

STOWMARKET URC CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1157857

Details

Other names	UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, STOWMARKET
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2014-07-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	3 West View Stowmarket IP14 1SD
Phone	01449774792
Email	stowmarketurc@btconnect.com
Website	www.stowmarket-urc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CHARITY IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEME OF UNION OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH.

Activities: Provide regular Public Worship for all. Promote and teach the Christian faith. Serve the Community. Provide a location for baptism and funeral services. Give pastoral care and support to members and others in need. Provide premises and resources for community groups and activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£106,992	£118,363	-	-
2023-12-31	£88,764	£104,875	-	-
2022-12-31	£89,301	£106,521	-	-
2021-12-31	£83,586	£91,207	-	-
2020-12-31	£65,266	£100,970	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANNE MAUREEN SCARFF B.SC		2014-07-31
Ann Mary Waller		2015-07-01
Brian Hewitt		2023-07-01
HELEN DEBORAH FREEMAN		2014-07-31
JANE HILARY GURNEY		2014-07-31
JANET MARY WEBB		2014-07-31
JOHN WILLIAM WEBB		2014-07-31
Keith Scarff		2015-01-01
Linda Baxter		2019-05-26
Monika Sudirgo		2022-07-01
Pauline Gosling		2022-07-01

STOWMARKET URC CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1157857

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1st	January	2024		31st	December	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Stowmarket United Reformed Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1157857

Charity's principal address

Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

Suffolk

Postcode

IP14 1AD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1.	The Revd Robert Sheard	Chair	Until 3 Dec2024	Church Meeting
	Mr Brian Hewitt	Secretary		Church Meeting
2	Miss Anne Scarff	Treasurer		Church Meeting
3	Mrs Mary Durrant			Church Meeting
4	Mrs Janet Webb			Church Meeting
5	Mrs Helen Freeman			Church Meeting
6	Mr John Webb			Church Meeting
7	Mrs Jane Gurney			Church Meeting
8	Mrs Margaret Jackson		Until 29 th July	Church Meeting
9	Mrs Joyce Gardiner			Church Meeting
11	Mrs Lois Muller		Until 5 th Dec 2024	Church Meeting
12	Mr Keith Scarff			Church Meeting
13	Mrs Linda Baxter			Church Meeting
14	Mrs Monika Sudirgo			Church Meeting
15	Mrs Pauline Gosling			Church Meeting
16	Mrs Michaela Farmer		Until 1 st July 2024	Church Meeting
17	Mrs Margaret Clarke		Until 29 th July	Church Meeting

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Eastern Synod URC	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent examiner	Matthew Aldous	Matthew Aldous, The Laurel Partnership, 16 Broad St, Eye. IP23 7 AF

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by Church Members at Church Meeting.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Activities of the church are overseen by the Elders' Meeting of the Church in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and supplemented by the Stowmarket URC constitution.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, the care and maintenance of Church premises and the manse. The Elders report to the Church Meeting (all church members are entitled to attend) which has overall decision making and gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church.

Groups (Buildings, Finance, Ministry and Social/Outreach with Fundraising) look at aspects of church matters and report to the Elders meeting.

The Finance Group review financial practice using guidance from Charity Commission. A Financial review was held in November 2024 based on cc8. This was approved by Elders.

The Elders of the church are Church Members and Trustees. Elders normally serve a 3year period and then are able to be re-nominated. All Elders, and therefore Trustees, are nominated by Church Members and elected at a Church Meeting.

The Minister is a Trustee and is the Chair of the Trustees.

The Church is a congregation of the United Reformed Church. All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches' and employees' insurance. An annual review of the Safeguarding policy is carried out.
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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	The object of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)	The Trustees have regard to the guidance by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit. The Charity is a Public benefit Entity - we are set up to benefit the general public. Our activities include: - Providing regular public worship for all. - Promoting the Christian Faith. - Teaching the faith to all ages. - Providing training, nurture and activities for children and young people. - Serving the community. - Giving pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty. - Providing premises and resources for community groups and activities. We are not aware of any detriment or harm resulting from the implementation of our purposes. We have one Trustee who is employed by the church as an Administrator. The role pre-dates her appointment as Trustee. Our Minister is paid expenses incurred in the fulfilment of his ministry. Otherwise, no Trustee benefitted from work at the church and there were no personal benefits paid to Trustees.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: - policy on grantmaking; - policy programme related investment; - contribution made by volunteers.	We rely on volunteers for our activities. In addition to Bible study and coffee mornings they also run our Fundraising activities. We do not offer grants. We regularly review our finances to maximise them.
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Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- We provided regular Public Worship for all. The worship is led by trained ministers, or lay people who adhere to the central messages of the Christian faith. We continue to offer our services on Zoom.
- We promoted the Christian faith. We taught the Faith to all ages through Services, Meetings, Bible study groups, and Children's Activities. Children's activities include: Sunday School, "Messy Church" (This closed in July) and "Open the Book", the latter involves a group from the Church enacting Bible stories at one of the local Primary Schools.
- We served the Community by providing opportunities for quiet reflection when we were able to do so. We provided a location for baptisms, weddings and funeral services, irrespective of whether the individuals have strong Christian beliefs, or not. We supported the Stowmarket Food Bank. We provided a venue for a Charity Christmas Day dinner.
- We provide opportunities for the community to come together over refreshments. Our coffee mornings are warm spaces available to the community. There is also a Community Brew open to all and for part of the year we ran a Time Out for Carers and the People they Care For.
- We continued to give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress, or poverty
- We provided premises and resources for community groups and activities. The Church allowed a Dance School, Choirs, U3A, and other organisations to use part(s) of the church premises.
- Organisations hired part of the premises for a variety of events and activities.
- A number of Concerts have been held on our premises.
- Fundraising events for Church funds are also held.
- Some Charity enterprises were offered facilities free of charge or at a reduced rate.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We retain £10,000 in our accounts as reserves to meet unexpected demands of a general nature.
Designated funds are held for : Growth; Projects;
Commitment for Life; Organ; and Pirmasens.
In addition we have historic Restricted funds for Local Needs
Benevolent; Coupland; Foord.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal sources of income are through free will offerings, hire of premises and fundraising.

A proportion of our income (approx. 1/3rd) is used exclusively for Ministry and Mission within the wider URC.

We use TSB and CAF banks.

For 2024 Income was £106992 and expenditure £118363. A major problem with the Church Tower has increased our expenses. This is an on-going situation. Reserves being used.

Section F

Other optional information

At the end of the year our Minister stepped down..

