

CENTRAL CHURCH SWINDON LEP

England & Wales · Charity number 1145817

Details

Other names	THE PILGRIM CENTRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2012-02-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Pilgrim Centre Central Church Regent Circus Swindon SN1 1PX
Phone	01793537642
Email	info@pilgrimcentre.co.uk
Website	www.pilgrimcentre.co.uk

Activities

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.

Activities: We are a 3 denominational (Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed Church) ecumenical church worshipping as one church. We operate from The Pilgrim Centre in Swindon town centre which includes The Roundabout Cafe. All are welcome. Cafe prices are set deliberately low to reflect this. We provide help to the lonely and homeless in the form of free food, clothing, and a listening ear.

Classification

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

Geography

- Swindon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£100,058	£127,979	-	-
2023-12-31	£114,234	£101,877	-	-
2022-12-31	£95,639	£78,454	-	-
2021-12-31	£61,927	£136,104	-	-
2020-12-31	£65,387	£111,024	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JUDITH FURSE BAHONS LAW	Chair	2012-02-09
Andrea Christine McNab		2022-04-24
CHRISTINE DURANT		2012-02-09
Charles Jeyalin Selvamani		2025-04-15
David William Redwood		2025-03-23
Eva Shama-Kumar		2024-03-17
Joanna Struthers-Frost		2019-05-08
June Rosemary Osborne		2018-03-27
Marion Manning		2023-03-19
Susan Mason		2018-03-27

Accounts

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024
for
Central Church Swindon LEP

Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Central Church Swindon LEP

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 16

Central Church Swindon LEP
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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, pastoral work (including visiting the sick and bereaved), the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community including the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs
- d) The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
THE CHURCH

We have a weekly Sunday worship service commencing at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion is included during the service twice a month, usually when our own minister is presiding. Prayers for healing and wholeness are offered by the minister, on request at the end of each service. We are extremely grateful to everyone who participates in church life whether contributing to Sunday worship or enabling weekday activities.

Due to low numbers, there is no longer a Junior Family Church (JFC) for children and young people but, if any children do attend, colouring materials/toys can be made available. We will reconsider reinstating JFC should children start attending again. We are aware that many children are involved in other activities on Sunday mornings and if we had the right people to run them, we would consider holding meetings for young people and children during the week.

We also hold extra special services during the major Christian festivals, for example, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Christmas. The minister takes Holy Communion to the housebound when requested.

A monthly newsletter is distributed at church, via email and by post. This carries news of the church family, notification of events, and items of general interest. This is available to everyone, and copies are taken to the housebound.

Ms Bethany Brooke plays the organ and piano for worship on most Sundays. Fortunately our minister is able to play the organ, so if our organist is not available on the weeks he is preaching, Revd Jonathan Edwards is able to provide the music.

Our membership at 31 December 2024 stood at 49. We also have a number of adherents who are faithful attendees but are not full members. Our average weekly attendance is 34 adults. We are in contact with a number of families although the children and teenagers have largely ceased to attend. There are a number of reasons for this, notably other activities take place on Sunday morning. Two of our members died during 2024.

It was good to hold some of our special services in 2024 such as our Church Anniversary, Easter and Carols by Candlelight with Christingles. The church is beautifully decorated with flowers by two of our members each Sunday and there are extra decorations for special services such as Harvest and Christmas when they have extra help.

We continue to collect and deliver food and other items for the Swindon Food Collective (Foodbank) throughout the year. Our financial giving at Harvest went to the URC Commitment for Life to support agricultural projects in Zimbabwe; our food products were divided between Big Breakfast Plus and Alternative Angels.

Our Transitional minister, Revd Jonathan Edwards, continued meeting individuals in the congregation to give pastoral support and to find out what they felt about the future of the church. He also continued meeting with other clergy in the town, and also with charities who we might be able to work with in order to fulfil our charitable objectives more fully. The most effective ecumenical body in the town at present is Good News for Swindon and Jonathan has regularly attended its meetings throughout the year. The Chair of our Trustees and our Church Secretary have also attended a few events given by Good News for Swindon

Central Church Swindon LEP
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Church Decoration: The first Sunday in Advent (Advent Sunday) always sees our church decorated for the coming festive season. The Advent Wreath is on display at the front of the church in readiness for the four Advent Candles to be lit, week by week, in sequence. At the beginning of the Christmas morning service the central white candle, the Christ Candle, is lit. We also have a Christmas tree and nativity scene at the front of the church.

Advent Labyrinth: We organised an Advent labyrinth based on the journey of the magi, for the first few days of Advent. This was open to the public and was appreciated by those who visited it.

Carol Service: We hold our candlelight service of lessons and carols, with Christingles on the Sunday before Christmas. This service is always followed by a 'bring and share' meal. As usual, it was well supported and much appreciated and was a great opportunity to socialise.

Christmas Presents for the housebound and members who have been bereaved during the past year: Central Church always purchases a present for those members/adherents of our congregation who are housebound and are no longer able to get to church as they once did. We also purchase a gift for anyone who has been bereaved during the current year.

Christmas Morning Service: This is always a lovely family service when children and adults alike welcome the Christ Child in the manger into our world. The children are invited to bring along one or two of Santa's presents.

Our Christmas Gift Appeal: This year we collected games, toys, jigsaws, colouring books and crayons for the children's ward at Great Western Hospital. The Christmas Day offering was given to Action For Children.

Church Facilities: The church facilities are also used by two other worshipping communities. These are New Life Christian Ministry, led by Pastor Alphonso Davis; and Lagohina Brazilian Baptist Church, led by Yuri Politani. Both make good use of the premises including the Baptistry for baptism by full immersion. Big Breakfast Plus, who provide cooked meals for those sleeping rough and those in food poverty, continue to use our café. They are open from 7-9 a.m. seven days a week and serve approximately 80-100 meals per day. Alternative Angels, who also provide meals for the homeless and those in need, operate from our café on a Monday and Tuesday evening, between 6-8 p.m. to distribute meals. They also serve between 80-100 people.

Safeguarding: This is taken very seriously. All relevant people involved with children or vulnerable adults hold a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and have undertaken appropriate training.

Bible Study Groups: There are now two Bible study groups who meet fortnightly, one in the evening and one in the afternoon. They are both led by Revd Jonathan Edwards.

Prayer Fellowship: This has now been incorporated into the Bible Study Groups. However, members also keep each other informed of prayer requests and so individual prayer at home continues.

Church in the Wider World: We try to keep in touch with the denominational mission organisations. Newsletters and information are shared as much as possible. The link with Baptist missionaries, Daniel, Regiane and Anna Sophia Clark, remain and it was good to receive their letters and to hear about their work in Peru. We receive news from a BMS missionary, Lucia Bastos, who worshipped with us for 3 months whilst on furlough in this country. She is now working in Chad. Stories for Change, the newsletter for Commitment for Life, is circulated to interested members and friends.

Central Church also supports the work of Amnesty International. The congregation participated in the 'Write for Rights' campaign.

Fundraising: £358.56 was raised for Action for Children over Christmas. We have also financially supported Mind, Prospect Hospice and Julia's House Children's Hospice through coffee mornings and a donation box kept at the church. Some members also give to the BMS Birthday Scheme and Action for Children through the lantern collection boxes. We are committed to continuing to look outward to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged both at home and abroad.

Benevolent Fund: The minister is empowered to make donations to any of our number who are in special need.

THE PILGRIM CENTRE

It was another busy year regarding maintenance. We had repair work done on the domed roof due to 'wear and tear'. We had the gutters cleared as we do annually. We had some issues with the heating system and had a new valve fitted as a result. We registered as a "green church" with the scheme run by A Roche UK.

Our part-time caretaker: Neil Boulton has continued to be a great asset. Christine Durant continues to oversee all the maintenance work and maintained a presence in the office. She continued to deal with bookings which were quite buoyant throughout the year.

Central Church Swindon LEP
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Cleaners: Big Breakfast Plus undertook to do their own cleaning on a day to day basis, but Mrs Sandy Chilvers, one of our congregation, went into the café twice a week to wash and polish the floors. When she left in the autumn Mrs. Mary Day took on the role until Christmas. Mrs Jane Corcoran continues to clean the rest of the building.

CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Café: Our community café continued to be very popular. It is staffed by volunteers from the church and offers free hot drinks and cake to anyone who attends. It is open from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. each Monday, closed on Bank Holidays. The cakes are donated by members of the congregation and although free, visitors can make a financial donation if they wish. An average of 25 people attend and they represent a cross-section of the community including vulnerable people who need a safe, warm place to sit where they will be made welcome. At Easter we sang some hymns in the café and this was much appreciated; consequently Carol singing was requested there on the Monday before Christmas when we also held a small buffet for customers and presented them all with a gift. Both were joyful occasions.

Lent Lunches: These are weekly simple meals comprising of soup, cheese and biscuits, organised in rotation by Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTiSC) to raise money for Christian Aid and CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). Central Church was responsible for providing the first lunch.

Friends of Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy (SCC): Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre have kindly allowed SCC to use an office in the Pilgrim Centre. They also use the Centre as their registered address. Central Church, and a number of individuals in our congregation, have become a 'Friend of SCC' by supporting the charity financially and with prayer.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At 31 December 2024, total funds were £1,425,361. Restricted funds were £938,565 and endowment funds were £287,338. Unrestricted reserves were £199,458. Free reserves, after making allowance for tangible fixed assets, were £196,810.

The trustees' reserve policy is to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months costs in order to cover unplanned situations that may occur from time to time. This is in line with good practice and follows the recommendations of the Charity Commission. Based on the present level of costs, the required reserves are £65,000. Reserves held are above the required level.

Room hire bookings continued to hold up well. Some customers, such as the NHS Blood and Transplant Service, continued to use our building regularly, as do the local council. A Narcotics Anonymous group meet weekly throughout the year. We do have enough reserves to cover our expenses for the foreseeable future.

FUTURE PLANS

Goals for 2025

- We will continue to seek to strengthen the spiritual life of the church through our Sunday services and by holding weekday bible studies.
- Encouraged by the introduction of the Community Café on a Monday morning, we will continue to explore ways of reaching out to our neighbours.
- We intend to continue to ensure that our Safeguarding Officer, together with those relevant personnel who have been appointed and commissioned by the Leadership Team to respond to any safeguarding concerns, have safeguarding training with regard to vulnerable adults and children.
- We will continue to support and encourage regular social 'get-togethers' such as church meals as these provide an invaluable opportunity to create an atmosphere of openness and friendliness and for the whole congregation to feel a sense of belonging to the one church family.
- We will continue to support local ecumenical initiatives such as Lent Lunches in the town centre.
- We will continue to support national and international events such as: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, Christian Aid Week, Macmillan Cancer Support, and the charity Action for Children.
- We will continue to encourage those attending services to come forward for baptism or confirmation and full membership.
- We will continue to observe traditional Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- We will continue reviewing and updating all policies and amend as necessary i.e. Safeguarding, Health & Safety etc.
- We will continue to review all risk assessments and amend where necessary.
- We will continue to ensure that there are sufficient personnel who are trained in First Aid.
- We will review all pricing structures, maintenance contracts, utility use and general expenditure to ensure unnecessary losses are not being incurred.
- We will continue to support volunteers with special needs.
- We will work towards becoming a greener church.
- We will continue to be a welcoming, caring and inclusive Christian community, serving God in Church and in the local community.

Central Church Swindon LEP
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

We are a single congregation church comprised of three denominations. We are recognised by the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB), and locally by the West of England Baptist Network (Webnet); Methodist Connexion, locally by the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit; and the United Reformed Church General Assembly, locally by the South Western Synod. We serve the Swindon town centre area. Our membership is also drawn from other areas of the town. We are members of Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTiSC).

The intention is that the minister of the church should be drawn from the three denominations in rotation. This is not always possible due to a shortage of clergy and the present transitional minister is a Baptist, the Revd Jonathan Edwards. The church is presently exploring the possibility of working with the Methodist Circuit to appoint a deacon.

Central Church operates from the purpose-built Pilgrim Centre. The building comprises a ground floor café and kitchen, the first floor Worship Area and Activity Hall and second and third floors which are meeting rooms and offices. There are toilet facilities on each floor and a kitchenette. The meeting rooms are available for hire by the community.

Trustees: Judith Furse (Chair), June Osborne, Sue Mason, Joanna Struthers-Frost, Andrea McNab, Marion Manning, Eva Shama-Kumar and Christine Durant.

Executive: The trustees are all members of our elected Executive who oversee the running of the church and premises. The Executive meets six times a year. Elections are held during our annual Church Meeting, with all elected positions held for three years maximum before re-standing for election. We also have one ex-officio member of the Executive, our minister Revd Jonathan Edwards.

Other Officers serving Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre:

Secretariat: Christine Durant (admin and correspondence), Marion Manning (membership), June Osborne (pulpit fill) and Jo Dance (visiting preachers admin)

Finance Officer: Sue Mason assisted by Christine Durant

Finance Data Input and Report Writing: Monahans Chartered Accountants

Cash Counting: Robert Manning

Gift Aid: Marion Manning

Chair of Church Meeting: Revd Jonathan Edwards

Staffing Officer: Judith Furse

Safeguarding Officer: Sue Mason assisted by Hannah Evans

Information Officer: Christine Durant

Pastoral Committee: Elected Members - Mavis Poolman and Jane Walsh. Glenys Thomas retired in March at the AGM and has not been replaced. Revd Jonathan Edwards chairs this committee as an ex-officio member. Along with the pastoral members, Jonathan and Christine Durant visit our sick and elderly.

Induction and training of trustees: Resources are available for training any new trustees in their duties e.g. our constitution model document, standing orders, website, Charity Commission website, local knowledge. Many of our Executive have been in service for many years. All legal requirements regarding ongoing information is continually updated and displayed throughout the building.

External Representation: Locally we have representatives on

Good News for Swindon: Revd Jonathan Edwards

Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTiSC): Revd Jonathan Edwards, Judith Furse

West of England Baptist Network (Webnet): Revd Jonathan Edwards

North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit: Christine Durant, Judith Furse

United Reformed Church SW Synod: Judith Furse

We are also involved in the local Interfaith Group.

Properties: The legal title of properties managed by the church Trustees belong to the following as custodian trustees: West of England Baptist Trust Company, United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1145817

Central Church Swindon LEP

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Principal address

The Pilgrim Centre
Regent Circus
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 1PX

Trustees

J Furse
C Durant
S Mason
J Osborne
J Struthers-Frost
A McNab
M Manning
E Shama-Kumar (appointed 17.3.24)

Independent Examiner

James Gare
Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Financial/Investment

West of England Baptist Association (WEBA),
United Reformed Church (URC), and Methodist Finance Board.

Contact details

Web Site Central Church: www.centralchurch.org
Email: pilcen@aol.com
Tel: 01793 537642

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 23 March 2025..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
J Furse - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Central Church Swindon LEP**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Central Church Swindon LEP

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Central Church Swindon LEP (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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.

Monahans provide book-keeping services to Central Church Swindon. The examiner has applied the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard in regard to these services.



