

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2019.

SECTION A REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Chingford United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the Thames North Synod and the Forest Group of Churches. It was registered as a Charity on 4th May 2011 as Charity Number 1141708.

The Church is situated at 2b Buxton Road, Chingford, London E4 7DP and Church officers can be contacted on the Church's telephone number 020 8529 8888 or by emailing chingford.urc@btconnect.com.

The members of the Elders Meeting for the time being are recognised as charity trustees. Those who served from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Trustee Name	Office if any	Dates acted if not for year
Mr Malcolm Allard	Elder, Acting Secretary	
Mr Duncan Creevy	Elder, Assistant Treasurer	
Mrs Helen Haigh	Elder	From 1st January 2023
Mr Kevin Haigh	Elder, Organist	From 1st January 2023
Mr Dapo Kotun	Elder	
Mrs Sandra Millan	Elder, Pulpit Supply	
Mr David Nursaw	Elder	
Mr Malcolm Smith	Elder	
Mrs Margaret Brown	Elder	Until 31st December 2022
Mrs Samantha Roney	Elder	Until 31st December 2022

The Church premises in Buxton Road, Chingford and the Manse at Beechcroft, The Green, Chingford are vested in the Synod Trust Company as trustees and held for the benefit of Chingford URC in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

SECTION B STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The activities of Chingford United Reformed Church are overseen by the Elders Meeting of the Church in accordance with the provision of the Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and supplemented by the rules of the Chingford Church. The governing document of the registered charity is a statement adopted by the Church Meeting on 6th March 2011.

The Elders Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, and the care and maintenance of the Church premises and Manse. The Church Meeting (of all members wishing to attend) gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church.

The members of the Elders Meeting are the Minister in pastoral charge and up to 8 members of the Chingford Church nominated and elected by members of Chingford Church in Church Meeting. Elders serve for 4 years then usually retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election after one year. Apart from that there is no restriction on the number of times that individuals can be elected. The Elders are the trustees of the registered charity during their period of service as elders. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Elders Meeting normally meets ten times during the year. It is assisted in the administration of the Church and its property by the Board of Management, established to look at all premises and financial issues. The Church Meeting met on several occasions during the year.

Risk and Internal Control

The trustees undertake an ongoing review of risks. Those areas with the highest risk receive the most attention and steps are taken to minimise exposure and to have effective systems in place where needed. The trustees are satisfied that proper controls are in place for monitoring and mitigating these risks. The main risks that the Church and the charitable organisation face are governance risks, external risks, financial risks, operational risks and compliance with laws and regulations, including those relating to public health.

SECTION C OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Chingford United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building and described more specifically in its Mission Statement contained in the Vision Statement and Outreach Action Plan displayed in the Church.

The Elders Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the Church.

The Elders Meeting believes that the Church provides benefit to the public by:

- Providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

SECTION D ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

With the passage of time and the easing of restrictions previously arising from Coronavirus the holding of services and general activities on the premises resumed and returned to 2019 levels.

Towards the end of the year a joint meeting of the Chingford Church and St James United Reformed Church Buckhurst Hill voted overwhelmingly to accept an offer from Rev Jonathan Hyde to become the non-stipendiary Minister of those two Churches as from January 2023, thus filling the vacancy which had existed since the departure of the previous Minister in 2021.

Our weekly Friday coffee mornings and occasional prayer meetings, organised by way of outreach to the community, continued to be well attended and a successful fund raising Autumn Fayre was held in November 2022.

SECTION E FINANCIAL REVIEW

With the premises being fully open the Church's income for 2022 at £82,847 was significantly higher than for the previous year (2021 = £62,205). The main sources of income were offerings £25,277, Gift Aid tax recovery £5,472, hiring income £31,598 and manse rent £17,231 net of management costs. Expenditure of £73,882 included Ministry and Mission Fund contributions of £31,980 and Church activities and premises costs of £41,902, giving an overall surplus of just under £9,000 (2021 = a deficit of £3,560).

The accounts are prepared on a cash transaction basis with no accruals. The fund balances in hand (as at 31st December 2022) of just over £78,000 are therefore all held in cash accounts.

The Church's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the activities of the Church. The Church is in a reasonable financial position as the cash reserve of £78,000 is more than enough to cover the annual cost of the ministry of the Church, at least in the short term. The Church does however need to keep its financial position under review in order to cover ongoing expenditure, in particular repairs and maintenance of the Church premises, including the Manse. A drive to maximise the use of the Church premises by external hirers has generated a significant uplift in income.

Investment Policy

The Church's Income and Expenditure is significant, but surpluses are not likely to be retained for long periods. As a consequence the Church does not have sufficient sums to invest in longer term investments such as stocks and shares. The Church has therefore adopted a low risk strategy for the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only banks and financial institutions regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Church officers regularly monitor the levels of bank balances and interest rates received to ensure the Church obtains maximum value and income from its banking and investment arrangements. This currently involves using an account that requires a period of notice before funds can be withdrawn and in doing so the Board of Management considers cash flow requirements.

SECTION F PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Our aspirations are set out in our Church Life Review. We recognise that we do not always have the resources to progress everything at the same time. On the other hand we have excellent facilities in our buildings and opportunities for outreach among the hundreds of people who potentially will come into our premises each week for the activities which take place there.

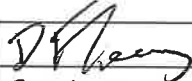
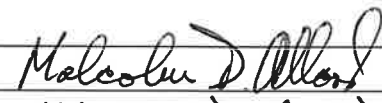
We therefore continue to seek to improve our relationships with the organisations that use our buildings to encourage their members to become more involved in church services and activities.

We recognise that we need to maintain the profile of our Church through communication and advertising of services, activities and events and we continue to promote those via external Notice boards and the Forest Group website.

We also recognise that we need to find more people to take part in the administration of the Church as the existing church officers are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with all their responsibilities, particularly with the reduction in the number of serving Elders (from 12 to 8).

SECTION G DECLARATION

This report was approved by the Elders meeting on 7th September 2023 and is signed on its behalf by two of the Elders

Signature		
Full Name	DUNCAN CREEVY	MALCOLM D. ALLAN
Position	Elder	Elder
Date	25th SEP 2023	25 SEP 2023

Registered Charity Number 1141708

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**31 December 2022**

The address of the Charity is 2B Buxton Road, Chingford,
London, E4 7DP.

These annual accounts should be read in conjunction with
the Trustees Annual Report.

These accounts reflect the financial transactions recorded on a Receipts and Payments basis.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES from generated funds			
Voluntary Income	2	30,500	32,864
Grants received	3		
Activities for generating funds	4	51,781	28,710
Investment Income	5	811	631
Incoming resources - unrestricted		83,092	62,205
Restricted donations received	4	1,683	1,000
Incoming resources - total		84,775	63,205
RESOURCES EXPENDED Charitable activities			
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	6	31,980	29,268
Worship costs	7	1,160	2,360
Cost of church activities	8	41,237	34,137
Grants payable			
Governance costs			
Resources expended-unrestricted		74,377	65,765
Restricted donations passed on	9	2,683	15
Resources expended - total		77,060	65,780
Net incoming (outgoing) unrestricted resources:		8,715	-3,560
Total funds b/f 1 January		69,118	72,678
Unrestricted resources c/f 31 December		77,833	69,118
Net incoming (outgoing) restricted resources:		-1,000	985
Total funds b/f 1 January		1,000	15
Restricted resources c/f 31 December		0	1,000
TOTAL RESOURCES 31 DECEMBER		77,833	70,118
<u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER</u>			
BANK AND CASH BALANCES			
Lloyds TSB Current account - unrestricted		£ 10,169	£ 10,265
Lloyds TSB Current account - restricted		0	1,000
Redwood Bank Ltd		67,604	58,793
Charities deposit fund (COIF)		0	0
Cash		60	60
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY		77,833	70,118