Despite a loss in income we remain a going concern.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

A. Scarff

Full name(s)

Anne Maureen Scarff

Position (eg Secretary, Chair,
etc)

Treasurer

Date

4-2-2024



Stowmarket URC Charity, Registered Charity No 1157857

Stowmarket United Reformed Church

Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

Suffolk, IP14 1AD

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2024

Accounts based on Accrual Accounting FRS102 SORP 2015

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Charity Law

January 2025

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	61,248	110	—	61,359	41,931
Other trading activities	19,624	—	—	19,624	22,308
Investments	6,548	—	—	6,548	5,709
Other income	19,460	—	—	19,460	18,815
Total income	106,881	110	—	106,992	88,764
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	20	—	—	20	137
Expenditure on charitable activities	58,418	418	—	58,836	53,019
Other expenditure	59,507	—	—	59,507	51,718
Total expenditure	117,945	418	—	118,363	104,875
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(11,063)	(307)	—	(11,371)	(16,110)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	4,538
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	(4,538)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	(11,063)	(307)	—	(11,371)	(16,110)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	148,370	11,381	—	159,751	175,861
Total funds carried forward	137,306	11,073	—	148,380	159,751

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, as they are not required due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket -1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
Donations and legacies	41,841	90		41,931	41,354
Other trading activities	22,308			22,308	18,794
Investments	5,709			5,709	4,605
Other income	18,815			18,815	24,547
Total income	88,674	90		88,764	89,301
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Raising funds	137			137	
Expenditure on charitable activities	52,638	381		53,019	48,241
Other expenditure	51,718			51,718	58,280
Total expenditure	104,493	381		104,875	106,521
Net income/ (expenditure) resources before transfer	(15,818)	(291)		(16,110)	(17,219)
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	4,538			4,538	5
Gross transfers between funds - out	(4,538)			(4,538)	(5)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>					
Net movement in funds	(15,818)	(291)		(16,110)	(17,219)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward	164,189	11,672		175,861	193,081
Total funds carried forward	148,370	11,381		159,751	175,861

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, as they are not required due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

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The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Balance sheet (Summary)
As at: 31 December 2024

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	9,601	14,464
	<u>9,601</u>	<u>14,464</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	3,450	3,161
Cash at bank and in hand	135,408	142,354
	<u>138,858</u>	<u>145,516</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	80	228
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>138,778</u>	<u>145,287</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>148,380</u>	<u>159,751</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>148,380</u>	<u>159,751</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	11,166	18,522
Designated		
Designated - Improvement Fund	—	—
Designated - Project Fund	112,084	114,467
Designated - Haughley Fund	—	—
Designated - Growth Fund	8,500	8,500
Designated - Commitment for Life Fund	—	256
Designated - Pirmasens Fund	452	494
Designated - Organ Fund	4,377	4,377
Designated - Pastorate Fund	724	1,752
Restricted		
Restricted - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	2,191	2,080
Restricted - Coupland Fund	231	231
Restricted - Foord Fund	8,650	9,068
Funds of the charity	<u>148,380</u>	<u>159,751</u>

Note: Trustees agreed that Restricted and Designated Funds are correct Accounts agreed

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.....

Date..... Chairman:

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

As at: 31 December 2024

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
FA102020 : Kitchenette	—	7,497	—	—	7,497	8,996
FA2020 : Church Technology	—	—	—	—	—	2,310
FA2021 : New Church Microphone and Camera	—	2,104	—	—	2,104	3,157
Total	—	9,601	—	—	9,601	14,464
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
C30 : CAF General Cash Account	(125,708)	117,738	8,970	—	1,000	1,000
C31 : CAF Gold Account	47,835	(3,047)	389	—	45,177	43,106
C34 : CAF Pastorate Account	—	724	—	—	724	1,752
C36 : TSB Petty Cash Account	4,600	1,122	1,794	—	7,516	10,790
C37 : TSB Business Instant Access Savings	80,989	—	—	—	80,989	85,706
Total	7,716	116,538	11,154	—	135,408	142,354
Current assets - Debtors						
Z05 : Accounts Receivable	3,450	—	—	—	3,450	3,161
Total	3,450	—	—	—	3,450	3,161
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	80	—	80	228
Total	—	—	80	—	80	228
Net total assets	11,166	126,140	11,073	—	148,380	159,751

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Analysis of income and expenditure

Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Income and endowments						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
B7 - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	—	—	110	—	110	90
D1 - Donations Received	170	—	—	—	170	—
D2 - Donations allocated to Specific Funds	150	—	—	—	150	—
F3 - Freewill Offering	56,951	—	—	—	56,951	36,463
G6 - Gift Day	3,726	—	—	—	3,726	5,122
W3 - Commitment for Life	—	245	—	—	245	256
Y2 - Youth and Childrens Work	6	—	—	—	6	—
Donations and legacies Totals	61,003	245	110	—	61,359	41,931
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
C1 - Coffee Mornings	2,545	—	—	—	2,545	2,746
P8 - Premises Letting	14,479	—	—	—	14,479	16,676
S1 - Special Fund Raising Events	1,667	—	—	—	1,667	1,575
S5 - SHCT (Cycle Ride)	180	—	—	—	180	178
W2 - Wide Horizons	752	—	—	—	752	1,132
Other trading activities Totals	19,624	—	—	—	19,624	22,308
<i>Investments</i>						
I12 - Int on Manse account at Synod	3,857	—	—	—	3,857	3,821
I5 - Int on TSB Business Instant Access	1,283	—	—	—	1,283	850
I6 - Interest on CAF Gold a/c	1,190	—	—	—	1,190	824
I7 - Interest on CAF Cash a/c	2	—	—	—	2	2
Y1 - Yaxley Trust	214	—	—	—	214	210
Investments Totals	6,548	—	—	—	6,548	5,709
<i>Other income</i>						
C20 - Church Projects Income	—	2,480	—	—	2,480	—
G8 - Grant	—	—	—	—	—	2,405
I1 - Income Tax Gift Aid Refund	7,731	—	—	—	7,731	7,688
I14 - Improvement Grants/Donations	300	—	—	—	300	—
M1 - Magazines	63	—	—	—	63	—
M8 - Miscellaneous Income	—	—	—	—	—	200
P28 - Pastorate Group Income	—	7,541	—	—	7,541	7,159
T1 - Transfers from Pastorate	1,344	—	—	—	1,344	1,295
W4 - Worship Misc:	—	—	—	—	—	66
Other income Totals	9,439	10,021	—	—	19,460	18,815
Income and endowments Grand totals	96,615	10,266	110	—	106,992	88,764

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Expenditure						
Raising funds						
S03 - Special Fund Raising Events	20	—	—	—	20	29
T03 - Training	—	—	—	—	—	50
W02 - Wide Horizons	—	—	—	—	—	58
Raising funds Totals	20	—	—	—	20	137
Expenditure on charitable activities						
A05 - Church Office	809	—	—	—	809	863
B07 - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	—	—	—	—	—	19
D01 - Donations Made	258	—	—	—	258	282
D02 - Donations allocated to specific funds	140	—	—	—	140	—
F06 - Foord exp	—	—	418	—	418	361
G07 - Pirmasens German Twinning	—	42	—	—	42	—
M010 - Manse Costs not shared from 1/10/12	5,674	—	—	—	5,674	7,001
M04 - Ministerial Costs/Expenses	1,365	—	—	—	1,365	1,365
M09 - Miscellaneous Exp	40	—	—	—	40	32
O03 - Organ & Piano Upkeep	—	—	—	—	—	150
O1 - Organist	2,120	—	—	—	2,120	2,240
P010 - Premises Water	778	—	—	—	778	562
P012 - Office Equip wef 1/1/20	240	—	—	—	240	38
P013 - Pulpit Supply	939	—	—	—	939	880
P027 - Heating Repairs	1,341	—	—	—	1,341	3,438
P03 - Premises Cleaning	591	—	—	—	591	733
P04 - Premises Electricity	5,083	—	—	—	5,083	3,853
P05 - Premises Fire Precautions	832	—	—	—	832	820
P06 - Premises Repair	16,796	—	—	—	16,796	4,062
P07 - Premises Heating	5,075	—	—	—	5,075	11,669
P09 - Premises Telephone/Broadband	1,590	—	—	—	1,590	1,430
S06 - Sound Equipment	—	—	—	—	—	225
S07 - Salaries	12,936	—	—	—	12,936	11,834
W03 - Commitment for Life	—	501	—	—	501	—
W04 - Worship Miscellaneous	1,221	—	—	—	1,221	1,153
Y02 - Youth and Children	40	—	—	—	40	—
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	57,874	543	418	—	58,836	53,019
Other expenditure						
B01 - Bookkeeper	1,608	—	—	—	1,608	1,547
B08 - Bank Charges	60	—	—	—	60	60
D03 - Depreciation	—	4,862	—	—	4,862	7,395
E01 - Employee Income Tax Paid	933	—	—	—	933	855
I02 - Insurance	5,880	—	—	—	5,880	5,385
M07 - Ministry & Mission fund	33,696	—	—	—	33,696	24,396
P028 - Pastorate Group Expenditure	—	8,568	—	—	8,568	7,853
P08 - Premises Letting	96	—	—	—	96	—
T01 - Transfers to Pastorate account	3,802	—	—	—	3,802	4,223
Other expenditure Totals	46,076	13,431	—	—	59,507	51,718
Expenditure Grand totals	103,971	13,974	418	—	118,363	104,875