James Gare

Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Date: 4 April 2025

Central Church Swindon LEP

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	22,344	-	-	22,344	35,099
Other trading activities	3	23,342	-	-	23,342	24,803
Investment income	4	42,912	11,460	-	54,372	54,332
Total		<u>88,598</u>	<u>11,460</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,058</u>	<u>114,234</u>
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	5	6,720	399	453	7,572	3,927
Charitable activities	6					
Church activities		100,186	20,221	-	120,407	97,950
Total		<u>106,906</u>	<u>20,620</u>	<u>453</u>	<u>127,979</u>	<u>101,877</u>
Net gains on investments		<u>2,531</u>	<u>36,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,971</u>	<u>111,212</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>(15,777)</u>	<u>27,280</u>	<u>(453)</u>	<u>11,050</u>	<u>123,569</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		215,235	911,285	287,791	1,414,311	1,290,742
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>199,458</u>	<u>938,565</u>	<u>287,338</u>	<u>1,425,361</u>	<u>1,414,311</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

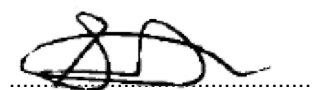
Central Church Swindon LEP

Balance Sheet
31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	2,648	3,142
Investments			
Investments	12	1,009,070	970,098
Investment property	13	285,000	285,000
		1,296,718	1,258,240
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	11,319	7,264
Cash at bank and in hand	15	125,689	157,342
		137,008	164,606
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(8,365)	(8,535)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		128,643	156,071
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,425,361	1,414,311
NET ASSETS		1,425,361	1,414,311
FUNDS	18		
Unrestricted funds		199,458	215,235
Restricted funds		938,565	911,285
Endowment funds		287,338	287,791
TOTAL FUNDS		1,425,361	1,414,311

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 23.March.2025..... and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
C Durant - Trustee


.....
S Mason - Trustee

Central Church Swindon LEP

Notes to the Financial Statements **for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, constituted by a trust deed.

The registered office address and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities of the charity are given in the trustees report.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Central Church Swindon LEP

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued **for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Equipment	- 20% on straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on straight line basis

Freehold property

The Pilgrim Centre is owned by the Baptist Church (two thirds), Methodist (one sixth) and United Reform Church (URC) (one sixth). The Manse is owned by the URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

The above properties are not recognised as assets of the charity.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as unrealised.

Investment property

The church receives an annual rent from a property that is held upon trust by the West of England Baptist Association (WEBA) Trustees. Investment properties are included in the accounts at open market value. All movements arising from revaluation are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Realised gains and losses on investment properties are calculated as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the market value at the beginning of the year or cost of purchases during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are derived from the movement in the market values during the year.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

Fund accounting

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

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

Endowment funds are funds which are held subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained as capital. The income earned from these funds is used for general purposes where allowed or for the specific purposes intended. The aim and use of each endowment fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Central Church Swindon LEP

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations and collections	18,580	21,609
Gift aid	3,764	3,490
Legacies	-	10,000
	<u>22,344</u>	<u>35,099</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Hire of Pilgrim Centre	<u>23,342</u>	<u>24,803</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Rents received	23,365	23,364
Income from fixed asset investments	28,088	28,109
Deposit account interest	2,919	2,859
	<u>54,372</u>	<u>54,332</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Portfolio management	427	578
Rental property expenses	7,145	3,349
	<u>7,572</u>	<u>3,927</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>29,661</u>	<u>90,746</u>	<u>120,407</u>

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Sundries	480	1,307
Denominations and assessments	7,544	6,246
Worship	2,756	1,963
Minister payments	18,860	16,891
Donations	21	255
	<u>29,661</u>	<u>26,662</u>

Central Church Swindon LEP

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>87,801</u>	<u>2,945</u>	<u>90,746</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2024 Church activities £	2023 Total activities £
Water	7,155	3,522
Insurance	4,089	4,023
Light and heat	21,745	18,776
Telephone and internet	2,684	2,415
Printing, postage and stationery	2,086	1,281
Cleaning and household	6,693	6,709
Repairs and renewals	39,324	27,696
Bookkeeping, management accounts and payroll	2,840	2,784
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	1,185	1,145
	<u>87,801</u>	<u>68,351</u>

Governance costs

	2024 Church activities £	2023 Total activities £
Independent examination and accountancy	<u>2,945</u>	<u>2,937</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	35,099	-	-	35,099
Other trading activities	24,803	-	-	24,803
Investment income	42,623	11,709	-	54,332
Total	<u>102,525</u>	<u>11,709</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>114,234</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	28	550	3,349	3,927
Charitable activities				
Church activities	97,060	890	-	97,950
Total	<u>97,088</u>	<u>1,440</u>	<u>3,349</u>	<u>101,877</u>

Central Church Swindon LEP

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
Net gains on investments	9,573	63,153	38,486	111,212
NET INCOME	15,010	73,422	35,137	123,569
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	200,225	837,863	252,654	1,290,742
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	215,235	911,285	287,791	1,414,311

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2024	27,755	27,410	55,165
Additions	-	691	691
At 31 December 2024	27,755	28,101	55,856
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2024	26,680	25,343	52,023
Charge for year	358	827	1,185
At 31 December 2024	27,038	26,170	53,208
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2024	717	1,931	2,648
At 31 December 2023	1,075	2,067	3,142

12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	West of England Baptist Trust Co. £	United Reform Church £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE			
At 1 January 2024	369,287	600,810	970,097
Unrealised gains	22,915	16,058	38,973
At 31 December 2024	392,202	616,868	1,009,070
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2024	392,202	616,868	1,009,070
At 31 December 2023	369,287	600,810	970,097

Investments held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company are used to fund significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre. Investments held by the United Reform Church are for significant repairs to the manse. There were no investment assets outside the UK. During the year ended 31 December 2018, £80,000 of unrestricted funds were invested in the United Reform Church fund.

Central Church Swindon LEP

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

13. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2024	
and 31 December 2024	285,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2024	285,000
At 31 December 2023	285,000

The investment property was purchased in January 2020. The trustees revalued the property at 31 December 2023 with reference to recent sales prices of similar properties.

Fair value at 31 December 2024 is represented by:

	£
Valuation in 2023	38,486
Cost	246,514
	285,000

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,273	792
Prepayments and accrued income	8,046	6,472
	11,319	7,264

15. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Included in cash is £44,062 (2023: £53,114) which is held on deposit by the West of England Baptist Trust Company.

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	38
Other creditors	1,294	1,042
Accrued expenses	7,071	7,455
	8,365	8,535

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment fund	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2,648	-	-	2,648	3,142
Investments	114,567	894,503	285,000	1,294,070	1,255,098
Current assets	90,608	44,062	2,338	137,008	164,606
Current liabilities	(8,365)	-	-	(8,365)	(8,535)
	199,458	938,565	287,338	1,425,361	1,414,311

Central Church Swindon LEP

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	215,235	(15,777)	199,458
Restricted funds			
Swindon Church Fund	422,401	13,863	436,264
URC Fund	488,774	13,527	502,301
Benevolent Fund	110	(110)	-
	911,285	27,280	938,565
Endowment funds			
Property - Baptist	287,791	(453)	287,338
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,414,311</u>	<u>11,050</u>	<u>1,425,361</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	88,598	(106,906)	2,531	(15,777)
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	11,460	(20,510)	22,913	13,863
URC Fund	-	-	13,527	13,527
Benevolent Fund	-	(110)	-	(110)
	11,460	(20,620)	36,440	27,280
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	-	(453)	-	(453)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>100,058</u>	<u>(127,979)</u>	<u>38,971</u>	<u>11,050</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	200,225	15,010	215,235
Restricted funds			
Swindon Church Fund	391,751	30,650	422,401
URC Fund	445,112	43,662	488,774
Benevolent Fund	1,000	(890)	110
	837,863	73,422	911,285
Endowment funds			
Property - Baptist	252,654	35,137	287,791
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,290,742</u>	<u>123,569</u>	<u>1,414,311</u>

Central Church Swindon LEP

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	102,525	(97,088)	9,573	15,010
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	11,709	(550)	19,491	30,650
URC Fund	-	-	43,662	43,662
Benevolent Fund	-	(890)	-	(890)
	11,709	(1,440)	63,153	73,422
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	-	(3,349)	38,486	35,137
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>114,234</u>	<u>(101,877)</u>	<u>111,212</u>	<u>123,569</u>

Endowment funds

Property - Baptist - This fund represents the value of the Investment property (plus excess cash from the sale of the previous investment property) managed by the church as managing trustees, the deeds of which are held by the West of England Baptist Trust company as custodian trustee. The fund is held for the general purpose of the charity.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant. The purpose of the above restricted funds are as follows;

Swindon Church Fund	- This represents funds held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company on behalf of the church and is to cover significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre building.
URC Fund	- The URC Fund is restricted to use on the United Reform Church manse and other related activities. It is represented by investments held on trust for the Church by the United Reform Church.
Benevolent fund	- A donation was received to support anyone in the church's fellowship who might need extra help

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Total donations of £2,100 (2023: £2,120) were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

There were no other related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Accounts

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
Central Church Swindon

Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Central Church Swindon

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 17

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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, pastoral work (including visiting the sick and bereaved), the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community including the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs
- d) The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
THE CHURCH

We have a weekly Sunday worship service commencing at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion is included during the service twice a month, usually when our own minister is presiding. Prayers for healing and wholeness are offered by the minister, on request at the end of each service. We are extremely grateful to everyone who participates in church life whether contributing to Sunday worship or enabling weekday activities.

Due to low numbers, there is no longer a Junior Family Church (JFC) for children and young people but, if any children do attend, colouring materials/toys can be made available. We will reconsider reinstating JFC should children start attending again. We are aware that many children are involved in other activities on Sunday mornings and if we had the right people to run them, we would consider holding meetings for young people and children during the week.

We also hold extra special services during the major Christian festivals, for example, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Christmas. The minister takes Holy Communion to the housebound when requested.

A monthly newsletter is distributed at church, via email and by post. This carries news of the church family, notification of events, and items of general interest. This is available to everyone, and copies are taken to the housebound.

A number of organists/pianists provide music for worship. These include Ms Hannah Brooke, Ms Bethany Brooke, and Mrs Carolyn Wallbank. We are also grateful to Mrs Alison Henderson, who plays the piano on occasional Sundays throughout the year. It is extremely fortunate that our minister, Revd Jonathan Edwards, plays the organ on some Sundays when he is preaching.

Our membership at 31 December 2023 stood at 47. We also have a number of adherents who are faithful attendees but are not full members. Our average weekly attendance is 34 adults. We are in contact with a number of families although the children and teenagers have largely ceased to attend. There are a number of reasons for this, notably other activities take place on Sunday morning. Three of our members died during 2023.

It was good to hold some of our special services in 2023 such as our Church Anniversary, Easter and Carols by Candlelight with Christingles. The church is beautifully decorated with flowers by two of our members each Sunday and there are extra decorations for special services such as Harvest and Christmas when they have extra help.

We continue to collect and deliver food and other items for the Swindon Food Collective (Foodbank) throughout the year. Our financial giving at Harvest went to the URC Commitment for Life to support agricultural projects in Zimbabwe.

Our Transitional minister, Revd Jonathan Edwards, continued meeting individuals in the congregation to give pastoral support and to find out what they felt about the future of the church. He also continued meeting with other clergy in the town, and also with charities who we might be able to work with in order to fulfil our charitable objectives more fully. The most effective ecumenical body in the town at present is Good News for Swindon and Jonathan has regularly attended its meetings throughout the year.

Church Decoration: The first Sunday in Advent (Advent Sunday) always sees our church decorated for the coming festive season. The Advent Wreath is on display at the front of the church in readiness for the four Advent Candles to be lit, week by week, in sequence. At the beginning of the Christmas morning service the central white candle, the Christ Candle, is lit. We also have a Christmas tree and nativity scene at the front of the church.

Carol Service: We hold our candlelight service of lessons and carols, with Christingles on the Sunday before Christmas. This service is always followed by a 'bring and share' meal. As usual, it was well supported and much appreciated and was a great opportunity to socialise.

Christmas Presents for the housebound and members who have been bereaved during the past year: Central Church always purchases a present for those members/adherents of our congregation who are housebound and are no longer able to get to church as they once did. We also purchase a gift for anyone who has been bereaved during the current year.

Christmas Morning Service: This is always a lovely family service when children and adults alike welcome the Christ Child in the manger into our world. The children are invited to bring along one or two of Santa's presents.

Our Christmas Gift Appeal: This year we collected luxury food items for Swindon Food Collective. The Christmas Day offering was given to Christian Aid.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Church Facilities: The church facilities are also used by two other worshipping communities. These are New Life Christian Ministry, led by Pastor Alphonso Davis; and Lagohina Brazilian Baptist Church, led by Flavio and Sabrina Luz. Both make good use of the premises including the Baptistry for baptism by full immersion. Big Breakfast Plus, who provide cooked meals for those sleeping rough and those in food poverty, continue to use our café. They are open from 7-9 a.m. seven days a week and serve approximately 80-100 meals per day. Alternative Angels, who also provide meals for the homeless and those in need, operate from our café on a Monday and Tuesday evening, between 6-8 p.m. to distribute meals. They also serve between 80-100 people.

Safeguarding: This is taken very seriously. All relevant people involved with children or vulnerable adults hold a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and have undertaken appropriate training.

Bible Study Group: This has met fortnightly and is led by Revd Jonathan Edwards.

Prayer Fellowship: This has now been incorporated into the Bible Study Group. However, members also keep each other informed of prayer requests and so individual prayer at home continues.

World Church Group: This group no longer meets. However newsletters and information was still shared as much as possible. The link with Baptist missionaries, Daniel, Regiane and Anna Sophia Clark, remain and it was good to receive their letters and to hear about their work in Peru. A BMS missionary, Lucia Bastos, worshipped with us for 3 months whilst on furlough in this country. She has now started work in Chad and we intend to stay in contact with her. Stories for Change, the newsletter for Commitment for Life, was circulated where possible.

Central Church also supports the work of Amnesty International. The congregation participated in the 'Write for Rights' campaign.

Fundraising: £368.09 was raised for Christian Aid over Christmas. We have also financially supported Alternative Angels, Prospect Hospice, Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Macmillan Cancer Support through coffee mornings and a donation box kept at the church. Some members also give to the BMS Birthday Scheme and Action for Children through the lantern collection boxes. We are committed to continuing to look outward to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged both at home and abroad.

Benevolent Fund: The minister is empowered to make donations to any of our number who are in special need.

THE PILGRIM CENTRE

It was another busy year regarding maintenance. We discovered a fresh leak in the roof, not associated with the previous issues. We were alerted to the need to repair our coping stones and we had the gutters cleared and the moss on the roof removed. Our café was flooded due to heavy rain and we had to have our drains unblocked. We had work done on the boiler and associated electrical work. We replaced the lights on the ground floor: kitchen, café and foyer, with LED lights as part of our commitment to being a greener church.

In July we took on a self-employed, part-time caretaker. Neil Boulton has proved to be a great asset. Christine Durant continues to oversee all the maintenance work and maintained a presence in the office. She continued to deal with bookings which were quite buoyant throughout the year.

Cleaners: Big Breakfast Plus are prepared to do their own cleaning on a day to day basis, but Mrs Sandy Chilvers, one of our congregation, goes into the café twice a week to wash and polish the floors. Mrs Jane Corcoran continues to clean the rest of the building.

CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Café: We opened a community café in February 2023. This is staffed by volunteers from the church and offers free hot drinks and cake to anyone who comes. It is open from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. each Monday, closed on Bank Holidays. The cakes are donated by members of the congregation and although free, visitors can make a financial donation if they wish. An average of 25 people attend and they represent a cross-section of the community including vulnerable people who need a safe, warm place to sit where they will be made welcome. Carol singing took place there on the Monday before Christmas and this was a joyful occasion.

Lent Lunches: These are weekly simple meals comprising of soup, cheese and biscuits, organised in rotation by Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTISC) to raise money for Christian Aid and CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). Central Church was responsible for providing the first lunch.

