

# BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH (METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED)

England & Wales · Charity number 1136354

## Details

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Other names	BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-06-15
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	46 East Street Bridport Dorset DT6 3LJ
Phone	01308 459191
Email	<a href="mailto:bridportsec@gmail.com">bridportsec@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.buc.cool">www.buc.cool</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches. In achieving its purpose, the Charity will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to): a) the celebration of public worship; b) the teaching of the Christian faith; c) mission and evangelism; d) pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved; e) the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and f) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

**Activities:** The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practice of the participating denominations. Its activities include: celebration of public worship, teaching the Christian faith, mission and evangelism, pastoral work, provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, support of other charities worldwide.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£76,034	£97,533	-	-
2024-12-31	£98,350	£95,022	-	-
2023-12-31	£124,385	£123,974	-	-
2022-12-31	£79,272	£74,983	-	-
2021-12-31	£71,362	£78,238	-	-
2020-12-31	£64,550	£62,697	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jane Beverley Clinton		2022-05-29
John Malcom Darwood		2019-05-02
Judith Munden		2022-05-29
Lynda Wells		2022-05-29
Rev Jane Mary Wilson		2022-09-01
Rosalind Fay Hilliard		2019-05-02
Susan Jennifer Herman		2016-03-10
Timothy Tarlng		2024-05-12
Wendy Anne Plummer		2022-05-29

**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH (METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136354

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# Accounts

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# BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

## 1. Administrative Information

Bridport United Church (Methodist and United Reformed) is part of the Dorset South and West Methodist Circuit (which is part of Southampton Methodist District), and the Wessex Synod of the URC, and is also a member of Churches Together in Bridport & District.

Bridport United Church is registered as **Charity No. 1136354**. **Minister:** Revd Jane Wilson

The Managing Trustees are appointed in accordance with the terms of the Constitution and Schedule (Governing Documents) of Bridport United Church and CPD.

### **Managing Trustees in 2025:**

Rev Jane Wilson (Chair)

Jane Clinton

John Darwood

Susan Herman

Ros Hilliard

Judy Munden (to 28 April 2025)

Wendy Plummer

Tim Tarling

Lyn Wells

Allison White (from 28 April 2025)

**Treasurer:** Tim Tarling

**Independent Examiner:** Elliotts Accountants, Weymouth

All official correspondence should be sent to the Minister/Church Secretary/Treasurer at Bridport United Church, East Street, Bridport, DT6 3LJ

## 2. Aims and Objectives.

The aim of the church as set out in its mission statement is to work to proclaim God's love to all ages through worship, fellowship, outreach, caring, teaching and prayer.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Developing the worship life of the church by offering weekly Sunday morning services and a range of other traditional and informal worship services and events, including Messy Church, Soul Space, Explore Together, Taizé, Café Church, Healing services and other special services.
- Offering ways to deepen understanding of our Christian faith through fellowship groups, prayer meetings, house & bible study groups, and courses.
- Providing pastoral care and support; the Minister and Pastoral Coordinator regularly review the Pastoral List and pastoral needs, with pastoral care and support for individuals and groups being provided by the Minister and a team of pastoral visitors/friends.
- Reaching out to and serving our local community through a variety of activities including twice weekly Coffee mornings, monthly Lunch Club, Fellowship Club, and Big Breakfast, Little Lambs Toddler group.
- Providing opportunities for prayer at worship services and weekly prayer meetings, and via the prayer chain and boxes for prayer requests on tables at Coffee Mornings and Big Breakfast, plus specific prayer-focussed events such as Praying the Labyrinth.

- Working with Churches Together in Bridport & District (CTiBD) supporting and participating in a variety of services and outreach events, including monthly Pray Bridport, Stand for Peace, outdoor Summer Services at West Bay, providing the Family Tent at the annual Melplash Show and hosting the CTiBD Christmas Day Lunch, as well as supporting local community groups such as Pathways to Care, Foodbanks and Helpful Hampers..
- Working towards a fairer, greener world; we have attained a Bronze Eco Church Award and are working towards the Silver Award.

### **3. Review of Activities, Progress and Achievements**

The Minister is Chair of the Managing Trustees/Church Council, which meets at least 4 times a year, and the Church Meeting, which meets at least 3 times a year, to review the various aspects of the life of the church and its ongoing mission to demonstrate the love of God in Jesus by witnessing to and serving the community. Trustees and officers are appointed by the Church Council and Annual Church Meeting.

The Managing Trustees have continued to review and update procedures to manage the risks to which Managing Trustees, church members and visitors are exposed, and risk assessments are carried out as needed. The Managing Trustees have undergone Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.

Volunteers are recruited and checked in accordance with the Church Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually by the Managing Trustees. The Church Safeguarding Officer ensures that appropriate Safeguarding training and DBS checks are completed by all relevant church officers and volunteers in accordance with the BUC Safeguarding Policy.

The GDPR Privacy Notice is reviewed annually.

This has been another busy year for Bridport United Church.

We continue to offer a variety of worship services and activities, in addition to the main 10.30am Sunday service, and additional services introduced during the year include Explore Together services, Healing services, an In Loving Memory service, and Holy Week Prayers and services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. During Holy Week this year we hosted a Labyrinth which was open to the public and visitors for prayerful contemplation.

Our monthly Messy Church at 3.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays is led by a team coordinated by our Children & Families Lay Worker, Peter Jenner, and is attended by around 15-20 local children and their families.

Soul Space , an informal space to, sing, pray, talk and connect with God (with cakes & refreshments ) at 4pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays, continues to attract an intergenerational group of people from the church and local community of around 20-30 people each month.

The Prayer Group meets in church every Wednesday morning to pray for requests received in person or by email, and requests from the local community via the prayer boxes at coffee mornings & Big Breakfast and prays for people, places and local, national and global concerns. Requests for prayer are also shared via the prayer chain. We hosted guided prayers each day of Holy Week and we regularly host the local Churches Together community Pray Bridport event.

Our community outreach activities continue to be well supported with an average of 60-70 people attending the twice-weekly Coffee mornings (including Knit & Natter and Walking for Wellbeing on Wednesdays). The weekly Little Lambs Toddler group has grown significantly and now welcomes 20-30 babies & toddlers and their carers every Monday morning during school term time, for play, stories, songs and snacks.

At the monthly Big Breakfast on Saturday around 90 breakfasts are cooked for people from the local community and visitors from further afield.

The monthly Wednesday Lunch Club also offers an opportunity for local people to meet for fellowship and a 2 course hot home-made lunch is provided for c. 60 people each month.