APPROVED by the Church Meeting held on 24th September 2023
 and signed on its behalf by Elder Duncan Creevy

The notes on pages 2 to 4 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**1a Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 Section 133 and United Reformed Church guidance. The accounts are presented on a Receipts and Payments basis. The principle accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b Funding Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

1c Tangible Fixed Assets

Freehold Property: The Trustees of the church and manse buildings are the URC Thames North Trust who hold them on trust for purposes connected with Chingford URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

1d The cost of employing a Church Administrator who looks after the premises and the hirers of the spaces is charged within Cost of Church Activities.

1e Taxation

As part of the United Reformed Church, the Church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The Church has been entered in the Register of Charities with effect from 4 May 2011 with number 1141708.

CHINGFORD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

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NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - cont'

	2022 £	2021 £
2 VOLUNTARY INCOME	25,084	21,144
Freewill/plate offerings		6,000
Special offerings/ donations/legacies	5,416	5,720
Income tax refunds/ Gift Aid	30,500	32,864
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
3 GRANTS RECEIVED - no grants were received in the year		
4 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	31,598	10,054
Letting of Church and Halls	17,725	16,905
Letting of Manse	1,319	1,231
Fairs and sales	1,139	520
Other fund raising	0	0
Miscellaneous	<u>51,781</u>	<u>28,710</u>
RESTRICTED DONATIONS RECEIVED	1,300	1,000
"Commitment for life"	383	0
Individual charities	<u>1,683</u>	<u>1,000</u>
5 INVESTMENT INCOME	811	631
Bank Interest		
6 MINISTRY & MISSION FUND		
The Church contributes to the central URC costs of training and providing ministers (including the centralised payment of stipends, pension contributions and other benefits for ministers), running the denomination, and the wider mission of the national Church.		
7 WORSHIP COSTS		
The Church shares its minister with churches in the Forest Group and some payments are made by the Forest Group. Ministerial Costs are the share paid by Chingford URC		
Share of Ministerial costs paid to Forest Group	0	1,032
Pupit supply	820	930
Organist, CCLI licence & other	340	398
	<u>1,160</u>	<u>2,360</u>
8 COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES, Church & manse costs	12,994	15,750
Church Administrator	6,465	4,267
Cleaning	8,442	4,896
Gas & Electricity	3,012	3,460
Building maintenance & equipment	1,771	1,210
Manse expenses, inc refurbishment and insurance	2,893	2,734
Insurance of Church	4,105	0
Water & refuse	<u>39,682</u>	<u>32,317</u>
Sub total carried forward	0	0
Communications : Newsletter & posters	1,408	1,663
Telephone & internet	0	0
Reform magazine	<u>1,408</u>	<u>1,663</u>
	147	157
Coffee, flowers & lunches	<u>41,237</u>	<u>34,137</u>
COST OF ACTIVITIES		

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - con

	2022	2021
	£	£

9 GRANTS PAYABLE AND RESTRICTED DONATIONS PASSED ON

Commitment for Life	2,300	0
Other restricted gifts	383	15
	<u>2,683</u>	<u>15</u>

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

10.1 Throughout 2022 no organisation held funds on behalf of the Church.

10.2 The Church accounts include a Restricted Fund where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they are entrusted to the Church. These monies are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any purpose and represent specific Gifts - donations are invited monthly for specific charities and special annual collections for Christian Aid and Commitment for Life. The Church aims to pay over monies raised during the year in which they are received. Any unpaid monies due to Charities are shown as Cash, Restricted Funds.

ASSISTANT TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 4 for the year ended 31 December 2022

Andrew G Wiseman

Dated 25th April 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER's Report to the Trustees of Chingford United Reformed Church.

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 5

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

NAME Jean Margaret Wyber

ADDRESS 7 Mornington Close, Woodford Green, IG8 0TT Dated 25 April 2023

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - con		2022	2021
		£	£
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