Friends of Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy (SCC): Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre have kindly allowed SCC to use an office in the Pilgrim Centre. They also use the Centre as their registered address. Central Church and a number of individuals have become a 'Friend of SCC' by supporting the charity financially and with prayer.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At 31 December 2023, total funds were £1,414,311. Restricted funds were £911,285 and endowment funds were £287,791. Unrestricted reserves were £215,235. Free reserves, after making allowance for tangible fixed assets, were £212,093.

The trustees' reserve policy is to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months costs in order to cover unplanned situations that may occur from time to time. This is in line with good practice and follows the recommendations of the charity commission. Based on the present level of costs the required free reserves are £50,000. Reserves held are above the required level.

Room hire bookings continued to hold up well. Some customers, such as the NHS Blood and Transplant Service, continued to use our building. We do have enough reserves to cover our expenses for the foreseeable future.

FUTURE PLANS

Goals for 2024

- We will continue to seek to strengthen the spiritual life of the church through our Sunday services and by holding weekday bible studies.
- Encouraged by the introduction of the Community Café on a Monday morning, we will continue to explore ways of reaching out to our neighbours.
- We intend to continue to ensure that our Safeguarding Officer, together with those relevant personnel who have been appointed and commissioned by the Leadership Team to respond to any safeguarding concerns, have safeguarding training with regard to vulnerable adults and children.
- We will continue to support and encourage regular social 'get-togethers' such as church meals as these provide an invaluable opportunity to create an atmosphere of openness and friendliness and for the whole congregation to feel a sense of belonging to the one church family.
- We will continue to support local ecumenical initiatives such as Lent Lunches in the town centre.
- We will continue to support national and international events such as: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, Christian Aid Week, Macmillan Cancer Support, and the charity Action for Children.
- We will continue to encourage those attending service to come forward for baptism or confirmation and full membership.
- We will continue to observe traditional Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- We will continue reviewing and updating all policies and amend as necessary i.e. Safeguarding, Health & Safety etc.
- We will continue to review all risk assessments and amend where necessary.
- We will continue to ensure that there are sufficient personnel who are trained in First Aid.
- We will review all pricing structures, maintenance contracts, utility use and general expenditure to ensure unnecessary losses are not being incurred.
- We will continue to support volunteers with special needs.
- We will work towards becoming a greener church.
- We will continue to be a welcoming, caring and inclusive Christian community, serving God in Church and in the local community.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

We are a single congregation church comprised of three denominations. We are recognised by the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB), and locally by the West of England Baptist Network (Webnet); Methodist Connexion, locally by the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit; and the United Reformed Church General Assembly, locally by the South Western Synod. We serve the Swindon town centre area. Our membership is also drawn from other areas of the town. We are members of Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTiSC).

Our church minister is normally taken in rotation from the three denominations. We currently have a transitional minister from the Baptist Revd Jonathan Edwards.

Central Church operates from the purpose-built Pilgrim Centre. The building comprises a ground floor café and kitchen, the first floor Worship Area and Activity Hall and second and third floors which are meeting rooms and offices. There are toilet facilities on each floor and a kitchenette. The meeting rooms are available for hire by the community.

Trustees: Judith Furse (Chair), June Osborne, Sue Mason, Joanna Struthers-Frost, Andrea McNab, Marion Manning and Christine Durant.

Executive: The trustees are all members of our elected Executive who oversee the running of the church and premises. The Executive meets six times a year. Elections are held during our annual Church Meeting, with all elected positions held for three years maximum before re-standing for election. We also have one ex-officio member of the Executive, our minister Revd Jonathan Edwards.

Other Officers serving Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre:

Secretariat: Christine Durant (admin and correspondence), Marion Manning (membership), June Osborne (pulpit fill) and Jo Dance (visiting preachers admin)

Finance Officer: Sue Mason assisted by Christine Durant

Finance Data Input and Report Writing: Monahans Chartered Accountants

Cash Counting: Frank Gleed

Gift Aid: Marion Manning

Chair of Church Meeting: Revd Jonathan Edwards

Staffing Officer: Judith Furse

Safeguarding Officer: Sue Mason assisted by Hannah Evans

Information Officer: Vacancy

Pastoral Committee: Elected Members - Mavis Poolman and Jane Walsh. Glenys Thomas retired in March at the AGM and has not been replaced. Revd Jonathan Edwards chairs this committee as an ex-officio member. Along with the pastoral members, Jonathan and Christine Durant visit our sick and elderly.

Induction and training of trustees: Resources are available for training any new trustees in their duties e.g. our constitution model document, standing orders, website, Charity Commission website, local knowledge. Many of our Executive have been in service for many years. All legal requirements regarding ongoing information is continually updated and displayed throughout the building.

External Representation: Locally we have representatives on

Good News for Swindon: Revd Jonathan Edwards

Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTiSC): Revd Jonathan Edwards, Judith Furse

West of England Baptist Network (Webnet): Revd Jonathan Edwards

North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit: Christine Durant, Judith Furse

United Reformed Church SW Synod: Judith Furse

We are also involved in the local Interfaith Group.

Properties: The legal title of properties managed by the church Trustees belong to the following as custodian trustees: West of England Baptist Trust Company, United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1145817

Principal address

The Pilgrim Centre
Regent Circus
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 1PX

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Trustees

J Furse
C Durant
S Mason
J Osborne
J Struthers-Frost
A McNab

Independent Examiner

James Gare
Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Financial/Investment

West of England Baptist Association (WEBA),
United Reformed Church (URC), and Methodist Finance Board.

Contact details

Web Site Central Church: www.centralchurch.org
Email: pilcen@aol.com
Tel: 01793 537642

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 17 March 2024..... and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Furse', written over a dotted line.

J Furse - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Central Church Swindon**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Central Church Swindon

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Central Church Swindon (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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.

Monahans provide book-keeping services to Central Church Swindon. The examiner has applied the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard in regard to these services.



James Gare

Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Date: 26 March 2024.....

Central Church Swindon

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	35,099	-	-	35,099	24,464
Other trading activities	3	24,803	-	-	24,803	20,690
Investment income	4	42,623	11,709	-	54,332	50,485
Total		<u>102,525</u>	<u>11,709</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>114,234</u>	<u>95,639</u>
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	5	28	550	3,349	3,927	9,466
Charitable activities						
Church activities	6	97,060	890	-	97,950	68,988
Total		<u>97,088</u>	<u>1,440</u>	<u>3,349</u>	<u>101,877</u>	<u>78,454</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>9,573</u>	<u>63,153</u>	<u>38,486</u>	<u>111,212</u>	<u>(102,196)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>15,010</u>	<u>73,422</u>	<u>35,137</u>	<u>123,569</u>	<u>(85,011)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		<u>200,225</u>	<u>837,863</u>	<u>252,654</u>	<u>1,290,742</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>215,235</u></u>	<u><u>911,285</u></u>	<u><u>287,791</u></u>	<u><u>1,414,311</u></u>	<u><u>1,290,742</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

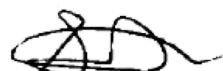
Central Church Swindon

Balance Sheet
31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	3,142	4,288
Investments			
Investments	12	970,098	897,371
Investment property	13	285,000	246,514
		1,258,240	1,148,173
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	7,264	5,845
Cash at bank and in hand	15	157,342	142,241
		164,606	148,086
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(8,535)	(5,517)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		156,071	142,569
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,414,311	1,290,742
NET ASSETS		1,414,311	1,290,742
FUNDS	18		
Unrestricted funds		215,235	200,225
Restricted funds		911,285	837,863
Endowment funds		287,791	252,654
TOTAL FUNDS		1,414,311	1,290,742

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on .17. March 2024..... and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
C Durant - Trustee


.....
S Mason - Trustee

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, constituted by a trust deed.

The registered office address and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities of the charity are given in the trustees report.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Equipment	- 20% on straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on straight line basis

Freehold property

The Pilgrim Centre is owned by the Baptist Church (two thirds), Methodist (one sixth) and United Reform Church (URC) (one sixth). The Manse is owned by the URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

The above properties are not recognised as assets of the charity.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as unrealised.

Investment property

The church receives an annual rent from a property that is held upon trust by the West of England Baptist Association (WEBA) Trustees. Investment properties are included in the accounts at open market value. All movements arising from revaluation are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Realised gains and losses on investment properties are calculated as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the market value at the beginning of the year or cost of purchases during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are derived from the movement in the market values during the year.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

Fund accounting

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

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

Endowment funds are funds which are held subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained as capital. The income earned from these funds is used for general purposes where allowed or for the specific purposes intended. The aim and use of each endowment fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations and collections	21,609	21,553
Gift aid	3,490	2,911
Legacies	10,000	-
	<u>35,099</u>	<u>24,464</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Hire of Pilgrim Centre	<u>24,803</u>	<u>20,690</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rents received	23,364	24,552
Income from fixed asset investments	28,109	25,648
Deposit account interest	2,859	285
	<u>54,332</u>	<u>50,485</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Portfolio management	578	578
Rental property expenses	3,349	8,888
	<u>3,927</u>	<u>9,466</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>26,662</u>	<u>71,288</u>	<u>97,950</u>

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sundries	1,307	1,074
Denominations and assessments	6,246	7,771
Worship	1,963	2,226
Minister payments	16,891	12,542
Donations	255	337
	<u>26,662</u>	<u>23,950</u>

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Church activities	68,351	2,937	71,288

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2023 Church activities £	2022 Total activities £
Rates and water	3,522	60
Insurance	4,023	3,585
Light and heat	18,776	14,899
Telephone and internet	2,415	2,122
Printing, postage and stationery	1,281	1,680
Cleaning and household	6,709	3,980
Repairs and renewals	27,696	11,515
Bookkeeping, management accounts and payroll	2,784	2,714
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	1,145	2,163
	<u>68,351</u>	<u>42,718</u>

Governance costs

	2023 Church activities £	2022 Total activities £
Independent examination and accountancy	2,937	2,320

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	19,752	4,712	-	24,464
Other trading activities	20,690	-	-	20,690
Investment income	41,173	9,312	-	50,485
Total	<u>81,615</u>	<u>14,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,639</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	6,791	550	2,125	9,466
Charitable activities				
Church activities	68,988	-	-	68,988
Total	<u>75,779</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>2,125</u>	<u>78,454</u>

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(13,479)	(88,717)	-	(102,196)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(7,643)	(75,243)	(2,125)	(85,011)
Transfers between funds	3,712	(3,712)	-	-
Net movement in funds	(3,931)	(78,955)	(2,125)	(85,011)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	204,156	916,818	254,779	1,375,753
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>200,225</u>	<u>837,863</u>	<u>252,654</u>	<u>1,290,742</u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023	27,755	27,410	55,165
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2023	26,321	24,556	50,877
Charge for year	359	787	1,146
At 31 December 2023	26,680	25,343	52,023
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2023	1,075	2,067	3,142
At 31 December 2022	1,434	2,854	4,288

12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	West of England Baptist Trust Co. £	United Reform Church £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE			
At 1 January 2023	349,796	547,575	897,371
Unrealised gains	19,492	53,235	72,727
At 31 December 2023	369,288	600,810	970,098
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2023	369,288	600,810	970,098
At 31 December 2022	349,796	547,575	897,371

Investments held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company are used to fund significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre. Investments held by the United Reform Church are for significant repairs to the manse. There were no investment assets outside the UK. During the year ended 31 December 2018, £80,000 of unrestricted funds were invested in the United Reform Church fund.

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

13. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2023	246,514
Revaluation	38,486
	<u>285,000</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>285,000</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	<u>285,000</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>246,514</u>

The investment property was purchased in January 2020. The trustees have revalued the property at 31 December 2023 with reference to recent sales prices of similar properties.

Fair value at 31 December 2023 is represented by:

	£
Valuation in 2023	38,486
Cost	246,514
	<u>285,000</u>

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	792	581
Prepayments and accrued income	6,472	5,264
	<u>7,264</u>	<u>5,845</u>

15. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Included in cash is £53,114 (2022: £41,955) which is held on deposit by the West of England Baptist Trust Company.

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	38	-
Other creditors	1,042	1,098
Accrued expenses	7,455	4,419
	<u>8,535</u>	<u>5,517</u>

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment fund	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,142	-	-	3,142	4,288
Investments	112,036	858,062	285,000	1,255,098	1,143,885
Current assets	108,592	53,223	2,791	164,606	148,086
Current liabilities	(8,535)	-	-	(8,535)	(5,517)
	<u>215,235</u>	<u>911,285</u>	<u>287,791</u>	<u>1,414,311</u>	<u>1,290,742</u>

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	200,225	15,010	215,235
Restricted funds			
Swindon Church Fund	391,751	30,650	422,401
URC Fund	445,112	43,662	488,774
Benevolent Fund	1,000	(890)	110
	837,863	73,422	911,285
Endowment funds			
Property - Baptist	252,654	35,137	287,791
TOTAL FUNDS	1,290,742	123,569	1,414,311

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	102,525	(97,088)	9,573	15,010
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	11,709	(550)	19,491	30,650
URC Fund	-	-	43,662	43,662
Benevolent Fund	-	(890)	-	(890)
	11,709	(1,440)	63,153	73,422
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	-	(3,349)	38,486	35,137
TOTAL FUNDS	114,234	(101,877)	111,212	123,569

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	204,156	(7,643)	3,712	200,225
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	414,440	(22,689)	-	391,751
URC Fund	502,378	(57,266)	-	445,112
Equipment	-	3,712	(3,712)	-
Benevolent Fund	-	1,000	-	1,000
	916,818	(75,243)	(3,712)	837,863
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	254,779	(2,125)	-	252,654
TOTAL FUNDS	1,375,753	(85,011)	-	1,290,742

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	81,615	(75,779)	(13,479)	(7,643)
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	9,312	(550)	(31,451)	(22,689)
URC Fund	-	-	(57,266)	(57,266)
Equipment	3,712	-	-	3,712
Benevolent Fund	1,000	-	-	1,000
	14,024	(550)	(88,717)	(75,243)
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	-	(2,125)	-	(2,125)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>95,639</u>	<u>(78,454)</u>	<u>(102,196)</u>	<u>(85,011)</u>

Endowment funds

- Property - Baptist - This fund represents the value of the Investment property (plus excess cash from the sale of the previous investment property) managed by the church as managing trustees, the deeds of which are held by the West of England Baptist Trust company as custodian trustee. The fund is held for the general purpose of the charity.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant. The purpose of the above restricted funds are as follows;

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Swindon Church Fund | - This represents funds held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company on behalf of the church and is to cover significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre building. |
| URC Fund | - The URC Fund is restricted to use on the United Reform Church manse and other related activities. It is represented by investments held on trust for the Church by the United Reform Church. |
| Flower Fund | - The Flower Fund provides flowers for the church and for members who are ill. |
| Manse Repair Fund | - The Manse Repair Fund represents monies received to fund repairs to the Manse |
| Equipment | - Donations were received towards the purchase of a dishwasher and a defibrillator. |
| Benevolent fund | - A donation was received to support anyone in the church's fellowship who might need extra help |

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Total donations of £2,120 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

There were no other related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Accounts

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022
for
Central Church Swindon

Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Central Church Swindon

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 18

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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; pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved; 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
- d) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Church

We have a weekly Sunday worship service at 10.30 am. Holy Communion is included during the service twice a month, usually when our own minister is presiding. Prayers for healing and wholeness are offered by the minister, on request, at the end of each service.

Due to low numbers, there is no longer a Junior Family Church (JFC) for children and young people but a table is set at the back of the Worship Area with colouring materials should any children attend. We will reconsider reinstating JFC should children start attending again. We are aware that many children are involved in other activities on Sunday mornings and if we had the right people to run them, we would consider holding meetings for young people and children during the week.

We also hold extra, special services during the major Christian festivals, for example, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Christmas. The Minister and members of the Pastoral Committee take Holy Communion to the housebound when requested.

A monthly newsletter is distributed at church, via email and by post. This carries news of the church family, notification of events, and items of general interest. This is available to everyone, and copies are taken to the housebound.

Our regular organist, Ms Hannah Brooke, plays most Sundays. Carolyn Wallbank plays whenever Hannah is unavailable providing she has sufficient notice. We are also grateful to Alison Henderson, who plays the piano on occasional Sundays throughout the year. It is extremely fortunate that our minister, Revd Jonathan Edwards, plays the organ on some Sundays when he is preaching.

Our Membership at 31st December 2022 stood at 71. We also have a number of adherents who are faithful attendees but are not full Members. Our average weekly attendance is 31 adults. Unfortunately, although we are in touch with a number of families, the children and teenagers have largely ceased to attend. There are a number of reasons for this but we are aware that many other activities take place on Sunday mornings. Sadly, there have been two funerals during 2022.

It was good to hold some of our special services in person in 2022 such as our Church Anniversary, Easter and Carols by Candlelight. The church was beautifully decorated by two of our members for services such as Harvest and Christmas.

We continued to collect and deliver food and other items for the Food Collective throughout the year. We held a coffee morning in September for McMillan. Our financial giving at Harvest went to Commitment for Life to support agricultural projects in Zimbabwe. A plant sale in May raised money for Christian Aid.

Our Transitional Minister Revd Jonathan Edwards continued meeting individuals in the congregation to give pastoral support and to find out what they felt about the future of the church. He also carried on meeting with other clergy in the town and charities who we might be able to work with in order to fulfil our charitable objectives more fully. The most effective ecumenical body in the town at present is Good News for Swindon and Jonathan has regularly attended its meetings throughout the year.

Church Decoration: The first Sunday in Advent (Advent Sunday) always sees our church decorated for the coming festive season. The Advent Wreath is on display at the front of the church in readiness for the four Advent Candles to be lit, week by week, in sequence. At the beginning of the Christmas morning service, of course, the central white candle, the Christ Candle is lit.

Carol Service: We held our candlelight service of lessons and carols on the Sunday before Christmas. This service was followed by a bring and share meal. As usual, it was much appreciated as an opportunity to socialise.

Christmas Presents for the Housebound and those Members who have been bereaved during the past year: Central Church always buys a present for those Members of our congregation who are housebound and are no longer able to get to church as they once did. We also purchase a gift for anyone who has been bereaved during the current year.

Christmas Morning Service: This is always a lovely family service when children and adults alike welcome the Christ Child in the manger into our world. The children were invited to bring along one or two of Santa's presents.

Church Facilities: The Church facilities are also used by two other worshipping communities. These are New Life Christian Ministry, led by Pastor Alphonso Davis; and LagoHina Brazilian Baptist Church, led by Flavio and Sabrina Luz. Both make good use of the premises including the Baptistry - for baptism by full immersion.

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Big Breakfast Plus, who provide cooked meals for those sleeping rough and those in food poverty, started using our café at the end of 2021 but their opening was delayed until January 2022. They are open from 7 - 9 Tuesday - Saturday and serve approximately 50 meals per day. Our Christmas Gift Appeal this year was for the homeless and we donated through Big Breakfast Plus. The Christmas Day offering was given to Action for Children.

Alternative Angels, who also provide meals for the homeless and those in need also started operating from our café in June, on a Monday and Tuesday evening, between 6 - 8 p.m. to distribute meals.

Safeguarding is taken very seriously. All relevant people involved with our children or vulnerable adults hold a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Tuesday Fellowship

This did not take place during 2022. The numbers have dwindled and it was decided that it was no longer feasible to continue.

Wednesday Circle

This group did not meet during 2022. We held a survey to find out what interest there was in which groups and decided that Circle may be viable. However, when we met to discuss an opening date we realized that interest had dwindled and it was decided to cease meeting.

Bible Study Group

This Group has met regularly and is led by Revd Jonathan Edwards.

Prayer Fellowship

This group was incorporated into the Bible study group. However members also kept each other informed of prayer requests and so individual prayer at home continued.

World Church Group

This group no longer meets. However newsletters and information were still shared as much as possible. The link with Baptist missionaries Daniel, Regiane and Anna Sophia Clark remain and it was good to receive their letters and to hear about their work in Peru. Stories for Change, the newsletter for Commitment for Life, was circulated where possible and the church gave them a gift of £163 to help their vital work with the poor of Zimbabwe.

Central Church also supports the work of **Amnesty International**. The congregation participated in the Write for Rights campaign.

Fundraising over Christmas raised £238.13 for Action for Children. We have also financially supported, via coffee mornings, Future in our Hand, Swindon Youth for Christ, The Bible Society, and Macmillan and took a retiring collection for Ukraine.

We are committed to continuing to look outward to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged both at home and abroad.

The Pilgrim Centre

It was another busy year regarding maintenance. One of our members generously purchased a dishwasher for the café kitchen. We had to call the engineer out on a number of occasions because water wasn't draining away, foreign objects got stuck in the works and the soap drawer wouldn't close.

We discovered we had rats amidst the rubbish behind the kitchen. We contracted a local pest control company to deal with this and also cleared the rubbish and cleaned the area.

Our gas infrastructure was found to be out-of-date and we had flues and vents fitted throughout the building.

We also had problems with the main doors to the building and had to call out a locksmith on a number of occasions.

Christine Durant oversaw all the maintenance work and maintained a presence in the office. She continued to deal with bookings which were quite buoyant throughout the year.

Cleaners: Big Breakfast Plus are prepared to do their own cleaning. Mrs. Jane Corcoran continues to clean the rest of the building.

Cafe @ Central:

Throughout the year the church worked closely with Andrew Williams of Gateway Church to explore the possibility of opening up the church's café as a community outreach. It is hoped that this would occur in early 2023.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Church in the Community - Lent Lunches

These are weekly simple meals organised in rotation by Churches Together in Swindon Town Centre (CTISTC) to raise money for Christian Aid and CAFOD. Central Church was responsible for providing the first lunch.

Friends of SCC

Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre have kindly allowed Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy (SCC) to use an office in the Pilgrim Centre. They also use the Pilgrim Centre as their registered address. Central Church and a number of individuals have become a 'Friend of SCC' by supporting the charity financially and with prayer.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At 31 December 2022, total funds were £1,290,742. Restricted funds were £837,863 and endowment funds were £252,654. Unrestricted reserves were £200,225. Free reserves, after making allowance for tangible fixed assets, were £195,937.

The trustees' reserve policy is to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months costs in order to cover unplanned situations that may occur from time to time. This is in line with good practice and follows the recommendations of the charity commission. Based on the present level of costs the required free reserves are £50,000. Reserves held are above the required level.

Room hire bookings bounced back well after Covid restrictions were lifted. Some customers such as the NHS Blood and Transplant Service continued to use our building throughout Covid. We do have enough reserves to cover our expenses for the foreseeable future.

FUTURE PLANS

Goals for 2023

- We intend to continue to ensure that our Safeguarding Officer - together with those relevant personnel who have been appointed and commissioned by the Leadership Team to respond to any safeguarding concerns - have continued safeguarding training with regard to vulnerable adults and children.
- We will also continue to support and encourage regular social 'get-togethers' such as church meals and 'outings', as these provide an invaluable opportunity to create an atmosphere of openness and friendliness, and for the whole congregation to feel a sense of belonging to the one church family.
- We will continue to support local external ecumenical initiatives such as Lent Lunches in Swindon town centre.
- We will continue to support national and international events such as:
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, Christian Aid Week, Macmillan Cancer Support: World's Biggest Coffee Morning and the charity, Action for Children.
- We will continue to encourage those attending services to come forward for baptism or confirmation and full membership.
- We will continue to observe traditional Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- We will continue reviewing and updating all policies. Review and amend where necessary the Volunteers' Handbook, Safeguarding Policy, and Health and Safety Policy, etc.
- Review all risk assessments and amend where necessary
- Continue to ensure that there are sufficient personnel who are trained in First Aid.
- Review all pricing structures, maintenance contracts, utility use and general expenditure to ensure unnecessary losses are not being incurred.
- We will continue to support volunteers with special needs.
- We are working towards becoming a greener church.
- We will continue to be a welcoming, caring, and inclusive Christian community, serving God in Church and in the local community.

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

We are a single congregation church comprised of three denominations. We are recognised by the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB), and locally by the West of England Baptist Association, (WEBA), Methodist Connexion and locally by the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit, and the United Reformed Church General Assembly and locally by the South Western Synod. We serve the Swindon town centre area. Our membership is also drawn from other areas of the town. We are members of Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTISC).

Our church minister is normally taken in rotation from the three denominations. We currently have a transitional minister from the Baptist tradition, Revd Jonathan Edwards

Central Church operates from the purpose-built Pilgrim Centre. The building comprises a ground floor cafe, the first floor Worship Area and second and third floor offices and meeting rooms, which are available for hire by the community.

Trustees:

Judith Furse (Chair), June Osborne, Sue Mason, Joanna Struthers-Frost, Andrea McNab and Christine Durant.

Executive:

Our Trustees are all members of our elected Executive who oversee the running of the church and premises. The Executive meets six times a year. Elections are held during our Annual Church Meeting, with all elected positions held for three years maximum before re-standing for election. We also have one ex-officio member of the Executive, Revd Jonathan Edwards (Minister).

Other officers serving Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre:

Secretariat: Christine Durant (admin & correspondence) and Marion Manning, membership secretary.

Finance Officer: Sue Mason assisted by Chris Durant Finance data input and report writing: Monahans

Cash counting: Frank Gleed.

Chair of Church Meeting: Revd Jonathan Edwards

Staffing Officer: Judith Furse

Information Officer: Vacancy

Manse Fabric Officer: David McNab

Marriage Registration: Marion Manning

Pastoral Committee: Elected Members: Mavis Poolman, Jane Walsh and Glenys Thomas. Revd Jonathan Edwards chairs this committee as an ex-officio member. There is a group of non-elected Pastoral Carers who also sit on the Pastoral Committee which meets quarterly. The Pastoral Carers visit our sick and elderly.

Safeguarding Officers: Susan Mason, Hannah Evans

Induction and training of Trustees: Resources are available for training any new Trustees in their duties, e.g. our constitution model document, standing orders, web site, Charity Commission website, local knowledge as many of our Executive have been serving for many years. All legal requirements regarding ongoing information is continually updated and displayed in both the Centre and Cafe.

External Representation

Locally, we have representatives on: Good News for Swindon - Revd Jonathan Edwards, and Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTISC) - Revd. Jonathan Edwards and Judith Furse. Revd Jonathan Edwards also acts as our representative to WEBA, and two church members, Christine Durant and Judith Furse are our representatives on the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit. Judith Furse is also our representative to the URC SW Synod. We are also involved in the local Interfaith Group.

Properties: the legal title of properties managed by the Church trustees belong to the following as custodian trustees: West of England Baptist Trust Company, United Reform Church, and the Methodist Church

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1145817

Principal address

The Pilgrim Centre

Regent Circus

Swindon

Wiltshire

SN1 1PX

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Trustees

J Furse
C Durant
S Mason
J Osborne
J Struthers-Frost
A McNab (appointed 24.4.22)

Independent Examiner

James Gare
FCA DChA
Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Financial/Investment

West of England Baptist Association (WEBA),
United Reformed Church (URC), and Methodist Finance Board.

Contact details

Web Site Central Church: www.centralchurch.org
Email: plcen@aol.com
Tel: 01793 537642

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 19th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
J Furse - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Central Church Swindon**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Central Church Swindon

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Central Church Swindon (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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.

Monahans provide book-keeping services to Central Church Swindon. The examiner has applied the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard in regard to these services.



James Gare
FCA DChA
Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Date: 12 May 2023

Central Church Swindon

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	19,752	4,712	-	24,464	18,672
Other trading activities	3	20,690	-	-	20,690	4,961
Investment income	4	41,173	9,312	-	50,485	38,294
Total		<u>81,615</u>	<u>14,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,639</u>	<u>61,927</u>
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	5	6,791	550	2,125	9,466	13,219
Charitable activities	6					
Church activities		68,988	-	-	68,988	122,885
Total		<u>75,779</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>2,125</u>	<u>78,454</u>	<u>136,104</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>(13,479)</u>	<u>(88,717)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(102,196)</u>	<u>108,010</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>(7,643)</u>	<u>(75,243)</u>	<u>(2,125)</u>	<u>(85,011)</u>	<u>33,833</u>
Transfers between funds	19	<u>3,712</u>	<u>(3,712)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(3,931)</u>	<u>(78,955)</u>	<u>(2,125)</u>	<u>(85,011)</u>	<u>33,833</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		<u>204,156</u>	<u>916,818</u>	<u>254,779</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>200,225</u>	<u>837,863</u>	<u>252,654</u>	<u>1,290,742</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Central Church Swindon

Balance Sheet
31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	4,288	1,214
Investments			
Investments	13	897,371	999,567
Investment property	14	<u>246,514</u>	<u>246,514</u>
		1,148,173	1,247,295
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	5,845	5,908
Cash at bank and in hand	16	<u>142,241</u>	<u>134,432</u>
		148,086	140,340
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(5,517)	(11,882)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>142,569</u>	<u>128,458</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,290,742</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,290,742</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>
FUNDS	19		
Unrestricted funds		200,225	204,156
Restricted funds		837,863	916,818
Endowment funds		<u>252,654</u>	<u>254,779</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>1,290,742</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 19th March 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

C A Durant
C Durant - Trustee


S Mason - Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, constituted by a trust deed.

The registered office address and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities of the charity are given in the trustees report.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Equipment	- 20% on straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on straight line basis

Freehold property

The Pilgrim Centre is owned by the Baptist Church (two thirds), Methodist (one sixth) and United Reform Church (URC) (one sixth). The Manse is owned by the URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

The above properties are not recognised as assets of the charity.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as unrealised.

Investment property

The church receives an annual rent from a property that is held upon trust by the West of England Baptist Association (WEBA) Trustees. Investment properties are included in the accounts at open market value. All movements arising from revaluation are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Realised gains and losses on investment properties are calculated as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the market value at the beginning of the year or cost of purchases during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are derived from the movement in the market values during the year.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

Fund accounting

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

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

Endowment funds are funds which are held subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained as capital. The income earned from these funds is used for general purposes where allowed or for the specific purposes intended. The aim and use of each endowment fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations and collections	21,553	15,547
Gift aid	<u>2,911</u>	<u>3,126</u>
	<u>24,464</u>	<u>18,672</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Hire of Pilgrim Centre	<u>20,690</u>	<u>4,961</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Rents received	24,552	12,392
Income from fixed asset investments	25,648	25,861
Deposit account interest	<u>285</u>	<u>41</u>
	<u>50,485</u>	<u>38,294</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Portfolio management	578	525
Rental property expenses	<u>8,888</u>	<u>12,694</u>
	<u>9,466</u>	<u>13,219</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>23,950</u>	<u>45,038</u>	<u>68,988</u>

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	-	11,825
Manse property expenses	-	1,153
Sundries	1,074	796
Denominations and assessments	7,771	9,117
Worship	2,226	2,549
Minister payments	12,542	-
Donations	<u>337</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>23,950</u>	<u>25,444</u>

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>42,718</u>	<u>2,320</u>	<u>45,038</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2022 Church activities £	2021 Total activities £
Rates and water	60	1,320
Insurance	3,585	3,068
Light and heat	14,899	11,294
Telephone and internet	2,122	2,229
Printing, postage and stationery	1,680	2,410
Cleaning and household	3,980	3,744
Repairs and renewals	11,515	66,595
Professional fees	-	290
Bad debts	-	439
Bookkeeping, management accounts and payroll	2,714	2,732
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	<u>2,163</u>	<u>1,115</u>
	<u>42,718</u>	<u>95,236</u>

Governance costs

	2022 Church activities £	2021 Total activities £
Independent examination and accountancy	<u>2,320</u>	<u>2,205</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	<u>-</u>	<u>11,825</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,825</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Minister	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Key management personnel for the charity comprises the Minister. The total employee benefits for key management personnel of the charity were £0 (2021 - £11,825).

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	17,912	760	-	18,672
Other trading activities	4,961	-	-	4,961
Investment income	29,241	9,053	-	38,294
Total	<u>52,114</u>	<u>9,813</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,927</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	470	12,170	579	13,219
Charitable activities				
Church activities	72,081	50,804	-	122,885
Total	<u>72,551</u>	<u>62,974</u>	<u>579</u>	<u>136,104</u>
Net gains on investments	14,459	93,551	-	108,010
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(5,978)	40,390	(579)	33,833
Transfers between funds	(9,520)	9,520	-	-
Net movement in funds	(15,498)	49,910	(579)	33,833
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	219,654	866,908	255,358	1,341,920
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>204,156</u>	<u>916,818</u>	<u>254,779</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2022	25,963	23,966	49,929
Additions	1,792	3,444	5,236
At 31 December 2022	<u>27,755</u>	<u>27,410</u>	<u>55,165</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2022	25,146	23,569	48,715
Charge for year	1,175	987	2,162
At 31 December 2022	<u>26,321</u>	<u>24,556</u>	<u>50,877</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2022	<u>1,434</u>	<u>2,854</u>	<u>4,288</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>817</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>1,214</u>

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

13. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	West of England Baptist Trust Co. £	United Reform Church £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE			
At 1 January 2022	381,247	618,320	999,567
Unrealised gains	(31,451)	(70,745)	(102,196)
At 31 December 2022	<u>349,796</u>	<u>547,575</u>	<u>897,371</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2022	<u>349,796</u>	<u>547,575</u>	<u>897,371</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>381,247</u>	<u>618,320</u>	<u>999,567</u>

Investments held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company are used to fund significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre. Investments held by the United Reform Church are for significant repairs to the manse. There were no investment assets outside the UK. During the year ended 31 December 2018, £80,000 of unrestricted funds were invested in the United Reform Church fund.

14. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022	<u>246,514</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2022	<u>246,514</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>246,514</u>

The investment property was purchased in January 2020 and is held at cost. The trustees are not aware of any material change in the value of the property.

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	581	785
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>5,264</u>	<u>5,123</u>
	<u>5,845</u>	<u>5,908</u>

16. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Included in cash is £41,955 (2021: £33,193) which is held on deposit by the West of England Baptist Trust Company.

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors	1,088	916
Accrued expenses	<u>4,419</u>	<u>10,966</u>
	<u>5,517</u>	<u>11,882</u>

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Fixed assets	4,288	-	-	4,288	1,214
Investments	102,463	794,908	246,514	1,143,885	1,246,081
Current assets	98,991	42,955	6,140	148,086	140,340
Current liabilities	<u>(5,517)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,517)</u>	<u>(11,882)</u>
	<u>200,225</u>	<u>837,863</u>	<u>252,654</u>	<u>1,290,742</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	204,156	(7,643)	3,712	200,225
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	414,440	(22,689)	-	391,751
URC Fund	502,378	(57,266)	-	445,112
Equipment	-	3,712	(3,712)	-
Benevolent Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	916,818	(75,243)	(3,712)	837,863
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	<u>254,779</u>	<u>(2,125)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>252,654</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,375,753</u>	<u>(85,011)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,290,742</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	81,615	(75,779)	(13,479)	(7,643)
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	9,312	(550)	(31,451)	(22,689)
URC Fund	-	-	(57,266)	(57,266)
Equipment	3,712	-	-	3,712
Benevolent Fund	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	14,024	(550)	(88,717)	(75,243)
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,125)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,125)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>95,639</u>	<u>(78,454)</u>	<u>(102,196)</u>	<u>(85,011)</u>

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	219,654	(5,978)	(9,520)	204,156
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	425,133	(10,693)	-	414,440
URC Fund	439,625	62,753	-	502,378
Manse Repair Fund	2,150	(11,670)	- 9,520	-
	866,908	40,390	9,520	916,818
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	255,358	(579)	-	254,779
TOTAL FUNDS	1,341,920	33,833	-	1,375,753

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	52,114	(72,551)	14,459	(5,978)
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	9,053	(50,544)	30,798	(10,693)
URC Fund	-	-	62,753	62,753
Manse Repair Fund	-	(11,670)	-	(11,670)
Moyra leaving present	760	(760)	-	-
	9,813	(62,974)	93,551	40,390
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	-	(579)	-	(579)
TOTAL FUNDS	61,927	(136,104)	108,010	33,833

Endowment funds

- Property - Baptist - This fund represents the value of the investment property (plus excess cash from the sale of the previous investment property) managed by the church as managing trustees, the deeds of which are held by the West of England Baptist Trust company as custodian trustee. The fund is held for the general purpose of the charity.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant. The purpose of the above restricted funds are as follows;

- Swindon Church Fund - This represents funds held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company on behalf of the church and is to cover significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre building.
- URC Fund - The URC Fund is restricted to use on the United Reform Church manse and other related activities. It is represented by investments held on trust for the Church by the United Reform Church.
- Flower Fund - The Flower Fund provides flowers for the church and for members who are ill.
- Manse Repair Fund - The Manse Repair Fund represents monies received to fund repairs to the Manse

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Equipment | - Donations were received towards the purchase of a dishwasher and a defibrillator. |
| Benevolent fund | - A donation was received to support anyone in the church's fellowship who might need extra help |

Transfers between funds

£3,712 has been transferred from the restricted equipment fund to unrestricted funds to recognise the purchase of fixed assets using the restricted funds.

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Total donations of £2,100 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

There were no other related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Accounts

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
for
Central Church Swindon

MHA Monahans
Chartered Accountants
38-42 Newport Street
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 3DR

Central Church Swindon

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11 to 19

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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; pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved; 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
- d) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Church

Normally, we have a weekly Sunday worship service at 10.30 am. Holy Communion is included during the service twice a month. Prayers for healing and wholeness are offered at a service once a month.

A Junior Family Church (JFC) for children and young people is available during service times with the exception of the first Sunday. We also hold extra, special services during the major Christian festivals, for example, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Christmas.

Due to Coronavirus lockdown, the church remained closed for the first four-and-a-half months of the year. We returned to live worship at Pentecost on 23 May. Until then the Minister had continued to produce a weekly written service which was emailed, posted and delivered to members of the congregation. The monthly newsletter was distributed in the same way.

Unfortunately the lift broke down and was out of action for some time which meant we worshipped in the café until the autumn.

Revd Moyra Davies retired as our minister on Palm Sunday. Unfortunately due to Covid we were unable to hold a farewell service. Our new Transitional Minister, Revd Jonathan Edwards, started his ministry with us on Easter Sunday. The first time he was able to personally conduct a service was on 6 June. We held a Welcome service for him on 22 September. This was attended by representatives of all the denominations comprising our LEP, local clergy, and members of churches in the town centre. It was a joyful occasion marking the start of a new chapter in Central Church's life. Jonathan quickly began meeting individuals in the congregation to find out what they felt about the future of the church. He also started meeting with other clergy in the town and charities who we might be able to work with in order to fulfil our charitable objectives more fully.

Our regular organist, Dr Themis Toupoulidis, left to take up a teaching post in Stonehouse in the summer of 2021. Fortunately we found a new organist, Mrs Hannah Brooke, who plays most Sundays. We are also grateful to the following organists: Carolyn Wallbank and Jenny Powley, who support us on occasional Sundays throughout the year.

Our Membership at 31st December 2021 stood at 59. We also have a number of adherents who are faithful attendees but are not full Members. Our average weekly attendance is 29 adults. Unfortunately, whilst we are in touch with a number of families, the children and teenagers have largely ceased to attend. There are a number of reasons for this but we are aware that many other activities take place on Sunday mornings. Sadly, there have been three funerals during 2021 and a church member died in India.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold some of our special services in 2021 such as our Church Anniversary and Easter but we were glad to be able to start worshipping together again at Pentecost. We were able to celebrate Harvest in September with a lovely service, when the church was beautifully decorated by some of our members for the occasion.

The church continued to be open so we were able to worship in person during the Advent Season, when we were able to decorate the church with traditional trimmings such as the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree. We were also able to use our lovely, full-sized Nativity scene - which was originally made several years ago by members of the congregation, and is always much appreciated by everyone. The first Sunday in Advent saw the lighting of the first candle and each successive Sunday another candle is lit. This culminates on Christmas Day when the Christ Candle is lit.

The Service of Lessons and Carols is another much loved service, and we were so pleased that we were able to hold this service and it was a joy to be able to sing carols this time. Christingles were lit and each family had one to take away with them. This service was followed by a bring and share meal. It was much appreciated especially because we had been limited by stricter Covid rules the year before.

Our Christmas Appeal this year was for the homeless. This was donated through Big Breakfast Plus, a charity who provide hot meals for those sleeping rough in Swindon and others in need. We had already started discussions with them with a view to them using our café facilities for this purpose. The Christmas Day collection was given to Christian Aid.

Christmas Presents for the Housebound and those Members who have been bereaved during the past year: Central Church always buys a present for those Members of our congregation who are housebound and are no longer able to get to church as they once did. We also purchase a gift for anyone who has been bereaved during the current year.

Unfortunately, once again due the Covid restrictions, we weren't able to hold some of our usual fundraising events throughout the year - such as Christian Aid Big Breakfast in May. One of our trustees held a MacMillan Cancer Coffee Morning in her garden in September. We collected at Harvest for Commitment for Life which is a URC/Christian Aid programme and also collected dried goods which were donated to the Swindon Food Collective.

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

We continued to collect and deliver food and other items for the Food Collective throughout the year - whenever the church was open.

We were able to hold a full AGM unlike the year before

Church Facilities: The Church facilities are also used by two other worshipping communities. These are New Life Christian Ministry, led by Pastor Alphonso Davis; and Glory of God, led by Pastor Sidney Martins. Both make good use of the premises including the Baptistry - for baptism by full immersion.

Junior Family Church (JFC)

JFC has failed to function this year with no children attending even before the pandemic closed worship. Sadly there are too many other external activities happening on a Sunday and we need to consider how we can re-engage with our young families, perhaps by meeting during a weekday evening instead. However, this will need a lot of planning and we would require more leaders to assist with this.

Safeguarding is taken very seriously. All relevant people involved with our children or vulnerable adults hold a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Tuesday Fellowship

This did not take place during 2021. The numbers have dwindled. We will hold an AGM, but sadly it is unlikely that the group meetings will continue due to numbers being too low.

Wednesday Circle

This group did not meet during 2021. We held a survey to find out what interest there was in which groups and Circle may be viable in autumn 2022.

Bible Study Group:

This Group has been unable to meet due to Covid. The survey demonstrated enough interest to make it viable in 2022.

Prayer Fellowship:

This group was unable to meet due to Covid. However members kept each other informed of prayer requests and so individual prayer at home continued.

World Church Group:

The World Church Group exists to try and keep up-to-date with matters of concern around the world as well as with local issues requiring a Christian voice. The group did not meet due to Covid restrictions. However newsletters and information was still shared as much as possible. The link with Baptist missionaries Daniel, Regiane and Anna Sophia Clark remains and it was good to receive their letters and hear how they are coping with Covid in Peru. Stories for Change, the newsletter for Commitment for Life was circulated where possible and the church gave them a gift of £103.00 to help with their vital work with the poor of Central America.

Central Church also supports the work of **Amnesty International**. The congregation participated in the Write for Rights campaign.

Fundraising over Christmas raised £684 for Christian Aid.

We also sent £100 to the Leprosy Mission. We are committed to continuing to look outward to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged both at home and abroad.

Newsletter

We have a monthly newsletter which carries a pastoral letter from our minister, news of the church family, notification of events, and items of general interest. This is available to everyone, and copies are taken/sent to the housebound.

Church in the Community - Lent Lunches

These are weekly simple meals organised by Churches Together in Swindon Town Centre (CTiSTC) to raise money for Christian Aid and CAFOD. Due to Corona virus restrictions in rotation these did not take place.

Friends of SCC

Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre have kindly allowed Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy (SCC) to use an office in the Pilgrim Centre. We also use the Pilgrim Centre as our registered address. Central Church and a number of individuals have become a 'Friend of SCC' by supporting the charity financially and with prayer.

In January 2021 we went into our third lockdown and once again the chaplains had to stop visiting. Sheila and Marion continued working from home, popping into the office from time to time where necessary. The chaplains have been keeping in touch with their people as much as possible by phone and email, and by sending the occasional card. Sheila has been telephoning the shop managers to reassure them that we are all still here for them. She has also been keeping in regular contact with the chaplains.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

When this lockdown was over, some of the chaplains did manage to get back into their shops. They were really welcomed back by their people as it has been such a difficult time for the workers. Others were not able to get back in. This was either because their shops were too small and they could not maintain social distancing, or they were vulnerable themselves and had to stay away.

We continued with regular 'Chaplains Chat' sessions by Zoom so that we could all see and talk to each other. We also had the occasional managers' meeting by Zoom. Sheila continued attending Zoom meetings with Workplace Chaplaincy Mission UK (WCMUK). This charity keeps a weather eye on chaplaincies across the country. They also supply our chaplains' insurance. Their meetings have been exploring various topics including the theology of chaplaincy and how to execute chaplaincy in a post covid world. The meetings have been very helpful.

Sheila has featured on Wiltshire Radio's Sunday morning programme. This helps to raise our profile within the town. She also gives out the chaplaincy telephone number for anyone to contact if they need to speak to someone in these difficult times. This message is also on our social media pages and website.

During the last year, the retail sector has suffered greatly. Many of the shops were already facing difficulties, and covid was the final nail in the coffin. There have been some big named shops in Swindon that have closed their doors in the last several months: House of Fraser, Debenhams, Burton Group to name but a few. Despite everything we remain optimistic. We believe there has never been a greater need for the chaplaincy service. Many members of staff in local shops are overwhelmed and in need of our support. The chaplains have been back out there post lockdown as much as they are able. SCC has also been exploring ways of reaching out to non retail businesses in the future. They have also been liaising with the Forging Connections Group to explore ways of helping people in need in Swindon, or those who just need someone to talk to, via cafe hubs. We extend our grateful thanks to all of our supporters, through prayer and financial giving. Also to Team SCC for all that they do.

The Pilgrim Centre

During heavy rain in April and May, tiles came off the roof causing a good deal of exterior and interior damage. The repairs to the roof were paid for from our restricted funds held by WEBA Trust Company. The Baptist Insurance Company appointed a loss adjuster who agreed that they should pay for repairs to the ceiling in the meeting room on the top floor and replacing the carpet. Ceiling tiles needed replacing in the large meeting room on the second floor and in the gallery, plus wall tiles in the toilet, and general decoration. It was not possible to remove all the staining on the wooden ceiling above the Activity Hall at the rear of the Worship area.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, the lift broke down during the year and it was difficult to get parts so we had to worship in the cafe for a while.

In the autumn, there was a flood in the kitchen and café due to blocked drains at the rear of the building.

We also had to put up spikes to prevent pigeons nesting because they were interfering with the air-conditioning of the Coventry Building Society next door.

Christine Durant oversaw all the maintenance work and maintained a presence in the office. She dealt with bookings as some regular customers returned when Covid restrictions were eased.

Cleaners: Big Breakfast Plus are prepared to do their own cleaning. Mrs. Jane Corcoran continues to clean the rest of the building.

Cafe @ Central:

Cafe @ Central opened in October 2016 as a church and community facility, and has been much appreciated by everyone.

Unfortunately it became increasingly difficult to find volunteers to run it and it did not re-open when Covid restrictions were lifted. We are delighted that Big Breakfast Plus are interested in using our kitchen and café to provide hot meals for the homeless. They had hoped to open in November but all their policies were not in place so this has been delayed until 2022. Initially they hope to open for two mornings a week but anticipate that this will increase.

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At 31 December 2021, total funds were £1,375,753. Restricted funds were £916,818 and endowment funds were £254,779. Unrestricted reserves were £204,156. Free reserves, after making allowance for tangible fixed assets, were £202,942.

The trustees' reserve policy is to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months costs in order to cover unplanned situations that may occur from time to time. This is in line with good practice and follows the recommendations of the charity commission. Based on the present level of costs the required free reserves are £50,000. Reserves held are above the required level.

Our income was affected although many members continued to make their financial offering throughout lockdown. All room hire bookings were cancelled apart from the NHS Blood and Transplant Service whose sessions we have continued to host. This means our income will be reduced although bookings started to slowly recommence in the autumn. We do have enough reserves to cover our expenses for the foreseeable future.

FUTURE PLANS

Goals for 2022

-When Central Church was established there was a conviction that it should be a resourcing church for Christian mission in central Swindon. In the light of this we intend to explore more fully how we can make our splendid premises available to other Christian social outreach organisations in the middle of the town.

- We intend to continue to ensure that our Safeguarding Officer - together with those relevant personnel who have been appointed and commissioned by the Leadership Team to respond to any safeguarding concerns - have continued safeguarding training with regard to vulnerable adults and children.

- We will also continue to support and encourage regular social 'get-togethers' such as church meals and quiz evenings, as these provide an invaluable opportunity to create an atmosphere of openness and friendliness, and for the whole congregation to feel a sense of belonging to the one church family.

- We will continue to support local external ecumenical initiatives such as Lent Lunches in Swindon town centre.

- We will continue to support national and international events such as:
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, Christian Aid Week, Macmillan Cancer Support: World's Biggest Coffee Morning, One World Week, and the charity, Action for Children.

- We will continue to encourage those attending services to come forward for baptism or confirmation and full membership.

- We will observe traditional Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

- We will continue reviewing and updating all policies. Safeguarding Policy, and Health and Safety Policy, etc.

- Review all risk assessments and amend where necessary.

- Continue to ensure that there are sufficient personnel who are trained in First Aid.

- Review all pricing structures, maintenance contracts, utility use and general expenditure to ensure unnecessary losses are not being incurred.

- We will be undertaking an overhaul of our Church website.

- We are working towards becoming a greener church.

- We will continue to be a welcoming, caring, and inclusive Christian community, serving God in Church and in the local community.

Central Church Swindon
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

We are a single congregation church comprised of three denominations. We are recognised by the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB), and locally by the West of England Baptist Association, (WEBA), Methodist Connexion and locally by the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit, and the United Reformed Church General Assembly and locally by the South Western Synod. We serve the Swindon town centre area. Our membership is also drawn from other areas of the town. We are members of Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTISC). We are also members of Swindon Churches Together (SCT) who act as our sponsoring body for guidance and oversight.

Our church minister would normally be taken in rotation from the three denominations. Our current minister is from the Baptist tradition.

Central Church operates from the purpose-built Pilgrim Centre. The building comprises a ground floor café, the first floor Worship Area and second and third floor offices and meeting rooms, which are available for hire by the community.

Trustees:

Judith Furse (Chair), June Osborne, Sue Mason (Treasurer), Joanna Struthers-Frost, and Christine Durant.

Executive:

Our Trustees are all members of our elected Executive who oversee the running of the church and premises. The Executive meets six times a year. Elections are held during our Annual Church Meeting, with all elected positions held for three years maximum before re-standing for election. We also have one ex-officio member of the Executive, Revd Jonathan Edwards (Minister).

Other officers serving Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre:

Secretariat: Christine Durant (Church Secretary), Marion Manning (Membership Secretary) and June Osborne (Pulpit Supply).

Finance Officer: Sue Mason assisted by Christine Durant Finance data Input and report writing: MHA Monahans Cash counting: Frank Glead.

Chair of Church Meeting: Christine Durant

Staffing Officer: Judith Furse

Leader of Junior Family Church (JFC): Christine Durant assisted by Hannah Evans.

Leader of the Youth Group: Vacancy

Information Officer: Vacancy

Manse Fabric Officer: David McNab

Marriage Registration: Marion Manning

Pastoral Committee: Elected Members: Mavis Poolman, Jane Walsh and Glenys Thomas. Revd Jonathan Edwards chairs this committee as an ex-officio member. There is a group of non-elected Pastoral Carers who also sit on the Pastoral Committee which meets quarterly. The Pastoral Carers visit our sick and elderly.

Safeguarding Officer: Mavis Poolman

Induction and training of Trustees: Resources are available for training any new Trustees in their duties, e.g. our constitution model document, standing orders, web site, Charity Commission website, local knowledge as many of our Executive have been serving for many years. All legal requirements regarding ongoing information is continually updated and displayed in both the Centre and Cafe.

External Representation

Locally, we have representatives on Swindon Churches Together (SCT) - Revd Jonathan Edwards and Judith Furse; and Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTISC) - Revd. Jonathan Edwards, and Judith Furse. Revd Jonathan Edwards also acts as our representative to WEBA, and two church members, Christine Durant and Judith Furse are our representatives on the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit. Judith Furse is also our representative to the URC SW Synod. We are also involved in the local Interfaith Group.

Properties: the legal title of properties managed by the Church trustees belong to the following as custodian trustees: West of England Baptist Trust Company, United Reform Church, and the Methodist Church.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1145817

Central Church Swindon

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Principal address

The Pilgrim Centre
Regent Circus
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 1PX

Trustees

J Furse
D McNab (resigned 23.3.21)
C Durant
S Mason
R Cammegh (resigned 23.3.21)
J Osborne
J Struthers-Frost

Independent Examiner

James Gare FCA DChA
MHA Monahans
Chartered Accountants
38-42 Newport Street
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 3DR

Financial/Investment

West of England Baptist Association (WEBA),
United Reformed Church (URC), and Methodist Finance Board.

Contact details

Web Site Central Church: www.centralchurch.org
Email: pilcen@aol.com
Tel: 01793 537642

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24-04-2022 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
J Furse - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Central Church Swindon

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Central Church Swindon

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Central Church Swindon (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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.



James Gare FCA DChA
MHA Monahans
Chartered Accountants
38-42 Newport Street
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 3DR

Date: 10 May 2022.....

Central Church Swindon

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	17,912	760	-	18,672	19,602
Other trading activities	3	4,961	-	-	4,961	11,521
Investment income	4	<u>29,241</u>	<u>9,053</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,294</u>	<u>34,264</u>
Total		52,114	9,813	-	61,927	65,387
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	5	470	12,170	579	13,219	17,055
Charitable activities	6					
Church activities		<u>72,081</u>	<u>50,804</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>122,885</u>	<u>93,969</u>
Total		72,551	62,974	579	136,104	111,024
Net gains on investments		<u>14,459</u>	<u>93,551</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,010</u>	<u>16,032</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(5,978)	40,390	(579)	33,833	(29,605)
Transfers between funds	19	<u>(9,520)</u>	<u>9,520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(15,498)	49,910	(579)	33,833	(29,605)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		<u>219,654</u>	<u>866,908</u>	<u>255,358</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>	<u>1,371,525</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>204,156</u>	<u>916,818</u>	<u>254,779</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Central Church Swindon

Balance Sheet
31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	1,214	2,329
Investments			
Investments	13	999,567	891,557
Investment property	14	<u>246,514</u>	<u>246,514</u>
		1,247,295	1,140,400
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	5,908	7,608
Cash at bank and in hand	16	<u>134,432</u>	<u>198,308</u>
		140,340	205,916
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(11,882)	(4,396)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>128,458</u>	<u>201,520</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,375,753</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,375,753</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>
FUNDS	19		
Unrestricted funds		204,156	219,654
Restricted funds		916,818	866,908
Endowment funds		<u>254,779</u>	<u>255,358</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>1,375,753</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24-04-2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

C A Durant
C Durant - Trustee

S Mason
S Mason - Trustee

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, constituted by a trust deed.

The registered office address and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities of the charity are given in the trustees report.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Equipment	- 20% on straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on straight line basis

Freehold property

The Pilgrim Centre is owned by the Baptist Church (two thirds), Methodist (one sixth) and United Reform Church (URC) (one sixth). The Manse is owned by the URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

The above properties are not recognised as assets of the charity.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as unrealised.

Investment property

The church receives an annual rent from a property that is held upon trust by the West of England Baptist Association (WEBA) Trustees. Investment properties are included in the accounts at open market value. All movements arising from revaluation are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Realised gains and losses on investment properties are calculated as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the market value at the beginning of the year or cost of purchases during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are derived from the movement in the market values during the year.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

Fund accounting

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

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

Endowment funds are funds which are held subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained as capital. The income earned from these funds is used for general purposes where allowed or for the specific purposes intended. The aim and use of each endowment fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The church operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the church's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The church also pays pension contributions for its Minister to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the church. Therefore, as there is insufficient information, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations and collections	15,547	16,349
Gift aid	<u>3,125</u>	<u>3,253</u>
	<u>18,672</u>	<u>19,602</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cafe @ Central takings	-	555
Hire of Pilgrim Centre	4,961	10,766
Other income	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>
	<u>4,961</u>	<u>11,521</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Rents received	12,392	8,471
Income from fixed asset investments	25,861	25,454
Deposit account interest	<u>41</u>	<u>339</u>
	<u>38,294</u>	<u>34,264</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Portfolio management	525	580
Rental property expenses	<u>12,694</u>	<u>15,953</u>
	<u>13,219</u>	<u>16,533</u>

Other trading activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Purchases	-	378
Repairs and renewals	<u>-</u>	<u>144</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>522</u>

Aggregate amounts	<u>13,219</u>	<u>17,055</u>
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Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>25,444</u>	<u>97,441</u>	<u>122,885</u>

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs	11,825	27,889
Manse property expenses	1,153	2,455
Sundries	796	650
Denominations and assessments	9,117	8,871
Worship	2,549	1,814
Donations	<u>4</u>	<u>587</u>
	<u>25,444</u>	<u>42,266</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>95,236</u>	<u>2,205</u>	<u>97,441</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2021 Church activities £	2020 Total activities £
Rates and water	1,320	1,903
Insurance	3,068	4,405
Light and heat	11,294	11,317
Telephone and internet	2,229	2,393
Printing, postage and stationery	2,410	2,792
Cleaning and household	3,744	4,694
Repairs and renewals	66,595	17,585
Professional fees	290	98
Bad debts	439	125
Bookkeeping, management accounts and payroll	2,732	2,925
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	<u>1,115</u>	<u>1,113</u>
	<u>95,236</u>	<u>49,350</u>

Governance costs

	2021 Church activities £	2020 Total activities £
Independent examination and accountancy	<u>2,205</u>	<u>2,353</u>

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2021 nor for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2021 nor for the year ended 31 December 2020.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	11,825	27,727
Other pension costs	-	162
	<u>11,825</u>	<u>27,889</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Minister	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Key management personnel for the charity comprises the Minister. The total employee benefits for key management personnel of the charity were £11,825 (2020 - £27,889).

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	19,571	31	-	19,602
Other trading activities	11,521	-	-	11,521
Investment income	<u>24,418</u>	<u>9,846</u>	-	<u>34,264</u>
Total	55,510	9,877	-	65,387
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	1,933	480	14,642	17,055
Charitable activities				
Church activities	<u>93,794</u>	<u>175</u>	-	<u>93,969</u>
Total	95,727	655	14,642	111,024
Net gains on investments	<u>6,126</u>	<u>9,906</u>	-	<u>16,032</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(34,091)	19,128	(14,642)	(29,605)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	253,745	847,780	270,000	1,371,525
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>219,654</u>	<u>866,908</u>	<u>255,358</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021	<u>25,963</u>	<u>23,966</u>	<u>49,929</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2021	24,329	23,271	47,600
Charge for year	<u>817</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>1,115</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>25,146</u>	<u>23,569</u>	<u>48,715</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2021	<u>817</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>1,214</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>1,634</u>	<u>695</u>	<u>2,329</u>

13. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	West of England Baptist Trust Co. £	United Reform Church £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE			
At 1 January 2021	350,449	541,108	891,557
Unrealised gains	<u>30,798</u>	<u>77,212</u>	<u>108,010</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>381,247</u>	<u>618,320</u>	<u>999,567</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2021	<u>381,247</u>	<u>618,320</u>	<u>999,567</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>350,449</u>	<u>541,108</u>	<u>891,557</u>

Investments held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company are used to fund significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre. Investments held by the United Reform Church are for significant repairs to the manse. There were no investment assets outside the UK. During the year ended 31 December 2018, £80,000 of unrestricted funds were invested in the United Reform Church fund.

14. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021	<u>246,514</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2021	<u>246,514</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>246,514</u>

The investment property was purchased in January 2020 and is held at cost. The trustees are not aware of any material change in the value of the property.

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	785	1,123
Other debtors	-	1,058
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>5,123</u>	<u>5,427</u>
	<u>5,908</u>	<u>7,608</u>

16. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Included in cash is £33,193 (2020: £74,685) which is held on deposit by the West of England Baptist Trust Company.

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Other creditors	916	975
Accrued expenses	<u>10,966</u>	<u>3,421</u>
	<u>11,882</u>	<u>4,396</u>

Deferred income relates to rental income received in advance.

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Fixed assets	1,214	-	-	1,214	2,329
Investments	115,939	883,628	246,514	1,246,081	1,138,071
Current assets	98,885	33,190	8,265	140,340	205,916
Current liabilities	<u>(11,882)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,882)</u>	<u>(4,396)</u>
	<u>204,156</u>	<u>916,818</u>	<u>254,779</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	219,654	(5,978)	(9,520)	204,156
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	425,133	(10,693)	-	414,440
URC Fund	439,625	62,753	-	502,378
Manse Repair Fund	<u>2,150</u>	<u>(11,670)</u>	<u>9,520</u>	<u>-</u>
	866,908	40,390	9,520	916,818
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	<u>255,358</u>	<u>(579)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>254,779</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,341,920</u>	<u>33,833</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,375,753</u>

Central Church Swindon

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	52,114	(72,551)	14,459	(5,978)
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	9,053	(50,544)	30,798	(10,693)
URC Fund	-	-	62,753	62,753
Manse Repair Fund	-	(11,670)	-	(11,670)
Moyra leaving present	760	(760)	-	-
	9,813	(62,974)	93,551	40,390
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	-	(579)	-	(579)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>61,927</u>	<u>(136,104)</u>	<u>108,010</u>	<u>33,833</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	253,745	(34,091)	219,654
Restricted funds			
Swindon Church Fund	432,398	(7,265)	425,133
URC Fund	413,087	26,538	439,625
Manse Repair Fund	2,295	(145)	2,150
	847,780	19,128	866,908
Endowment funds			
Property - Baptist	270,000	(14,642)	255,358
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,371,525</u>	<u>(29,605)</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>

Central Church Swindon

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	55,510	(95,727)	6,126	(34,091)
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	9,847	(480)	(16,632)	(7,265)
URC Fund	-	-	26,538	26,538
Flower Fund	30	(30)	-	-
Manse Repair Fund	-	(145)	-	(145)
	9,877	(655)	9,906	19,128
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist	-	(14,642)	-	(14,642)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>65,387</u>	<u>(111,024)</u>	<u>16,032</u>	<u>(29,605)</u>

Endowment funds

- Property - Baptist - This fund represents the value of the Investment property (plus excess cash from the sale of the previous investment property) managed by the church as managing trustees, the deeds of which are held by the West of England Baptist Trust company as custodian trustee. The fund is held for the general purpose of the charity.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant. The purpose of the above restricted funds are as follows;

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Swindon Church Fund | - This represents funds held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company on behalf of the church and is to cover significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre building. |
| URC Fund | - The URC Fund is restricted to use on the United Reform Church manse and other related activities. It is represented by investments held on trust for the Church by the United Reform Church. |
| Flower Fund | - The Flower Fund provides flowers for the church and for members who are ill. |
| Manse Repair Fund | - The Manse Repair Fund represents monies received to fund repairs to the Manse |

Transfers between funds

£9,520 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to the Manse Repair fund to cover the deficit on this fund.

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Total donations of £960 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

There were no other related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Accounts

Report of the Trustees
and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Central Church
Swindon

MHA Monahans
Chartered
Accountants 38-42
Newport Street
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN13D
R

Central Church

Contents of the Financial
Statements for the Year Ended 31
December 2020

	Pag e
Report of the Trustees	1 to 7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11 to 19

Central Church

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31
December 2020

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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; pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved; 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
- d) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December
2020

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Church

Normally, we have a weekly Sunday worship service at 10.30 am. Holy Communion is included during the service on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. A ministry of Healing and Wholeness - with prayers and laying-on of hands is offered during the service on the third Sunday of the month.

A Junior Family Church (JFC) for children and young people is held during service times with the exception of the first Sunday. We also hold extra, special services during the major Christian festivals, for example, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas. The Minister and members of the Pastoral Committee take Holy Communion to the housebound twice a year and/or when requested. The minister also attends the Tuesday Fellowship Group and the Wednesday Circle Group to keep in contact with those people who do not normally attend Sunday acts of worship.

Due to Coronavirus lockdown, we closed the church in March as instructed by the Government and LEP participating denominations. The Minister produced a weekly written service which was emailed, posted and delivered to members of the congregation. The monthly newsletter was distributed in the same way.

When restrictions were eased, we held a one-off Service of Thanksgiving in August, and then fully reopened on Sunday 6th September, complying with Covid rules.

We had to close again from Sunday 8th November in compliance with the second lockdown, and reopened when we were allowed to on the 6th December. We then stayed open until the New Year.

Our Minister, Revd Moyra Davies, was due to retire in July but agreed to stay on until Easter 2021 to see us through the pandemic. We are extremely grateful to her for this.

Normally, our regular organist, Dr Themis Toumpoulidis, plays for us three Sundays per month, Cyril York plays on the second Sunday every month, and Carolyn Wallbank plays whenever there is a fifth Sunday. We are also grateful to the following organists: Jenny Powley and Janet Furze, who support us on occasional Sundays throughout the year.

Our Membership at 31st December 2020 stood at 71. We also have a number of adherents who are faithful attendees who are not full Members. Our average weekly attendance is 37 adults. Unfortunately, whilst we are in touch with a number of families, the children and teenagers have largely ceased to attend. There are a number of reasons for this but we are aware that many other activities take place on Sunday mornings. Sadly, there have been three funerals during 2020.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold several of our special services in 2020 such as Church Anniversaries, and **marking Christian festivals such as Holy Week and Easter. However, we did manage to celebrate Harvest in** September with a lovely service, when the church was beautifully decorated by two of our members for the occasion.

The church was open again for much of the Advent Season, when we were able to decorate the church with traditional trimmings such as the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree. We were also able to use our lovely, full-sized Nativity scene - which was originally made several years ago by members of the congregation, and is always much appreciated by everyone.

The Service of Lessons and Carols is another much loved service, and we were so pleased that we were able to hold this service - which once again everyone enjoyed - even though due to Covid rules, we had to listen to carols rather than sing them ourselves.

We held our usual Christmas Day service and, again, appreciated the decorations and presence of the Nativity scene.

Unfortunately, once again due the Covid restrictions, we weren't able to hold some of our usual fundraising events throughout the year - such as Christian Aid Big Breakfast in May and MacMillan Cancer Coffee Morning in September. However, we did manage a collection for Water Aid at our Harvest Festival - when we also had a collection of dried goods which were donated to the Swindon Food Collective.

We continued collect and deliver food and other items for the Food Collective throughout the year - whenever the church was open - and we also made a monetary donation to them of £250.

Our Christmas Appeal this year was for Swindon Women's Refuge - which was so well supported that we managed to give them a wonderful array of lovely things for the women - and a whole heap of great toys and gifts for the children and young people of the Refuge. Our Christmas Day collection was given to the charity, Action for Children.

We were unable to hold a full AGM but we ensured that elections were held and the Annual Report and accounts approved.

Christine Durant and Judith Furse met with our prospective new Minister, Revd Jonathan Edwards over Zoom in April, and during the easing of restrictions he met in person with Christine and Revd Moyra Davies. They were joined by Judith Furse on the phone. Following this, a Church Meeting was arranged so that Jonathan could meet our congregation.

Central Church
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December
2020

Following the meeting, everyone was in favour of us 'calling' him to become the next Minister of Central Church - and he will start his ministry with us on Easter Sunday 2021. Jonathan will not be full-time - but will be a part-time "transitional minister", who will help us discern our vision for the future.

Church Decoration: The first Sunday in Advent (Advent Sunday) always sees our church decorated for the coming festive season. The Advent Wreath is on display at the front of the church in readiness for the four Advent Candles to be lit, week by week, in sequence. At the beginning of the Christmas morning service, of course, the central white candle, the Christ Candle is lit.

Carol Service: As has been mentioned elsewhere, sadly, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to hold our usual 'Carols by Candlelight with Christingles Service'. This was a great shame as it's a service much looked forward to during the Christmas Season. However, we were able to hold a 'Lessons and Carol' service - even though we could only listen to the carols. Nevertheless, it proved to be a beautiful service which was much enjoyed by the whole congregation..

Christmas Presents for the Housebound and those Members who have been bereaved during the past year: Central Church always buys a present for those Members of our congregation who are housebound and are no longer able to get to church as they once did. We also purchase a gift for anyone who has been bereaved during the current year.

Christmas Morning Service: This is always a lovely family service when children and adults alike welcome the Christ Child in the manger into our world. In previous years, the children have been invited to bring along one or two of Santa's presents.

Church Facilities: The Church facilities are also used by two other worshipping communities. These are New Life Christian Ministry, led by Pastor Alphonso Davis; and Glory of God, led by Pastor Sidney Martins. Both make good use of the premises including the Baptistry - for baptism by full immersion.

Junior Family Church (JFC)

JFC has failed to function this year with no children attending even before the pandemic closed worship. Sadly there are too many other external activities happening on a Sunday and we need to consider how we can re-engage with our young families, perhaps by meeting during a weekday evening instead. However, this will need a lot of planning and we would require more leaders to assist with this.

Safeguarding is taken very seriously. All relevant people involved with our children or vulnerable adults hold a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Tuesday Fellowship

We met twice a month from January through to March, with a few devotional meetings, a talk on hospital chaplaincy and a games afternoon. Then sadly Coronavirus and lockdown meant that we ceased to meet. During those first few months our numbers, already small, dropped considerably and as Covid was still rife in September when we would normally have started meeting again after the summer break, it was felt unwise to recommence our meetings. When it is safe to do so, we will hold an AGM, but sadly it is unlikely that the group meetings will continue due to numbers.

Wednesday Circle

As above, we met through the first three months of 2020 starting off the year with a winter supper where we all brought and shared a meal and had a wonderful evening of fellowship together. We have not met for the remainder of the year but there is a goodly number of people in this group and it is hopeful that we can start meeting again when the pandemic is a thing of the past and it is considered safe to do so.

Bible Study Group:

This Group has been unable to meet due to Covid.

Prayer Fellowship:

This group was unable to meet due to Covid. However members kept each other informed of prayer requests and so individual prayer at home continued.

World Church Group:

The World Church Group exists to try and keep up-to-date with matters of concern around the world as well as with local issues requiring a Christian voice. The group met in January but was unable to do so again. However newsletters and information was still shared as much as possible. The link with Baptist missionaries Daniel, Regiane and Anna Sophia Clark remains and it was good to receive their letters and hear how they are coping with Covid in Peru. Stories for Change, the newsletter for Commitment for Life was circulated where possible and the church gave them a gift of £200 to help with their vital work with the poor of Central America.

Central Church

Central Church also supports the work of **Amnesty** International. The congregation participated in the Write for Rights campaign.

Central Church

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Sadly it was not possible to fundraise for Christian Aid, although we did mark Christian Aid Week with a written service featuring their work.

We were however able to make a donation of £100 to the charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), which was the World Church Group's chosen charity for the quarter, January-April 2020.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Report, our Christmas charities this year were Action for Children and the Women's Refuge.

We are committed to continuing to look outward to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged both at home and abroad.

Newsletter

We have a monthly newsletter which carries news of the church family, Bible readings, notification of events, and items of general interest. This is available to everyone, and copies are taken to the housebound.

Church in the Community - Lent Lunches

Central Church hosted the first Lent lunch of the season, at St. Aldhelm's church. This is a simple meal attended by churches in Swindon town centre to raise money for Christian Aid and CAFOD. Due to Corona virus restrictions no other lunches took place.

Friends of SCC

Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy (SCC) is a registered charity providing chaplaincy to the workplace in the local area. Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre have kindly allowed SCC to use an office in the Pilgrim Centre and for its registered address. Central Church and a number of individuals have become a 'Friend of SCC' by supporting the charity financially and with prayer.

In March 2020 when the Covid 19 pandemic hit, we asked our chaplains to gather telephone numbers and email addresses from those whom they visit. We asked them all to stop visiting and we closed the office. Sheila and Marion have been working from home, popping into the office from time to time where necessary. The chaplains have been keeping in touch with their people as much as possible by phone and email, and by sending the occasional card. Sheila has been telephoning the shop managers to reassure them that we are all still here for them. She has also been keeping in regular contact with the chaplains.

When the first lockdown was over, some of the chaplains did manage to get back into their shops. They were really welcomed back by their people as it has been such a difficult time for the workers. Others were not able to get back in. This was either because their shops were too small and they could not maintain social distancing, or they were vulnerable themselves and had to stay away.

We set up regular 'Chaplains Chat' sessions by Zoom so that we could all see and talk to each other. We also had the occasional managers' meeting by Zoom. Sheila and Marion have also been attending Zoom meetings with Workplace Chaplaincy Mission UK (WCMUK). This charity keeps a weather eye on chaplaincies across the country. They also supply our chaplains' insurance. Their meetings have been exploring various topics including the theology of chaplaincy and how to execute chaplaincy in a post covid world. The meetings have been very helpful.

Sheila has featured on regular slots on Wiltshire Radio's Sunday morning programme. This helps to raise our profile within the town. She also regularly gives out the chaplaincy telephone number for anyone to contact if they need anyone to speak to in these difficult times. This message is also on our social media pages and website.

2020 has been extremely challenging and now in 2021 we are once again in lockdown. During the last year the retail sector has suffered greatly, and many of the shops were already facing difficulties. Despite everything we remain optimistic. We believe there has never been a greater need for the chaplaincy service. Many members of staff in local shops are overwhelmed and in need of our support. We look forward to the day when we can get back to them. Also, to exploring new ways of doing chaplaincy. We extend our grateful thanks to all of our supporters, through prayer and financial giving. Also to Team SCC for all that they do.

The Pilgrim Centre

Bookings for room hire started to drop off very quickly when the Covid rules came in. We cancelled some ourselves in order to keep everyone safe. Revd Moyra Davies, David Davies and Christine Durant maintained a presence in the building throughout the year and ensured vital maintenance work was done.

Central Church

They oversaw much-needed decorating and laying of new carpet was completed. The National Blood Transfusion Service continue to use our building but there is no way of knowing how many customers we have lost for good.

Cleaners: As the cafe isn't open at present, its cleaner, Mrs. Suzie Osbaldstone, has decided to retire. Mrs. Jane Corcoran continues to clean the rest of the building.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31
December 2020

Cafe @ Central:

Cafe @ Central opened in October 2016 as a church and community facility, and has been much appreciated by everyone.

In 2020, the cafe reopened on Thursday 6th February following the Christmas break, but unfortunately just five weeks later, on 12th March, it had to close down again due to Coronavirus Lockdown - and did not reopen for the remainder of the year.

Issues and Trends

The 'Volunteer Welcome Handbook' continues to be updated as and when legislation changes. Volunteers continue to be made aware of COSHH (The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At 31 December 2020, total funds were £1,341,920. Restricted funds were £866,908 and endowment funds were £255,358. Unrestricted reserves were £219,654. Free reserves, after making allowance for tangible fixed assets, were £217,325.

The trustees' reserve policy is to maintain free reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months costs in order to cover unplanned situations that may occur from time to time. This is in line with good practice and follows the recommendations of the charity commission. Based on the present level of costs the required free reserves are £50,000. Reserves held are above the required level.

The Covid-19 restrictions meant that we could not worship in our building until September. Our minister, Revd Moyra Davies, sent out a written service every week. Our income was affected although many members have continued to make their financial offering throughout lockdown. All room hire bookings have been cancelled apart from the NHS Blood and Transplant Service whose sessions we have continued to host. This means our income will be reduced. We do have enough reserves to cover our expenses for the foreseeable future.

FUTURE PLANS

Goals for 2021

- We intend to continue to ensure that our Safeguarding Officer - together with those relevant personnel who have been appointed and commissioned by the Leadership Team to respond to any safeguarding concerns - have continued safeguarding training with regard to vulnerable adults and children.
- We will continue to support initiatives with children and families such as Messy Church.
- We will also continue to support and encourage regular social 'get-togethers' such as church meals and 'outings', as these provide an invaluable opportunity to create an atmosphere of openness and friendliness, and for the whole congregation to feel a sense of belonging to the one church family.
- We will continue to support local external ecumenical initiatives such as Lent Lunches in Swindon town centre.
- We will continue to support national and international events such as:
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, Christian Aid Week, Macmillan Cancer Support: World's Biggest Coffee Morning, One World Week, and the charity, Action for Children.
- We will continue to encourage those attending services to come forward for baptism or confirmation and full membership.
- We will continue to hold Lent Study and Advent Courses each year, and observe traditional Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- We will continue reviewing and updating all policies. Review and amend where necessary the Volunteers' Handbook, Safeguarding Policy, and Health and Safety Policy, etc.
- Review all risk assessments and amend where necessary
- Continue to ensure that there are sufficient personnel who are trained in First Aid.
- Review all pricing structures, maintenance contracts, utility use and general expenditure to ensure unnecessary losses are not being incurred.
- We will continue to support volunteers with special needs.
- We will be undertaking an overhaul of our Church website.
- We are working towards becoming a greener church.
- We will continue to be a welcoming, caring, and inclusive Christian community, serving God in Church and in the local community.

**Report of the
Trustees
for the Year Ended 31
December 2020**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

We are a single congregation church comprised of three denominations. We are recognised by the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB), and locally by the West of England Baptist Association, (WEBA), Methodist Connexion and locally by the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit, and the United Reformed Church General Assembly and locally by the South Western Synod. We serve the Swindon town centre area. Our membership is also drawn from other areas of the town.

We are members of Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTISC). We are also members of Swindon Churches Together (SGT) who act as our sponsoring body for guidance and oversight.

Our church minister is normally taken in rotation from the three denominations. We currently have a minister from the Baptist tradition, Revd Moyra Davies.

Central Church operates from the purpose-built Pilgrim Centre. The building comprises a ground floor cafe called Cafe @ Central, the first floor Worship Area and second and third floor offices and meeting rooms, which are available for hire by the community.

Trustees:

Judith Furse {Chair}, David McNab, June Osborne, Sue Mason, Joanna Struthers-Frost, Rita Cammegh and Christine Durant.

Executive:

Our Trustees are all members of our elected Executive who oversee the running of the church and premises. The Executive meets six times a year. Elections are held during our Annual Church Meeting, with all elected positions held for three years maximum before re-standing for election. We also have one ex-officio member of the Executive, Revd Moyra Davies (Minister).

Other officers serving Central Church and the Pilgrim Centre:

Secretariat: Christine Durant, and Marion Manning, membership secretary.

Finance Officer: Sue Mason assisted by David Davies

Finance data input and report writing: MHA

Monahans **Cash counting:** Brian Miller and Frank Glead.

Chair of Church Meeting: Christine Durant

Staffing Officer: Judith Furse

Leader of Junior Family Church (JFC): Christine Durant assisted by Hannah Evans.

Leader of the Youth Group: Vacancy

Information Officer: Vacancy

Manse Fabric Officer: David McNab

Marriage Registration: Marion Manning

Pastoral Committee: Elected Members: Janet Ferris, Jane Walsh and Glenys Thomas. Revd Moyra Davies Chairs this committee as an ex-officio member. There is a group of non-elected Pastoral Carers who also sit on the Pastoral Committee which meets quarterly. The Pastoral Carers visit our sick and elderly.

Safeguarding Officers: Revd Moyra Davies, Mavis Poolman

Induction and training of Trustees: Resources are available for training any new Trustees in their duties, e.g. our constitution model document, standing orders, web site, Charity Commission website, local knowledge as many of our Executive have been serving for many years. All legal requirements regarding ongoing information is continually updated and displayed in both the Centre and Cafe.

External Representation

Locally, we have representatives on **Swindon Churches Together (SCT)** - Revd Moyra Davies and Judith Furse; and **Churches Together in Swindon Centre (CTISC)** - Revd. Moyra Davies, who is also Chair of this group, and Sylvia Barnes. Revd Moyra Davies also acts as our representative to WEBA, and two church members, Christine Durant and Judith Furse are our representatives on the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit. Judith Furse is also our representative to the URC SW Synod. We are also involved in the local Interfaith Group.

Properties: the legal title of properties managed by the Church trustees belong to the following as custodian trustees: West of England Baptist Trust Company, United Reform Church, and the Methodist Church.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December
2020

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1145817

Principal

address The
Pilgrim Centre
Regent Circus
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN11PX

Trustees

J Furse
S Pope (resigned
10.9.20) D McNab
C
Durant
S
Mason
RCammeg
h J
Osborne
J Struthers-Frost

Independent Examiner

Steve
Fraser FCA
MHA Monahans
Chartered
Accountants 38-42
Newport Street
Swindon
Wiltshir
e
SN13D
R

Bank account

Royal Bank of Scotland, 127 Commercial Road, Swindon. SN1 5PZ

Financial/Investment

West of England Baptist Association (WEBA),
United Reformed Church (URC), and Methodist Finance Board.

Contact details

Web Site Central Church: www.centralchurch.com

Web Site Pilgrim Centre:

www.pilgrimcentre.co.uk Email:

pilcen@aol.com

Tel: 01793 537642

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Approved by order of the board of trustees

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J Furse - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to
the Trustees of
Central Church Swindon

Independent **examiner's** report to the trustee of Central Church Swindon
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Central Church Swindon (the Trust)
for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Report on the 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 earned out under section 145 of the Act and
in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5Xb) 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 in which
attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be
reached.



Steve Riser
FCA
MHA Monahans
Chartered
Accountants
38-42 Newport
Street Swindon
Wiltshire
SN13DR

Date: 11th April 2021

Central Church

**Statement of Financial
Activities
for the Year Ended 31
December 2020**

	Notes	Unrestrict ed funds £	Restrict ed funds £	Endowme nt fund £	2020 Total fund s £	2019 Total fund s £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	19,571	31		19,602	25,630
Other trading activities	3	11,521			11,521	40,506
Investment income	4	24,418	9,846		34,264	43,569
Total		55,510	9,877		65,387	109,705
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	5	1,933	480	14,642	17,055	7,827
Charitable activities	6					
Church activities		93,794	175		93,969	87,716
Total		95,727	655	14,642	111,024	95,543
Net gains on investments		6,126	9,906		16,032	116,849
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		(34,091)	19,128	(14,642)	(29,605)	131,011
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		253,745	847,780	270,000	1,371,525	1,240,514
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>219,654</u>	<u>866,908</u>	<u>255,358</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>	
					<u>1,371,525</u>	

The notes form part of these financial

Central Church

Balance
Sheet 31
December
2020

2020
£

2019
£

Notes

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible assets

Investments

Investments

Investment property

12

13

14

2,329

3,442

891,557

875,524

246,514

1,140,400

878,966

CURRENT ASSETS

Debtors

Investments held for sale

Cash at bank and in hand

15

16

17

7,608

14,529

270,00

198,308

216,47

9

205,916

501,008

CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year

18

(4,396)

(8,449)

NET CURRENT ASSETS

201,520

492,559

**TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT
LIABILITIES**

1,341,920

1,371,52

5

NET ASSETS

1,341,920

1,371,

525

FUNDS

Unrestricted funds

Restricted funds

Endowment funds

20

219,654

253,745

866,908

847,780

255,358

270,000

TOTAL FUNDS

1,341,920

1,371,52

5

The financial statements were approved.
by the Board
.....J,u;l.....Zo',l.,nd were signed on its behalf
by:

of Trustees and authorised for issue
on

C A Durant

C Durant - Trustee

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The notes form part of these financial

Central Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, constituted by a trust deed.

The registered office address and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities of the charity are given in the trustees report.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is

- probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure

Central Church

is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use **of resources**.

Notes to the Financial Statements -
continued for the Year Ended 31
December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES -

continued Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Equipment	20% on straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on straight line basis

Freehold property

The Pilgrim Centre is owned by the Baptist Church (two thirds), Methodist (one sixth) and United Reform Church (URC) (one sixth). The Manse is owned by the URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

The above properties are not recognised as assets of the charity.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as unrealised.

Investment property

The church receives an annual rent from a property that is held upon trust by the West of England Baptist Association (WEBA) Trustees. Investment properties are included in the accounts at open market value. All movements arising from revaluation are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Realised gains and losses on investment properties are calculated as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the market value at the beginning of the year or cost of purchases during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are derived from the movement in the market values during the year.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that **will** probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

Fund accounting

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

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

Endowment funds are funds which are held subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained as capital. The income earned from these funds is used for general purposes where

allowed or for the specific purposes intended. The aim and use of each endowment fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The church operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the church's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Central Church

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The church also pays pension contributions for its Minister to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the church. Therefore, as there is insufficient information, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2020	2019
	£	£
Donations and collections	16,349	20,684
Gift aid	3,253	4,962
Legacies		—
	<u>19,602</u>	25,630

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cafe @ Central takings	555	5,372
Hire of Pilgrim Centre	10,766	35,134
Other income		
	<u>11,521</u>	40,506

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2020	2019
	£	£
Rents received	8,471	15,544
Income from fixed asset investments	25,454	27,561
Deposit account interest		464
	<u>34,264</u>	<u>43,569</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Portfolio management	580	50
Rental property - repairs and professional fees	<u>15,953</u>	<u>3,576</u>
	<u>16,533</u>	= 3,626

Other trading activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Purchases	378	3,984
Repairs and renewals	144	217
	<u>522</u>	<u>4,201</u>

Aggregate amounts	<u>17,055</u>	= 7,827
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Central Church

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>42,266</u>	<u>51,703</u>	93,969

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs	27,889	27,567
Manse property expenses	2,455	2,145
Sundries	650	625
Denominations and assessments	8,871	10,327
Worship	1,814	2,729
Donations	587	---
	<u>42,266</u>	43,529

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Church activities	<u>49,350</u>	<u>2,353</u>	<u>51,703</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2020 Church activities £	2019 Total activities £
Rates and water	1,903	638
Insurance	4,405	4,487
Light and heat	11,317	12,488
Telephone and internet	2,393	2,366
Printing, postage and stationery	2,792	3,071
Cleaning and household	4,694	7,551
Repairs and renewals	17,585	6,516
Professional fees	98	571
Bad debts	125	
Bookkeeping, management accounts and payroll	2,925	2,978
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets		<u>1,241</u>
	49,350	<u>41,907</u>

Governance costs

	2020 Church activities £	2019 Total activities £
Independent examination and accountancy	<u>2,353</u>	<u>2,280</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements -
continued for the Year Ended 31
December 2020

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2020 nor for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2020 nor for the year ended 31 December 2019.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	27,727	26,993
Other pension costs	162	574
	<u>27,889</u>	<u>27,567</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
	1	1

Minister

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Key management personnel for the charity comprises the Minister. The total employee benefits for key management personnel of the charity were £27,889 (2019 - £27,567).

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestrict ed funds £	Restrict ed funds £	Endowme nt fund £	Total fund s £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	25,605	25		25,630
Other trading activities	40,506			40,506
Investment income	31,313	12,256		43,569
Total	97,424	12,281		109,705
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	7,827			7,827
Charitable activities				
Church activities	87,289	427		87,716
Total	95,116	427		95,543
Net gains on investments	14,475	102,374		116,849
NET INCOME	16,783	114,228		131,011
Transfers between funds	<u>(163)</u>	<u>163</u>		
Net movement In funds	16,620	114,391		131,011
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward				
As previously reported	237,125	733,389		970,514
Prior year adjustment			270,000	270,000
As restated	237,125	733,389	270,000	1,240,514

Notes to the Financial Statements • continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES • continued				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	253,745	847,780	270,000	1,371,525
12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
		Equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020		<u>25,963</u>	<u>23,966</u>	<u>49,929</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2020		23,513	22,974	46,487
Charge for year		816	297	
At 31 December 2020		<u>24,329</u>	<u>23,271</u>	<u>47,600</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2020		<u>1,634</u>	<u>695</u>	2,329
At 31 December 2019		<u>2,450</u>	<u>992</u>	<u>3,442</u>
13. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS				
		West of England Baptist Trust Co. £	United Refonn Church £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE				
At 1 January 2020		367,080	508,444	875,524
Unrealised gains		(16,631)	32,664	16,033
At 31 December 2020		<u>350,449</u>	<u>541,108</u>	<u>891,557</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2020		<u>350,449</u>	<u>541,108</u>	<u>891,557</u>
At 31 December 2019		<u>367,080</u>	<u>508,444</u>	<u>875,524</u>

Investments held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company are used to fund significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre. Investments held by the United Refonn Church are for significant repairs to the manse. There were no investment assets outside the UK. During the year ended 31 December 2018, £80,000 of unrestricted funds were invested in the United Refonn Church fund.

14. INVESTMENT PROPERTY	
	£
FAIR VALUE	
Additions	246,514
At 31 December 2020	246,514
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2020	246,514
At 31 December 2019	

The investment property was purchased in January 2020 and is held at cost The trustees are not aware of any material change in the value of the property.

Central Church

Notes to the Financial Statements -
continued for the Year Ended 31
December 2020

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,123	5,180
Other debtors	1,058	1,058
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>5,427</u>	<u>8,291</u>
	<u>7,608</u>	<u>14,529</u>

16. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Investment property held for sale		<u>270,000</u>

17. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Included in cash is £85,016 (2019: £75,723) which is held on deposit by the West of England Baptist Trust Company.

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other creditors	975	130
Deferred income		5,044
Accrued expenses	<u>3,421</u>	<u>3,275</u>
	<u>4,396</u>	<u>8,449</u>

Deferred income relates to rental income received in advance.

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment fund	2020 Total funds	2019 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2,329			2,329	3,442
Investments	101,480	790,077	246,514	1,138,071	875,524
Current assets	120,241	76,831	8,844	205,916	501,008
Current liabilities	(4,396)			(4,396)	(8,449)
	<u>219,654</u>	<u>866,908</u>	<u>255,358</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>	<u>1,371,525</u>

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.20	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.20
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	253,745	(34,091)	219,654
Restricted funds			
Swindon Church Fund	432,398	(7,265)	425,133
URC Fund	413,087	26,538	439,625
Manse Repair Fund	2,295	(145)	2,150

	<u>Central Church</u>			
		847,780	19,128	866,908
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist		270,000	(14,642)	255,358
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>1,371,525</u>	<u>(29,605)</u>	<u>1,341,920</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements -
continued**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movemen t in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	55,510	(95,727)	6,126	(34,091)
Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	9,847	(480)	(16,632)	(7,265)
URC Fund			26,538	26,538
Flower Fund	30	(30)		
Manse Repair Fund		<u>(145)</u>		<u>(145)</u>
	9,877	(655)	9,906	19,128
Endowment funds				
Property - Baptist		(14,642)		(14,642)
TOTAL FUNDS	65,387	<u>(111,024)</u>	<u>16,032</u> <u>(29,605)</u>	

**Comparatives for
movement in**

funds

	At 1.1.19 £	Prio r yea r adjustment £	Net moveme nt in funds £	Transfer s between funds £	At 31.12.19 £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	237,125		16,783	(163)	253,745
Restricted funds					
Swindon Church Fund	380,478		51,920		432,398
URC Fund	350,377		62,710		413,087
Flower Fund	239		(402)	163	
Manse Repair Fund	2,295				2,295
	733,389		114,228	163	847,780
Endowment funds					
Property - Baptist		270,000			270,000
TOTAL FUNDS	970,514	270,000	131,011		<u>1,371,525</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resource s expende d £	Gains and losses £	Moveme nt in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	97,424	(95,116)	14,475	16,783

Central Church

**Notes to the Financial Statements -
continued**

Restricted funds				
Swindon Church Fund	12,256		39,664	51,920
URC Fund			62,710	62,710
Flower Fund	<u>25</u>	<u>(427)</u>	<u> </u>	<u>(402)</u>
	12,281	<u>(427)</u>	102,374	114,228
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>109,705</u>	<u>(95,543)</u>	<u>116,849</u>	<u>131,011</u>

Central Church

Notes to the Financial Statements • **continued for the Year Ended 31**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS. continued

Endowment funds

Property - Baptist

This fund represents the value of the Southampton property managed by the church as managing trustees, the deeds of which are held by the West of England Baptist Trust company as custodian trustee. The fund is held for the general purpose of the charity.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant. The purpose of the above restricted funds are as follows;

Swindon Church
Fund

This represents funds held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company on behalf of the church and is to cover significant repairs to the Pilgrim Centre building.

URC Fund

The URC Fund is restricted to use on the United Reform Church manse and

Flower Fund
Manse Repair
Fund

other related activities. It is represented by investments held on trust for the Church by the United Reform Church.

The Flower Fund provides flowers for the church and for members who are ill.

The Manse Repair Fund represents monies received to fund repairs to the Manse

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Total donations of £1,590 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

There were no other related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2020.