The monthly Thursday afternoon Friendship Club is open to everyone to come and chat, play board games, do puzzles, or creative crafts, with high tea included and around 10-12 people attend regularly.

The annual Christmas Tree Festival we host each year as part of the Bridport Town Christmas celebrations was well attended again attracting over 3500 visitors. We also hosted several visits from local schools, pre-schools and care homes.

The CTiBD Christmas Day Lunch hosted by BUC again provided Christmas lunch, entertainment and fellowship for around 85 people from the local community who would otherwise be on their own.

#### **4. Finances and Resources.**

The Resources Committee meets regularly to encourage good stewardship of the church's financial and property resources in order to further the church's mission activities and ensure that the premises are a safe and secure space.

The accounts include the employment costs of those directly employed by the Church. The church is grateful for and reliant upon donations and offerings, but inevitably regular giving has reduced due to the death of several church members and others who have moved away, and the usual annual donation from South Street was not made this year.

The DONA card machine has resulted in increased giving and it is hoped that the recent members Giving campaign, coupled with encouragement to visitors to Big Breakfast, Coffee mornings and Lunch Club to pay online and Gift Aid where possible will have a positive outcome. The transition to online banking is now complete. Gift Aid is claimed on all donations where appropriate. Income from lettings was slightly increased from the previous year, but rates have been reviewed and increased this year.

Careful consideration continues to be given to the expenses of the church, most of which relate to essential expenditure in maintaining church life and buildings. The female toilets have been refurbished and work to the heating and drainage systems carried out which is essential to the church's outreach activities. Ongoing maintenance continues to be scheduled and grants applied for where appropriate. The church has a Reserves Policy which aims to hold reserves of 50% of average annual operating expenditure to ensure that any unforeseen expenditure or short-term annual deficits can be met.

The on-going challenge of an ageing congregation remains, as does the need to be able to cover annual expenditure with annual income, and replenish reserves when it has been necessary to use them for urgent major work. This is regularly considered and monitored by the Managing Trustees.

Signed:

on behalf of the Managing Trustees

**Bridport United Church**  
**Report and Financial Statements**  
**for the financial year ended 31 December 2025**

**Bridport United Church**  
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**Bridport United Church**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT**  
**to Bridport United Church on the unaudited financial statements for the financial**  
**year ended 31 December 2025**

We have compiled the financial statements of Bridport United Church for the financial year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet, from the accounting records, information and explanations you have given to us.

As a member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <[www.icaew.com/membershandbook](http://www.icaew.com/membershandbook)>.

This report is made solely to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet, that we have been engaged to compile, report to you that we have done so, and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Bridport United Church, for our work, or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and have complied with the Rules of Professional Conduct and the ethical guidance laid down by the Institute.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Bridport United Church. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

**ELLIOT & CO LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
7 King Street  
Weymouth  
Dorset  
DT4 7BJ  
United Kingdom

**18 March 2026**

**Bridport United Church**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

for the financial year ended 31 December 2025

	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
<b>Income</b>				
Collection		4,502		6,703
Standing orders		18,339		20,760
Car park		2,589		1,344
Other donations		1,330		6,801
J Stevens fund		-		2,481
Little lambs, big breakfast, lunches, coffee etc		14,718		10,713
Other non-fee income		-		10,000
Lettings		17,872		17,326
Dorset South and W Mission Award - Circuit grants		2,700		8,164
Service charges		841		360
Commission receivable		6,448		11,816
Sundry income		6,229		1,582
Bank deposit interest		466		300
		<u>76,034</u>		<u>98,350</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Purchases of goods	4,141		1,225	
Admin, office and secretarial	11,147		9,897	
Rent payable	-		850	
Assessments	47,352		43,232	
Insurance	6,200		6,132	
Light and heat	7,281		5,729	
Cleaning	2,050		505	
Equipment	5,444		13,560	
Repairs and maintenance	8,965		9,156	
Printing, postage and stationery	471		1,464	
Donations	-		1,650	
Accountancy fees	420		-	
General expenses	953		343	
Subscriptions	3,109		1,278	
		<u>(97,533)</u>		<u>(95,021)</u>
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus</b>		<u><u>(21,499)</u></u>		<u><u>3,329</u></u>

**Bridport United Church**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
as at 31 December 2025

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>23,110</u>	<u>44,609</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<u>23,110</u>	<u>44,609</u>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<u><u>23,110</u></u>	<u><u>44,609</u></u>
<b>Capital Account</b>	<u><u>23,110</u></u>	<u><u>44,609</u></u>

**Bridport United Church**  
**Approval Statement**  
**Report and Financial Statements**  
**for the financial year ended 31 December 2025**

We approve the financial information which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet. We acknowledge our responsibility for the financial information, including the appropriateness of the accounting basis for providing Elliot & Co LLP with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

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**Revd Jane Wilson**  
**On behalf of the Managing Trustees of Bridport United Church**

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**Bridport United Church**  
**Report and Financial Statements**  
**for the financial year ended 31 December 2025**

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as at 31 December 2025

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**Bridport United Church**  
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**Revd Jane Wilson**  
**On behalf of the Managing Trustees of Bridport United Church**

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**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH (METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136354

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# Accounts

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# BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

## ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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# BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

## 1. Administrative Information

Bridport United Church (Methodist and United Reformed) is part of the Dorset South and West Methodist Circuit (which is part of Southampton Methodist District), and the Wessex Synod of the URC, and is also a member of Churches Together in Bridport & District.

Bridport United Church is registered as **Charity No. 1136354** **Minister:** Revd Jane Wilson

The Managing Trustees are appointed in accordance with the terms of the Constitution and Schedule (Governing Documents) of Bridport United Church and CPD.

### **Managing Trustees in 2024:**

Rev Jane Wilson (Chair)

Jane Clinton

John Darwood

Susan Herman

Ros Hilliard

Judy Munden

Wendy Plummer

Richard Plummer (to 31 January 2024)

Lyn Wells

Tim Tarling (from 8 March 2024)

**Treasurer:** Richard Plummer (to 31 January 2024); Tim Tarling (from 8 March 2024)

**Independent Examiner:** Scott Vevers Accountants, Bridport

All official correspondence should be sent to the Minister/Secretary/Treasurer at Bridport United Church, East Street, Bridport, DT6 3LJ

## 2. Aims and Objectives.

The aim of the church as set out in its mission statement is to work to proclaim God's love to all ages through worship, fellowship, outreach, caring, teaching and prayer.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Developing the worship life of the church by offering a range of worship styles and experiences, including Messy Church, Taizé, Café Church, Soul Space, and Healing services, encompassing informal and more traditional services.
- Offering ways of deepening discipleship through fellowship groups, prayer meetings, house and bible study groups, and other courses.
- Offering pastoral care and support; the Pastoral Coordinator works with the Minister in reviewing the Pastoral List and pastoral needs. Pastoral care and support for individuals and groups is provided by the Minister and the team of pastoral visitors.
- Reaching out to and serving our local community through various activities including the twice weekly Coffee mornings, and monthly Lunch Club, Fellowship Club, and Big Breakfast. The Toddler group was restarted in February 2024.

