

FARNHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY (Number 1138055)  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities (2005), applicable to charities preparing accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Farnham United Reformed Church (FURC) is a local church within the United Reformed Church in Great Britain and is part of the Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church. The church is located at South Street, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7QU.

Since 1 September 2018, FURC has operated jointly with Farnham Methodist Church (FMC) as a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, known as The Spire Church Farnham (SFC). Under this arrangement, FURC is a connected charity with FMC and SFC, with all three sharing an identical board of trustees.

Trustees (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023):

- The Revd Philip Simpkins
- The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins
- Mr Roy Beard
- Mr Roy Davenport
- Mrs Sue Dawson
- Mr Stephen Dobbs (from 1 September 2023)
- Mrs Valerie Jarvis
- Mrs Margaret Johnson
- Mrs Alison Noakes
- Miss Ann Pook
- Mrs Heather Richards
- Mr Ian Sargeant
- Mr Nick Savill
- Mrs Janet Stone
- Mr David Tropman (from 1 September 2023)
- Mr Roger Verster (from 1 September 2023)

The church building at South Street, Farnham, and the manse at 23 Hillary Road are vested in the United Reformed Church (Wessex) Trust Ltd. and held for the benefit of FURC under the trust provisions applicable to United Reformed Church properties. The charity's trustees are responsible for managing these two properties.

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

Since 1 September 2018, Farnham United Reformed Church has operated as part of The Spire Church Farnham, a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership with Farnham Methodist Church (a charity excepted from registration). All worship and daily activities are jointly conducted by the two churches through The Spire Church Farnham. While FURC and FMC remain separate legal entities, they share a common membership roll and have formally delegated all governance responsibilities to

The Spire Church Farnham. The trustees of The Spire Church Farnham are also the trustees of the funds of FURC.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Farnham United Reformed Church, through The Spire Church Farnham, has the following objectives:  
To help people experience the love of God through Jesus Christ.

The trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have adhered to it in the administration of the church. The trustees believe the church benefits the public by providing opportunities and resources for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral, and intellectual development. These services are extended both to the congregation and to the wider community, promoting Christian values and service, which in turn benefits individuals and society as a whole.

## REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout 2023, the church continued to provide public worship, preach the Gospel, and administer sacraments. Key activities included:

- Regular study groups.
- Pastoral care provided by ministers and others.
- Active participation of church members in community service, both within and outside the church.
- The Spire Coffee Bar and various groups for toddlers, children, young people, and adults, open to all members of the community.
- Rooms made available for community use when not required for church activities, with users contributing towards church running costs. Charges in the coffee bar were kept low to encourage community engagement, Christian fellowship, and fundraising for charitable causes.
- Creation of a welcoming hub for visitors, enhancement of premises, and engagement with the cultural life of the community to promote spiritual values.
- Continued collaboration with other local churches, especially those in Farnham, as well as regional Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

Significant progress was made on the Pilgrim Project, aimed at refurbishing and developing the church building. Fundraising activities are ongoing, and donations and grants are being sought to support the project.

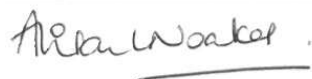
## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church's accounts for the year show a surplus of £18,640, compared to a surplus of £49,972 in the previous year.

This report was approved by the trustees at their meeting on 18 September 2023. Two trustees were authorised to sign the accounts and report on behalf of the board.



Philip Simpkins (Minister)



Alison Noakes (Church Secretary)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

**Farnham United Reformed Church Charity**

On accounts for the year  
ended

**31 December 2023**

Charity no  
(if any)

**1138055**

Set out on pages

**3 & 4**

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

*Michael Williamson*

Date:

*28/4/2024*

Name:

Michael Williamson

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address:

8 Glynswood, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4TN

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Report to the trustees  
members of

On accounts for the year  
ended

Set out on pages

3 to 4

Responsible and  
basis of report  
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act  
2011 (the Act)

Independent  
examiner's statement

Report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out  
under section 146 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I  
have followed the applicable guidance given by the Charity Commission  
under section 145(2)(b) of the Act

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have  
come to my attention (other than that disclosed below) in connection with  
the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material  
respect

• accounts do not accord with the accounting records

• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have nothing to disclose in connection  
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a  
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Please use the words in the brackets if the accounts are not correct

Signed:

Name: Michael Williamson

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address: 8 Garswood Farmham Bury GU10 4TN





## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

01-Jan-23

To

31-Dec-23

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Giving to General Funds	4,799	8,375	-	13,174	71,990
Sales of Refreshments & Sundry Goods	75,578	-	-	75,578	61,874
Grants from Spire Church & Others	1,690	12,479	-	14,169	2,850
Fundraising Events (net)	4,395	6,045	-	10,440	8,997
Interest	3,815	2,026	-	5,841	1,007
Use of Premises	37,507	-	-	37,507	30,174
Ins Compensation Business Interruptn	-	-	-	-	1,261
Donations and Tax Refunds	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>127,784</b>	<b>28,925</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>156,709</b>	<b>178,151</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>127,784</b>	<b>28,925</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>156,709</b>	<b>178,151</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Purchase of Cafeteria Supplies etc	25,155	-	-	25,155	17,416
Grants to Spire Church Farnham	90,000	-	-	90,000	70,000
Charitable Donations	1,250	-	-	1,250	1,270
Office & Admin Expenses	1,677	93	-	1,770	1,026
Maint. Church Prpoerty inc Insurance	17,901	-	-	17,901	22,402
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Project Costs	-	1,993	-	1,993	16,065
Fundraising Costs	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>135,983</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>138,069</b>	<b>128,179</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>135,983</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>138,069</b>	<b>128,179</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 8,199</b>	<b>26,839</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,640</b>	<b>49,972</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>- 8,199</b>	<b>26,839</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,640</b>	<b>49,972</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Bank Balances & Deposits	114,330	143,277	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>114,330</b>	<b>143,277</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

IAN C. SARGEANT  
ALISON L NOAKES

IAN C. SARGEANT  
ALISON L NOAKES

12/3/24  
12/3/24