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Paid employees

Staff Costs

Salaries and wages

Social security costs

Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)

Other employee benefits

Total staff costs

This year £	Last year £
12936	11834
0	0
0	0
0	0
12936	11834

Band	Number of employees
£2000 to £6000	1
£6000 to £10,000	1

Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	0.62	0.62
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	0.62	0.62

The church used the services of one part-time cleaner to clean the premises, and a part-time Church Administrator to run the Church Office.

We do not run a defined contribution Pension Scheme

Trustee expenses.

There was no trustee's remuneration in the year ended 31st December 2024

Fees for examination of the accounts

The independent examiner fees.

Independent examiner's fee

2024	2023
300+vat	300+vat

Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land & buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year 1/1/2024	19703	41620	61323
Additions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revaluations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers *	0.00	0.00	0.00
At end of the year 31/12/2024	19703	41620	61323
**Basis	SL	SL	SL
** Rate	10%	10% & 20%	10% & 20%

At beginning of the year 1/1/2024	10706	36153	46859
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Depreciation	1499	3363	4862
At end of the year 31/12/2024	12205	39516	51721
Net book value at the beginning of the year	8997	5467	14464
Net book value at the end of the year 2024	7497	2105	9602

Items 1, 2 and 3 listed below are assets held by the URC (Eastern Province) Trust as the Custodian Trustees of these assets and hence these items do not appear in the balance sheet of this church. Fixtures, fittings and equipment purchased since 1st January 2001 have been capitalized, subject to the following:

- (a) The item has a value >£1000 (previously > £500)
- (b) The item does not represent a maintenance, or replacement item.
- (c) If the item is a gift of equipment, or money to purchase equipment it must add significantly to the existing overall value of the church premises, or have a significant immediate realisable value.

1. The Freehold and contents in the Church in Ipswich Street.

2. The Freehold of the Manse in Temple Road.

3. £134k invested by the Synod in COIF Bank. (The income alone is expendable, allowable by existing URC policy- may be subject to change).

The church does not have a policy for revaluation of assets.

Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

2024	2023
£	£
0.00	0.00
1432	1379
2018	1782
Total	3450
	3161

Creditors and accruals

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

Analysis of creditors

Bank loans and overdrafts

Accruals and deferred income

Taxation and social security

Other creditors

Total

Amounts falling due within one year	
2024	2023
£	£
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00

There is no Security over assets:

Endowment and Restricted Funds

The church has no Endowment Funds

Grant-making policy

Grants made to institutions in a given year are agreed at a Church Meeting.

Stowmarket URC Charity
Independent Examiner's Report
Year ending 31st December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stowmarket URC Charity

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stowmarket URC Charity for the year ended 31st December 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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.

Matthew Aldous

Matthew Aldous
FMAAT
16 Broad Street
Eye
IP23 7AF
Suffolk

24th March 2025

STOWMARKET URC CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1157857

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From		Period start date			To		Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year			Day	Month	Year
		1st	January	2023			31st	December	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Stowmarket United Reformed Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1157857

Charity's principal address

Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

Suffolk

Postcode

IP14 1AD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1.	The Revd Robert Sheard	Chair		Church Meeting
	Mr Brian Hewitt	Secretary	From 1 st July 2023	Church Meeting
2	Miss Anne Scarff	Treasurer		Church Meeting
3	Mrs Mary Durrant			Church Meeting
4	Mrs Janet Webb			Church Meeting
5	Mrs Helen Freeman			Church Meeting
6	Mr John Webb			Church Meeting
7	Mrs Jane Gurney			Church Meeting
8	Mrs Margaret Jackson			Church Meeting
9	Mrs Joyce Gardiner			Church Meeting
11	Mrs Lois Muller			Church Meeting
12	Mr Keith Scarff			Church Meeting
13	Mrs Linda Baxter			Church Meeting
14	Mrs Monika Sudirgo			Church Meeting
15	Mrs Pauline Gosling			Church Meeting
16	Mrs Irene Martin		Until 27 th Nov 2023	Church Meeting
17	Mrs Michaela Farmer			Church Meeting
18	Mrs Margaret Clarke			Church Meeting

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Eastern Synod URC	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent examiner	Matthew Aldous	Matthew Aldous, 5 Market Place, Stowmarket, Suffolk
		Ip14 1DT

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Trust

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected by Church Members at Church Meeting.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Activities of the church are overseen by the Elders' Meeting of the Church in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and supplemented by the Stowmarket URC constitution.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, the care and maintenance of Church premises and the manse. The Elders report to the Church Meeting (all church members are entitled to attend) which has overall decision making and gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church.

Groups (Buildings, Finance, Ministry and Social/Outreach with Fundraising) look at aspects of church matters and report to the Elders meeting.

The Finance Group review financial practice using guidance from Charity Commission. A Financial review was held in November 2023 based on cc8.

The Elders of the church are Church Members and Trustees. Elders normally serve a 3year period and then are able to be re-nominated. All Elders, and therefore Trustees, are nominated by Church Members and elected at a Church Meeting.

The Minister is a Trustee and is the Chair of the Trustees.

The Church is a congregation of the United Reformed Church.

All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches' and employees' insurance.

An annual review of the Safeguarding policy is carried out.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have regard to the guidance by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

The Charity is a Public benefit Entity - we are set up to benefit the general public.

Our activities include:

Providing regular public worship for all.

Promoting the Christian Faith.

Teaching the faith to all ages.

Providing training, nurture and activities for children and young people.

Serving the community.

Giving pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty.

Providing premises and resources for community groups and activities.

We are not aware of any detriment or harm resulting from the implementation of our purposes.

We have one Trustee who is employed by the church as an Administrator. The role pre-dates her appointment as Trustee.

Our Minister is paid expenses incurred in the fulfilment of his ministry.

Otherwise, no Trustee benefitted from work at the church and there were no personal benefits paid to Trustees.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We rely on volunteers for our activities. In addition to Bible study and coffee mornings they also run our Fundraising activities.