## **BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024**

- Encouraging a deeper prayer life by providing opportunities for prayer through weekly worship and prayer meetings, the prayer chain, prayer request boxes on tables at the Coffee Mornings and Big Breakfast and specific prayer-focussed events.
- Working with Churches Together in Bridport & District (CTiBD) to support services and outreach events throughout the year, including Pray Bridport, and supporting other local community care groups such as Pathways to Care, Foodbanks, Helpful Hampers, Melpash Show and hosting the CTiBD Christmas Day Lunch .
- Working towards a fairer, greener world by seeking to work to attain an Eco Church award.

### **3. Review of Activities, Progress and Achievements**

The Minister is Chair of the Managing Trustees/Church Council, which meets at least 4 times a year, and the Church Meeting, which meets at least 3 times a year, to review the various aspects of the life of the church in the context of its ongoing mission to demonstrate the love of God by witnessing to and serving the community. Trustees and officers are appointed by the Church Council and Annual Church Meeting.

The Managing Trustees have continued to review and update procedures to manage the risks to which Managing Trustees and members are exposed, and risk assessments are carried out as needed. The Managing Trustees have undergone Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.

Volunteers are recruited and checked in accordance with the Church Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually by the Managing Trustees. The Church Safeguarding Officer ensures that appropriate Safeguarding training and DBS checks are completed by all relevant church officers and volunteers in accordance with the BUC Safeguarding Policy. The GDPR Privacy Notice is reviewed annually.

This has been another busy year for Bridport United Church. We continue to offer a variety of worship services and activities, in addition to the main 10.30am Sunday service, and additional services introduced during the year include Café Church, Healing services, an In Loving Memory service, and Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. In March we hosted the 'Gethsemane Garments' exhibition in March which was open to the local community.

Regular events such as the monthly Messy Church at 3.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, led by a team coordinated by the circuit-based Children & Families Lay Worker, Peter Jenner, have continued to be well attended by around 25-30 local children and their families.

Soul Space, an informal space to listen, sing, pray, talk and connect with God with tea, coffee & cake, happens monthly at 4pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays and is well supported by around 20-30 people from the church and local community.

The Prayer Group meets in church on Wednesday mornings to pray for prayer requests received in person, by email, via the prayer boxes at coffee mornings, and the prayer chain, for individual, local, national and international events and concerns. The prayer chain responds to requests for prayers received by email and in person. Prayer boxes on tables at weekly coffee mornings have collected several prayer requests which are passed on immediately. A Quiet Prayer Afternoon and a Holy Week series of morning prayers was well received and there are plans to arrange more prayer events in future.

## **BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024**

Our community outreach activities continue to be well supported with an average of 60-70 people attending the weekly Coffee mornings on Wednesdays (including those attending the Knit & Natter group and Walking for Wellbeing) and Saturdays. On Wednesdays during the colder months this was extended to offer a Warm Welcome Space with a simple lunch.

The Saturday Big Breakfast each month has continued to grow in popularity with c.90 breakfasts being cooked for people from the local community and beyond.

The monthly Wednesday Lunch Club provides an opportunity for local people to meet for fellowship and a 2 course home cooked lunch with an average attendance of c. 60 people.

The Thursday Friendship Club offers an afternoon every month for anyone to come and chat, do some crafts, play board games, do a puzzle, or knit, with sandwiches and cake to follow.

A new weekly Toddler Group, Little Lambs, was set up in February 2024 and welcomes around 20 babies and toddlers and their carers every Monday morning during school term time, for play, stories, songs and snacks.

The annual Christmas Tree Festival hosted by BUC was again a major event in the Bridport Christmas calendar with visitor numbers totalling almost 3000. In response to feedback from members and community groups it was decided to maintain the number of trees at 31 to allow more space for decorating and viewing.

The Christmas Day Lunch hosted by BUC and run by a team of volunteers from CTiBD provided a lunch for nearly 90 people from the local community who would otherwise be on their own (including some unable to attend in person) alongside songs and fellowship.

### **4. Finances and Resources.**

The net incoming resources for the year amounted to £3,328 (2023: £411) and the reserves at the year-end were £44,609 (2023: £41,281).

The Resources Committee meets regularly to encourage good stewardship of the church's financial and property resources in order to further the church's mission activities and ensure that the premises are a safe and secure space.

The accounts include the employment costs of those directly employed by the Church. The church continues to be grateful for donations and offerings. A DONA card machine has been installed to enable contactless donations and a link had been included on the church website. The transition to online banking is ongoing.

Regular giving has reduced slightly compared to last year, due in part to the death of several members who were regular givers, but this has been partially offset by the introduction of the DONA machine. Gift Aid is claimed on all donations where appropriate. Income from lettings was slightly lower than the previous year, rates have been reviewed and increased this year.

Careful consideration continues to be given to the expenses of the church, most of which relate to essential expenditure in maintaining church life and buildings. The kitchen has been refurbished and there are plans to upgrade the female toilets which are essential to the church's outreach activities; most of the costs are being met by donations and grants. A quinquennial report was carried out in

**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024**

November 2024 which confirmed that the premises had been well cared for and no urgent work was required. Ongoing maintenance continues to be scheduled and grants applied for where appropriate.

The church has a Reserves Policy to ensure that reserves are held to meet unforeseen expenditure or short-term annual deficits, aiming to hold reserves of 50% of average annual operating expenditure.

The on-going challenge of an ageing congregation remains, as does the need to be able to cover annual expenditure with annual income, and replenish reserves when it has been necessary to use them for urgent major work. This is regularly considered and monitored by the Managing Trustees.

**5. Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees of the Charity on ...28th April 2025..... and signed on its behalf by:

Signed: J.M. Wilson  
on behalf of the Managing Trustees

Revd J.M. Wilson  
Chair of Trustees

**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act;  
or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
.....

Mr. M.J. Cridland BA (Hons) FCA  
Scott Vevers Ltd  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors  
65 East Street  
Bridport  
Dorset DT6 3LB

Date: 1/5/25  
.....

