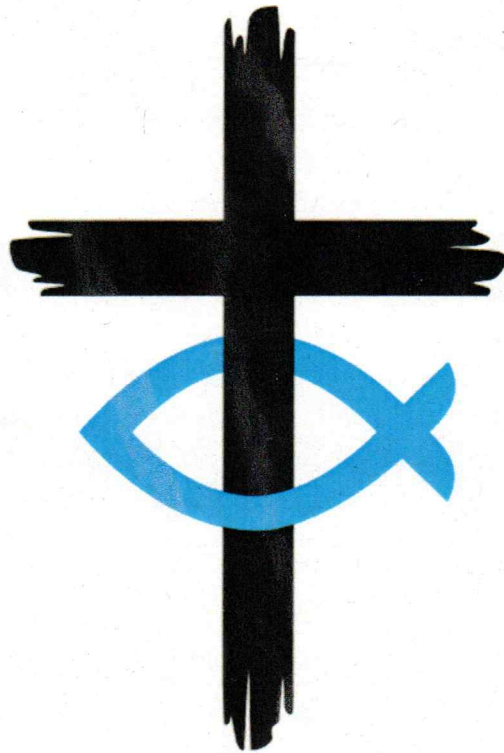


**Wylde Green United Reformed Church Charity  
Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**



**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	10-14

# Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

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## **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 Bev Lyne, 7 Cheadle Drive, Birmingham B23 5XF

## **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 2023 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

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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		
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

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## **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

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

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## 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:

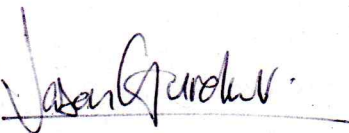
- The reliability of 'Congregational Giving' as its major income
- A fabric 'disaster'

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

  
.....

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	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>							
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		<u>147,185</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,796</u>	<u>164,981</u>	<u>135,059</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>							
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		<u>146,273</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,354</u>	<u>183,627</u>	<u>128,053</u>
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		<u>76,702</u>	<u>72,840</u>	<u>13,399</u>	<u>(19,558)</u>	<u>143,383</u>	<u>162,029</u>

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



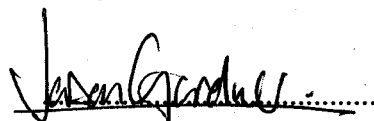
# Wylde Green United Reformed Church Annual Report

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

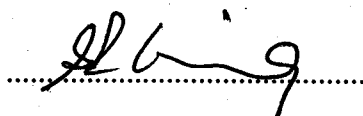
		Total funds	Total funds
		2023	2022
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	8	7,887	2,292
Cash on deposit	9	115,306	125,266
Cash at bank		25,669	37,984
		<u>148,862</u>	<u>165,542</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	5,479	3,513
Net current assets		<u>143,383</u>	<u>162,029</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
<b>Net total assets</b>		<u><b>143,383</b></u>	<u><b>162,029</b></u>
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)	-
<b>Total reserves</b>		<u><b>143,383</b></u>	<u><b>153,582</b></u>

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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
	£	£
<b>General Funds</b>		
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
	<u>33,067</u>	<u>4,075</u>
<b>People &amp; Outreach Fund (includes Older persons activity project)</b>		
Congregational donations	647	375
Field Shed donation from member	0	250
Sutton Coldfield Town Council Grant	1,100	3000
	<u>1,747</u>	<u>3625</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>34,814</u>	<u>7,700</u>

# 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
	<u>23,050</u>	<u>24,510</u>

## 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
	<u>4,232</u>	<u>2,882</u>

## 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
	<u>16,901</u>	<u>14,773</u>



# 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
	<u>62,040</u>	<u>16,753</u>

## 7 Legacy Fund

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

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
	<u>7,887</u>	<u>2,787</u>

## 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>