We do not offer grants.

We regularly review our finances to maximise them.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We provided regular Public Worship for all. The worship is led by trained ministers, or lay people who adhere to the central messages of the Christian faith. We continue to offer our services on Zoom.

We promoted the Christian faith. We taught the Faith to all ages through Services, Meetings, Bible study groups, and Children's Activities. Children's activities include: Family Church, "Messy Church" and "Open the Book", the latter involves a group from the Church enacting Bible stories at one of the local Primary Schools.

We served the Community by providing opportunities for quiet reflection when we were able to do so. We provided a location for baptisms, weddings and funeral services, irrespective of whether the individuals have strong Christian beliefs, or not. We supported the Stowmarket Food Bank. We provided a venue for a Charity Christmas Day dinner.

We provide opportunities for the community to come together over refreshments. Our coffee mornings are warm spaces available to the community.

We continued to give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress, or poverty

We provided premises and resources for community groups and activities. The Church allowed a Dance School, Choirs, U3A, and other organisations to use part(s) of the church premises.

Organisations hired part of the premises for a variety of events and activities.

A number of Concerts have been held on our premises.

Fundraising events for Church funds are also held.

Some Charity enterprises were offered facilities free of charge or at a reduced rate.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We retain £10,000 in our accounts as reserves to meet unexpected demands of a general nature.
Designated funds are held for :Growth; Improvement; Projects; Building; Commitment for Life; Organ; and Pirmasens.
In addition we have historic Restricted funds for Local Needs Benevolent; Coupland; Foord;

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal sources of income are through free will offerings, hire of premises and fundraising.

A proportion of our income (approx. 1/3rd) is used exclusively for Ministry and Mission within the wider URC.

We use TSB and CAF banks.

For 2023 Income was £88764 and expenditure £104875. A number of repairs to the building and the boiler; the increase in oil prices; and the need for professional help with Finances resulted in Reserves being used.

Section F

Other optional information

During the year we appointed a new Secretary.

Despite a loss in income we are a going concern.

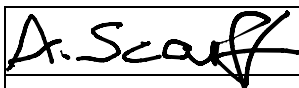
Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Anne Maureen Scarff

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Treasurer

Date

31/3/2024



Stowmarket URC Charity, Registered Charity No 1157857

Stowmarket United Reformed Church

Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

Suffolk, IP14 1AD

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2023

Accounts based on Accrual Accounting FRS102 SORP 2015

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Charity Law

January 2024

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
Donations and legacies	41,841	90	—	41,931	41,354
Other trading activities	22,308	—	—	22,308	18,794
Investments	5,709	—	—	5,709	4,605
Other income	18,815	—	—	18,815	24,547
Total income	88,674	90	—	88,764	89,301
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Raising funds	137	—	—	137	—
Expenditure on charitable activities	52,638	381	—	53,019	48,241
Other expenditure	51,718	—	—	51,718	58,280
Total expenditure	104,493	381	—	104,875	106,521
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(15,818)	(291)	—	(16,110)	(17,219)
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	4,538	—	—	4,538	5
Gross transfers between funds - out	(4,538)	—	—	(4,538)	(5)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>					
Net movement in funds	(15,818)	(291)	—	(16,110)	(17,219)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward	164,189	11,672	—	175,861	193,081
Total funds carried forward	148,370	11,381	—	159,751	175,861

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, as they are not required due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	41,343	11	—	41,354	40,970
Other trading activities	18,794	—	—	18,794	10,055
Investments	4,605	—	—	4,605	4,181
Other income	23,906	—	—	23,906	28,379
Total income	88,650	11	—	88,661	83,586
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	47,199	401	—	47,601	37,986
Other expenditure	58,280	—	—	58,280	53,221
Total expenditure	105,479	401	—	105,881	91,207
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(16,829)	(390)	—	(17,219)	(7,620)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	5	—	—	5	10,000
Gross transfers between funds - out	(5)	—	—	(5)	(10,000)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	(16,829)	(390)	—	(17,219)	(7,620)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	181,018	12,063	—	193,081	200,702
Total funds carried forward	164,189	11,672	—	175,861	193,081

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, as they are not required due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Balance sheet (Summary)

As at: 31 December 2023

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	14,464	21,859
	<u>14,464</u>	<u>21,859</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	3161	3,180
Cash at bank and in hand	142,354	150,955
	<u>145,516</u>	<u>154,135</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	228	133
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>145,287</u>	<u>154,002</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>159,751</u>	<u>175,861</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>159,751</u>	<u>175,861</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	18,522	22,212
Designated		
Designated - Improvement Fund	—	2,291
Designated - Project Fund	114,467	123,867
Designated - Haughley Fund	—	—
Designated - Growth Fund	8,500	8,500
Designated - Commitment for Life Fund	256	—
Designated - Pirmasens Fund	494	494
Designated - Organ Fund	4,377	4,377
Designated - Pastorate Fund	1,752	2,446
Restricted		
Restricted - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	2,080	2,010
Restricted - Coupland Fund	231	231
Restricted - Foord Fund	9,068	9,430
Funds of the charity	<u>159,751</u>	<u>175,861</u>

Note: Trustees agreed that Restricted and Designated Funds are correct Accounts agreed

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.....

Date.....

Revd: Robert Sheard

Chairman

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

As at: 31 December 2023

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
FA032014 : Balcony Rails	—	—	—	—	—	588
FA042014 : Staging	—	—	—	—	—	485
FA102020 : Kitchenette	—	8,996	—	—	8,996	10,496
FA2013 : New Church Chairs	—	—	—	—	—	1,217
FA2017 : HP Photocopier	—	—	—	—	—	242
FA2020 : Church Technology	—	2,310	—	—	2,310	4,620
FA2021 : New Church Microphone and Camera	—	3,157	—	—	3,157	4,209
Total	—	14,464	—	—	14,464	21,859
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
C30 : CAF General Cash Account	(125,457)	116,357	10,099	—	1,000	1,000
C31 : CAF Gold Account	45,764	(3,047)	389	—	43,106	56,581
C34 : CAF Pastorate Account	—	1,752	—	—	1,752	2,446
C36 : TSB Petty Cash Account	9,348	321	1,120	—	10,790	6,072
C37 : TSB Business Instant Access Savings	85,706	—	—	—	85,706	84,855
Total	15,361	115,383	11,609	—	142,354	150,955
Current assets - Debtors						
Z05 : Accounts Receivable	3,161	—	—	—	3,161	3,180
Total	3,161	—	—	—	3,161	3,180
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	228	—	228	133
Total	—	—	228	—	228	133
Net total assets	18,522	129,847	11,381	—	159,751	175,861