**Bridport United Church**  
**Receipts and payments accounts**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Income	Actual To 31.12.24	Actual To 31.12.23
Collection	£6,703	£8,156
Standing Orders	<u>£20,760</u>	<u>£22,645</u>
<b>Sub</b>	<b>£27,463</b>	<b>£30,801</b>
Lettings	£17,326	£19,820
Dona/Sum up Net	£1,582	
<b>Other income/donations</b>		
Dorset South and W Mission Award - Circuit Grants (kitchen, signage etc.)	£8,164	£2,307
Car Park	£1,344	£3,097
Other donations	£6,801	£40,484
J Stevens Fund	£2,481	-
Little lambs, Big Breakfast, Lunches, coffee etc.	£10,713	£11,973
South Street Properties Donation (Church Council 08.	£10,000	-
Insurance Claim ref Car Park Wall	-	<u>£6,487</u>
<b>Sub</b>	<u>£39,503</u>	<u>£64,348</u>
Christmas Tree Festival - BACs	£360	£1,291
Interest	£300	£270
Gift Aid (for 2022/23) and VAT reclaim	£11,816	£7,855
<b>Total income</b>	<u><b>£98,350</b></u>	<u><b>£124,385</b></u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Assessments	£43,232	£38,676
Choir, Organ expenses, Licence	£1,278	£3,011
Donations out/Youth for Christ etc.	£1,650	£6,586
Admin, Office, Secretarial	£9,897	£10,095
Rent	£850	
Heat & Light	£5,729	£9,180
Cleaning	£505	£4,236
Repairs & Maintenance	£9,156	£34,098
Printing & Stationery	£1,464	£933
Insurance	£6,132	£5,898
Sundries	£344	£687
Christmas Tree Festival	£1,225	£2,095
Equipment, Chairs, Kitchen, Screens,Dona	£13,560	£8,479
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u><b>£95,022</b></u>	<u><b>£123,974</b></u>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<u><b>£3,328</b></u>	<u><b>£411</b></u>

**Notes**

Income was up by £10k on budget.

Gift Aid was not as much as predicted but the Dona machine gave us £1.6k unbudgeted additional income. We didn't receive as much cash collections as expected but did better than anticipated with our VAT reclaim .

We received all the grants we applied for to help pay for the kitchen refurb., new screens and outside notice boards.

Overall expenditure was as expected. We overspent on building repairs and our assessments were higher than expected. We underspent on heat & light and cleaning.

We show a £3.3k surplus for the year.

**Bridport United Church**  
**Statement of assets**  
**As at 31 December 2024**

**Reserves @ 31.12.23**


HSBC Admin	£32,384	
HSBC Doner	£1,571	
Cash	£185	
CFB	£5,285	
MCA	<u>£1,856</u>	
Total reserves brought forward		£41,281

Surplus for the year to 31 December 2024 £3,328

**Reserves @ 31.12.24**

HSBC Admin	£21,179	
HSBC Doner	£15,526	
Cash	£462	
CFB	£5,555	
MCA	<u>£1,887</u>	
Total reserves carried forward		<u><u>£44,609</u></u>

**Approved on behalf of the trustees**

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	J.M. WILSON (REVD)	28/4/2025

**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH (METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136354

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# Accounts

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**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023**

**1. Administrative Information**

Bridport United Church (Methodist and United Reformed) is part of the Dorset South and West Methodist Circuit (which is part of Southampton Methodist District), and the Wessex Synod of the URC, and is also a member of Churches Together in Bridport & District. The church celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a United Church in 2022, although there has been a Methodist and United Reformed presence in Bridport since at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Bridport United Church is registered as **Charity No. 1136354**

**Minister:** Revd Jane Wilson

The Managing Trustees are appointed in accordance with the terms of the Constitution and Schedule (Governing Documents) of Bridport United Church and CPD.

**Managing Trustees in 2023:**

Revd Jane Wilson (Chair)

Jane Clinton

John Darwood

Susan Herman

Ros Hilliard

Peter Kershaw (to July 2023)

Judy Munden

Richard Plummer

Wendy Plummer

Lyn Wells

Janice Young

**Treasurer:** Peter Kershaw (to July 2023); Richard Plummer (from July 2023)

**Independent Examiner:** Denys Hood

All official correspondence should be sent to the Minister/Secretary/Treasurer at Bridport United Church, East Street, Bridport, DT6 3LJ

**2. Aims and Objectives.**

The aim of the church as set out in its mission statement is to work to proclaim God's love to all ages through worship, fellowship, outreach, caring, teaching and prayer.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Developing the worship life of the church by offering a range of worship styles and experiences, including Messy Church, Taizé, Café Church, Soul Space, and Healing services encompassing informal and more traditional services.
- Offering ways of deepening discipleship through fellowship groups, prayer meetings, house and bible study groups, and other courses.
- Offering pastoral care and support; the Pastoral Coordinator works with the Minister in reviewing the Pastoral List and pastoral needs. Pastoral care and support for individuals and groups is provided by the Minister and the team of pastoral visitors.

- Reaching out to and serving our local community through various activities including the twice weekly Coffee mornings, and monthly Lunch Club, Fellowship Club, Big Breakfast. Plans are in hand to restart the toddler group.
- Encouraging a deeper prayer life by providing opportunities for prayer in worship and weekly prayer meetings, the prayer chain, prayer request boxes on tables at the Coffee Mornings and Big Breakfast and prayer-focussed events.
- Working with Churches Together in Bridport & District (CTiBD) to support services and outreach events throughout the year, supporting other local community care groups such as Pathways to Care, Foodbanks, Helpful Hampers, Melplash Show and hosing the CTiBD Christmas Day Lunch .
- Working towards a fairer, greener world by seeking to work to attain an Eco Church award.

### **3. Review of Activities, Progress and Achievements**

The Minister is Chair of the Managing Trustees/Church Council, which meets at least 4 times a year, and the Church Meeting, which meets at least 3 times a year, to review the various aspects of the life of the church in the context of its ongoing mission to demonstrate the love of God by witnessing to and serving the community. Trustees and officers are appointed by the Annual Church Meeting.

The Managing Trustees have continued to review and update procedures to manage the risks to which Managing Trustees and members are exposed and risk assessments are carried out as needed. The Managing Trustees are undergoing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.

Volunteers are checked, including where appropriate under the DBS legislation, and provided with appropriate training.

The Church Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually by the Managing Trustees and the Church Safeguarding officer ensures that appropriate Safeguarding training and DBS checks are completed by all relevant church officers and volunteers in accordance with the BUC Safeguarding Policy.

The GDPR Privacy Notice is reviewed annually.

This has been another busy year for Bridport United Church.

