-	1,199	1,341
Other & Fundraising events		13,164	-	-	13,164	7,084
Wedding fees			-	-	950	700
	950					
Total incoming resources	<u>160,862</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160,862</u>	<u>164,981</u>
	2					
Resources expended						
	44,940	-	-	-	44,940	52,464
URC disbursements						
Salaries, fees & grants	3	29,750	-	-	29,750	23,050
Manse expenses	4	13,036	-	-	13,036	4,232
Church expenses	5	25,149	-	-	25,149	16,901
Fabric committee	6		-	-	17,904	64,040
	17,904					
General expenses		5,585	-	-	5,585	12,837
Subscriptions and donations		5,180	-	-	5,180	5,133
Church life		11,442	-	-	11,442	6,970
Total resources expended	<u>152,986</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>152,986</u>	<u>183,627</u>
	6					
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	7,876	-	-	-	7,876	(18,646)
Fund balances at 1 January	76,702	72,840	13,399	-	143,359	
Fund balances at 31 December	<u>64,996</u>	<u>72,840</u>	<u>13,399</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,235</u>	<u>143,359</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these Accounts.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

		Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	7	11,508	7,887
Cash on deposit	8	133,989	115,306
Cash at bank		10,481	25,669
		155,978	148,862
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	4,743	5,479
Net current assets		151,235	143,383
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net total assets		151,235	143,383

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these Accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on ^{12th} ~~xx~~ October ²⁰²⁵ ~~2024~~ and authorised to be signed on their behalf by:

B Bloney

Trustee

EAConey

Trustee

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commissioners and with applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom.

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of accruals accounting. Therefore income is matched with associated expenditure. In summary, accruals accounting requires that:

income is recognised at the point when it is due to the charity, regardless of whether any cash associated with the transaction has actually been received and

expenditure is recognised at the point when the relevant goods and services are supplied, regardless of whether or not an invoice has been received or payment has actually been made.

A summary follows of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently.

Tangible fixed assets

Property associated with the charity is vested in URC (W.Midlands) Trust Ltd, the Synod trust body, and cannot be disposed of without the consent of the Synod Finance Committee. This property is therefore considered inalienable and no useful purpose would be gained by the inclusion of an amount in the accounts for land and buildings.

Equipment, furniture and fittings purchased by the charity are treated as outgoing resources in the year of purchase and therefore no amount is shown in the balance sheet for such items.

Fixed asset investments

Investments in government stocks and similar items which are intended to be held for more than one year are treated as fixed assets. The initial cost of investments is their purchase cost. Investments are valued at market value at the balance sheet date. Changes in value during the year are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from investments is included, together with any recoverable tax element, as an incoming resource to the general fund on an accruals basis.

Legacies

Legacies are treated as income in the year in which they are received. Where a donor has placed conditions on the use of a legacy it is set apart from the general funds of the charity and used only for the specific purpose intended. Legacies over £500 received without conditions should be designated to particular reserves in accordance with the charity's Financial Standing Instructions and Reserves policy.

Income Tax recovered

Receipts in respect of Tax claims for Gift Aid donations are treated as relating to the calendar year in which the tax year ends i.e. those relating to the tax year ended 5th April 2023 are included as income in 2023. Similarly, with regard to claims under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme these are treated as income quarterly in arrears i.e. tax recoverable in this respect up to 30th September 2023, is included as income in 2023.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Reserves

The charity has no endowment or restricted funds at present. Funds apart from the charity's general fund are established by the Trustees and Reserves may be designated to those funds in accordance with the charity's current reserves policy.

2 Donations and grants received

	2024	2023
	£	£
General Funds		
Donations passing through	5,432	4,475
Mothers & Toddlers Group	0	1,680
Other grants	3,846	1,578
Youth project income	7,525	0
From former members	2,000	520
Music Events	0	1,358
Traidcraft	0	0
Badminton	225	220
Baptism, wedding & funeral donations	800	300
Fees donated	0	0
Synod grant manse and church	11,948	0
Others inc food court	0	840
Synod energy improvement grant	0	17,796
Community garden grant	367	4,300
	32,143	33,067
People & Outreach Fund (includes Older persons activity project)		
Congregational donations	0	647
Sutton Coldfield Town Council Grant	0	1,100
	0	1,747
Total	32,142	34,814

3 Salaries, fees & grants

	2024	2023
	£	£

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wages and Salaries

Minister's car and book allowances (after 20% Synod recovery)	1,310	55
Pulpit & Organist supply	320	160
Caretakers, Cleaners and others	25,325	20,876
Youth worker expenditure	2,033	
Employers' NIC & Pension contributions	762	1,958
	29,750	23,050

4 Manse expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Council tax (after 20% Synod recovery)	2,554	2,359
Water (after 20% Synod recovery)	293	549
Repairs & renewals (after £500 Synod Grant)	10,189	1,324
	13,036	4,232

5 Church expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gas	9,702	11,557
Insurance (2023 inc fabric spend)	5,841	
Electricity	4,431	3,637
Water	893	1,099
Rates		
Telephone & WIFI	547	608
Subscriptions and Licences	2,363	
Instrument Maintenance	1,372	
	25,149	16,901

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

6 Fabric Committee

	2024	2023
	£	£
Church and halls (2023 inc insurance)	12,364	15,896
Fabric Projects 2023 energy improvements	317	37,354
Synod Fencing Grant	0	0
Field toilet and community garden	5,223	8,790
	17,904	62,040

7 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Lettings	4,862	1,448
Prepayments	6,646	6,439
Other debtors	0	0
	11,508	7,887

8 Investments

Churches' Mutual Credit Union account having a balance of £40,407 (2022: £40,306). HSBC deposit accounts £43,582 Chartiy bank account £50,000

9 Creditors

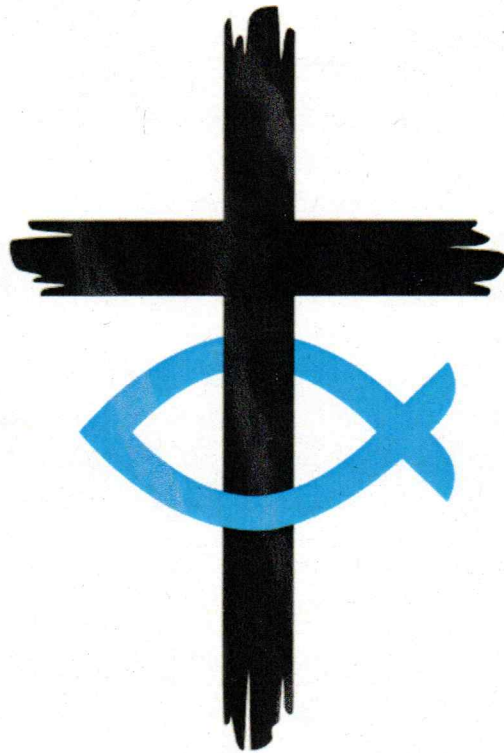
	2023	2022
	£	£
Commitment for Life		
Utilities		2,029
Other creditors & accruals	4,743	3,450
Amounts held for Church purposes: Choir gown fund	0	0
 Christmas Collections	 0	 0
	4,743	3,795

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England & Wales - Charity number 1136135

Accounts

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Governance

The Elders meet monthly both as Elders and where financial matters are concerned, as Trustees of the Church and are the principal management committee of the Church. The Elders Meeting consists of the Minister and of Elders elected by the collective church membership at Church Meeting. The Treasurer (formally known as the Convenor of the Finance Committee) and the Convenor of the Fabric Committee, if not elected Elders, can attend the Elders Meeting as ex-officio members. Elders serve for three years and are then eligible for re-election for a further three years, after which they must stand down for at least a year. The Financial management of the Church is regulated through the Financial Standing Instructions (or the Financial Constitution), which was adopted by the Church Meeting in 2000 and amended in 2003 and further revised and approved at the Church Meeting in November 2011. The detailed financial management is delegated to the Finance Committee, working within this Constitution. The membership of the Finance Committee is made up of officers with particular responsibilities and representatives of the Trustees and the Church Membership. Due to the size of the charity; the Trustees consider that an audit is not required for the 2023 year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that accordingly only an Independent Examination is needed.

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Table of Elders

Name	Date Elected	Date Stood Down	Office Held
Laura Fowler	November 2019		
Jason Gardner	November 2020		
Jacqui Goring	November 2020	December 2023	
Heather Hall	November 2020	December 2023	
Mike Harris	November 2021		
Andrew Hughes	November 2020	December 2023	
Leon Karatekin	November 2022	May 2023	
Samara Knight	November 2021	August 2023	
Pat Lister	November 2020		Jt Church Secretary
Bev Lyne	November 2018		Jt Church Secretary
Val Madill	November 2022		
Helen Rowe	November 2022		
Kathryn Willis	November 2019		

Aims and Objectives

The Church operates within the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church and the Governing Document approved by the membership at Church Meeting.

The objectives of the church can be summarised as 'the advancement of religion' but specifically quantified by the following:

- To provide regular public worship for all
- To promote the Christian faith
- To teach the faith to all ages
- To provide training, nurture and activities for children and young people
- To serve the community
- To give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty
- To provide premises and resources for community groups and activities.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

The Church's Mission Statement is:

'Making the love of Jesus a reality in the community seven days a week. Reaching out, welcoming in.'

Activities and Performance

The number of church members as at 31st December 2023 was: 102.

The number of Junior Church children and young people at the same date was: 27.

During 2023 we continued our church services at 11am on Sunday mornings and we were able to offer a digital Zoom service for those not able to join us in person. Other services included daily morning and evening online prayers and our 4.30pm phone in service on Sunday afternoons. Our midweek prayer lunch on Wednesdays continued to thrive. For those in our fellowship who are not online, we continued to prepare and deliver a weekly pack, which included daily liturgy, prayers, Sunday sermon and prayers for others. Weekly Bible Study continued on line and in person and included people from as far as Cardiff and Yorkshire. Christian Education continued also with several study days including theology around the LGBTQ+ community. We held morning Holy Week Prayers and Breakfast at Easter, and invited the local Ministers from different Christian traditions to lead the services each day. We also read the Gospel of Mark in its entirety on Maundy Thursday.

It was a great joy to hold Sunday services on the church field. Worshipping God outside for Easter Day sunrise service, pet service, carols and fireworks etc as well as church fairs.

We continued our social events throughout the year with concerts, films, theatre trips, quizzes, and fairs. As an expression of our concern for the environment and the fragility of God's creation our Wylder&Greener Eco group continued work in preparing our community garden space with a grow to share ethos and using the LOAF principles of Locally Grown, Organic, Animal Friendly and Fairtrade. The Eco group also organised several children's Eco sessions during the year to increase awareness and develop learning and continued the work of increasing the wildlife and diversity on the church field. We held several events to raise awareness of Fair-Trade issues including a fair-trade breakfast and autumn coffee morning. In May we joined together to watch and celebrate the King's Coronation and in July we held a very successful 24 hour 'Great Toilet Sit' to raise funds for our Outside Toilet to be located on the field. We successfully obtained a grant to set up an older person chair exercise class to promote health and well being. It is a popular weekly event and we also enjoy the tea and chat afterwards! Over the winter months we again offered a warm welcome space where we served breakfast, board games and prepared crafts and other activities for families to enjoy. We have continued to decorate our Church doors to share our Christian ethos with our neighbours. Our outside prayer box continues to be well used by people in the locality, and the prayers form part of our morning worship. Our crafty knitters have continued regular decoration of the post box situated outside our church and the scenes have included the Coronation, Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Day.

Britwell Fair Trade and Eco Shop CIC continued to run with additions of new Eco Friendly products. The shop has four charities it supports so any excess funds are attributed to The Fair Trade Foundation, Climate Coalition, Transform Trade and a local community charity. The shop continued to open on Saturday mornings and also Sunday after the church service. We also were successful in opening after our university concerts held throughout the year.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

We are delighted that the Hen Welfare Trust continue to use our field to rehome hens. This was arranged three times during 2023.

Following the successful church holidays held over the last few years we travelled this year to Cambridge, staying in Westminster College. Twelve people travelled from Wylde Green and we were joined by Rev Dr Janet Tollington who led daily Bible Study.