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Income and endowments						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
B7 - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	—	—	90	—	90	11
D1 - Donations Received	—	—	—	—	—	2,694
F3 - Freewill Offering	36,463	—	—	—	36,463	34,571
G6 - Gift Day	5,122	—	—	—	5,122	3,945
W3 - Commitment for Life	—	256	—	—	256	132
<i>Donations and legacies Totals</i>	41,585	256	90	—	41,931	41,354
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
C1 - Coffee Mornings	2,746	—	—	—	2,746	2,337
P8 - Premises Letting	16,676	—	—	—	16,676	14,776
S1 - Special Fund Raising Events	1,575	—	—	—	1,575	547
S5 - SHCT (Cycle Ride)	178	—	—	—	178	150
W2 - Wide Horizons	1,132	—	—	—	1,132	983
<i>Other trading activities Totals</i>	22,308	—	—	—	22,308	18,794
<i>Investments</i>						
I12 - Int on Manse account at Synod	3,821	—	—	—	3,821	3,790
I5 - Int on TSB Business Instant Access	850	—	—	—	850	355
I6 - Interest on CAF Gold a/c	824	—	—	—	824	249
I7 - Interest on CAF Cash a/c	2	—	—	—	2	0
Y1 - Yaxley Trust	210	—	—	—	210	208
<i>Investments Totals</i>	5,709	—	—	—	5,709	4,605
<i>Other income</i>						
F4 - Funerals	—	—	—	—	—	300
G8 - Grant	2,405	—	—	—	2,405	—
I1 - Income Tax Gift Aid Refund	7,688	—	—	—	7,688	7,522
L2 - Loss of 2020/21 Income Insurance Claim	—	—	—	—	—	7,478
M8 - Miscellaneous Income	200	—	—	—	200	640
P28 - Pastorate Group Income	—	7,159	—	—	7,159	6,796
T1 - Transfers from Pastorate	1,295	—	—	—	1,295	1,809
W4 - Worship Misc:	66	—	—	—	66	—
<i>Other income Totals</i>	11,655	7,159	—	—	18,815	24,547
Income and endowments	81,259	7,415	90	—	88,764	89,301
Grand totals						

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Expenditure

Raising funds

S03 - Special Fund Raising Events	29	—	—	—	29	—
T03 - Training	50	—	—	—	50	—
W02 - Wide Horizons	58	—	—	—	58	—

Raising funds Totals	137	—	—	—	137	—
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Expenditure on charitable activities

A05 - Church Office	863	—	—	—	863	894
B07 - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	—	—	19	—	19	—
C020 - Church Projects Expenditure	—	—	—	—	—	433
D01 - Donations Made	282	—	—	—	282	30
F06 - Foord exp	—	—	361	—	361	401
M010 - Manse Costs not shared from 1/10/12	7,001	—	—	—	7,001	3,992
M04 - Ministerial Costs/Expenses	1,365	—	—	—	1,365	1,374
M09 - Miscellaneous Exp	32	—	—	—	32	1,550
O03 - Organ & Piano Upkeep	150	—	—	—	150	362
O1 - Organist	2,240	—	—	—	2,240	2,080
P010 - Premises Water	562	—	—	—	562	499
P012 - Office Equip wef 1/1/20	38	—	—	—	38	—
P013 - Pulpit Supply	880	—	—	—	880	696
P027 - Heating Repairs	3,438	—	—	—	3,438	528
P03 - Premises Cleaning	733	—	—	—	733	357
P04 - Premises Electricity	3,853	—	—	—	3,853	2,173
P05 - Premises Fire Precautions	820	—	—	—	820	649
P06 - Premises Repair	4,062	—	—	—	4,062	6,103
P07 - Premises Heating	11,669	—	—	—	11,669	12,936
P09 - Premises Telephone/Broadband	1,430	—	—	—	1,430	1,614
S06 - Sound Equipment	225	—	—	—	225	—
S07 - Salaries	11,834	—	—	—	11,834	10,582
W03 - Commitment for Life	—	—	—	—	—	132
W04 - Worship Miscellaneous	1,153	—	—	—	1,153	850

Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	52,638	—	381	—	53,019	48,241
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Other expenditure

B01 - Bookkeeper	1,547	—	—	—	1,547	322
B08 - Bank Charges	60	—	—	—	60	82
D03 - Depreciation	242	7,153	—	—	7,395	8,104
E01 - Employee Income Tax Paid	855	—	—	—	855	594
I02 - Insurance	5,385	—	—	—	5,385	5,109
M07 - Ministry & Mission fund	24,396	—	—	—	24,396	32,856
P028 - Pastorate Group Expenditure	—	7,853	—	—	7,853	6,995
T01 - Transfers to Pastorate account	4,223	—	—	—	4,223	4,215

Other expenditure Totals	36,711	15,006	—	—	51,718	58,280
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Expenditure Grand totals	89,486	15,006	381	—	104,875	106,521
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There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Paid employees

Staff Costs

Salaries and wages

Social security costs

Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)

Other employee benefits

Total staff costs

This year £	Last year £
11834	10583
0	0
0	0
0	0
11834	10583

Band	Number of employees
£2000 to £6000	1
£6000 to £10,000	1

Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	0.62	0.62
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	0.62	0.62

The church used the services of one part-time cleaner to clean the premises, and a part-time Church Administrator to run the Church Office.

We do not run a defined contribution Pension Scheme

Trustee expenses.

There was no trustee's remuneration in the year ended 31st December 2023

Fees for examination of the accounts

The independent examiner fees.

	2023	2022
Independent examiner's fee	300+vat	300+vat

Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land & buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year 1/1/2023	19703	41620	61323
Additions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revaluations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposals	55792	13987	69779
Transfers *	0.00	0.00	0.00
At end of the year 31/12/2023	19703	41620	61323
**Basis	SL	SL	SL
** Rate	10%	10% & 20%	10% & 20%

At beginning of the year 1/1/2023	8618	30845	39463
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Depreciation	2088	5308	7396
At end of the year 31/12/2023	10706	36153	46859
Net book value at the beginning of the year	11085	10775	21860
Net book value at the end of the year 2023	8997	5467	14464

Items 1, 2 and 3 listed below are assets held by the URC (Eastern Province) Trust as the Custodian Trustees of these assets and hence these items do not appear in the balance sheet of this church. Fixtures, fittings and equipment purchased since 1st January 2001 have been capitalized, subject to the following:

- (a) The item has a value >£1000 (previously > £500)
 - (b) The item does not represent a maintenance, or replacement item.
 - (c) If the item is a gift of equipment, or money to purchase equipment it must add significantly to the existing overall value of the church premises, or have a significant immediate realisable value.
1. The Freehold and contents in the Church in Ipswich Street.
 2. The Freehold of the Manse in Temple Road.
 3. £117k invested by the Synod in COIF Bank. (The income alone is expendable, allowable by existing URC policy- may be subject to change).

The church does not have a policy for revaluation of assets.

Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

2023	2022
£	£
0.00	0.00
1379	1258
1782	1922
Total	3161
	3180

Creditors and accruals

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

Analysis of creditors

Bank loans and overdrafts

Accruals and deferred income

Taxation and social security

Other creditors

Total

Amounts falling due within one year	
2023	2022
£	£
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00

There is no Security over assets:

Endowment and Restricted Funds

The church has no Endowment Funds

Grant-making policy

Grants made to institutions in a given year are agreed at a Church Meeting.

Stowmarket URC Charity
Independent Examiner's Report
Year ending 31st December 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stowmarket URC Charity

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stowmarket URC Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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.

Matthew Aldous

Matthew Aldous
FMAAT
5 Market Place
STOWMARKET
Suffolk

11th April 2024

STOWMARKET URC CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1157857

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 1st	Month January	Year 2022		Day 31st	Month December	Year 2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Stowmarket United Reformed Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1157857

Charity's principal address

Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

Suffolk

Postcode

IP14 1AD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1.	The Revd Robert Sheard	Chair		Church Meeting
2	Miss Anne Scarff	Secretary		Church Meeting
3	Mrs Mary Durrant	Assistant Secretary		Church Meeting
4	Mrs Janet Webb			Church Meeting
5	Mrs Helen Freeman			Church Meeting
6	Mr John Webb			Church Meeting
7	Mrs Jane Gurney			Church Meeting
8	Mrs Margaret Jackson			Church Meeting
9	Mrs Joyce Gardiner			Church Meeting
10	Mr Michael Martin			Church Meeting
11	Mrs Lois Muller			Church Meeting
12	Mr Keith Scarff			Church Meeting
13	Mrs Linda Baxter			Church Meeting
14	Mrs Monika Sudirgo		1 st July 2022	Church Meeting
15	Mrs Pauline Gosling		1 st July 2022	Church Meeting
16	Mrs Irene Martin		1 st July 2022	Church Meeting
17	Mrs Michaela Farmer		1 st July 2022	Church Meeting
18	Mrs Margaret Clarke		1 st July 2022	Church Meeting

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Eastern Synod URC	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent examiner	Matthew Aldous	Matthew Aldous, 5 Market Place, Stowmarket, Suffolk
		Ip14 1DT

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Trust

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected by Church Members at Church Meeting.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Activities of the church are overseen by the Elders' Meeting of the Church in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and supplemented by the Stowmarket URC constitution.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, the care and maintenance of Church premises and the manse. The Elders report to the Church Meeting (all church members are entitled to attend) which has overall decision making and gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church.

Groups (Buildings, Finance, Spirituality and Social/Outreach with Fundraising) look at aspects of church matters and report to the Elders meeting.

The Finance Group review financial practice using guidance from Charity Commission. A Financial review was held in November 2022 based on cc8.

The Elders of the church are Church Members and Trustees. Elders normally serve a 3year period and then are able to be re-nominated. All Elders, and therefore Trustees, are nominated by Church Members and elected at a Church Meeting.

The Minister is a Trustee and is the Chair of both Elders and Church meetings.

The Church is a congregation of the United Reformed Church.

All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches' and employees' insurance.

An annual review of the Safeguarding policy is carried out and our procedures are certificated by SAFEcic.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have regard to the guidance by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

The Charity is a Public benefit Entity - we are set up to benefit the general public.

Our activities include:

- Providing regular public worship for all.
- Promoting the Christian Faith.
- Teaching the faith to all ages.
- Providing training, nurture and activities for children and young people.
- Serving the community.
- Giving pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty.
- Providing premises and resources for community groups and activities.

We are not aware of any detriment or harm resulting from the implementation of our purposes.

We have one Trustee who is employed by the church as an Administrator. The role pre-dates her appointment as Trustee. Our Minister is paid expenses incurred in the fulfilment of his ministry. Otherwise, no Trustee benefitted from work at the church and there were no personal benefits paid to Trustees.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Fuel situation has started to affect all the activities of the church. This has meant that Hire fees have been increased.

We rely on volunteers for our activities. These run our Fundraising activities.

We do not offer grants.

We regularly review our finances to maximise them.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We provided regular Public Worship for all. The worship is led by trained ministers, or lay people who adhere to the central messages of the Christian faith. We continue to offer our services on Zoom.

We promoted the Christian faith. We taught the Faith to all ages through Services, Meetings, Bible study groups, and Children's Activities. Children's activities include: Family Church, "Messy Church" and "Open the Book", the latter involves a group from the Church enacting Bible stories at some of the local Primary Schools.

We served the Community by providing opportunities for quiet reflection when we were able to do so. We provided a location for baptisms, weddings and funeral services, irrespective of whether the individuals have strong Christian beliefs, or not. We supported the Stowmarket Food Bank. We provided a venue for a Charity Christmas Day dinner.

We provide opportunities for the community to come together over refreshments. Our coffee mornings are warm spaces available to the community.

We continued to give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress, or poverty

We provided premises and resources for community groups and activities. The Church allowed a Dance School, Choirs, U3A, and other organisations to use part(s) of the church premises.

Organisations hired part of the premises for a variety of events and activities.

A number of Concerts have been held on our premises.

Fundraising events for Church funds are also held.

Some Charity enterprises were offered facilities free of charge or at a reduced rate.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We retain £10,000 in our accounts as reserves to meet unexpected demands of a general nature.
Designated funds are held for :Growth; Improvement; Projects; Building; Commitment for Life; Organ; and Pirmasens.
In addition we have historic Restricted funds for Local Needs Benevolent; Coupland; Foord;

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal sources of income are through free will offerings, hire of premises and fundraising.

A proportion of our income (approx. 1/3rd) is used exclusively for Ministry and Mission within the wider URC.

We use TSB and CAF banks.

For 2022 Income was £89,379 and expenditure £106,599. A number of extra building works, the increase in oil prices and the need for professional help with Finances resulted in Reserves being used.

Section F

Other optional information

During the year we changed our Treasurer. We now also employ a Bookkeeper to work alongside our Treasurer. We also engaged an Accountancy firm to Independently examine our Accounts.

The Finance Groups reviewed the financial arrangements of the church and made some adjustments to our procedures which were shared with the Elders.

Despite a loss in income we are a going concern.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Anne Maureen Scarff

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Secretary

Date

1 April 2023



Stowmarket URC Charity, Registered Charity No 1157857

Stowmarket United Reformed Church

Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

Suffolk, IP14 1AD

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2022

Accounts based on Accrual Accounting FRS102 SORP 2015

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Charity Law

January 2023

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	41,343	11	—	41,354	40,970
Other trading activities	18,794	—	—	18,794	10,055
Investments	4,605	—	—	4,605	4,181
Other income	23,906	—	—	23,906	28,379
Total income	88,650	11	—	88,661	83,586
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	47,199	401	—	47,601	37,986
Other expenditure	58,280	—	—	58,280	53,221
Total expenditure	105,479	401	—	105,881	91,207
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(16,829)	(390)	—	(17,219)	(7,620)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	5	—	—	5	10,000
Gross transfers between funds - out	(5)	—	—	(5)	(10,000)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	(16,829)	(390)	—	(17,219)	(7,620)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	181,018	12,063	—	193,081	200,702
Total funds carried forward	164,189	11,672	—	175,861	193,081

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, as they are not required due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021	2020
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
Donations and legacies	40,970	—	—	40,970	37,629
Other trading activities	10,055	—	—	10,055	7,916
Investments	4,181	—	—	4,181	4,382
Other income	28,379	—	—	28,379	5,337
Total income	83,586	—	—	83,586	65,266
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Raising funds	—	—	—	—	45
Expenditure on charitable activities	37,572	413	—	37,986	50,737
Other expenditure	53,221	—	—	53,221	50,188
Total expenditure	90,793	413	—	91,207	100,970
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(7,207)	(413)	—	(7,620)	(35,704)
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	10,000	—	—	10,000	33,010
Gross transfers between funds - out	(10,000)	—	—	(10,000)	(33,010)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>					
Net movement in funds	(7,207)	(413)	—	(7,620)	(35,704)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward	188,225	12,476	—	200,702	236,406
Total funds carried forward	181,018	12,063	—	193,081	200,702

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, as they are not required due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Balance sheet (Summary)

As at: 31 December 2022

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	21,859	29,964
	<u>21,859</u>	<u>29,964</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	3,180	3,751
Cash at bank and in hand	150,955	159,504
	<u>154,135</u>	<u>163,256</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	133	138
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>154,002</u>	<u>163,117</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>175,861</u>	<u>193,081</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>175,861</u>	<u>193,081</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	22,212	30,891
Designated		
Designated - Improvement Fund	2,291	4,946
Designated - Project Fund	123,867	129,163
Designated - Haughley Fund	—	—
Designated - Growth Fund	8,500	8,500
Designated - Commitment for Life Fund	—	—
Designated - Pirmasens Fund	494	494
Designated - Organ Fund	4,377	4,377
Designated - Pastorate Fund	2,446	2,644
Restricted		
Restricted - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	2,010	1,999
Restricted - Coupland Fund	231	231
Restricted - Foord Fund	9,430	9,831
Funds of the charity	<u>175,861</u>	<u>193,081</u>

Note: Trustees agreed that Restricted and Designated Funds are correct Accounts *agreed*

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.....

Date.....

Revd: Robert Sheard

Chairman

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

As at: 31 December 2022

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
FA032014 : Balcony Rails	—	588	—	—	588	1,059
FA042014 : Staging	—	485	—	—	485	849
FA102020 : Kitchenette	—	10,496	—	—	10,496	11,995
FA2013 : New Church Chairs	—	1,217	—	—	1,217	3,043
FA2017 : HP Photocopier	242	—	—	—	242	824
FA2020 : Church Technology	—	4,620	—	—	4,620	6,930
FA2021 : New Church Microphone and Camera	—	4,209	—	—	4,209	5,261
Total	242	21,617	—	—	21,859	29,964
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
C30 : CAF General Cash Account	(128,698)	117,813	11,884	—	1,000	1,000
C31 : CAF Gold Account	56,191	—	389	—	56,581	70,724
C34 : CAF Pastorate Account	—	2,446	—	—	2,446	2,644
C36 : TSB Petty Cash Account	6,440	100	(467)	—	6,072	135
C37 : TSB Business Instant Access Savings	84,855	—	—	—	84,855	85,000
Total	18,789	120,360	11,805	—	150,955	159,504
Current assets - Debtors						
Z05 : Accounts Receivable	3,180	—	—	—	3,180	3,751
Total	3,180	—	—	—	3,180	3,751
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	133	—	133	85
Total	—	—	133	—	133	85
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Z04 : Accounts Payable	—	—	—	—	—	53
Total	—	—	—	—	—	53
Net total assets	22,212	141,977	11,672	—	175,861	193,081

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Income and endowments						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
B7 - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	—	—	11	—	11	—
D1 - Donations Received	2,694	—	—	—	2,694	1,560
D2 - Donations allocated to Specific Funds	—	—	—	—	—	270
F3 - Freewill Offering	34,571	—	—	—	34,571	34,593
G6 - Gift Day	3,945	—	—	—	3,945	4,234
W3 - Commitment for Life	—	132	—	—	132	312
<i>Donations and legacies Totals</i>	41,210	132	11	—	41,354	40,970
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
C1 - Coffee Mornings	2,337	—	—	—	2,337	1,207
P8 - Premises Letting	14,776	—	—	—	14,776	8,090
S1 - Special Fund Raising Events	547	—	—	—	547	624
S5 - SHCT (Cycle Ride)	150	—	—	—	150	132
W2 - Wide Horizons	983	—	—	—	983	—
<i>Other trading activities Totals</i>	18,794	—	—	—	18,794	10,055
<i>Investments</i>						
I12 - Int on Manse account at Synod	3,790	—	—	—	3,790	3,737
I5 - Int on TSB Business Instant Access	355	—	—	—	355	88
I6 - Interest on CAF Gold a/c	249	—	—	—	249	12
I7 - Interest on CAF Cash a/c	0	—	—	—	0	—
Y1 - Yaxley Trust	208	—	—	—	208	342
<i>Investments Totals</i>	4,605	—	—	—	4,605	4,181
<i>Other income</i>						
C20 - Church Projects Income	—	—	—	—	—	1,500
F4 - Funerals	300	—	—	—	300	240
H2 - HMRC Job Retention Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	3,507
I1 - Income Tax Gift Aid Refund	7,522	—	—	—	7,522	7,744
L2 - Loss of 2020/21 Income Insurance Claim	7,478	—	—	—	7,478	7,700
M1 - Magazines	—	—	—	—	—	25
M8 - Miscellaneous Income	—	—	—	—	—	10
P28 - Pastorate Group Income	—	6,796	—	—	6,796	6,806
T1 - Transfers from Pastorate	1,809	—	—	—	1,809	845
<i>Other income Totals</i>	17,109	6,796	—	—	23,906	28,379
Income and endowments	81,720	6,929	11	—	88,661	83,586
Grand totals						

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Expenditure on charitable activities						
A05 - Church Office	894	—	—	—	894	705
B07 - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	—	—	—	—	—	44
C020 - Church Projects Expenditure	—	433	—	—	433	—
D01 - Donations Made	30	—	—	—	30	152
D02 - Donations allocated to specific funds	—	—	—	—	—	20
F06 - Foord exp	—	—	401	—	401	368
M010 - Manse Costs not shared from 1/10/12	3,992	—	—	—	3,992	5,469
M04 - Ministerial Costs/Expenses	1,374	—	—	—	1,374	1,365
M08 - Miscellaneous Exp	354	—	—	—	354	173
O03 - Organ & Piano Upkeep	362	—	—	—	362	260
O1 - Organist	2,080	—	—	—	2,080	735
P010 - Premises Water	499	—	—	—	499	929
P013 - Pulpit Supply	696	—	—	—	696	553
P027 - Heating Repairs	528	—	—	—	528	710
P03 - Premises Cleaning	537	—	—	—	537	474
P04 - Premises Electricity	2,173	—	—	—	2,173	1,638
P05 - Premises Fire Precautions	649	—	—	—	649	844
P06 - Premises Repair	6,428	—	—	—	6,428	4,435
P07 - Premises Heating	12,936	—	—	—	12,936	7,551
P09 - Premises Telephone/Broadband	1,614	—	—	—	1,614	1,012
S07 - Salaries	10,582	—	—	—	10,582	9,436
W03 - Commitment for Life	—	132	—	—	132	312
W04 - Worship Miscellaneous	850	—	—	—	850	623
Y02 - Youth and Children	50	—	—	—	50	169
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	46,633	566	401	—	47,601	37,986
Other expenditure						
B01 - Bookkeeper	322	—	—	—	322	—
B08 - Bank Charges	82	—	—	—	82	98
D03 - Depreciation	581	7,522	—	—	8,104	7,052
E01 - Employee Income Tax Paid	594	—	—	—	594	490
I02 - Insurance	5,109	—	—	—	5,109	4,840
M07 - Ministry & Mission fund	32,856	—	—	—	32,856	30,852
P028 - Pastorate Group Expenditure	—	6,995	—	—	6,995	5,660
T01 - Transfers to Pastorate account	4,215	—	—	—	4,215	4,226
Other expenditure Totals	43,761	14,518	—	—	58,280	53,221
Expenditure Grand totals	90,394	15,084	401	—	105,881	91,207

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Paid employees

Staff Costs

Salaries and wages

Social security costs

Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)

Other employee benefits

Total staff costs

This year £	Last year £
10583	9927
0	0
0	0
0	0
10583	9927

Band	Number of employees
£2000 to £6000	1
£6000 to £10,000	1

Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	0.62	0.62
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	0.62	0.62

The church used the services of one part-time cleaner to clean the premises, and a part-time Church Administrator to run the Church Office.

