

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ALLEN STREET KENSINGTON

LONDON W8 6BL

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Minister

Reverend Sally Massey Thomas

Treasurer

Mrs Gifty Saba

Church Secretary

Vacant

Assistant Church Secretary

Mr. David Nyarko

Bankers

Barclays Bank

Lloyds

Independent examiner

M B Boydell FCA

Boydell & Co

Chartered Accountants

146B Chiswick High Road

London

W4 1PU

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

REPORT OF THE CHURCH ELDERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Church Elders present the annual report with the financial statements for the year ended March 31st 2025.

Kensington United Reformed Church, one of the constituent churches of the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church, is registered as 'Kensington United Reformed Church Charity' (Charity no:1145107) under the Charities Act (2011).

Principal Activities

- To provide regular acts of Christian worship each Sunday during the year and at other times in accordance with the liturgical procedures of the United Reformed Church.
- To offer pastoral support to church members, members of the congregation and to those seeking assistance. To provide a friendly welcome to all visitors to the church.
- To let the church Meeting Space, sanctuary and halls when available to local organisations, both charitable and commercial, as a service to the community and also as a means of supplementing the income of the church.
- To maintain in good order the buildings and equipment of the Kensington United Reformed Church. To maintain and develop links with other Christian churches through the Churches Together Kensington and Chelsea and with other faith groups through the Kensington and Chelsea Faith Communities Partnership.
- To ensure Kensington United Reformed Church is represented at the meetings of the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church and other appropriate councils of the United Reformed Church.

The Elders have held regular meetings during the past year to consider the pastoral care and the task of maintaining the worship services of the church and the day to day running of the building and finances.

The Revd Sally Massey Thomas started the ministry of our church on 1st February 2020. Her ministerial position is jointly held with St Paul's Bayswater URC with a scoping of 75%.

Minister: Reverend Sally Massey Thomas

Church Secretary: Ms Izumi Nishizono (until 6 October 2024)

Treasurer - Mrs Gifty Saba

Assistant Church Secretary: Mr David Nyarko

Serving Church Elders (2024-25) Mrs Amy Augustin, Mr David Nyarko, Ms. Izumi Nishizono (until 6 October 2024), Mrs Gladys Osei, Mrs Evelyn Quartey-Papafio, Mrs Gifty Saba, Mrs Sarah Worburton. Miss Kathy Donaldson

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

REPORT OF THE CHURCH ELDERS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Elders

Elders elected are elected to serve by the Church Meeting. Under the constitution of the Kensington United Reformed Church, Elders will also act as Trustees to the Kensington United Reformed Church Charity.

Independent Examiner

Mr M B Boydell FCA
Boydell & Co.
Chartered Accountants
146B Chiswick High Road
London W4 1PU

Bankers – Church

Barclays Bank
Leicester
LE87 2BB

Bankers – Church halls

Lloyds
Kensington High Street
London W8

Financial report

The accounts have been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and with the regulations made under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are prepared on an accruals basis and they are subject to a report by an Independent Examiner.

Review of this year's activities

We continue to hold regular services and meetings in-person. The outdoor service followed by a picnic in Holland Park in July had to be held in the Meeting Space because of rain. There was a Candlelit Christmas Carol Service in our church in December. The joint Christmas Day service was on Zoom and the joint bible study group with St Paul's Bayswater URC between September and the end of June were held every other week on Zoom.

The church attendance at Sunday services has declined since Covid, and is a serious concern.

A variety of groups use our premises. Eden Montessori Nursery holds leases to use the halls during the week. Other regular hirers include children's groups, toddler groups, self-help groups, concert organisers, and one other Christian denomination. There were also a number of one-off lettings.

The income from hires is doing well and helps our finances. Rooms were let to most groups at a commercial rate, and to self-help groups (Alcoholics Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous) at a reduced rate. We are pleased to be able to support AA and GA in this way.

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
REPORT OF THE CHURCH ELDERS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Review of this year's activities (continued)

The church decided to apply to the Council for a licence for same-sex marriages in February 2024.

We continue to welcome former members and new visitors to our services. We hope to develop further and restore congregation growth through community engagement and in prayer.

Future Activities

The Elders wish to focus on:

Improving provision for pastoral care with the help of our minister, the Revd Sally Massey Thomas, together with the members of the congregation.

Trying to identify mission and outreach in the local community and implementing them with the help of our minister.

Making the sanctuary and the Meeting Space available for church-related activities during the week.

Continuing with the current programme to improve the financial position of the church and to create a surplus of income over expenditure.

Risk Management

The Church Elders are continuing to identify major risks which impact on the work of the church, especially in regard to the security of the church's financial assets.

It was discovered that the columns that support the upstairs gallery are leaning. Similarly, the height of the balustrade is too low. We have been trying to address these two issues and hope they could be dealt with in the new fiscal year.

The building project on the adjacent land affects our building. The issues during this fiscal year were the right to light, and the protection of the 19th century windows during the digging phase. With help from Rapleys, our surveyor, both issues will be dealt with in the new fiscal year.

The Elders are mindful that safeguarding procedures in line with the current legislation for all who work with children must be maintained. A new safeguarding policy replaced the old one in February 2024.

On behalf of the Church Elders

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
REPORT OF THE CHURCH ELDERS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Minister's Report

Our activities are as outlined above and I hope we shall continue to develop our engagement with the local community.

I'd like to put on record my profound thanks and appreciation for our Elders who have taken on so many extra tasks and responsibilities to share the work previously covered by Izumi whose role went far beyond that required of a Church Secretary. We are all grateful for everything that Izumi did for us over many years and wish her every blessing as her career with URC Church House continues to develop.

We do, however, still need someone to take on the vital role of Church Secretary (if the person is an Elder) or Church Administrator if not an Elder. It is the same role but, in the URC, only Elders may be named as Secretary. Nominations are welcome and encouraged for the A.G.M.

This last year we have grieved the deaths of three of our long standing and much loved members -

Jane Turner on 24 June 2024

Emmanuel Larkai on 17 January 2025

Jemima Quaye on 27 March 2025

We thank God for the many blessings each of them brought to their families and to us all as a congregation and shall stand to remember and honour them at our A.G.M.

After some delay it was agreed that my ministry with you and St Paul's Bayswater will continue until February next year and I have requested a further extension. For those who may not know, it is now a URC requirement that all ministers over the age of 68 must request a year by year extension. I intend to retire in 2027 which means it is time to start thinking about those tasks that will need handing on to others. Apart from sharing me with St Paul's I have a number of other roles for you, for Synod and the wider URC.

- Churches Together in Kensington and Chelsea - I service as Ecumenical Advisor on the Standing Committee
- Kensington and Chelsea Interfaith Forum, - I work with the Council and interfaith colleagues to develop our local initiatives.
- Central London Area Group (CLAG) - I currently convene this group which meets quarterly both in person and on Zoom.
- West London Bishops and Church Leaders - I attend three meetings a year both as a local church leader and as Acting Ecumenical Officer for the Synod.
- Acting Ecumenical Officer - this engages me with all ecumenical partnership churches in our Synod. It is meant to be the other 25% of my time but for the last three years this has also included -

• KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

• REPORT OF THE CHURCH ELDERS (CONTINUED)

• FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- Interim Moderator with High Cross United Reformed Church. This role has continued far longer than anticipated because the minister they called was suspended before the induction service.
 - For Synod I also serve on the Pastoral Committee, Assembly Executive and am a Racial Justice Advocate.
 - For the URC I am vice-chair of the ecumenical Churches Funerals Group.
- Life is never dull!

I should also like to express my thanks and appreciation to Richard Mullen-Speight who has achieved so much during his time as our Facilities Manager. By the time you read this we will have appointed someone new and we wish Richard every blessing for his new career in America.

And to all of you a huge thank you for being part of our small congregation. Your friendship, loyalty and support is so much appreciated.

.....
 Reverend Sally Massey Thomas (Minister)

30/8 | 2025

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				
INCOMING RESOURCES (2)				
Offerings	7,374	-	7,374	7,592
Donations and grants	481	-	481	152
Investment income and interest	19,868	-	19,868	18,728
Property income	107,007	-	107,007	115,434
Other income	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable	-	-	-	1,501
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	134,730	-	134,730	143,407
RESOURCES USED (3)				
Ministry & Mission fund contributions	36,538	-	36,538	34,596
Ministers' expenses & local ministry	1,098	-	1,098	780
Premises costs	111,838	-	111,838	67,180
Other expenses	30,638	-	30,638	17,496
Donations	152	-	152	102
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	180,264	-	180,264	120,154
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	(45,534)	-	(45,534)	23,253
GAINS AND LOSSES (note 1)				
Unrealised Gain/ (LOSS)	(13,836)	-	(13,836)	27,883
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(59,370)	-	(59,370)	51,136
BALANCES bought forward				
At 1 April 2024	617,754	1,048	618,802	567,666
BALANCES carried forward				
At 31 March 2025	£ 558,384	£ 1,048	£ 559,432	£ 618,802

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

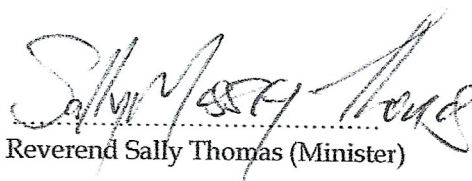
KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCHBALANCE SHEETAT 31 MARCH 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	(1)		
Investment assets	(4)	408,098	421,934
Church equipment	(5)	6,399	3,149
		<u>414,497</u>	<u>425,083</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	(6)	32,954	31,277
Cash at bank		116,676	167,887
		<u>149,630</u>	<u>199,164</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	(7)	(4,695)	(5,445)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>144,935</u>	<u>193,719</u>
		<u>£ 559,432</u>	<u>£ 618,802</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted		558,384	617,754
Restricted	(8)	1,048	1,048
		<u>£ 559,432</u>	<u>£ 618,802</u>

Approved by the Church Elders on 30/8/2025 and signed on their behalf by



Gifty Saba - Treasurer/Elder



Reverend Sally Thomas (Minister)

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recognised Practice – Accounting for Charities (2015) and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for use in furtherance of the objectives of the Church. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Elders are responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the Church.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the Church are accounted for when the Church is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Property income

Rental income from the letting of church premises -is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income (if any) is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 March.

Resources used

Grants:

Grants and donations are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The Ministry & Mission contributions are accounted for when payable.

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings:

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the Elders on special trust for the Church since the Elders consider this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years except for individual items of equipment with purchase price of £2,000 or less which are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at the year end.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the Church at 31 March in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

2. <u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Offerings				
Freewill offering scheme	4,724	-	4,724	4,852
Loose offerings	2,650	-	2,650	2,740
Income tax recoverable	-	-	-	1,501
	<u>7,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,374</u>	<u>9,093</u>
Donations and grants :				
Charitable donations	481	-	481	152
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-
Grant received	-	-	-	-
	<u>481</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>481</u>	<u>152</u>
Investment income and interest	19,868	-	19,868	18,728
Rental and hiring income	107,007	-	107,007	115,434
Other income	-	-	-	-
	<u>126,875</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,875</u>	<u>134,162</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>134,730</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,730</u>	<u>143,407</u>

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCHNOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
3. <u>RESOURCES USED</u>				
Ministry and Mission Fund contributions	36,538	-	36,538	34,596
	<u>36,538</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,538</u>	<u>34,596</u>
Ministry:				
Visiting ministers/local ministry	1,098	-	1,098	780
	<u>1,098</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,098</u>	<u>780</u>
Premises costs:				
Cleaning	14,903	-	14,903	13,100
Manse Expenses	11,455	-	11,455	4,168
Heat and light	24,530	-	24,530	13,607
Wages	7,218	-	7,218	-
Insurance	7,370	-	7,370	7,592
Church building repairs and maintenance	32,364	-	32,364	10,414
Administration of halls	12,388	-	12,388	16,776
Council Tax	1,440	-	1,440	1,221
License fees	-	-	-	145
Water	170	-	170	157
	<u>111,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,838</u>	<u>67,180</u>
Other expenses:				
Organist, choir and music	4,211	-	4,211	3,559
Telephone and broadband	1,162	-	1,162	1,840
Printing, stationery, copier and computer costs	748	-	748	818
Sundry expenses	636	-	636	634
Independent examiner's fee	3,540	-	3,540	3,540
Professional fees	16,208	-	16,208	4,055
Book-keeping	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Depreciation	2,133	-	2,133	1,050
	<u>30,638</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,638</u>	<u>17,496</u>
Donations:				
Miscellaneous	152	-	152	102
	<u>152</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>102</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	<u>180,264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,264</u>	<u>120,154</u>

KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCHNOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 20254. INVESTMENT FIXED ASSETS

	£
Market value:	
At 1 April 2024	421,934
Additions at cost	-
Disposals	-
Net (Loss) on annual revaluation	(13,836)
At 31 March 2025	<u>£ 408,098</u>

The investments are all quoted on a UK stock exchange.

5. CHURCH EQUIPMENT

Balance 1 April 2024	9,659
Additions -	5,383
	<u>15,042</u>
Depreciation as at 01 April 2024	6,510
Depreciation charge for the year	2,133
Depreciation as at 31 March 2025	<u>8,643</u>
	=====
Balance 31 March 2025	<u>£6,399</u>
	=====

6. DEBTORS

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Prepayments	615	603
URC Thames North Trust	32,339	30,674
	<u>£ 32,954</u>	<u>£ 31,277</u>
	=====	=====

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Accruals	3,540	3,540
Other Creditors	1,155	1,905
	<u>£ 4,695</u>	<u>£ 5,445</u>
	=====	=====

THE KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Movements on restricted funds during the year were as follows:

Funds:	B/f £	Received £	Expended £	Transfer £	C/f £
Bursary Fund for Young peoples' Christian education/ conferences	849	-	-	-	849
Fund from funerals for church mission	199	-	-	-	199
	<u>£ 1,048</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£ 1,048</u>

9. DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH BUILDINGS

Kensington United Reformed Church and Church Hall are owned by URC Thames North Trust, a registered charity, number 1022551. Kensington United Reformed Church (through its Elders) is responsible for maintaining the premises and it is permitted to retain any rental income derived therefrom.

Monies accruing to the building development are held on behalf of Kensington United Reformed Church by the URC Thames North Trust.

The financial statements record the income from lettings and the administration and maintenance costs and the cost of furnishings and equipment.

10. THE JENKINS LEGACY

URC Thames North Trust has been holding funds derived from "The Jenkins Legacy". Following discussions with them, and because they hold these funds on trust for Kensington United Reformed Church, it was agreed that the funds held by them as at 1 April 2009 amounting to £ 34,264 should be treated as income in the financial statements as at that date and they would be included as debtors. Interest arising and administration charges from that date are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

11. CHURCH ELDERS EMOLUMENTS

Two of the church elders received emoluments during the year for their services. The church secretary, Izumi Nishizono (until 6 October 2024) received £12,388 (2024 £16,776) for the administration of the hall lettings and the church treasurer, Gifty Saba received £ 2,000 (2024 £2,000) for book-keeping services.

THE KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE ELDERS OF
KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

This report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 10, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Church Elders as Charity Trustees for the Church are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of this report

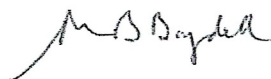
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church Elders and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Elders as trustees concerning 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 audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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.


M B Boydell FCA
Boydell & Co
Chartered Accountants
146B Chiswick High Road
London
W4 1PU

1/9/2025

THE KENSINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

APPENDIX TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The following information regarding the Church Halls and Nursery is included in the property income and expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 4 of the financial statements.

Income

	2025 £	2024 £
Hall lettings	107,007	115,434

Expenditure

Administration – by self employed individuals	12,388	16,776
Cleaning	14,903	13,100
Manse expenses	11,455	4,168
Independent examination and accountancy (20% proportion)	708	708
Insurance (say 20% proportion)	1,474	1,518
Council Tax	1,440	1,221
Heating & lighting (say 50% proportion)	12,265	6,804
Repairs and maintenance (say 50% proportion)	16,182	5,207
Telephone	1,162	1,840
Wages	5,605	-
	<u>77,582</u>	<u>51,342</u>
PROFIT of income over expenditure re Halls	<u>£ 29,425</u> =====	<u>£ 64,092</u> =====