We continue to seek to offer a variety of worship services and activities, in addition to the main 10.30am Sunday service, and new services introduced during the year included Café Church, Healing services, Taize-style services, an In Loving Memory service, and Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Regular events such as the monthly Messy Church at 3.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, led by a team coordinated by the circuit-based Children & Families Lay Worker, Peter Jenner, have continued to be well attended by around 25-30 local children and their families.

Soul Space, an informal space to listen, sing, pray, talk and connect with God with tea, coffee & cake, happens monthly at 4pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays and is well supported by members of the church and local community. As more people now attend in person and the team producing videos has reduced, it was decided not to continue with video recordings.

The Prayer Group meets regularly in church on Wednesday mornings and there is also a prayer chain which responds quickly to requests for prayers via email. The prayer boxes on tables at weekly coffee mornings have collected several prayer requests which are passed on immediately. A Quiet Prayer Afternoon and a Holy Week series of morning prayers was well received and there are plans to arrange more prayer events in future.

Our community outreach activities continue to be well supported with an average of 60-70 people attending the weekly Coffee mornings on Wednesdays (including those attending the Knit & Natter group and Walking for Wellbeing) and Saturdays. On Wednesdays during the colder months this was extended to offer a Warm Welcome Space with a simple lunch.

The monthly Big Breakfast has continued to grow in popularity with c.90 breakfasts being cooked for people from the local community and beyond each month.

The monthly Wednesday Lunch Club provides an opportunity for people to meet for fellowship and a 2 course home cooked lunch with an average attendance of c. 60 people.

The monthly Thursday Fellowship Club offers an afternoon for anyone to come and chat, do some crafts, play board games, do a puzzle, or knit, with sandwiches and cake to follow.

Sadly the Stepping Stones Pre-school closed after over 25 years due to a lack of demand for available places, but plans are being made to launch a new Toddlers Group, Little Lambs, in the New Year.

The annual Christmas Tree Festival hosted by BUC was again a major event in the Bridport Christmas calendar and visitor numbers totalled almost 3000. In response to feedback from members and community groups it was decided to retain the reduced number of trees at post-Covid level to allow more space for decorating and viewing trees.

The Christmas Day Lunch run by a team of volunteers from CTiBD provided a lunch for nearly 90 people from the local community who would otherwise be on their own (including some unable to attend in person) alongside songs and fellowship.

#### **4. Finances and Resources.**

The Resources Committee meets regularly to encourage good stewardship of the church's financial and property resources in order to further the church's mission activities and ensure that the premises are a safe and secure space.

The accounts include the employment costs of those directly employed by the Church. The church continues to be grateful for donations and offerings. Regular giving has remained at a similar level to the previous year. Income from lettings was slightly lower than the previous year but is expected to improve as more room space becomes available following the closure of the preschool. Additional one-off items of maintenance and repairs were covered by an increase in donations. Careful consideration has been given to the expenses to be met by the church, most of which relate to essential expenditure. There are plans to refurbish the main kitchen and toilets which are essential to the church's outreach activities, with most of the costs being met by donations and grants.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant effect on income streams and the Church recognises the need to carefully review income sources while maintaining good control over expenditure. The church has a Reserves Policy to ensure that reserves are held to meet unforeseen expenditure or short-term annual deficits, aiming to hold reserves of 50% of average annual operating expenditure.

The on-going challenge of an ageing congregation remains, as does the need to be able to cover annual expenditure with annual income, and replenish reserves when it has been necessary to use them for urgent major work. This is regularly considered and monitored by the Managing Trustees.

Signed:



on behalf of the Managing Trustees



**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
12 MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2023**

Actual 2022 £		Actual 2023 £	Actual 2023 £	Budget 2023 £	Budget 2024 £
	<b>INCOME</b>				
	Collections - Standing Orders	22645			
31917	Loose Sunday Service	8156	30801	33000	30000
6670	Individual Donations inc £5k Kitch / SSP £2350 Screen		40484	12000	15500
	Circuit Donations Screen £1800/Tables £507		2307		(SSP 10K)
	Car Park		3097		
21570	Lettings		19820	19000	18000
	Insurance Claim ref Car Park wall		6487		
9357	Coffee Mornings		7358	5400	7500
	Big Breakfast		3075	4000	3000
	Monthly/Weekly Wed Lunch Club (net)		1540		1200
2015	Christmas Tree Festival		1291	2000	1300
80	Investment Interest		270	100	200
7663	Gift Aid Tax Rebate/vat refund on listed building		7855	7000	12000
79272			124385	82500	88700
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
32861	URC M&M / Methodist Assessment	38676		39304	40000
1849	Choir & Organ/Piano Expenses	2239		1500	2000
	Music Licence	772			
1900	Donations inc Youth/Christ Lunch/Bridge /Caid/SS/Ptc	6586		3000	3500
6676	Church Admin/office expenses /tele internet	10095		8000	10000
7059	Heating & Lighting	9180		9500	9500
3242	Cleaning	4236		4500	3000
9157	Repairs / Maint'ce (inc wall £7904 stone, cp hole wc lock£725)	32337		5000	5000
	Fire Equipment	1761			
1813	Printing & stationary	933		1000	1000
4733	Insurance	5898		5000	6000
4480	Sundries (Including loss £334 on MG investment)	687		1700	1500
1214	Christmas Tree Festival (Including new bases and lights/timers)	2095		1500	1500
	<b>Equipment</b>			Kitchen	10000
	Trolley	3046		Chairs	3500
	Tables	634		Screens	Grants
	Chip & Pin M/C plus Till	617		Note Bd	Grants
	New Screen	3714			
	Water Boiler Kitchen	468			
74984			123974	80004	96500
4288	Excess of Income Over Expenditure		411	2496	-7800

Notes

- 1) £17147 + vat of church repairs 2021/2022 came to light has now been paid and included in above accounts
- 2) Budgeted Donation of £10000 plus £15000 extra from South Street Props has been received and included in a/c's
- 3) £5000 donation received towards new Kitchen costs has yet to be spent .(to be restricted for future kitchen cost)
- 4) A donation of £3905 has been received from Stepping Stones Pre School for use on the new Toddler Group only, or possibly a case could be made for some Messy Church use.(to be restricted for future Toddler/Messy Church use)
- 5) The VAT due from the listed building scheme of approx £3500 (from recent outstanding 2021/22 repairs bill) is due, but cannot be claimed untill August 2024.
- 6) HMRC Gift Aid due for the year to 31/12/23 of approx £8500

## BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

## RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS / BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

		£	£
<b>Balances at 31st DECEMBER 2023</b>			
Balance at HSBC Bank	Admin A/C Bank Statement 31/12/23	33776.89	
	Less unrepresented cheques	42.00	
		20.48	
		104.40	
		188.47	
		244.10	
		100.00	-699.45
Adjusted HSBC Balance Admin A/C 31/12/23			33077
Balance at HSBC Bank Donor A/C			1571
Cash On Hand 31/12/23			185
Central Finance Board	CFB 31/12/23		5285
Methodist Charities Account	MCA 31/12/23		1856
Debtors (Lettings invoices raised but not yet paid) 31/12/23			962
Sub Total BUC Assets 31/12/23			42936
Less Creditors 31/12/23 (Light & Heat Total Energies Dec Elect/Gas bill D/D paid Jan 24)			-1655
Total Assets of BUC 31/12/23			41281
Note:- M G A/C Closed.(Paid into Admin a/c, loss of £334 see sundries expenditure )			
<b>Balances at 31 DECEMBER 2022</b>			
Balance at HSBC Bank	Admin	11388	
	Donor	17721	
Central Finance Board	CFB	5060	
MCA		1811	
M/G		4890	
Total Assets of BUC 31/12/22			40870
<b>Excess of Income Over Expenditure to 31/12/23</b>			<b>411</b>
Notes			
1) £17147 + vat of church repairs 2021/2022 came to light has now been paid and included in above accounts			
2) Budgeted Donation of £10000 plus £15000 extra from South Street Props has been received and included in a/c's			
3) £5000 donation received towards new Kitchen costs has yet to be spent .(to be restricted for future kitchen cost)			
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5) The VAT due from the listed building scheme of approx £3500 (from recent outstanding 2021/22 repairs bill) is due, but cannot be claimed until August 2024.			
6) HMRC Gift Aid due for the year to 31/12/23 of approx £8500			

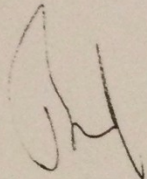
## **EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE**

**I have examined the accounts of Bridport United Church, as submitted to me, for the year ended 31 December 2023.**

**These consisted of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year, and the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023, together with supporting working papers.**

**The above readily allowed a clear view of the year end situation. Whilst the net income for the year is reduced, when compared with the previous year, there clearly has been dedicated control over overall expenditure.**

**I am able to confirm that the situation is correctly portrayed, and the accounts are in good order.**



**Denys Hood B Sc (Econ)**

**External examiner**

**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH (METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136354

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# Accounts

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## **BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS 2022-23**

### **CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT**

This year life at Bridport United Church has been gradually returning to normal, although inevitably some things have changed after the lockdowns. Some of our longstanding groups, such as Toddlers and the Friendship circle have not restarted in part because people have aged during the pandemic and no longer feel able to run these things. People are returning to services though and to things like the coffee mornings but these didn't really return to pre-pandemic levels til the end of the year. The alternate form of worship "Soul Space" which happens in the afternoon of the first Sunday of the month is now coming live from the church with a congregation but is still available on YouTube. The circuit Sunday Zoom service continued for the first half of the year but was then discontinued as people returned to their own churches. The written weekly service is still being distributed to those who want it. The regular Wednesday prayer group relocated online remained there until this April, 2023.

The Superintendent Minister, the Rev. John Yarrien looked after Bridport United Church from September last year until a new Minister – the Rev. Jane Wilson -was appointed and came to us in September this year. We welcomed her with a service and BUC hospitality of tea and cake.

John was thanked for his ministry and pastoral care which very much appreciated, as was his gentle encouragement of everything which members wanted to do.

Churches Together in Bridport began having live meetings again in February and under their auspices the Rest Tent at the Melplash Agricultural Show was again running, organised by Peter Jenner, a part-time youth-worker in the circuit, and was very successful. The Christmas Day Lunch was again run by the team assembled to run last year's lunch at the United Church; without the covid restrictions it was much easier and was a really enjoyable occasion with carols being sung and food provided for nearly 90 people, including sending food back to those unable to come.

The Church Council team at the 2022 AGM were: Melanie Buckland; Gill Bumphrey; John Darwood; Sue Herman; Ros Hilliard; Peter Kershaw; Richard Plummer; Alison and Robert White. At the AGM Melanie Buckland, Gill Bumphrey; and Alison White retired, although Alison has remained as safeguarding officer. We were delighted to welcome three new Church Councillors: Jane Clinton, Wendy Plummer and Lyn Wells.

During the year the church has been saddened by the loss of a number of members but we have also welcomed some new ones.

Our Christmas Tree Festival was again the centre of Bridport Christmas. The committee decided to keep to fewer trees to give more space for people and also to restrict the opening hours as they were conscious that covid hadn't gone away and we have an elderly membership.

In the summer a party was organised by a group of members to celebrate the United Church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was held in the church and open to all and was a great success.

The Big Breakfast once a month has continued to grow in popularity and is a wonderful social event with people coming from all over to attend; our brilliant hostess and cook Ros with her helpers cook up to 90 breakfasts in two and a half hours! The lunch club started after the pandemic and is a great social occasion once a month with a wonderful 2 course home cooked meal for up to 60 people. The price is £5 but if anyone comes unable to pay then they are not turned away. "Warm Space" was also started every Wednesday from 12 -4 with home-made soup and toasties – no charge but donation if people could afford it. This was started in the new year in conjunction with the Town Council who were co-ordinating Warm Space initiatives in the face of fuel and food poverty.

Once a month the "Thursday Club" takes place – an afternoon for anyone to come and have a chat, enjoy some crafts, play board games, do a puzzle, knit – and have cake and sandwiches. This also has seen an increase in numbers and there is a real buzz there.

All our hospitality events are open to everyone in the area and it is very good to note that many people who come regularly to our weekly Wednesday and Saturday coffee mornings become involved in other aspects of the church's life, whether as volunteers or as members. There is a great deal of loneliness particularly, but not exclusively, among older people and we give special thanks to those who are willing to give up so much of their own lives and hobbies to be part of the hospitality team. A big thank you to all who make up the various teams and who are willing to be called on at short notice.

The preschool functioned fully throughout the year and under Sarah continued to give children a really good start in education.

As always thanks also must go to our treasurer, Peter Kershaw, who has had the impossible job of trying to continue to pay the bills and carry out necessary repairs at Bridport United Church in spite of the loss of income during the pandemic. The finances are now improving as Lettings return. We are so grateful to Peter for continuing with his work in spite of serious health concerns.

Finally so many thanks again to Rev. John Yarren who in spite of his already heavy workload as Superintendent of a large circuit of 13 churches spent so much time with this church, attended all our outreach activities, offered encouragement and help and was taken to the heart of the congregation with his pastoral care and kindness. We hope that he will be able to spend some time with us in the future and we wish him well during his sabbatical.

And we hope, that under Jane's leadership and enthusiasm and with her new ideas, our church will go forward and flourish and continue to hold a special place in Bridport.

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep our church functioning as a church and as a place of hospitality and friendship; Bridport United Church is a very special place.

Sue Herman

## Church Secretary and Administrator

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# BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE @ BUC for 2022

2022

Budget

YEAR ENDING 31st December 2022

INCOME	£	£	£	£
Collections - Standing Orders and Envelopes	25,120			
- Loose	6,798			
		31,917		32,000
Donations to General Fund		1,070		500
Lettings and Car Park 2021		21,570		10,000
Coffee Mornings		7,751		5,000
Investment Interest		80		75
Special Events: Gift Day & Fayres		1,605		2,000
Christmas Tree Festival		2,015		1,200
Individual Donations to Modernisation Fund		5,600		1,000
HMRC Gift Aid - Tax Rebate		7,663		7,000
Gift from South Street Properties: BUC building maintenance		10,000		10,000
		79,272		68,775
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
URC M&M + Methodist Assessment		32,861		32,000
Visiting Preachers		45		200
Choir & Organist		1,804		1,200
Church Administration, excluding Insurance		6,676		7,000
Insurance		4,733		4,700
Heating & Lighting		7,059		7,500
Cleaning		3,242		3,000
General Repairs & Maintenance		9,157		10,000
Sundries		2,980		1,000
Printing & Stationery		1,813		500
Donations: CCTIB, YP & Bridge		1,900		3,000
Outreach Events: CTF, etc		1,214		1,500
Contribution to Essential Reserves		1,500		1,500
		74,983		73,100
<b>Temporary Difference between CHURCH income &amp; expenditure</b>			<b>4,288</b>	<b>-4,325</b>
<b>Modernisation Project Receipts to 31st December 2022</b>				
Modernisation Fund Donations	5,600			
BUC Grants & VAT Refund	0			
	5,600	5,600		
<i>Modernisation Project Costs to 31st December 2022 (paid)</i>		0		
Net Cash at Bank (31.12.2022)		30,762		
BUC chqs not yet cleared on 31.12.2022		-1,653		
Value of other convertible assets		11,761		
		40,870		
Grants & VAT refunds payable to BUC in 2023: estimated		3,000		
Net Value @	31.12.22	YE	43,870	

### BUC Investments

M&G Investments	4,890
Methodist Chapel Aid	1,811
Central Finance Board	5,060
	11,761



## BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

### BANK ACCOUNTS

31-Dec-22

#### BALANCE at HSBC

BUC First Account	£17,720.78
BUC Administration Account	£13,041.42
<i>Plus receipts not yet banked or credited</i>	<i>£0.00</i>
	<b>£30,762.20</b>
<i>Less cheques not yet presented</i>	<i>£-1,653.21</i>
NET:	£29,108.99

£29,108.99

#### ALLOCATION of RESOURCES

Combined General & Building Funds

**Invoices due for payment**

*£0.00*

**Future Building Works & Equipment Supplies**

None at present

£0.00

*Estimated remaining cost of recommended works:*

*£0.00*

*£0.00*

Cash Balance remaining:

**£29,108.99**

**Methodist Chapel Aid**

£1,811.00

**M&G Growth fund**

£4,890.00

**Central Finance Board** (Reserve for BUC operating costs)

£5,060.00

£11,761.00

**TOTAL:**

**£40,869.99**

Average receipts: collection or donations direct to bank per month: £4,000

**Less 6 months BUC Operating Costs (Estimate)**

-£36,000.00

**-£36,000.00**

**Estimated funds available after meeting all known BUC operating costs:**

**£4,869.99**

NB: The figures provided above do not include any additional URC Grants:

the estimated value of these sums being around:

**£0.00**

**£4,869.99**

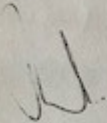
## BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

### PRELIMINARY BUDGET

		Y/E 2023	Y/E 2024
Y/E 2022	INCOME	£	£
31,917	Collections based on 2022	33,000	34,000
1,070	Misc. Donations to General Fund	1,000	1,000
21,570	Lettings and Car Park	17,500	20,000
7,751	Coffee Mornings	11,000	12,000
80	Investment Interest	100	240
1,605	Special Events: Fayres, Gift Day	2,000	3,000
2,015	Christmas Tree Festival	2,000	2,500
5,600	Individual Donations to Modernisation Fund	3,000	3,000
7,663	Tax Rebate on combined Gift Aided giving	9,000	10,000
0	Gift from South Street Properties: BUC building maintenance	10,000	10,000
79,272		<b>£88,600</b>	<b>£95,740</b>
Y/E 2022	EXPENDITURE		
32,861	URC M&M + Methodist Assessment	39,304	39,304
45	Visiting Preachers	200	200
1,804	Church Music incl CCLI	1,500	1,700
6,676	Church Administration	7,500	8,000
4,733	Insurance	5,000	5,300
7,059	Heating & Lighting	10,000	12,000
3,242	Cleaning	4,500	5,000
9,157	General Building maintenance (incl VAT)	5,000	5,000
2,980	Sundries	1,500	1,500
1,813	Printing & Stationery	2,000	2,200
1,900	Donations: CCTiB, YP & Bridge	3,000	3,000
1,500	Contribution to Essential Reserves	3,600	3,600
1,214	Outreach Events: CTF, etc	3,000	3,000
74,983		<b>£86,104</b>	<b>£89,804</b>
<b>£4,288</b>	<b>Estimated Difference of Income to Expenditure</b>	<b>£2,496</b>	<b>£5,936</b>
	Cash at Bank 31st December 2022	29,109	
	Value of other convertible assets	11,761	
		40,870	
	Grants & VAT refunds payable in 2023 to BUC, estimated	3,000	
		<b>43,870</b>	
	NB: a reserve of 6 months basic operating costs =	<b>-36,000</b>	
	Balance in Reserves	<b>£7,870</b>	

TO THE TRUSREES OF BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

I have examined all the papers and documents submitted to me, relating to the account of the above, and confirm that they reflect accurately the financial position as at December 31 2022.



Denys Hood. BSc (Econ)

10 February, 2023

**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH (METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136354

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# Accounts

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## BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS 2021-22

### CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year has been easier for Bridport United Church with restrictions on meeting for worship lifted from Easter 2021. However it was very different with social distancing observed, masks being worn and records kept of all who attended services each week. The safe distribution of communion and how collection money was received also required constructive thought but was managed regularly. It is only now, though, that most church members are feeling safe enough to return to services and the services themselves are now returning to pre-pandemic normality. A written service is still being prepared and delivered weekly and the circuit zoom services are still happening once a month. Soul Space is now delivering its alternate form of worship live in the church one Sunday afternoon a month and this is still available on YouTube. The regular Wednesday prayer group relocated online has remained there.

In September 2021 the Rev. Peter Clark retired and after his final packed service, conducted by the superintendent minister Rev John Yarrien, there was a farewell tea in the hall

The superintendent Minister, the Rev. John Yarrien then took on the role of Minister for Bridport United Church until a new minister was appointed.

Churches Together has had no opportunity to work together at events or worship but has kept in touch electronically. They declined to run the regular Christmas Day Lunch this year because of fears about covid so a member of the United Church in conjunction with the organiser of one of the food banks took it on and hosted about 60 people on Christmas Day in the church hall.

The Church Council team serving during the year were: Melanie Buckland; Gill Bumphrey; John Darwood; Sue Herman; Ros Hilliard; Peter Kershaw; Alison and Robert White. Face to face meetings resumed in the summer.

During the year the church has been saddened by the loss of a number of members but we have also welcomed some new ones.

During the year events have slowly resumed and the Christmas Tree Festival was again the centre of Bridport Christmas. Fewer trees than usual were used to give more space and opening hours were shorter but it was an enormous success and a milestone on the path back to "normality" for the town and church.

The Big Breakfast is back once a month and is very popular and is a wonderful social event with people coming from all over to attend; our brilliant hostess, Ros and her helpers cook up to 90 breakfasts in two and a half hours! There have also been a number of new initiatives for hospitality and outreach to try and address the isolation and loneliness felt by so many people over the last few difficult years. A lunch club has started once a month and from the first one a minimum of 40 people have come, and also once a month the "Thursday Club" has taken place – an afternoon for Golden Oldies – and anyone else – to come and have a chat, enjoy some crafts, play board games, do a puzzle – and have cake and sandwiches. The first one was April 2022 where we made an Easter garden for the church foyer, some made Easter cards, easter bonnets were made and displayed and games were played. All these events are open to all, not just BUC members and they couldn't happen without the help of many of the

present Church Councillors, all of those who have been nominated to stand for election at this church AGM and many others who make up Ros' team and we owe them and of course Ros an enormous debt of gratitude.

The preschool has continued to function fully since Easter 2020 but with obvious restrictions and difficulties though now, as all restrictions have been lifted, they too are settling back to pre-pandemic working. Sarah took over as head in September 2021 and has been running the pre-school very efficiently and numbers of children are now increasing so that the school will remain viable.

Altogether this year has been easier than the last though many of our elderly members have found things very difficult and special thanks must go to all the unseen heroes of our church family who have been keeping in touch by phone, letter or in person with all those isolating or simply feeling alone. And as always thanks also must go to our treasurer, Peter Kershaw, who has had the impossible job of trying to continue to pay the bills and carry out necessary repairs in spite of the loss of income incurred by the pandemic with all lettings in abeyance for two years. He has given thanks for the amazing contributions made throughout by members. Hopefully now our income from letting out our spaces is on the up and will make life a bit easier.

Finally so many thanks to Rev. John Yarrien who inspite of his already heavy workload as Superintendent of a large circuit of 13 churches has spent so much time with this church, attends all our outreach activities, offers encouragement and help and has been taken to the heart of this congregation with his pastoral care and kindness. We hope that when we have a new Minister in the autumn he will still be able to spend time with us,

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep our church functioning as a church and as a place of hospitality and friendship; Bridport United Church is a very special place.

Sue Herman

Church Secretary and Administrator

# BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

2020

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

2021

2021  
Budget

YEAR ENDING 31st December 2021

		£	£	£	£	
<b>INCOME</b>						
	Collections - Standing Orders and Envelopes	25,730				
	- Loose	7,248				
36,661			32,978			27,400
10,870	Donations to General Fund		2,508			500
10,477	Lettings and Car Park 2021		13,705			8,000
5,693	Coffee Mornings		4,258			1,000
213	Investment Interest		65			100
3,722	Special Events: Gift Day, Summer Fayre & CTF		798			3,500
9,451	HMRC Gift Aid - Tax Rebate		7,001			7,000
210	Gift from South Street Properties: BUC building maintenance		10,000			10,000
	Contra		50			50
77,297			71,362		71,362	57,500
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
42,474	URC M&M + Methodist Assessment		23,504			23,504
135	Visiting Preachers		45			200
4,065	Choir & Organist		1,366			1,200
6,431	Church Administration, excl Insurance		6,347			7,500
4,132	Insurance		4,318			4,500
6,640	Heating & Lighting		6,191			6,500
4,440	Cleaning		2,875			5,000
9,172	General Repairs & Maintenance		26,273			25,000
2,493	Sundries		1,595			1,000
1,086	Printing & Stationery		480			1,000
1,435	Donations various: outgoing		4,270			3,000
1,685	Special Event Costs, including CTF		923			1,750
210	Contra		50			50
84,398			78,238		78,238	80,204
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-7,101</b>	<b>Temporary Difference between CHURCH income &amp; expenditure</b>		<b>-6,876</b>		<b>-22,704</b>

Building Redevelopment Project Receipts to 31st December 2021

Building Fund - Donations

0

BUC Grants & VAT Refund

7,518

7,518

Church receipts

7,518

71,362

78,880

Building Redevelopment Project Costs to 31st December 2021 (paid)

Church expenditure, excluding redevelopment expenditure:

0

78,238

78,238

Temporary Difference between ALL BUC income & ALL expenditure

642

# BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

Balance sheet at December 31 2021

## Assets:

### Bank accounts:

HSBC	1473565	22,588.53
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less:

### Less unrepresented cheques:

100673	290.00
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100670	182.40
--------	--------

100676	847.96
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1,320.36

21,268.17

HSBC

4,845.25

Central Finance Board

5,001.13

MCA

1,798.39

M&G Investments

3,439.20

£ 36,352.14

## Cumulative reserves:

Reserves at January 1, 2021	35,710
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### Church:

Income in year	71,362
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Expenditure in year	-78,238
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Net church outgoings	<u>-6,876</u>
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### Redevelopment Project:

Income	<u>7,518</u>
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Net overall income

642

Reserves at December 31 2021

£ 36,352

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRIDPORT URC CHURCH**

**I am pleased to report on my examination of the accounts for the year ended December 31 2021.**

**I have examined the various documents presented to me, and find that a very competent method of recording and presenting information is in operation.**

**I have no matters to bring to your attention.**

**Denys Hood B Sc(Econ)**

**Appointed examiner of the accounts**

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