We do not run a defined contribution Pension Scheme

Trustee expenses.

There was no trustee's remuneration in the year ended 31st December 2022

Fees for examination of the accounts

The independent examiner fees.

	2021	2022
Independent examiner's fee	150	300+vat

Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land & buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year 1/1/2022	75495	55607	131102
Additions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revaluations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposals	55792	13987	69779
Transfers *	0.00	0.00	0.00
At end of the year 31/12/2022	19703	41620	61323
**Basis	SL	SL	SL
** Rate	10%	10% & 20%	10% & 20%

At beginning of the year 1/1/2022	62440	38698	101138
Disposals	55792	13987	69779
Depreciation	1970	6134	8104
At end of the year 31/12/2022	8618	30845	39463
Net book value at the beginning of the year	13055	16909	29964
Net book value at the end of the year 2022	11085	10775	21860

Items 1, 2 and 3 listed below are assets held by the URC (Eastern Province) Trust as the Custodian Trustees of these assets and hence these items do not appear in the balance sheet of this church. Fixtures, fittings and equipment purchased since 1st January 2001 have been capitalized, subject to the following:

- (a) The item has a value >£1000 (previously > £500)
 - (b) The item does not represent a maintenance, or replacement item.
 - (c) If the item is a gift of equipment, or money to purchase equipment it must add significantly to the existing overall value of the church premises, or have a significant immediate realisable value.
1. The Freehold and contents in the Church in Ipswich Street.
 2. The Freehold of the Manse in Temple Road.
 3. £117k invested by the Synod in COIF Bank. (The income alone is expendable, allowable by existing URC policy- may be subject to change).

The church does not have a policy for revaluation of assets.

Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

2022	2021
£	£
0.00	0.00
1258	1194
1922	2558
Total	3752

Creditors and accruals

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

Analysis of creditors

Bank loans and overdrafts

Accruals and deferred income

Taxation and social security

Other creditors

Total

Amounts falling due within one year	
2022	2021
£	£
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	53
Total	53

There is no Security over assets:

Endowment and Restricted Funds

The church has no Endowment Funds

Grant-making policy

Grants made to institutions in a given year are agreed at a Church Meeting.

PASTORATE ACCOUNT 2022

INCOME

B/fwd from 2021	£2,644.83
Income from Pastorate	£6,795.15
Interest	£1.80
Total	£9,441.78

EXPENDITURE

Worship	£0.00	
Council Tax	£2,029.92	
Telephone	£606.42	
Travel	£561.60	
Anglia Water	£279.85	
manse Brown bin	£54.50	
Stationery/ Admin	£213.40	
Books/Software	£195.49	
Monthly bank charges	£81.00	
Others	£2,973.33	(refund to churches/synod gathering)
Total expenditure	£6,995.51	

Balance sheet 2022

B/fwd from 2020	£2,644.83
Income	£6,796.95
Expenditure	-£6,995.51
C/fwd to 2023	£2,446.27

Anne Scarff (Treasurer)

BENEVOLENT COLLECTIONS FOR OTHER CHARITIES 2022.

The figures below are not included in the Main Accounts. They are classed as Agency Collections as the church collection is on behalf of charities.

DECEMBER 2021 EACH	£345 (paid in 2022)
JANUARY LOCAL NEEDS	£11
FEBRUARY STROKE	£85.70
MARCH ST. ELIZ	£118
APRIL YANA	£97
MAY CHRISTIAN A	£485.06
JUNE TWAM	£123.21
JULY FAMILIES	£147
AUGUST AIR AMBULANCE	£98.94
SEPTEMBER FOOD BANK	£236.85
OCTOBER PARKINSON	£77.51
NOVEMBER BIBLE SOCIETY	£24.37
CYCLE RIDE	£150
UKRAINE	£1040
C4L	£132.50
Total	£3322.14

Stowmarket URC Charity
Independent Examiner's Report
Year ending 31st December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stowmarket URC Charity

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stowmarket URC Charity for the year ended 31st December 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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.

Matthew Aldous

Matthew Aldous
FMAAT
5 Market Place
STOWMARKET
Suffolk

6th April 2023

STOWMARKET URC CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1157857

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
		Day 1st	Month January	Year 2021	Day 31st	Month December	Year 2021
From					To		

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Stowmarket United Reformed Church
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1157857
Charity's principal address	Ipswich Street
	Stowmarket
	Suffolk
Postcode	IP14 1AD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1.	The Revd Robert Sheard	Chair		Church Meeting
2	Miss Anne Scarff	Secretary		Church Meeting
3	Mrs Mary Durrant	Assistant Secretary		Church Meeting
4	Mrs Janet Webb			Church Meeting
5	Mrs Helen Freeman			Church Meeting
6	Mr John Webb			Church Meeting
7	Mrs Jane Gurney			Church Meeting
8	Mrs Margaret Jackson			Church Meeting
9	Mrs Joyce Gardiner			Church Meeting
10	Mr Michael Martin			Church Meeting
11	Mrs Lois Muller			Church Meeting
12	Mr Keith Scarff			Church Meeting
13	Mrs Linda Baxter			Church Meeting

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Eastern Synod URC	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent examiner	Lorraine Baker	32 Chillton Avenue, Stowmarket IP14 1LB

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by Church Members at Church Meeting.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Activities of the church are overseen by the Elders' Meeting of the Church in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and supplemented by the Stowmarket URC constitution.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, the care and maintenance of Church premises and the manse. The Elders report to the Church Meeting (all church members are entitled to attend) which has overall decision making and gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church.

Groups (Buildings, Community and People, Discipleship, Finance, Publicity and Promotion) look at aspects of church matters and report to the Elders meeting. From July 2021 new groups were agreed to supersede the previous groups and oversee the life of the church, namely: Buildings, Finance, Spirituality and Social/Outreach with Fundraising.

The Finance Group review financial practice using guidance from Charity Commission. A Financial review was held in November 2021 based on cc8.

The Elders of the church are Church Members and Trustees. Elders normally serve a 3year period and then are able to be re-nominated. All Elders, and therefore Trustees, are nominated by Church Members and elected at a Church Meeting.

The Minister is a Trustee and is the Chair of both Elders and Church meetings.

The Church is a congregation of the United Reformed Church.

All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches' and employees' insurance.

An annual review of the Safeguarding policy is carried out and our procedures are certificated by SAFEcic.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have regard to the guidance by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

The Charity is a Public benefit Entity - we are set up to benefit the general public.

Our activities include:

- Providing regular public worship for all.
- Promoting the Christian Faith.
- Teaching the faith to all ages.
- Providing training, nurture and activities for children and young people.
- Serving the community.
- Giving pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty.
- Providing premises and resources for community groups and activities.

We are not aware of any detriment or harm resulting from the implementation of our purposes.

We have one Trustee who is employed by the church as an Administrator. The role pre-dates her appointment as Trustee. At times during the year she was furloughed and claims were made under the Coronavirus job retention Scheme. Our Minister is paid expenses incurred in the fulfilment of his ministry. