



**MUSWELL HILL
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

From 1st JANUARY 2023

TO

31st DECEMBER 2023

(Charity No: 1142465)

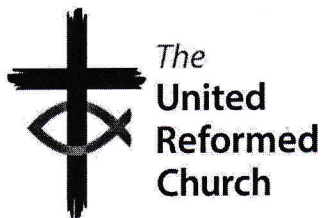
MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

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MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

(www.muswellhillurc.org.uk)

Annual Report and Accounts
for year ended 31 December 2023

Muswell Hill United Reformed Church Charity is registered charity number 1142465

1. Objectives

The objective of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of its members and the public in accordance with the Basis of Union of the United Reformed Church. The Charity provides regular public worship for all, promoting the Christian faith and teaching the faith to all ages; it provides support and development for children and young people. In addition, the charity provides services for baptism and membership, weddings, and funerals. It also serves the community, giving pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those who are bereaved, or in sickness, distress, or poverty.

Since the completion of our remodelled building in 2019, we are now able to offer accessible space for local community use. Community groups can rent a variety of rooms (some with tea bar facilities), an activities hall, and a café space for regular activities or one-off special events.

2. Activities

Sunday Worship takes place in our refurbished Chapel since September 2019 with special services in the Upper Room. Regular Sunday Worship is provided. Eucharist is held monthly with an open table policy; this has been presided over by one of the three members of the Worship Team. We also hold regular, more informal Cafe Church services in our café area. In addition, we provide special focus services at Easter and Christmas to celebrate these significant Christian festivals. On occasions we share worship ecumenically with the local Methodist Church or with other local church denominations together. We are examining other forms of worship.

A weekly community café runs all day on a Thursday. WAVE Hub (*We're All Valued Equally*), is a local community group with a Christian ethos that primarily has a focus for young people with learning difficulties and challenges. WAVE also uses our premises for other activities. We are pleased to be working towards a long-term partnership with this group.

3. Achievements and Performance

The mission of The United Reformed Church @ Muswell Hill is to offer all-inclusive worship, to witness and serve as a body of Christians working together in Muswell Hill. We also aim to serve individually in our local communities and places of work. This we endeavour to do through:

- Worshipping God, in our daily living and together as a gathered community on Sunday mornings.
- Reaching out to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ with those whom we meet.
- Providing a welcoming and hospitable place of worship for all.
- Providing an opportunity for all people to learn about the Christian faith.
- Providing hospitality: lunches and social events, and support to community groups in our building.

We pray that with God's help and guidance we will be able to share and witness to all these things and develop a deeper spiritual awareness of the Christian faith in the Reformed Tradition. We will continue to

share the Christian message with other people in the hope that they too may come to know the love of God and serve our Lord Jesus Christ as disciples.

A tangible example of this sharing and witnessing to all is shown by the installation in 2023 of a defibrillator prominently sited on the outside wall of the church building.

4. Plans for the Future

The Elders meet regularly to review reports and to plan special events and other activities relevant to the life of the Church and our visitors.

5. Financial Review

The financial statements show the consolidated income, expenditure, assets, and liabilities of the charity. We are pleased to report that the Lettings income is increasing as people get back to normal after the pandemic. We have had to rely on liquidating some of our investments and taking loans from the Synod to maintain our cash flow. The Manse has now been let and the income considerably improves our cash flow.

Introduction

The accounts are presented in a format that follows the requirements of the accounting regulations introduced by the Statement of Recommended Practice 2005 for Charities with an annual income of less than £250,000 and interpreted, as approved, for religious orders.

Pages 1-3 – Trustees Annual Report

These pages contain the annual report of the Trustees, which cover the following aspects: Administration, Organisation Structure, Objectives, Achievements and Financial Review.

Page 4 – Statement of Financial Activities/General Funds

This statement is a receipts and payments account and combines all the Church's funds together. It shows separate columns for the General Funds, Designated Funds and Restricted Funds, all of which are shown in detail on the subsequent pages.

The General Fund represents the funds that can be used for any purpose without restriction. 2023 income and expenditure is compared with that for the previous year.

Page 5 – Balance Sheet

This page shows the Church's assets and liabilities. The "tangible fixed assets", comprising the church, the manse and tennis courts, being vested in the United Reformed Church Thames North Trust as trustee, are not capitalised into the accounts.

Page 6-10 – Notes to the Accounts

These notes provide technical information about the basis of preparation of the accounts.