Our Junior Church was run and co-ordinated by Susan Jones. Junior Church was active on Sundays and catered for babies through to teenagers. During the school holidays we ran a breakfast and crafts club for a week, with children from junior church and from our local community. The local Infant School also came and held their Christmas Service in the church.

The Church also has 6 uniformed organisations: A Guide Unit (currently not meeting), one Brownie pack, one Rainbow Unit, a Scout Troop, a Cub Scout pack and a Beaver Colony. The scouts held their annual bonfire night fundraising event in November. We also provided room space for some Uniformed groups connected to a different church.

Adult Groups and activities which are part of the Church include:

A Badminton club, a book group, the Church Choir, Church Band, a Sunday lunch at a local restaurant for those people who live alone, and family lunches held at the church and in the grounds. We hosted a monthly film club, and several community Food Courts and began a weekly gentle chair exercise group. Our Wylder&Greener Eco Group met regularly and took positive actions which gained us a silver award. We are now working hard to achieve gold status. A variety of other organisations not directly connected with the Church, use the Church premises each week and pay a rental for their use of the facilities.

We were very happy to welcome students from Birmingham University to perform regular Sunday afternoon concerts and continued to delight in the orchestral concert performances from Enigma Brass, Sutton Wind Band and the Black Country Big Band.

The church was involved in collections for Papyrus, a young person's suicide prevention charity, Christian Aid, and supported the Leprosy Mission, Birmingham City Mission, a local food bank and St Basils homeless charity, as well as appeals made by the Disasters Emergency Committee. This year we paraded the streets in December with the Christmas Santa Float, raising funds for Acorns Children's Hospice.

Our Christmas events and services included Blue Christmas which took place on the 21st of December, the shortest day of the year, Carols and Fireworks, a community event on the church field, Beer and Carols which took place at our local Deli shop as well as our regular Christmas Eve, Midnight and Christmas Day services. The Christmas charities we supported were the Red Cross Gaza Appeal, and Cherished a local based charity that offers care and support for children and young people.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Church Premises

The condition of the Church, Manse and other associated buildings is of constant concern and a large part of our annual budget is devoted to the routine repairs, maintenance and upkeep of these facilities. External contractors were employed to carry out specific duties such as the regular servicing of the fire system, the heating system and lightning protection.

The Church has been the recipient of a number of bequests and it is the duty of the Eldership to ensure the responsible use of these funds and as such the Elders have liaised with the Fabric and Finance Committees in order to discuss and plan how these funds should be used to support the objectives of the church.

There are two principal concerns that face the Charity on an on-going basis:

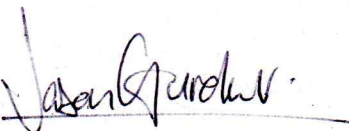
- The reliability of 'Congregational Giving' as its major income
- A fabric 'disaster'

The Church has a team whose particular responsibilities are being aware of and implementing the Health and Safety requirements on the premises; as part of this we are fully aware of the varying needs of our members and visitors and print the details of the provisions we have for those with disabilities or special needs at the back of the Church Handbook.

Prepared on behalf of the Trustees by Bev Lyne

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Trustee:



Date:

17/09/2024

Trustee:



Date:

17/9/2024

Wylde Green United Reformed Church

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Wylde Green URC

I report on the accounts of Wylde Green United Reformed Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items presented with those records and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirement (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act: and (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed on 22 May 2024 by

R. D. Monk
.....

Roger Monk
Independent Examiner

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

		General Funds	Legacy Fund	People & Outreach Funds	Fabric Projects Fund	Total Funds	Total Funds
						2023	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Incoming resources</i>							
Congregational giving		60,346	-	-	-	60,346	69,352
Tax recovered		16,262	-	-	-	16,262	15,402
Lettings		44,434	-	-	-	44,434	35,289
Donations and grants	2	17,018	-	-	17,796	34,814	7,700
Investment income		1,341	-	-	-	1,341	571
Other & Fundraising events		7,084	-	-	-	7,084	6,745
Wedding fees		700	-	-	-	700	-
Total incoming resources		147,185	-	-	17,796	164,981	135,059
<i>Resources expended</i>							
URC disbursements		52,464	-	-	-	52,464	52,464
Salaries, fees & grants	3	23,050	-	-	-	23,050	24,511
Manse expenses	4	4,232	-	-	-	4,232	3,368
Church expenses	5	16,901	-	-	-	16,901	14,773
Fabric committee	6	24,686	-	-	37,354	62,040	16,753
General expenses		12,837	-	-	-	12,837	10,170
Subscriptions and donations		5,133	-	-	-	5,133	456
Church life		6,970	-	-	-	6,970	5,558
Total resources expended		146,273	-	-	37,354	183,627	128,053
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		912	-	-	(19,558)	(18,646)	7,006
Fund balances at 1 January		65,790	82,840	13,399	(19,558)	162,029	
Fund balances at 31 December		76,702	72,840	13,399	(19,558)	143,383	162,029

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these Accounts.

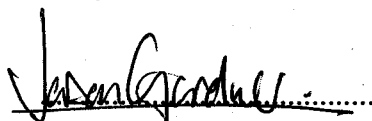
Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

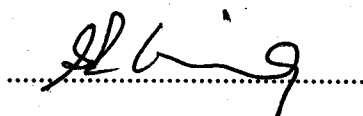
		Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	8	7,887	2,292
Cash on deposit	9	115,306	125,266
Cash at bank		25,669	37,984
		148,862	165,542
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	5,479	3,513
Net current assets		143,383	162,029
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net total assets		143,383	162,029
 Reserves			
General Funds		76,702	65,790
Legacy Fund	7	72,840	82,840
People & Outreach Funds		13,399	13,399
Fabric Projects Fund		(19,558)	-
Total reserves		143,383	153,582

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these Accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on xx October 2024 and authorised to be signed on their behalf by:



Trustee



Trustee

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commissioners and with applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom.

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of accruals accounting. Therefore income is matched with associated expenditure. In summary, accruals accounting requires that:

income is recognised at the point when it is due to the charity, regardless of whether any cash associated with the transaction has actually been received and
expenditure is recognised at the point when the relevant goods and services are supplied, regardless of whether or not an invoice has been received or payment has actually been made.

A summary follows of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently.

Tangible fixed assets

Property associated with the charity is vested in URC (W.Midlands) Trust Ltd, the Synod trust body, and cannot be disposed of without the consent of the Synod Finance Committee. This property is therefore considered inalienable and no useful purpose would be gained by the inclusion of an amount in the accounts for land and buildings.

Equipment, furniture and fittings purchased by the charity are treated as outgoing resources in the year of purchase and therefore no amount is shown in the balance sheet for such items.

Fixed asset investments

Investments in government stocks and similar items which are intended to be held for more than one year are treated as fixed assets. The initial cost of investments is their purchase cost. Investments are valued at market value at the balance sheet date. Changes in value during the year are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from investments is included, together with any recoverable tax element, as an incoming resource to the general fund on an accruals basis.

Legacies

Legacies are treated as income in the year in which they are received. Where a donor has placed conditions on the use of a legacy it is set apart from the general funds of the charity and used only for the specific purpose intended. Legacies over £500 received without conditions should be designated to particular reserves in accordance with the charity's Financial Standing Instructions and Reserves policy.

Income Tax recovered

Receipts in respect of Tax claims for Gift Aid donations are treated as relating to the calendar year in which the tax year ends i.e. those relating to the tax year ended 5th April 2023 are included as income in 2023. Similarly, with regard to claims under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme these are treated as income quarterly in arrears i.e. tax recoverable in this respect up to 30th September 2023, is included as income in 2023.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Reserves

The charity has no endowment or restricted funds at present. Funds apart from the charity's general fund are established by the Trustees and Reserves may be designated to those funds in accordance with the charity's current reserves policy.

2 Donations and grants received

	2023	2022
	£	£
General Funds		
Donations passing through	4,475	
Mothers & Toddlers Group	1,680	1,680
Other grants	1,578	
Book Group	0	50
From former members	520	250
Music Events	1,358	0
Traidcraft	0	1,500
Badminton	220	245
Baptism, wedding & funeral donations	300	350
Fees donated	0	0
Uniformed Organisations	0	0
Others inc food court	840	0
Synod energy improvement grant	17796	0
Community garden grant	4300	0
	33,067	4,075
People & Outreach Fund (includes Older persons activity project)		
Congregational donations	647	375
Field Shed donation from member	0	250
Sutton Coldfield Town Council Grant	1,100	3000
	1,747	3625
Total	34,814	7,700

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

3 Salaries, fees & grants DRAFT

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries		
Minister's car and book allowances (after 20% Synod recovery)	55	1,099
Pulpit & Organist supply	160	0
Caretakers, Cleaners and others	20,876	22,802
Employers' NIC & Pension contributions	1,958	609
	23,050	24,510

4 Manse expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Council tax (after 20% Synod recovery)	2,359	1,802
Water (after 20% Synod recovery)	549	228
Repairs & renewals (after £500 Synod Grant)	1,324	852
	4,232	2,882

5 Church expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gas	11,557	5,951
Insurance (2023 inc fabric committee)		4,941
Electricity	3,637	2,470
Water	1,099	720
Rates		97
Telephone & WIFI	608	594
	16,901	14,773

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

6 Fabric Committee

	2023	2022
	£	£
Church and halls (2023 inc insurance)	15,896	7,229
Fabric Projects 2023 energy improvements	37,354	10,851
Synod Fencing Grant	0	(1,327)
Field toilet and community garden	8,790	0
	62,040	16,753

7 Legacy Fund

	2023	2022
	£	£
Total brought-forward	72,840	82,840
Received from Executors	0	0
Allocations	0	0
	0	0
Total carried-forward	82,840	82,840

The Legacy Fund holds three unconditional legacies received in 2017 and is used to segregate those funds from the General Funds of the Charity. In 2022 the Trustees allocated £10,000 to 2023 Energy Efficiency Projects.

8 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Lettings	1,448	573
Prepayments	6,439	331
Other debtors	0	1,883
	7,887	2,787

9 Investments

90 & 35 day Charity deposit accounts are held with the Teachers Building Society standing at £75,000 (2022: £85,000), with a Churches' Mutual Credit Union account having a balance of £40,306 (2022: £40,234). A Charities' Deposit Account with CCLA Investment Management Limited was also held, which was closed during the year (2021: £8).

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

10 Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Commitment for Life		464
Utilities	2,029	2,320
Other creditors & accruals	3,450	953
Amounts held for Church purposes:		
Choir gown fund	0	58
Christmas Collections	0	0
	<u>3,795</u>	<u>3,795</u>

WYLDE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1136135

Accounts

**Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity
Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022**



Contents

Trustee's Report	2-6
Independent Examiner's report	7
Statement of Financial Activities for the year	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Accounts	10-15

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Trustees Report

Reference and Administrative Details:

Wylde Green United Reformed Church is situated within the West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Wylde Green URC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1136135)

The correspondence address (Joint Church Secretary) is: Ms Pat Lister, 3 Heathlands Crescent, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5EP

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Church is a constituent part of the United Reformed Church which was formed by Act of Parliament in 1972, as amended in 1981 and 2000. The Governing document of the Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity was adopted by the Church, at a Church Meeting on 15th July 2009 and registration with the Charity Commission was formally confirmed on 1st June 2010. The pastoral and financial oversight of the congregation is achieved through the local councils of the Church and the wider representative councils. These being the elected Elders that formally meet monthly both as Elders of the United Reformed Church and as Trustees of the Charity and as part of the collective membership at the Church Meeting, which is open to all persons who have been formally admitted to membership of the Church and whose names are on the membership roll. The wider representative councils are the West Midlands Synod to which the Church is affiliated and the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

Governance

The Elders meet monthly both as Elders and where financial matters are concerned, as Trustees of the Church and are the principal management committee of the Church. The Elders Meeting consists of the Minister and of Elders elected by the collective church membership at Church Meeting. The Treasurer (formally known as the Convenor of the Finance Committee) and the Convenor of the Fabric Committee, if not elected Elders, can attend the Elders Meeting as ex-officio members. Elders serve for three years and are then eligible for re-election for a further three years, after which they must stand down for at least a year. The Financial management of the Church is regulated through the Financial Standing Instructions (or the Financial Constitution), which was adopted by the Church Meeting in 2000, amended in 2003 and further revised and approved at the Church Meeting in November 2011. The detailed financial management is delegated to the Finance Committee, working within this Constitution. The membership of the Finance Committee is made up of officers with particular responsibilities and representatives of the Trustees and the Church Membership. Due to the size of the charity, the Trustees consider that an audit is not required for the 2022 year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that accordingly only an Independent Examination is needed.

The Church Meeting is held six times a year, one of which is an AGM. The Church Meeting endorses (or not) the decisions of the Trustees on Financial matters and regulates and approves (or not) all other matters associated with the running of the Church. Church Meetings can be attended by anyone connected with the Church, but voting is restricted to members of the Church.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Revd Dr Christopher Dowd has been the Minister of Wylde Green United Reformed Church since September 2019. He is an enthusiastic minister with many innovative ideas to help the Church progress.

Table of Elders

The Trustees of the Church during 2022 were:

Name	Date Elected	Date Stood Down	Office Held
Philip Barker	November 2019	December 2022	
Joan Cox	November 2020	December 2022	
Laura Fowler	November 2019		
Alastair Frew	November 2016	December 2022	
Jason Gardner	November 2020		
Jacqui Goring	November 2020		
Heather Hall	November 2020		
Michael Harris	November 2021		
Andrew Hughes	November 2020		
Tony Hughes	November 2020	December 2022	
Sue Jones	November 2016	December 2022	
Samara Knight	November 2021		
Pat Lister	November 2020		Church Secretary
Ed Lyne	November 2020	September 2022	
Bev Lyne	November 2018		Church Secretary
Mark Miles	November 2019	December 2022	
Susan Miles	November 2016	December 2022	
Kathryn Willis	November 2019		

Aims and Objectives

The Church operates within the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church and the Governing Document approved by the membership at Church Meeting.

The objectives of the church can be summarised as 'the advancement of religion' but specifically quantified by the following:

- To provide regular public worship for all
- To promote the Christian faith
- To teach the faith to all ages
- To provide training, nurture and activities for children and young people
- To serve the community
- To give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty
- To provide premises and resources for community groups and activities.

The Church's Mission Statement is:

'Making the love of Jesus a reality in the community seven days a week. Reaching out, welcoming in.'

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Activities and Performance

The number of church members as at 31st December 2022 was: 126.

The number of Junior Church children and young people at the same date was: 29.

With the relaxation and removal of Covid regulations the church was able to return to normal activities. Services continued to be held in church and using ZOOM. The 2nd Sunday afternoon tea service continued until July when it was felt it was no longer needed as a separate service. Monthly Open Table services teamed with Inclusive Gathering were launched in January for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their friends and family.

Other services included daily morning and evening online prayers, weekly prayer lunch and our 5.30pm weekly Sunday phone-in service. For those in our fellowship who are not online we continued to prepare and deliver a weekly pack which included daily liturgy, prayers, Sunday sermon and Thoughts for the Week. Bible studies continued via zoom and church members were joined by people from as far away as Cornwall, Cardiff and Yorkshire. It was a great joy to hold Sunday services on the church field, worshipping God outside for the Easter Day sunrise service, pet service, carol and fireworks, etc.

We continued our social life with a Burns night celebration, concerts, films, fish and chip suppers and curry nights. Christian education of the congregation included a study day on Liberation Theology, another entitled 'Family, Friend or Foe? – Israel and her neighbours' given by Rev Dr Janet Tollington, retired head of Old Testament studies at Westminster College, Cambridge, and Safeguarding training.

Following the price rise for gas and electricity, we opened Highbridge Hall as a Warm Welcome from the beginning of December. Families, single people and older people were welcomed in to help themselves to breakfast and refreshments, mainly kindly donated by Tesco. Entertainment was available for children, and newspapers and discussion available for adults. The cost of running this was supported by a grant of £1,100 from Sutton Coldfield Town Council which was received in 2023.

Throughout the year Wylder & Greener, our Eco group worked hard to increase the wildlife and diversity on the church field. The field has become a special space for church services, fairs, dog training, etc. This enabled us to hold a Spring fair on the field. In March our Community Fairtrade event helped church and community learn about Fairtrade and the fight against global trade injustice. In June we held a Flower Festival marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with flower arrangements portraying her residences. Again, making use of the newly cleared field, Wylder & Greener held a Community Eco-Festival with music, dance, drama, Eco-stalls, environmental groups, talks, demonstrations and workshops, etc. We also held a table-top sale and a Christmas sale. These all gave us opportunity to get to know the community around us.

We continued to decorate our Church doors to share our Christian ethos with our neighbours. Our outside prayer box was well used by people in the locality, and the prayers posted there formed part of our morning worship. Our crafty knitters continued regular decoration of the post box situated outside our church, keeping it well decorated according to the season or national events.

WGURC had been a supporter of Traidcraft plc ever since opening our shop in church in 1983. We supplied goods to other local outlets on a sale or return basis and over the years we hosted Traidcraft

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

national roadshows several times and also the AGM. When Traidcraft plc ceased trading our loyal and devoted organisers were able to take well-deserved retirement. A new group of organisers took over and renamed the shop 'Britwell Fair Trade and Eco Shop'. As before, the shop opened on Saturday mornings as well as after Sunday morning services.

Following the successful church holidays held over the last two years, we changed the venue to Scarborough this year. 12 people travelled from Wylde Green and were joined by Rev Dr Janet Tollington, retired head of Old Testament studies at Westminster College, Cambridge, who led daily Bible studies for those who wanted.

Our Junior Church was run and co-ordinated by Sue Jones. Junior Church was active on Sundays and catered for babies through to teenagers. During the summer school holidays we ran a holiday club for a week, with children from junior church and from our local community and at Christmas we had the welcome return of our junior church festival service. The local infant school also came and held their Christmas service in the church.

We also had 6 uniformed organisations: A Guide Unit (currently not meeting), one Brownie pack, one Rainbow Unit, a Scout Troop, a Cub Scout pack and a Beaver Colony.

Activities which are part of the Church included:

A badminton club, a book group, the Church Choir, the Church Band, a group who live alone and enjoy a monthly Sunday lunch together at a local restaurant, and family lunches on the Church field. In addition to the Wylder & Greener Eco Group. A variety of other organisations not directly connected with the Church used the Church premises each week and paid a rental for their use of the facilities.

We were very happy to welcome students from Birmingham University to put on concerts, as well as Enigma Brass Ensemble, who have held regular concerts at Wylde Green for many years.

The Church continued to play an active part in Churches Together in Boldmere, Banners Gate and Wylde Green and was represented at West Midlands URC Synod meetings.

It participated in the Christian Aid collection and supported The Leprosy Mission, Birmingham City Mission, a local food bank and St Basil's Charity as well as appeals made by the Disasters Emergency Committee. This year the Christmas float which enabled Father Christmas to travel round local roads supported Acorns Children's Hospice and Amnesty International.

It was with the greatest sadness that Oliver'68, the group set up by church members in 1968, to operate as a holiday scheme for disadvantaged children from Birmingham, decided they could no longer continue. Over 2,000 children had enjoyed holidays with new and exciting experiences and activities, while staying at the Oliver house on the Welsh coast which was bought due to the generosity of the church and a loan from Birmingham City Council.

The condition of the Church, Manse and other associated buildings was of constant concern and a large part of our annual budget was devoted to the routine repairs, maintenance and upkeep of these facilities.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

The Church was the recipient of a number of bequests and it is the duty of the Eldership to ensure the responsible use of these funds. As such the Elders liaised with the Fabric and Finance Committees in order to discuss and plan how these funds should be used to support the objectives of the church.

There are two principal concerns that face the Charity on an on-going basis:

- The reliability of 'Congregational Giving' as its major income
- A fabric 'disaster'

We remained fully aware of the varying needs of our members and visitors and printed the details of the provisions for those with disabilities, or special needs at the back of the Church Handbook.

In spite of both Synod and Wylde Green URC's Financial Standing Instructions stating that a Finance Committee Convenor should always be in post, nobody could be found who felt able to take on this role, so Elders could see no choice but to manage with an Elder acting as the link between the Finance Committee and the Eldership during 2022.

The 2022 Accounts show a strong recovery in Receipts, particularly Lettings, from the levels recorded during the COVID pandemic, with Payments understandably increasing as well, but to a smaller extent. Modest Government COVID grants were also received (compared to 2021), whilst the capability of the Church to offer remote participation by Zoom was significantly enhanced, together with the completion of the Security Fencing of the Church Field and the Room 2 renovations. Overall, after including these items, and associated funding from Members and Synod, the Charity recorded a surplus for 2022 of a little over £3,500. In the first part of 2023 a member kindly agreed to take on the role of Finance Committee Convenor.

Prepared on behalf of the Trustees by Pat Lister and Bev Lyne

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Trustee *P. M. Lister*

Trustee



Date: 31 October 2023

Wylde Green United Reformed Church

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Wylde Green URC

I report on the accounts of Wylde Green United Reformed Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1-5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items presented with those records and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirement (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act: and (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed on 30 October 2023 by

R D. Monk

.....
Roger Monk
Independent Examiner

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

		General Funds	Legacy Fund	People & Outreach Funds	Fabric Projects Fund	Total Funds	Total Funds
						2022	2021
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Incoming resources</i>							
Congregational giving		69,352	-	-	-	69,352	58,210
Tax recovered		15,402	-	-	-	15,402	12,658
Lettings and COVID grants		35,289	-	-	-	35,289	34,456
Donations and grants	2	4,075	-	3,625	-	7,700	2,996
Investment income		571	-	-	-	571	308
Other & Fundraising events		6,745	-	-	-	6,745	2,447
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		131,434	-	3,625	-	135,059	111,075
<i>Resources expended</i>							
URC disbursements		52,464	-	-	-	52,464	50,760
Salaries, fees & grants	3	24,511	-	-	-	24,511	24,174
Manse expenses	4	3,368	-	-	-	3,368	2,411
Church expenses	5	14,773	-	-	-	14,773	11,236
Fabric committee	6	7,229	-	-	9,524	16,753	13,684
General expenses		10,170	-	-	-	10,170	4,834
Subscriptions and donations	7	456	-	-	-	456	986
Church life	8	5,558	-	-	-	5,558	3,129
Fabric Project allocation	10	3,347	-	2,352	(5,699)	-	-
Total resources expended		121,876	-	2,352	3,825	128,053	111,214
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		9,558	-	1,273	(3,825)	7,006	(139)
Fund balances at 31 December		65,790	82,840	13,399	-	162,029	153,582

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these Accounts.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

		Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments	10	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	11	2,292	3,569
Cash on deposit	12	125,266	125,242
Cash at bank		37,984	29,740
		165,542	158,551
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	3,513	4,969
Net current assets		162,029	153,582
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net total assets		162,029	153,582
 Reserves			
General Funds		65,790	54,791
Legacy Fund	9	82,840	82,840
People & Outreach Funds		13,399	12,126
Fabric Projects Fund		-	3,825
Total reserves		162,029	153,582

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these Accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 31 October 2023 and authorised to be signed on their behalf by:

.....*L. Fowler*.....

Trustee

.....*KAWillis*.....

Trustee

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

1 Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commissioners and with applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom.

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of accruals accounting. Therefore income is matched with associated expenditure. In summary, accruals accounting requires that:

income is recognised at the point when it is due to the charity, regardless of whether any cash associated with the transaction has actually been received and
expenditure is recognised at the point when the relevant goods and services are supplied, regardless of whether or not an invoice has been received or payment has actually been made.

A summary follows of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently.

Tangible fixed assets

Property associated with the charity is vested in URC (W.Midlands) Trust Ltd, the Synod trust body, and cannot be disposed of without the consent of the Synod Finance Committee. This property is therefore considered inalienable and no useful purpose would be gained by the inclusion of an amount in the accounts for land and buildings.

Equipment, furniture and fittings purchased by the charity are treated as outgoing resources in the year of purchase and therefore no amount is shown in the balance sheet for such items.

Fixed asset investments

Investments in government stocks and similar items which are intended to be held for more than one year are treated as fixed assets. The initial cost of investments is their purchase cost. Investments are valued at market value at the balance sheet date. Changes in value during the year are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from investments is included, together with any recoverable tax element, as an incoming resource to the general fund on an accruals basis.

Legacies

Legacies are treated as income in the year in which they are received. Where a donor has placed conditions on the use of a legacy it is set apart from the general funds of the charity and used only for the specific purpose intended. Legacies over £500 received without conditions should be designated to particular reserves in accordance with the charity's Financial Standing Instructions and Reserves policy.

Income Tax recovered

Receipts in respect of Tax claims for Gift Aid donations are treated as relating to the calendar year in which the tax year ends i.e. those relating to the tax year ended 5th April 2022 are included as income in 2022. Similarly, with regard to claims under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme these are treated as income quarterly in arrears i.e. tax recoverable in this respect up to 30th September 2022, is included as income in 2022.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Donations passing through the charity

The charity bank account is used as a means of collecting money and then passing it on to other organisations at various times during the year. Such donations are treated as neither income nor expenditure of the charity on the grounds of immateriality. The amounts are reported in Note 14 to the accounts.

Reserves

The charity has no endowment or restricted funds at present. Funds apart from the charity's general fund are established by the Trustees and Reserves may be designated to those funds in accordance with the charity's current reserves policy.

2 Donations and grants received

	2022	2021
	£	£
General Funds		
Mothers & Toddlers Group	1,680	560
Book Group	50	0
From former member	250	275
Friday Friendship	0	0
ECO Festival	0	110
Music Events	0	47
Traidcraft	1,500	0
Badminton	245	150
Baptism, wedding & funeral donations	350	150
Fees donated	0	0
Uniformed Organisations	0	0
Others	0	124
	<u>4,075</u>	<u>1,416</u>
People & Outreach Fund (includes Older persons activity project)		
Congregational donations	375	580
Field Shed donation from member	250	1,000
Sutton Coldfield Town Council Grant	3,000	0
	<u>3,625</u>	<u>1,580</u>
Total	<u>7,700</u>	<u>2,996</u>

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

3 Salaries, fees & grants

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and Salaries		
Minister's car and book allowances (after 20% Synod recovery)	1,100	1,092
Pulpit & Organist supply	0	0
Caretakers, Cleaners and others	22,802	22,489
Employers' NIC & Pension contributions	609	593
	<u>24,511</u>	<u>24,174</u>

4 Manse expenses

	2022	2021
	£	£
Council tax (after 20% Synod recovery)	1,802	1,739
Water (after 20% Synod recovery)	228	136
Repairs & renewals	1352	536
	<u>3,382</u>	<u>2,411</u>

5 Church expenses

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gas	5,951	3,416
Insurance	4,941	4,733
Electricity	2,470	2,211
Water	720	329
Rates	97	46
Telephone & WIFI	594	501
	<u>14,773</u>	<u>11,236</u>

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

6 Fabric Committee

	2022	2021
	£	£
Church and halls	7,229	6,975
Fabric Projects (see also Note 10)	10,851	6,709
Synod Fencing Grant	(1,327)	0
	16,753	13,684

7 Subscriptions & donations made

	2022	2021
	£	£
Levenson Foundation	8	8
DEC: Ukraine Appeal (Note 14)	242	0
URC Silence & Retreats network	20	20
Christmas Appeals (Note 14)	116	776
CTBBGWG (subscription)	0	80
Synod Officers' retirements	0	0
Christian Aid re. Vaccines appeal	0	47
Leprosy Mission	0	0
DEC: Pakistan Floods Appeal (Note 14)	40	0
Christian Aid re. Afghanistan	0	55
Others	30	0
	456	986

8 Church life

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank Card Readers	640	0
COVID costs	0	176
Flower fund & Festival	700	0
Annual Copyright Licences	620	217
Wylder & Greener	697	0
Junior + Messy Church & Fundraising costs	2,901	1,886
	5,558	2,279
Field Shed	0	850
	5,558	3,129

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

9 Legacy Fund

	2022 £	2021 £
Total brought-forward	82,840	82,840
Received from Executors	0	0
Allocations	0	0
	0	0
Total carried-forward	82,840	82,840

The Legacy Fund holds three unconditional legacies received in 2017 and is used to segregate those funds from the General Funds of the Charity. In 2022 the Trustees allocated £10,000 to 2023 Energy Efficiency Projects.

10 Fixed assets

The church currently has no fixed asset investments, holding all its reserves as cash in hand, at bank or cash deposits of less than one year to maturity.

Property associated with the church is vested in URC (W. Midlands) Trust Ltd, the Synod trust body. For information, the current (2023) valuations for insurance purposes are shown below:-

Britwell Road, Sutton Coldfield, Church premises & all associated assets £9,254,872

The Manse at 45 Beacon Road, Sutton Coldfield is now insured by the Synod

During the period 1999 to 2004 inclusive the church incurred major expenditure on improvements and repairs to its buildings as part of the Centenary & Millennium projects, totalling £290,357, including new sanctuary heating and access-for-all alterations to the church vestibule, together with extending and refurbishing Britwell Hall and its rooms, together with repairing and improving the Organ.

Subsequently, between 2005 and 2012 smaller specific Fabric projects were completed, at a total cost of £54,500 (£45,721 after Synod & Joseph Scott Trust grants and congregational Donations) for improvements to the Highbridge Hall kitchen, the fencing of the Church Field, Room 1, together with new Church lighting, repairs to the Parapet and roof, alterations to the Vestry, Ministers' toilet & Traidcraft store, refurbishment of the Corridor toilets, Manse and replacement double-glazed windows.

Since then further projects have been completed as follows:-

£37,684 (£2,194 after a Grant of £35,490 from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust) for a replacement Boiler and installation of further fuel-efficient double-glazing and insulation in 2013

£2,170 for renovation and new seating in the Church Lounge in 2014

£6,356 (£2,168 after donations) for enhancements to the Church audio capability from 2013 to 2016

£11,556 for replacement uPVC Doors & Windows in 2015, 2016 & 2017

£3,600 (£nil after a Legacy allocation) for replacement Cladding & Soffits in the Halls in 2015

£14,100 for the installation of Fire Alarm and Gas safety systems during 2015 & 2016

£11,694 (£nil after donations & a £6,000 Legacy allocation) for the Visual system from 2015 to 2017

£2,000 for new Pew Runners in the Church (£nil after a Legacy allocation)

£5,844 to renovate and / or redecorate the Choir Vestry, Paint Store & Britwell Corridor 2016 to 2018

£7,825 for Britwell Hall 2017 & 2018 renovations, and £1,684 for CCTV Security in 2017

In 2019, £20,075 for replacing Boilers & upgrading heating systems, £11,561 for renovation of the Manse & Ministers' Vestry, £1,484 for the Room 1 Visual system (£1,040 after donations), £1,209 for new Church signage and £993 for improved Tower access

£1,930 was spent in 2020 to improve Church Field security and access, during the COVID pandemic

In 2021 £3,609 was spent on Room 2 modifications, £1,486 on CCTV improvements and £1,614 to install WIFI throughout the Church premises

In 2022 the Room 2 project cost £2,764 to complete, whilst after a Synod Grant of £1,327 the Church Field fencing cost £4,337, and enhancement of Zoom capability cost £71, after Tablet funding of £2,352.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

11 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	2,292	3,569
	2,292	3,569

12 Investments

90 & 35 day Charity deposit accounts are held with the Teachers Building Society standing at £85,000 (2021: £85,000), with a Churches' Mutual Credit Union account having a balance of £40,266 (2021: £40,234). A Charities' Deposit Account with CCLA Investment Management Limited was also held, which was closed during the year (2021: £8).

13 Creditors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Commitment for Life	464	450
Utilities	2,320	1,013
Other creditors & accruals	671	3,448
Amounts held for Church purposes:		
Choir gown fund	58	58
Christmas Collections	0	0
	3,513	4,969

14 Donations passing through church funds

	2022
	£
Alzheimers Society concert	147
DEC Appeals (Note 7)	
- Ukraine	758
- Pakistan Floods	60
Christmas Appeals (Note 7)	
- St Basil's	327
- Amnesty International	192
- Acorns Children's Hospice	192

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

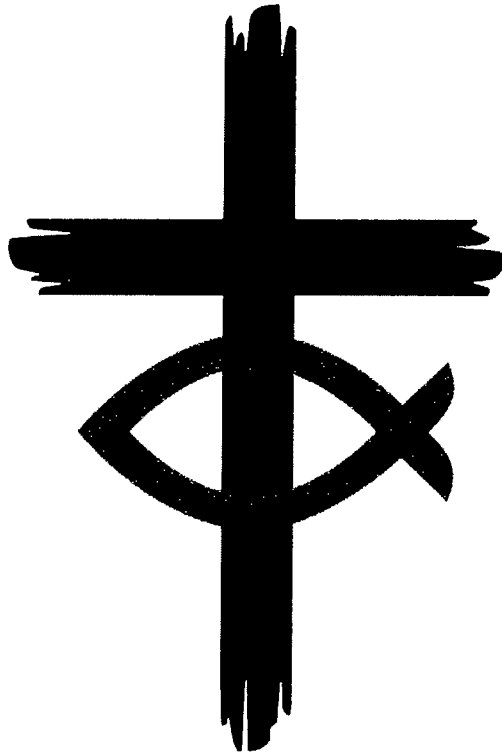
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WYLDE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1136135

Accounts

**Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity
Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021**



Contents

Trustee's Report	2-6
Finance Committee Convenor's report	7
Independent Examiner's report	8
Statement of Financial Activities for the year	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Accounts	11-16

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Trustees Report

Reference and Administrative Details:

Wylde Green United Reformed Church is situated within the West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Wylde Green URC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1136135)

The correspondence address (Joint Church Secretary) is: Ms Pat Lister, 3 Heathlands Crescent, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5EP

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Church is a constituent part of the United Reformed Church which was formed by Act of Parliament in 1972, as amended in 1981 and 2000. The Governing document of the Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity was adopted by the Church, at a Church Meeting on 15th July 2009 and registration with the Charity Commission was formally confirmed on 1st June 2010. The pastoral and financial oversight of the congregation is achieved through the local councils of the Church and the wider representative councils. These being the elected Elders that formally meet monthly both as Elders of the Church and as Trustees of the Charity and as part of the collective membership at the Church Meeting, which is open to all persons who have been formally admitted to membership of the Church and whose names are on the membership roll. The wider representative councils are the West Midlands Synod to which the Church is affiliated and the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

Governance

The Elders meet monthly both as Elders and where financial matters are concerned, as Trustees of the Church and are the principal management committee of the Church. The Elders Meeting consists of the Minister and of Elders elected by the collective church membership at Church Meeting. The Treasurer (formally known as the Convenor of the Finance Committee) and the Convenor of the Fabric Committee, if not elected Elders, can attend the Elders Meeting as ex-officio members. Elders serve for three years and are then eligible for re-election for a further three years, after which they must stand down for at least a year. The Financial management of the Church is regulated through the Financial Standing Instructions (or the Financial Constitution), which was adopted by the Church Meeting in 2000 and amended in 2003 and further revised and approved at the Church Meeting in November 2011. The detailed financial management is delegated to the Finance Committee, working within this Constitution. The membership of the Finance Committee is made up of officers with particular responsibilities and representatives of the Trustees and the Church Membership. Due to the size of the charity; the Trustees consider that an audit is not required for the 2021 year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that accordingly only an Independent Examination is needed.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

The Church Meeting is held six times a year, one of which is an AGM. The Church Meeting endorses (or not) the decisions of the Trustees on Financial matters and regulates and approves (or not) all other matters associated with the running of the Church. Church Meetings can be attended by anyone connected with the Church, but voting is restricted to members of the Church.

In September 2019 Revd Dr Christopher Dowd was inducted as the Minister of Wylde Green United Reformed Church and he is also the Minister of Coleshill United Church. He is an enthusiastic minister with many innovative ideas to help the Church progress.

Table of Elders

The Trustees of the Church during 2021 were:

Name	Date Elected	Date Stood Down	Office Held
Philip Barker	November 2019		
Joan Cox	November 2020		
Rhiannon Fenton-May	November 2020	August 2021	
Laura Fowler	November 2019		
Alastair Frew	November 2016		
Jason Gardner	November 2020		
Jacqui Goring	November 2020		
Heather Hall	November 2020		
Andrew Hughes	November 2020		
Tony Hughes	November 2020		
Sue Jones	November 2016		
Pat Lister	November 2020		
Ed Lyne	November 2020		
Bev Lyne	November 2018		
Mark Miles	November 2019		
Susan Miles	November 2016		
Alexandra Wheadon	November 2015	December 2021	Church Secretary
Kathryn Willis	November 2019		

Aims and Objectives

The Church operates within the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church and the Governing Document approved by the membership at Church Meeting.

The objectives of the church can be summarised as 'the advancement of religion' but specifically quantified by the following:

- To provide regular public worship for all
- To promote the Christian faith
- To teach the faith to all ages
- To provide training, nurture and activities for children and young people

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

- To serve the community
- To give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty
- To provide premises and resources for community groups and activities.

The Church's Mission Statement is:

'Making the love of Jesus a reality in the community seven days a week. Reaching out, welcoming in.'

Activities and Performance

The number of church members as at 31st December 2021 was: 125.

The number of Junior Church children and young people at the same date was: 29.

During the pandemic we continued to hold weekly services using Zoom until 20th June. We held services on the church field and then returned to gathering in the church building on 25th July 2021. These services were completely COVID compliant and were available on Zoom for those not able to attend in person. During this time, we began a monthly afternoon tea service at 3pm. Other services included daily morning and evening online prayers, weekly prayer lunch, Messy Church and our 5.30pm weekly phone in service. For those in our fellowship who are not online we prepared and delivered a weekly pack which included daily liturgy, prayers, Sunday sermon and thoughts for the week. Bible studies and prayer groups have continued via zoom and have been well attended. In December we were pleased to welcome Rainbow Voices LGBT choir to lead a very enjoyable carol service. We also welcomed people from across the LGBTQ+ community as our representatives worked with Inclusive Church Birmingham towards the launch of Open Table services at our church.

During the year and despite the obvious difficulties caused by the pandemic, the Church continued with its forward-thinking plan. As we missed out on our Christmas celebrations last year due to the pandemic, we held a Christmas In June event on our church field, which was an opportunity for our community to join with us in celebration. Then as an expression of our concern for the environment and the fragility of God's creation our Wylder&Greener Eco group organised a Community Arts and Eco Festival in October which was well attended and extremely successful. We now have monthly social meet ups at a local restaurant or in church and also monthly film afternoons with tea and cake! We have continued to decorate our Church doors to share our Christian ethos with our neighbours. Our outside prayer box is still well used by people in the locality, and the prayers form part of our morning worship. Our crafty knitters have begun regular decoration of the post box situated outside our church which began by commemorating Remembrance Day and has continued through Christmas and beyond.

Our Junior Church is run and co-ordinated by Sue Jones. Junior Church is active on Sundays and caters for babies through to teenagers. During the school holidays we ran a holiday club for a week, with children from junior church and from our local community and at Christmas we had the welcome return of our junior church festival service. The Church also has 6 uniformed organisations: A Guide Unit (currently not meeting), one Brownie pack, one Rainbow Unit, a Scout Troop, a Cub Scout pack and a Beaver Colony.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Adult Groups and activities which are part of the Church include:

A Badminton club, the Boldmere Recorded Music Society, a book group, the Church Choir, the Church Band, a Sunday lunch at a local restaurant for those people who live alone, and family lunches on the Church field. In addition, the Wylder&Greener Eco Group was formed in October 2020. A variety of other organisations not directly connected with the Church, use the Church premises each week and pay a rental for their use of the facilities. All these Groups and Activities have been massively adversely impacted by the pandemic but, where possible, they have resumed.

The Church hosts a Traidcraft shop that is usually open on Saturday mornings and after the morning and afternoon services on a Sunday. This has also been affected by the Church not being open for a significant part of the year, but when a service has taken place and where possible, the Traidcraft shop has been open after such services for a short while. The Traidcraft shop also supplies similar operations in other churches in the district.

The Church plays an active part in Churches Together in Boldmere, Banners Gate and Wylde Green, is represented at West Midlands Synod meetings and participates in Christian Aid and Leprosy Mission collections.

Church Premises

The condition of the Church, Manse and other associated buildings is of constant concern and a large part of our annual budget is devoted to the routine repairs, maintenance and upkeep of these facilities.

To ensure we stayed socially and legally compliant, Church services and prayer meetings were held over the internet using Zoom during the early part of the year. However, as some activities started to be allowed, we responded by updating our risk assessments, protocols and procedures thereby safeguarding the Church and also making the experience of visiting and taking part in any activities as safe as possible.

The Church Elders had decided at the start of the pandemic that neither the caretaker nor the cleaner should be furloughed; thus, enabling them to thoroughly clean the Church, halls and rooms between the permissible room users. This was a huge undertaking and took up virtually all of their time whilst such activities were still allowed, in some cases more than their allotted hours.

As rules became stricter regarding lettings and they were no longer employed carrying out these additional cleaning duties, they were provided with a list of jobs that would normally be addressed during holiday shut-downs, e.g. painting the corridors, varnishing floors, cleaning carpets, curtains and windows, painting rooms, clearing and tidying cupboards and storage areas etc. Work outside included cutting the field and clearing vegetation from the unused tennis courts as well as many tasks that had historically utilised external contractors, all in readiness for future use. External contractors were employed to carry out specific duties such as the regular servicing of the fire system, the heating system and lightning protection.

The Church has been the recipient of a number of bequests and it is the duty of the Eldership to ensure the responsible use of these funds. As such the Elders have liaised with the Fabric and Finance

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Committees in order to discuss and plan how these funds should be used to support the objectives of the church.

There are two principal concerns that face the Charity on an on-going basis:

- The reliability of 'Congregational Giving' as its major income
- A fabric 'disaster'

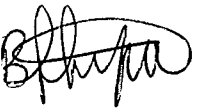
Whilst there is a current vacancy for Finance Convenor, within our Finance Committee, Elders are satisfied that the alternative measures of a link Elder is adequate for the stewardship of the charity's finances.

We are fully aware of the varying needs of our members and visitors and print the details of the provisions we have for those with disabilities or special needs at the back of the Church Handbook.

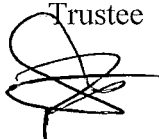
Prepared on behalf of the Trustees by Pat Lister and Bev Lyne

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Trustee


(MRS BEV LYNE)

Trustee


JASON GREEN

Date: 13th October 2022

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Finance Committee Convenor's Report

I am pleased to present the Accounts for the year that ended on 31st December 2021. Due to the impact of COVID, these have again been finalised later than desirable, so I'd like to thank those involved for their continued application to this task, given the personal challenges we've all continued to face. I'm also grateful to the Finance Committee as a whole, particularly Kay, Robin and Andrew whose long-standing commitment and knowledge has continued to keep the financial management of the Church sound throughout the pandemic, especially when the Committee has been unable to meet in person.

Exceptionally, a Budget for 2021 was not completed due to the unknown impact of the COVID pandemic and its on-going effect. Instead, the Finance Committee agreed a minimal operational spend with the Fabric Committee to ensure the safe upkeep of the properties, with this expenditure being tracked against previous levels (after allowing for Fabric work done by our non-furloughed employees) with any essential one-off costs being managed on an exceptional basis. As the COVID restrictions eased towards the middle of the year we were gradually able to resume many of the activities integral to Church Life that had been postponed for so long, and ultimately resume full use of the Church buildings that had been closed for much of the previous 18 months.

The key financial impact felt in the main part of 2020 was Regular Giving from the Congregation being lower and less regular, than previously, the loss of almost all Letting income and loose collections, balanced by reduced central charges from Synod, and a gain from Government COVID grants. It is pleasing to report that in 2021, Regular Giving, Letting income and loose collections steadily recovered during the second part of the year, whilst although we did not benefit from a continued reduction in Synod central charges, we continued to receive Government COVID grants at a substantial level.

General Funds receipts for 2021 (excluding Government grants) were £6,500 above 2020 (2020 receipts were £26,900 below 2019), with the recovery of Lettings being the main component. After concern over the likely strength of this recovery post-COVID, this was very welcome and Regular Giving and loose collections also strengthened as hoped, following the resumption of in-person worship and church based activities.

General Funds spending for 2021 (excluding the 2020 Synod central charges relief) was £11,500 above the 2020 level (2020 spending was £9,900 below 2019), with increases spread across all areas of expenditure, except Salaries, which remained stable throughout this time, as Elders decided not to furlough our employees, applying their time to COVID security measures and Fabric maintenance tasks not requiring specialist skills or materials.

The General Funds 2021 financial outcome, excluding Government grants, was a deficit of £17,900 (2020 deficit of £12,950 excluding exceptionals), however after including these credits, there was only a deficit of £1,600 (2020 surplus of £13,350). This total was after the spend of some £6,700 on Fabric Projects in respect of Room 2 modifications, CCTV improvements and the installation of WIFI throughout the Church premises. It should be noted that the Government COVID grants received in 2021 of £16,350 do not carry any liability for repayment.

The Trustees, the Congregation and their representatives continue to consider what the remaining Legacy Funds (around £83,000) may be applied to. The 2022 Budget includes £3,825 in respect of the cost of further security fencing to the Church field, aided by a 25% Synod grant. In addition to this the Tablet Fund of around £2,350 (included in the People & Outreach fund) is earmarked for Church Zoom and camera upgrades.

It is a matter of concern that following the end of my term of office, the Finance Convenor role has been vacant for all of 2022, as no Trustee has been prepared to take on the task. With the 2022 Budget showing a deficit of £9,000, which appears likely to be substantially exceeded, not least because of substantial Utility cost increases, the absence of this leadership is undesirable and although the Charity's on-going financial position and solvency remains broadly satisfactory, this position requires continual attention.

Presented by:  Date: 13th October 2022
Dave Evans, Finance Committee Convenor 2018 to 2021

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Wylde Green URC

I report on the accounts of Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

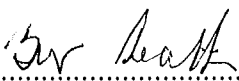
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed on 13th October 2022 by:


.....

Brian Leather
Independent Examiner

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

		General Funds	Legacy Fund	People & Outreach Funds	Fabric Projects Fund	Total Funds	Total Funds
						2021	2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Incoming resources</i>							
Congregational giving		58,210	-	-	-	58,210	58,426
Tax recovered		12,658	-	-	-	12,658	13,301
Lettings and COVID grants		34,456	-	-	-	34,456	23,517
Donations and grants	2	1,416	-	1,580	-	2,996	6,445
Investment income		308	-	-	-	308	535
Other income		2,447	-	-	-	2,447	485
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Total incoming resources		<u>109,495</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,580</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,075</u>	<u>103,709</u>
<i>Resources expended</i>							
URC disbursements		50,760	-	-	-	50,760	38,637
Salaries, fees & grants	3	24,174	-	-	-	24,174	24,292
Manse expenses	4	2,411	-	-	-	2,411	4,058
Church expenses	5	11,236	-	-	-	11,236	8,853
Fabric committee	6	6,975	-	-	6,709	13,684	6,095
General expenses		4,834	-	-	-	4,834	3,050
Subscriptions and donations	7	986	-	-	-	986	1,472
Church life	8	2,279	-	850	-	3,129	3,313
Fabric Project allocation	10	7,415	-	-	(7,415)	-	(200)
Total resources expended		<u>111,070</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>(706)</u>	<u>111,214</u>	<u>89,570</u>
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources		(1,575)	-	730	706	(139)	14,139
Fund balances at 1 January		56,366	82,840	11,396	3,119	153,721	139,582
Fund balances at 31 December		<u>54,791</u>	<u>82,840</u>	<u>12,126</u>	<u>3,825</u>	<u>153,582</u>	<u>153,721</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these Accounts.

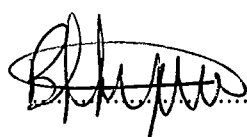
Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

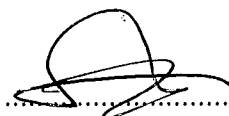
		Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments	10	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	11	3,569	3,303
Cash on deposit	12	125,242	133,741
Cash at bank		29,740	18,727
		158,551	155,771
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	4,969	2,050
Net current assets		153,582	153,721
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net total assets		153,582	153,721
 Reserves			
General Funds		54,791	56,366
Legacy Fund	9	82,840	82,840
People & Outreach Funds		12,126	11,396
Fabric Projects Fund		3,825	3,119
Total reserves		153,582	153,721

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these Accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 13th October 2022 and authorised to be signed on their behalf by:



Trustee
(Mrs Bev Lyne)



Trustee
JASON GARDINER

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commissioners and with applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom.

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of accruals accounting. Therefore income is matched with associated expenditure. In summary, accruals accounting requires that:

- income is recognised at the point when it is due to the charity, regardless of whether any cash associated with the transaction has actually been received and
- expenditure is recognised at the point when the relevant goods and services are supplied, regardless of whether or not an invoice has been received or payment has actually been made.

A summary follows of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently.

Tangible fixed assets

Property associated with the charity is vested in URC (W.Midlands) Trust Ltd, the Synod trust body, and cannot be disposed of without the consent of the Synod Finance Committee. This property is therefore considered inalienable and no useful purpose would be gained by the inclusion of an amount in the accounts for land and buildings.

Equipment, furniture and fittings purchased by the charity are treated as outgoing resources in the year of purchase and therefore no amount is shown in the balance sheet for such items.

Fixed asset investments

Investments in government stocks and similar items which are intended to be held for more than one year are treated as fixed assets. The initial cost of investments is their purchase cost. Investments are valued at market value at the balance sheet date. Changes in value during the year are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from investments is included, together with any recoverable tax element, as an incoming resource to the general fund on an accruals basis.

Legacies

Legacies are treated as income in the year in which they are received. Where a donor has placed conditions on the use of a legacy it is set apart from the general funds of the charity and used only for the specific purpose intended. Legacies over £500 received without conditions should be designated to particular reserves in accordance with the charity's Standing Financial Instructions and reserves policy.

Income Tax recovered

Receipts in respect of Tax claims for Gift Aid donations are treated as relating to the calendar year in which the tax year ends i.e. those relating to the tax year ended 5th April 2021 are included as income in 2021. Similarly, with regard to claims under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme these are treated as income quarterly in arrears i.e. tax recoverable in this respect up to 30th September 2021, is included as income in 2021.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Donations passing through the charity

The charity bank account is used as a means of collecting money and then passing it on to other organisations at various times during the year. Such donations are treated as neither income nor expenditure of the charity on the grounds of immateriality. The amounts are reported in Note 14 to the accounts.

Reserves

The charity has no endowment or restricted funds at present. Funds apart from the charity's general fund are established by the Trustees and Reserves may be designated to those funds in accordance with the charity's current reserves policy.

2 Donations and grants received

	2021	2020
	£	£
General Funds		
Mothers & Toddlers Group	560	1,680
Britwell Circle	0	150
From former member	275	0
Friday Friendship	0	50
ECO Festival	110	0
Music Events	47	0
Traidcraft	0	1,500
Badminton	150	155
Baptism, wedding & funeral donations	150	0
Fees donated	0	250
Uniformed Organisations	0	20
Others	124	0
	<u>1,416</u>	<u>3,805</u>
People & Outreach Fund (incl. Tablets)		
Congregational donations	580	1,640
Field Shed donation from member	1,000	0
Synod & Legacy funding for Tablets	0	2,000
	<u>1,580</u>	<u>3,640</u>
Total (including 2020 Legacy transfer)	<u>2,996</u>	<u>7,445</u>

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

3 Salaries, fees & grants

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries		
Minister's car and book allowances (after 20% Synod recovery)	1,092	996
Pulpit & Organist supply	0	80
Caretakers, cleaners and others	22,489	22,629
Employers' NIC & Pension contributions	593	587
	<u>24,174</u>	<u>24,292</u>

4 Manse expenses

	2021	2020
	£	£
Council tax (after 20% Synod recovery)	1,739	1,654
Water & (2020) Insurance (after 20% Synod recovery)	136	406
Repairs & renewals (after £500 Synod Grants & (2020) £250 Minister contribution)	536	1,998
	<u>2,411</u>	<u>4,058</u>

5 Church expenses

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gas	3,416	2,108
Insurance	4,733	4,573
Electricity	2,211	1,364
Water	329	298
Rates	46	20
Telephone & WIFI	501	490
	<u>11,236</u>	<u>8,853</u>

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

6 Fabric Committee

	2021	2020
	£	£
Church and halls	6,975	4,165
Fabric Projects Fund (see also Note 10)	6,709	1,930
	13,684	6,095

7 Subscriptions & donations made

	2021	2020
	£	£
Levenson Foundation	8	8
DEC: Coronavirus Appeal	0	250
URC Silence & Retreats network	20	20
Christmas Appeals (Note 14)	776	800
CTBBGWG (subscription)	80	0
Synod Officers' retirements	0	50
Christian Aid re. Vaccines appeal (Note 14)	47	0
Leprosy Mission	0	44
Traidcraft re. Foodbank goods donation	0	300
Christian Aid re. Afghanistan (Note 14)	55	0
Others	0	0
	986	1,472

8 Church life

	2021	2020
	£	£
COVID costs	176	570
Junior & Messy Church	863	104
Flower fund	0	300
Annual Copyright Licences	217	562
Sundry, ECO Festival & Others	1,023	659
	2,279	2,195
Field Shed (2021) / Tablets (2020)	850	1,118
	3,129	3,313

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

9 Legacy Fund

	2021 £	2020 £
Total brought-forward	82,840	82,640
Received from Executors	0	1,000
Allocations	0	(800)
	0	200
Total carried-forward	82,840	82,840

In 2017 the Legacy Fund received unconditional legacies from three estates and is used to segregate these funds from the General Funds of the Charity, pending allocation by the Trustees.

10 Fixed assets

The church currently has no fixed asset investments, holding all its reserves as cash in hand, at bank or cash deposits of less than one year to maturity.

Property associated with the church is vested in URC (W. Midlands) Trust Ltd, the Synod trust body. For information, the current (2022) valuations for insurance purposes are shown below:-

Britwell Road, Sutton Coldfield, Church premises & all associated assets	£8,556,327
The Manse at 45 Beacon Road, Sutton Coldfield is now insured by the Synod	

During the period 1999 to 2004 inclusive the church incurred major expenditure on improvements and repairs to its buildings as part of the Centenary & Millennium projects, totalling £290,357, including new sanctuary heating and access-for-all alterations to the church vestibule, together with extending and refurbishing Britwell Hall and its rooms, together with repairing and improving the Organ.

Subsequently, between 2005 and 2012 smaller specific Fabric projects were completed, at a total cost of £54,500 (£45,721 after Synod & Joseph Scott Trust grants and congregational Donations) for improvements to the Highbridge Hall kitchen, the fencing of the Church Field, Room 1, together with new Church lighting, repairs to the Parapet and roof, alterations to the Vestry, Ministers' toilet & Traidcraft store, refurbishment of the Corridor toilets, Manse and replacement double-glazed windows.

Since then further projects have been completed as follows:-

£37,684 (£2,194 after a Grant of £35,490 from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust) for a replacement Boiler and installation of further fuel-efficient double-glazing and insulation in 2013
 £2,170 for renovation and new seating in the Church Lounge in 2014
 £6,356 (£2,168 after donations) for enhancements to the Church audio capability from 2013 to 2016
 £11,556 for replacement uPVC Doors & Windows in 2015, 2016 & 2017
 £3,600 (£nil after a Legacy allocation) for replacement Cladding & Soffits in the Halls in 2015
 £14,100 for the installation of Fire Alarm and Gas safety systems during 2015 & 2016
 £11,694 (£nil after donations & a £6,000 Legacy allocation) for the Visual system from 2015 to 2017
 £2,000 for new Pew Runners in the Church (£nil after a Legacy allocation)
 £5,844 to renovate and / or redecorate the Choir Vestry, Paint Store & Britwell Corridor 2016 to 2018
 £7,825 for Britwell Hall 2017 & 2018 renovations, and £1,684 for CCTV Security in 2017
 In 2019, £20,075 for replacing Boilers & upgrading heating systems, £11,561 for renovation of the Manse & Ministers' Vestry, £1,484 for the Room 1 Visual system (£1,040 after donations), £1,209 for new Church signage and £993 for improved Tower access
 £1,930 was spent in 2020 to improve Church Field security and access, during the COVID pandemic
 In 2021 £3,609 was spent on Room 2 modifications, £1,486 on CCTV improvements and £1,614 to install WIFI throughout the Church premises

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

11 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Lettings and COVID grants	1,878	1,334
Prepayments	321	368
Other debtors	1,370	1,601
	3,569	3,303

12 Investments

90 & 30 day Charity deposit accounts are held with the Teachers Building Society standing at £85,000 (2020: £77,500), with a Churches' Mutual Credit Union account having a balance of £40,234 (2020: £25,234). A Charities' Deposit Account with CCLA Investment Management Limited was also held, the amount deposited in this account was £8 at the year-end (2020: £31,007) and it was closed in 2022.

13 Creditors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Commitment for Life	450	448
Utilities	1,013	396
Other creditors & accruals	3,448	348
Amounts held for Church purposes:		
Choir gown fund	58	58
Christmas Collections	0	800
	4,969	2,050

14 Donations passing through church funds

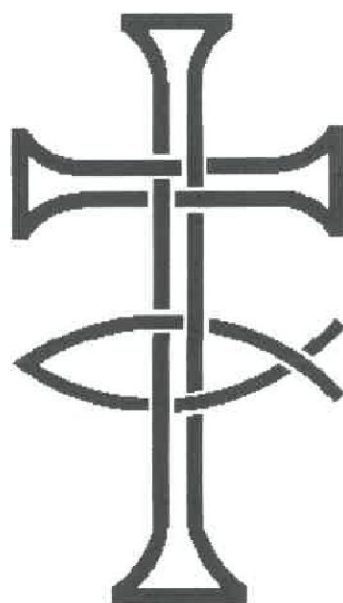
	2021
	£
Commitment for Life	1,798
ECO Festival donations	390
Red Cross: UK Refugees from Afghanistan	454
Christian Aid (Note 7)	
- Vaccines	168
- Afghanistan	245
Christmas Appeals (Note 7)	
- St Basil's	112
- DEC: Afghanistan crisis	112

WYLDE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1136135

Accounts

**Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity
Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020**



Contents

Trustee's Report	2-6
Finance Committee Convenor's report	7
Independent Examiner's report	8
Statement of Financial Activities for the year	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Accounts	11-16

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Trustees Report

Reference and Administrative Details:

Wylde Green United Reformed Church is situated within the West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Wylde Green URC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1136135)

The correspondence address (Church Secretary) is: Mrs Alexandra Wheadon 11 Beoley Close, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1EU

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Church is a constituent part of the United Reformed Church which was formed by Act of Parliament in 1972, as amended in 1981 and 2000. The Governing document of the Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity was adopted by the Church, at a Church Meeting on 15th July 2009 and registration with the Charity Commission was formally confirmed on 1st June 2010. The pastoral and financial oversight of the congregation is achieved through the local councils of the Church and the wider representative councils. These being the elected Elders that formally meet monthly both as Elders of the Church and as Trustees of the Charity and as part of the collective membership at the Church Meeting, consisting of all persons who have been formally admitted to membership of the Church and whose names are on the membership roll. The wider representative councils are the West Midlands Synod to which the Church is affiliated and the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

Governance

The Elders meet monthly both as Elders and where financial matters are concerned, as Trustees of the Church and are the principal management committee of the Church. The Elders Meeting consists of the Minister and of Elders elected by the collective church membership at Church Meeting. The Treasurer (formally known as the Convenor of the Finance Committee) and the Convenor of the Fabric Committee, if not elected Elders, can attend the Elders Meeting as ex-officio members. Elders serve for three years and are then eligible for re-election for a further three years, after which they must stand down for at least a year. Since March 2020 Elders meetings have continued at least once a month and more often when deemed necessary but via zoom. The Financial management of the Church is regulated through the Financial Standing Instructions (or the Financial Constitution), which was adopted by the Church Meeting in 2000 and amended in 2003 and further revised and approved at the Church Meeting in November 2011. The detailed financial management is delegated to the Finance Committee, working within this Constitution. The membership of the Finance Committee is made up of officers with particular responsibilities and representatives of the Trustees and the Church Membership. Due to the size of the charity; the Trustees consider that an audit is not required for the 2020 year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and accordingly only an Independent Examination is needed.

The Church Meeting is held six times a year, one of which is an AGM. The Church Meeting endorses (or not) the decisions of the Trustees on Financial matters and regulates and approves (or not) all other matters associated with the running of the Church. Church Meetings can be attended by anyone connected with the Church, but voting is restricted to members of the Church.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

In September 2019 Reverend Dr Christopher Dowd was inducted as the Minister of Wylde Green United Reformed Church and he is also the Minister of Coleshill United Church. He is an enthusiastic minister with many innovative ideas to help the Church progress in line with the LMMR objectives.

Table of Elders

The Trustees of the Church during 2020 were:

Name	Date Elected	Date Stood Down	Office Held
Philip Barker	November 2019		
Gillian Boyd	November 2019	Died April 2020	
Laura Fowler	November 2019		
Alastair Frew	November 2016		
Anne Horton	November 2016	August 2020	
Susan Jones	November 2016		
Samara Knight	November 2014	December 2020	
Beverley Lyne	November 2018		
Mark Miles	November 2019		
Susan Miles	November 2016		
Elaine Siggers	November 2014	December 2020	
Alexandra Wheadon	November 2015		Church Secretary
Kathryn Willis	November 2019		

Aims and Objectives

The Church operates within the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church and the Governing Document approved by the membership at Church Meeting.

The objectives of the church can be summarised as 'the advancement of religion' but specifically quantified by the following:

- To provide regular public worship for all
- To promote the Christian faith
- To teach the faith to all ages
- To provide training, nurture and activities for children and young people
- To serve the community
- To give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty
- To provide premises and resources for community groups and activities.

The Church's Mission Statement is:

'Making the love of Jesus a reality in the community seven days a week. Reaching out, welcoming in'

Activities and Performance

The number of church members as at 31st December 2020 was: 125

The number of Junior Church children and young people at the same date was: 40

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

The average weekly attendance for morning services is 83 adults and 14 Children; and evening services average an attendance of 23. There is one evening service each month.

From March 2020, due to the pandemic, services have been conducted via zoom every Sunday. In addition when Churches were legally entitled to open again following 29th June 2020, a detailed COVID risk assessment was prepared and submitted to Synod and a short 30 minutes service was held at 4.00 pm twice a month from July 2020. These services were completely COVID compliant. During the lockdown in November 2020 the Church was opened for an hour each Sunday afternoon between 3.00pm and 4.00pm for private prayer. Following the ending of that second lockdown in November 2020 the Church brought forward Advent Services and private prayer to 3.00pm each Sunday.

During 2020 4 of our Members died. We welcomed 2 people into church membership with a third person renewing their membership and conducted 3 infant and 2 adult baptisms. We conducted 1 Wedding.

During the year and despite the obvious difficulties caused by the pandemic, the Church continued with its forward-thinking plan under the close monitoring of the 'Forward Planning Group' which was born out of the LMMR consultation. The group is responsible for the careful monitoring of key Church and fellowship activities; as a direct result of this the Church has a focal point of idea generation, activity planning and co-ordination. Many of the activities which the Church values are now a foundation to Church life such as the 'Season of Invitation' or 'Culture of Invitation', which is continually promoted and embraced. The church has worked hard to actively promote worship through providing a Lent course via zoom during 2020 and posting Sunday morning service sermons on its website. Community Carol singing and Church 'Visioning' days were curtailed by the pandemic but we participated in a "Door step Carol" Singing event at Christmas organised by the local Churches.

During the pandemic we held daily prayer meetings and Bible Studies, which were well attended.

During the pandemic we have decorated our Church doors to celebrate the various Christian Festivals which has given much encouragement to the local area. We have placed a prayer box outside the Church which has been well used by people in the locality.

Although our choir was unable to meet to rehearse and unable to sing in person, we formed a church zoom band and choir which performed at every Sunday zoom service.

Our commitment to providing youth activities has been combined with the activities of Junior Church which has a group of twelve volunteers that support the varying age groups and activities. The Junior Church is run and co-ordinated by Susan Jones. Junior Church is active on Sundays and runs three departments catering for babies through to 17-year olds. There is an active Toddler Group which meets three mornings a week for children up to the age of 2½, and a Play Group that meets Wednesday to Friday in the mornings during term time for children from the age of 2½ + to school age. There is a group of young people aged 11+ that frequent the church on an irregular basis making it hard for the Junior Church to establish a regular youth group, which the church would very much like to do. To this end the Junior church volunteers are actively talking to this group of young people to try and work out an ideal time to meet. In non-pandemic times there are occasional meetings and football matches.

During the pandemic Junior Church has continued via zoom every Sunday morning and a cartoon and praise session has been run on weekday evenings. These sessions have been enthusiastically embraced by the children. In addition the children managed to perform a magnificent Christmas celebration

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

service and play via zoom, their parents videoing their various contributions. The children met children who attended a church in Australia via zoom and exchanged (via post) various sweets and treats.

The Church also has 7 uniformed organisations: A Guide Unit, two Brownie packs, one Rainbow Unit, a Scout Troop, a Cub Scout pack and a Beaver Colony.

Adult Groups and activities which are part of the Church include:

A Badminton club, the Boldmere Recorded Music Society, a book group, the Britwell Circle, the Church Choir, the Friday Friendship Club, Pop-in Coffee, Prayer Groups, a Walking Group, a Sunday lunch at a local restaurant for those people who live alone, family lunches on the Church field, two regular and two occasional House Groups that provide fellowship and bible study and an annual Lent course. In addition the Wylder & Greener Eco Group was formed in October 2020. A variety of other organisations not directly connected with the Church, use the Church premises each week and pay a rental for their use of the facilities. All these Groups and Activities have been massively adversely impacted by the pandemic but when possible they have resumed. Bible studies and prayer groups have continued via zoom and have been well attended.

The Church hosts a Traidcraft shop that is usually open on Friday and Saturday mornings and after the morning and evening services on Sunday. This has also been affected by the Church not being open for a large part of the year, but when a service has taken place and where possible, the Traidcraft shop has been open after such services for a short while. The Traidcraft shop also supplies similar operations in other churches in the district.

The Church plays an active part in the Churches Together organisation in Boldmere, Banners Gate and Wylde Green and has a representative who keeps in touch with the Bible Society and URC Retreat facilities. The Church is represented at West Midlands Synod meetings and participates in Christian Aid and Leprosy Mission collections.

Church Premises

The condition of the Church, Manse and other associated buildings is of constant concern and a large part of our annual budget is devoted to the routine repairs, maintenance and upkeep of these facilities.

During the course of 2020 extreme weather conditions and the COVID crisis played a major role in our addressing a number of general maintenance items, but also important health and safety issues.

To ensure we stayed socially and legally compliant, Church services and prayer meetings were held over the internet using Zoom. However, as some activities started to be allowed, we responded by updating our risk assessments, protocols and procedures thereby safeguarding the Church and also making the experience of visiting and taking part in any activities as safe as possible.

The Church Elders decided at the start of the pandemic that neither the caretaker nor the cleaner should be furloughed; thus enabling them to thoroughly clean the Church, halls and rooms between the permissible room users. This was a huge undertaking and took up virtually all of their time whilst such activities were still allowed, in some cases more than their allotted hours.

As rules became stricter regarding lettings and they were no longer employed carrying out these additional cleaning duties, they were provided with a list of jobs that would normally be addressed during holiday shut-downs, e.g. painting the corridors, varnishing floors, cleaning carpets, curtains and

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

windows, painting rooms, clearing and tidying cupboards and storage areas etc. In addition to external work which included cutting the field and clearing vegetation from the unused tennis courts, many tasks that had historically utilised external contractors, all in readiness for future use. External contractors were employed to carry out specific duties such as the regular servicing of the fire system, the heating system and lightning protection.

The Church has been the recipient of a number of bequests and it is the duty of the Eldership to ensure the responsible investment of these funds and as such the Elders have liaised with the Fabric and Finance Committees in order to discuss and plan how these funds should be invested to support the objectives of the church. A future projects team (2026 committee) was formed to consider how we wished the Church to grow in the forthcoming years and the role this Church would play in addressing the needs of the local community.

Risk Assessment

There are two principal risks that face the Charity on an on-going basis:

- The reliability of 'Congregational Giving' as its major income
- A fabric 'disaster'


The congregation and the membership have and continue to support the church through 'Congregational Giving' which is a significant contributor to the income of the church. Lettings income also contributes significantly allowing all running costs in the year to be covered by income. Synod reduction in the Ministry and Mission fund also helped in 2020 and this with close control of spending resulted in a good financial outcome for the year.

The Church has a group whose particular responsibilities are being aware of and implementing the Health and Safety requirements on the premises; as part of this we are fully aware of the varying needs of our members and visitors and print the details of the provisions we have for those with disabilities or special needs on the back cover of the Church Handbook.

We are constantly trying to improve our General Reserves by urging consistent giving commitments and by reviewing and monitoring our expenditure. In the Finance Committee, we formally review our performance against budget each month and in the last quarter of the year make a forecast of our eventual financial position, which then provides the basis for the next year's budget.

Prepared on behalf of the Trustees by Alexandra Wheadon

Signed on behalf of the Trustees


Trustee


Trustee

Date: 13th October 2021

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 Finance Committee Convenor's Report

I am pleased to present the Accounts for the year that ended on 31st December 2020. Due to the Coronavirus situation, these have been finalised later than usual and I'd like to thank all involved for their application to this task, given the significant personal challenges we've been facing. I'm also grateful to the Finance Committee as a whole, particularly Kay, Robin and Andrew whose long-standing commitment and knowledge has kept the financial management of the Church going throughout the COVID pandemic, especially during the many months when we have not been able to meet as a Committee in the normal way. Thanks also to Samara who handed over the Elders post on the Committee to Jason, after many years of service, albeit after the end of 2020.

The Budget for 2020 was based on the expected 2019 outcome with a number of assumptions for 2020 activities in a world pre-COVID. As the pandemic had such a significant effect on Church Life this Budget became a secondary consideration, as the primary focus for the Finance officers became managing solvency and spending, with a church building that was closed for large parts of the year.

The first 3 months of 2020 were broadly in line with budgeted financial expectations, but from April 2020 onwards there were significant changes to these. The key ones were the loss of almost all Letting income for a prolonged period, a loss of loose collections, reduced central charges from Synod, and a gain from Government COVID grants, with Regular Giving from the Congregation being lower, and less regular, than previously. Unlike some Churches, our Business Interruption Insurance did not permit any claim in respect of loss of Lettings income, so the unanticipated Government COVID grants were very welcome in this respect.

Receipts for 2020 (excluding the Government grants) were £26,900 below 2019, with the Lettings reduction being the main component. This is clearly a concern for the future, however due to the COVID compliance regime lessening during this year, we remain optimistic that Lettings income has, and will continue to, recover and Regular Giving will strengthen with the resumption of in-person worship and church based activities.

Spending for 2020 (excluding the Synod central charges relief) was £9,900 below the 2019 level, with savings spread across all areas of expenditure, except Salaries. As noted in the Trustees Report, the Elders decided not to furlough our employees and instead applied their time to COVID security measures and to Fabric maintenance tasks which did not require specialist skills, or materials.

The regular 2020 financial outcome, excluding the Government grants and Synod relief, was a deficit of £12,900, however after including these two exceptional credits, there was a surplus of £13,300. It should be noted that both the Synod central charges relief and the Government COVID grants do not carry any liability for paying-back. Overall, this is a significant boost to 2021, which will still have significant COVID impacts.

The Trustees, the Congregation and their representatives continue to consider what the remaining Legacy Funds (around £83,000) may be applied to. During the year an unconditional gift of £1,000 was received from the Estate of the late Margaret Taylor and it was decided to allocate this to the purchase of Tablets, which together with a Synod Grant of £1,000 and Congregational giving of a further £1,300 allowed the purchase of these, for members who had no internet access. Around £2,300 of this (after Gift Aid) currently remains, which is included in the People & Outreach fund.

A Budget for 2021 was not completed due to the unknown impact of the COVID pandemic and its on-going effect. Instead, the Finance Committee agreed a minimal operational spend with the Fabric Committee to ensure the safe upkeep of the properties, with this expenditure being tracked against previous levels (after allowing for Fabric work done by our non-furloughed employees) with any essential one-off costs to be managed on an exceptional basis. All things considered, the Charity's on-going financial position and solvency remains satisfactory in these uncertain times.

Presented by:  Date: 13th October 2021
Dave Evans, Finance Committee Convenor

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Wylde Green URC

I report on the accounts of Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 9 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed on 13th October 2021 by:


.....

Brian Leather
Independent Examiner

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

		General Funds	Legacy Fund	People & Outreach Funds	Fabric Projects Fund	Total Funds	Total Funds
						2020	2019
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Incoming resources</i>							
Congregational giving		58,426	-	-	-	58,426	63,162
Tax recovered		13,301	-	-	-	13,301	14,230
Lettings and COVID grants		23,517	-	-	-	23,517	26,136
Donations and grants	2	3,805	-	2,640	-	6,445	6,582
Investment income		535	-	-	-	535	1,286
Other income		485	-	-	-	485	2,541
Manse Rental		-	-	-	-	-	7,139
Legacies		-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Total incoming resources		100,069	1,000	2,640	-	103,709	121,076
<i>Resources expended</i>							
URC disbursements		38,637	-	-	-	38,637	55,860
Salaries, fees & grants	3	24,292	-	-	-	24,292	24,647
Manse expenses	4	4,058	-	-	-	4,058	2,276
Church expenses	5	8,853	-	-	-	8,853	11,759
Fabric committee	6	4,165	-	-	1,930	6,095	43,589
General expenses		3,050	-	-	-	3,050	4,090
Subscriptions and donations	7	1,472	-	-	-	1,472	1,153
Church life	8	2,195	-	1,118	-	3,313	3,453
Legacy allocations	9	-	800	(1,000)	-	(200)	5,000
Total resources expended		86,722	800	118	1,930	89,570	151,827
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources		13,347	200	2,522	(1,930)	14,139	(30751)
Fund balances at 1 January		43,019	82,640	8,874	5,049	139,582	170,333
Fund balances at 31 December		56,366	82,840	11,396	3,119	153,721	139,582

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these Accounts.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020

		Total funds 2020	Total funds 2019
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments	10	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	11	3,303	1,450
Cash on deposit	12	133,741	133,528
Cash at bank		18,727	17,052
		155,771	152,030
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	2,050	12,448
Net current assets		153,721	139,582
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net total assets		153,721	139,582
 Reserves			
General Funds		56,366	43,019
Legacy Fund	9	82,840	82,640
People & Outreach Funds		11,396	8,874
Fabric Projects Fund		3,119	5,049
Total reserves		153,721	139,582

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these Accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 13th October 2021 and authorised to be signed on their behalf by:

AM Wheadon
.....

Trustee

MJM
.....

Trustee

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commissioners and with applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom.

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of accruals accounting. Therefore income is matched with associated expenditure. In summary, accruals accounting requires that:

- income is recognised at the point when it is due to the charity, regardless of whether any cash associated with the transaction has actually been received and
- expenditure is recognised at the point when the relevant goods and services are supplied, regardless of whether or not an invoice has been received or payment has actually been made.

A summary follows of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently.

Tangible fixed assets

Property associated with the charity is vested in URC (W.Midlands) Trust Ltd, the Synod trust body, and cannot be disposed of without the consent of the Synod Finance Committee. This property is therefore considered inalienable and no useful purpose would be gained by the inclusion of an amount in the accounts for land and buildings.

Equipment, furniture and fittings purchased by the charity are treated as outgoing resources in the year of purchase and therefore no amount is shown in the balance sheet for such items.

Fixed asset investments

Investments in government stocks and similar items which are intended to be held for more than one year are treated as fixed assets. The initial cost of investments is their purchase cost. Investments are valued at market value at the balance sheet date. Changes in value during the year are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from investments is included, together with any recoverable tax element, as an incoming resource to the general fund on an accruals basis.

Legacies

Legacies are treated as income in the year in which they are received. Where a donor has placed conditions on the use of a legacy it is set apart from the general funds of the charity and used only for the specific purpose intended. Legacies over £500 received without conditions should be designated to particular reserves in accordance with the charity's Standing Financial Instructions and reserves policy.

Income Tax recovered

Receipts in respect of Tax claims for Gift Aid donations are treated as relating to the calendar year in which the tax year ends i.e. those relating to the tax year ended 5th April 2020 are included as income in 2020. Similarly, with regard to claims under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme these are treated as income quarterly in arrears i.e. tax recoverable in this respect up to 30th September 2020, is included as income in 2020.

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

Donations passing through the charity

The charity bank account is used as a means of collecting money and then passing it on to other organisations at various times during the year. Such donations are treated as neither income nor expenditure of the charity on the grounds of immateriality. The amounts are reported in Note 14 to the accounts.

Reserves

The charity has no endowment or restricted funds at present. Funds apart from the charity's general fund are established by the Trustees and Reserves may be designated to those funds in accordance with the charity's current reserves policy.

2 Donations and grants received

	2020	2019
	£	£
General Funds		
Mothers & Toddlers Group	1,680	2,520
Britwell Circle	150	150
Book Group	0	40
Friday Friendship	50	50
Music Events	0	540
Traidcraft	1,500	2,000
Badminton	155	535
Baptism, wedding & funeral donations	0	77
Fees donated	250	195
Uniformed Organisations	20	40
Others	0	60
	3,805	6,207
People & Outreach Fund (incl. Tablets)		
Congregational donations	1,640	375
Synod Tablet donation	1,000	-
Legacy funding for Tablets	1,000	-
	3,640	375
Total (including Legacy transfer)	7,445	6,582

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

3 Salaries, fees & grants

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries		
Minister's car and book allowances (after 20% Synod recovery)	996	556
Pulpit & Organist supply	80	102
Caretakers, cleaners and others	22,629	22,076
Employers' NIC & Pension contributions	587	189
Recruitment, and Relocation after 50% Synod Grant (Fabric & Minister fund)	0	1,724
	24,292	24,647

4 Manse expenses

	2020	2019
	£	£
Council tax (after 20% Synod recovery)	1,655	549
Insurance & water (after 20% Synod recovery)	406	377
Utilities whilst vacant	0	55
Repairs & renewals (after £500 Synod Grant & £250 Minister contribution)	1,998	530
	4,058	1,511
Rental Costs (Fabric & Minister fund)	0	765
	4,058	2,276

5 Church expenses

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gas	2,109	4,214
Insurance	4,573	4,394
Electricity	1,364	2,094
Water	298	383
Rates	20	226
Telephone	490	448
	8,853	11,759

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

6 Fabric Committee

	2020	2019
	£	£
Church and halls	4,165	8,711
Fabric Projects (Fabric Projects Fund)	1,930	24,717
Manse works (Fabric & Minister Fund) (see Note 10 for further details)	0	10,161
	6,095	43,589

7 Subscriptions & donations made

	2020	2019
	£	£
Levenson Foundation	8	7
DEC: Coronavirus Appeal	250	0
URC Silence & Retreats network	20	20
Christmas Appeals (Note 14)	800	503
CTBBGWG (subscription)	0	90
Synod Officers' retirements	50	0
URC Peace Fellowship	0	30
Leprosy Mission (Note 14)	44	375
Traidcraft re. Foodbank goods donation	300	0
Others made in 2019	0	128
	1,472	1,153

8 Church life

	2020	2019
	£	£
Annual Copyright Licence	562	498
COVID costs	570	0
Junior Church	104	305
Flower fund	300	350
Photocopier renewal	0	120
Sundry & Others	659	771
	2,195	2,044
Tablets (2020) / Welcome event (2019)	1,118	1,409
	3,313	3,453

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

9 Legacy Fund

	2020 £	2019 £
Total brought-forward	82,640	87,640
Received from Executors	1,000	0
Allocations	(800)	(5,000)
	200	(5,000)
Total carried-forward	82,840	82,640

In 2017 the Legacy Fund received unconditional legacies from three estates and this year received a further £1,000 from the late Margaret Taylor, which the Trustees allocated to the provision of Tablets. In 2020 £4,800 was spent on Site Drainage investigations, with the balance of the 2019 provision returned. The Legacy Fund is used to segregate these funds from the General Funds of the Charity, pending allocation by the Trustees.

10 Fixed assets

The church currently has no fixed asset investments, holding all its reserves as cash in hand, at bank or cash deposits of less than one year to maturity.

Property associated with the church is vested in URC (W. Midlands) Trust Ltd, the Synod trust body. For information, the current (2021) valuations for insurance purposes are shown below:-

Britwell Road, Sutton Coldfield, Church premises & all associated assets £8,497,512

The Manse at 45 Beacon Road, Sutton Coldfield is now insured by the Synod

During the period 1999 to 2004 inclusive the church incurred major expenditure on improvements and repairs to its buildings as part of the Centenary & Millennium projects, totalling £290,357, including new sanctuary heating and access-for-all alterations to the church vestibule, together with extending and refurbishing Britwell Hall and its rooms, together with repairing and improving the Organ.

Subsequently, between 2005 and 2012 smaller specific Fabric projects were completed, at a total cost of £54,500 (£45,721 after Synod & Joseph Scott Trust grants and congregational Donations) for improvements to the Highbridge Hall kitchen, the fencing of the Church Field, Room 1, together with new Church lighting, repairs to the Parapet and roof, alterations to the Vestry, Ministers' toilet & Traidcraft store, refurbishment of the Corridor toilets, Manse and replacement double-glazed windows.

Since then further projects have been completed as follows:-

£37,684 (£2,194 after a Grant of £35,490 from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust) for a replacement Boiler and installation of further fuel-efficient double-glazing and insulation in 2013

£2,170 for renovation and new seating in the Church Lounge in 2014

£6,356 (£2,168 after donations) for enhancements to the Church audio capability from 2013 to 2016

£11,556 for replacement uPVC Doors & Windows in 2015, 2016 & 2017

£3,600 (£nil after a Legacy allocation) for replacement Cladding & Soffits in the Halls in 2015

£14,100 for the installation of Fire Alarm and Gas safety systems during 2015 & 2016

£11,694 (£nil after donations & a £6,000 Legacy allocation) for the Visual system from 2015 to 2017

£2,000 for new Pew Runners in the Church (£nil after a Legacy allocation)

£5,844 to renovate and / or redecorate the Choir Vestry, Paint Store & Britwell Corridor 2016 to 2018

£7,825 for Britwell Hall 2017 & 2018 renovations, and £1,684 for CCTV Security in 2017

In 2019, £20,075 for replacing Boilers & upgrading heating systems, £11,561 for renovation of the Manse & Ministers' Vestry, £1,484 for the Room 1 Visual system (£1,040 after donations), £1,209 for new Church signage and £993 for improved Tower access

£1,930 was spent in 2020 to improve Church Field security and access, during the COVID pandemic

Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

11 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Lettings and COVID grants	1,334	195
Prepayments	368	359
Other debtors	1,601	896
	3,303	1,450

12 Investments

A Charities' Deposit Account with CCLA Investment Management Limited is held, the amount deposited in this account was £31,007 at the year-end (2019: £35,919). The 90 day Charity deposit account with the Teachers Building Society stood at credit of £77,500 (2019: £72,500), with the Churches' Mutual Credit Union account having a balance of £25,234 (2019: £25,109).

13 Creditors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Commitment for Life	448	414
Utilities	396	1,069
Other creditors & accruals	348	5,907
Amounts held for Church purposes:		
Choir gown fund	58	58
Site Drainage investigation work	0	5,000
Christmas Collections	800	0
	2,050	12,448

14 Donations passing through church funds

	2020
	£
Commitment for Life	2,090
Leprosy Mission (Note 7)	56
Christmas Appeals (Note 7)	
- Leprosy Mission	200
- FareShare West Midlands	200
- St Basil's	200
- DEC: General	200

Funeral fees were also donated to Oliver 68 of £199