Pages 9 – Designated Funds and Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds are those that can only be used for the purpose specified at the time the funds were received. They include the Communion Fund, URC Commitment for Life fund, UNICEF's Mites scheme etc. (set aside for donating to local charities).

This Independent Examination of the accounts is a requirement of the Charities Act 2011. Whilst less comprehensive than an audit, it is designed to be suitable for an organisation of the Church's type and size.

6. Structure, Governance and Management

The Elders are chaired by Margaret Lion. We currently have 6 serving Elders who are the Trustees of the Charity and have oversight of running the charity. In addition, the Finance and Fabric Committee and the World Church Committee support them.

The Finance and Fabric committee (comprising the Trustees and 3 church members, including Treasurer) manages our estate: The Church, the Manse, and the Tennis Court site. In addition to this we employ an Administrator to manage the hiring of facilities, which includes raising hiring agreements and appropriate safeguarding and H&S paperwork for hirers, oversight of the day-to-day housekeeping issues, as well as general administrative work for the church, i.e., printing service sheets, updating policies, posters and production of our monthly magazine, Tetherdown News.

7. Reference and Administration Details

Muswell Hill URC, Queens Avenue, London N10 3NU

Chair of Elders	Margaret Lion		margaretlion@hotmail.co.uk
Administrator	Tessa Manning	020 8442 0386	mhurctetherdown@gmail.com
Tetherdown News Editor	Pat Stannard		pstannard1010@gmail.com
Treasurer	Adrian Stannard		mhurctreasurer@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Pat Stannard		pstannard1010@gmail.com
Health & Safety Officer	Ignatius Adu		adubosompem@aol.com

TRUSTEES

MINISTER: VACANT

ELDERS:	Ignatius Adu,	Meryl Harries,	Margaret Lion,
	Sylvia Mannering,	Pat Stannard,	Helen Ogden

MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds General	Unrestricted Funds Designated	Restricted Funds	2023 £	2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	12,317	0	1,520	13,837	17,252
Activities for generating funds	3	72,915	0	0	72,915	60,154
Investment income	4	296	0	0	296	55
Total incoming resources		<u>85,528</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,520</u>	<u>87,047</u>	<u>77,461</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Charitable activities:						
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	5	9,300	0	0	9,300	14,896
Ministerial costs	6	23,940	0	0	23,940	33,535
Costs of church activities	7	51,881	0	0	51,881	44,980
Restricted donations passed on	12	0	0	1,541	1,541	3,081
Total resources expended		<u>85,121</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,541</u>	<u>86,661</u>	<u>96,493</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		407	0	(21)	386	(19,032)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	9.2	<u>21,323</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21,323</u>	<u>(3,585)</u>
Net increase(decrease) in funds for the year		21,730	0	(21)	21,708	(22,617)
Total funds at beginning of year		(6,167)	0	569	(5,598)	17,018
Total funds at end of year		<u>15,563</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>548</u>	<u>16,110</u>	<u>(5,599)</u>

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these financial statements

MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

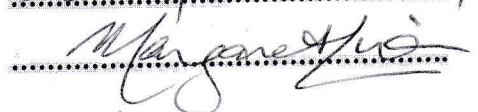
	Note	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Investments	9	37,485		0	37,485	33,099
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors & prepayments	10	3,191	0	0	3,191	1,309
Bank and cash balances		36,627	0	548	37,175	21,890
		<u>39,818</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>548</u>	<u>40,366</u>	<u>23,199</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors payable within one year	11	61,741		0	61,741	61,896
		<u>61,741</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>61,741</u>	<u>61,896</u>
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>(21,923)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>548</u>	<u>(21,375)</u>	<u>(38,697)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>15,563</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>548</u>	<u>16,110</u>	<u>(5,599)</u>

THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY

(From SOFA)

Income Funds:						
General		15,563	0	0	15,563	(6,167)
Designated		0	0	0	0	0
Restricted Income Funds		0	0	548	548	569
TOTAL	14	<u>15,563</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>548</u>	<u>16,110</u>	<u>(5,599)</u>

APPROVED by the Church Meeting held on
and signed on its behalf by the Chair

8th September 2024


The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these financial statements

MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS102 - previously SORP 2005) and also guidance issued by the Charity Commission, and the United Reformed Church.

The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b Fund Accounting

Apart from the restricted funds referred to below, all other funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. This includes the general and designated funds. Restricted funds comprise collections made throughout the year for outside causes and are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any other purpose.

1c Tangible Fixed Assets

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

Equipment: Expenditure on equipment is written off in the year it is incurred

Investment assets: These are stated at mid-market values on the balance sheet date. Changes in valuation over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1d Incoming Resources

All voluntary giving and Church fundraising events & activities are included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

The associated tax recovery for donations under Gift Aid is recorded in the accounting year the relevant tax year end occurs for the donation.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

1e Resources Expended

The URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates.

Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1f Taxation

The church is registered as a charity under the terms of the Charities Act 2006 (No 1142465).

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. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 - continued**

	Unrestricted Funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	2023 £	2022 £
2 VOULUNTARY INCOME					
Freewill offerings	8,566.00	0.00	1,519.56	10,085.56	11,767
Cash offerings	1,122.00	0.00	0.00	1,122.00	789
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,730
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	2,604.12	0.00	0.00	2,604.12	2,946
Magazine	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	20
	<u>12,317.12</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,519.56</u>	<u>13,836.68</u>	<u>17,252</u>
3 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS					
Rents - Tennis Club	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000
Lettings	23,729.53	0.00	0.00	23,729.53	27,205
MANSE Rental	48,185.21	0.00	0.00	48,185.21	31,949
	<u>72,914.74</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>72,914.74</u>	<u>60,154</u>
4 INVESTMENT INCOME					
Dividends	26.07	0.00	0.00	26.07	26
Bank interest	269.69	0.00	0.00	269.69	29
	<u>295.76</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>295.76</u>	<u>55</u>

5 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. This annual budget amounts to some £25million, 90% of which relates to minister costs, and 90% is provided through the Ministry & Mission Fund contributions from churches.

Amount Paid in 2023: **9,300** 2022 14,896

	Unrestricted Funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds	2023 £	2022 £
6 MINISTERIAL COSTS					
Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Manse maintenance	10,457.25	0.00	0.00	10,457.25	22,544
Manse Council tax	44.63	0.00	0.00	44.63	118
Manse Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	205
Manse insurance	855.28	0.00	0.00	855.28	810
Visiting ministers	4,190.00	0.00	0.00	4,190.00	3,400
Manse Rental Costs	8,392.67	0.00	0.00	8,392.67	6,459
	<u>23,939.83</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>23,939.83</u>	<u>33,535</u>

MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 - continued

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	General			£	£
7 COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES					
Administration Costs	9,639.19	0.00	0.00	9,639.19	9,153
Accountancy Fees	1,034.28	0.00	0.00	1,034.28	1,413
Insurance	5,471.54	0.00	0.00	5,471.54	4,952
Rubbish Collection	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Water rates	212.32	0.00	0.00	212.32	24
Maintenance - Church	9,232.31	0.00	0.00	9,232.31	11,583
Cleaning	4,509.68	0.00	0.00	4,509.68	3,754
Gas and Electricity - Church	10,697.59	0.00	0.00	10,697.59	6,185
	<u>40,796.91</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>40,796.91</u>	<u>37,064</u>
Communications:					
Printing, stationery and advertising	2,989.25	0.00	0.00	2,989.25	613
Telephone/Broadband	939.95	0.00	0.00	939.95	850
Postage	214.99	0.00	0.00	214.99	109
Manse Phone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	403
<i>a. New Photocopier</i>	<u>4,144.19</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,144.19</u>	<u>1,975</u>
Other expenses					
Organists	4,410.00	0.00	0.00	4,410.00	2,795
Piano Tuning (+new piano)	90.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	0
Sundry expenses	1,052.26	0.00	0.00	1,052.26	1,960
CCLI	142.00	0.00	0.00	142.00	133
Synod Overdraft Expense	1,185.33	0.00	0.00	1,185.33	972
Bank Charges	60.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	82
	<u>6,939.59</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,939.59</u>	<u>5,941</u>
COST OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES	<u>51,880.69</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>51,880.69</u>	<u>44,980</u>

8

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1c, the church and manse buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. For insurance purposes the church insures these buildings for the following amounts:

Church: £10,119,424 Manse: £1m

The Church contents are insured for £346,938 and the Manse contents £16,899

9	INVESTMENT ASSETS	Unrestricted Funds	Designated	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
9.1	The investment assets held at the balance sheet date comprise:	General			£	£
	COIF Investment units	37,485	0	0	37,485	33,099
		<u>37,485</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>37,485</u>	<u>33,099</u>
9.2	The movements on investments over the year were:					
	Value at 1 January 2023	33,099	0	0	33,099	36,683
	Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	21,322.52	0	0	21,323	(3,585)
	Value at 31 December 2023	<u>54,421</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>54,421</u>	<u>33,099</u>

Note: a.

£16,936 from sale of Mission Housing house

£4,387 gain from Investment

MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 - continued

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated	Restricted Funds	2023 £	2022 £
	General				
10 CURRENT ASSETS					
Lettings Debtor	2,470.94	0.00	0.00	2,470.94	1,309
Dexters Retained Maintenance	720.00	0.00	0.00	720.00	
	<u>3,190.94</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,190.94</u>	<u>1,309</u>
11 CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	752.20	0.00	0.00	752.20	714
Deposits for Key Fobs etc.	1,251.00	0.00	0.00	1,251.00	950
Synod Covid M&M Loan *	18,518.00	0.00	0.00	18,518.00	18,518
Synod Overdraft Loan	41,219.78	0.00	0.00	41,219.78	41,714
	<u>61,740.98</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>61,740.98</u>	<u>61,896</u>

* Synod has provided two Covid 19 Emergency Loans to specifically help the church meet its Ministry and Mission Fund Contribution

12 **RESTRICTED FUNDS - Collections for outside causes**

Specific gifts - at different times in the year monies are raised in the church to support specific projects.
Commitment for Life - this is a network of United Reformed Churches committed to raising funds for Christian Aid and the World Development Movement. Throughout the year monies raised at various events are devoted to the Commitment for Life programme.
Communion collections - these are designated for the benevolent work of the church. In September these funds are allocated by Church Meeting to, mainly local, charities in which church members are interested.

The movements on the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	Specific	Commitment for Life	Communion	TOTAL
Balance brought forward 1 January 2023	7.00	0.00	562.33	569.33
Amounts Raised in 2023	a 567.46	278.00	674.10	1,519.56
Total to be Distributed	<u>574.46</u>	<u>278.00</u>	<u>1,236.43</u>	<u>2,088.89</u>
Distributions agreed in 2023	295.90	245.00	b 1,000.00	1,540.90
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023	<u>278.56</u>	<u>33.00</u>	<u>236.43</u>	<u>547.99</u>

a Christian Aid/Mites/Soup Kitchen/Traidcraft/Worship Resources/Night Shelter

b The Communion donations for 2023 were as follows:

Distribution was changed to September each year
to ensure funds are cleared before end of year

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice	£500
North London Hospice	£500

MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 - continued

13 **FUNDS HELD IN TRUST**
The Church had an interest in the balance of the proceeds of the sale of the Alexandra Park United Reformed Church and Tetherdown Hall which are held by URC Thames North Trust.
These funds were completely used in the refurbishment of the church and a Building Loan was approved on the basis it would be paid back with interest when the Tennis Club site is sold.

THAMES NORTH TRUST LOANS	
The Trust granted a Bridging Loan of £315,000 to enable the Redevelopment works to be completed.	
Loan commenced on 25th April 2019	315,000
Loan increased to allow completion of works up to 22nd July 2020	326,825
Amount owing including interest at 31st December 2023	352,247
The Trust Granted two M&M Loans to be repaid after the Pandemic. <i>Still waiting for the Synod to decide if these are Loans or Grants.</i>	
15th April 2020	10,259
7th July 2020	8,259
	TOTAL
	<u>18,518</u>
A 3yr Overdraft Loan Payable at £30k per year commenced 1/11/21 Monthly Payment £150.00	
31/12/2023	Loan outstanding
	####

14 **FUNDS OF THE CHARITY**
The 2023 funds, General, Designated and Restricted are shown below,
2022 comparatives have been restated accordingly.

	2023	2022
	£	£
General Funds	15,563	(6,167)
Designated Funds	0	0
Restricted Funds	548	569
	<u>16,110</u>	<u>(5,599)</u>

MUSWELL HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 10 for the year ended 31 December 2023.
The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable legislation, the Charity Commissioners' General Directions and UK accounting practices.



ADRIAN STANNARD

DATE

15/9/24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Muswell Hill URC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities

The church is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and considers that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 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 specified 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 of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and my report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination of the church financial statements, nothing came to my attention which gave me cause to believe otherwise than that the financial statements accord with the accounting records of the church, and that those records satisfied the requirements of the Act 2011 - section 130. I am not aware of any matter to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner:



date:

15 Sept '24

Name and address of the Independent Examiner:

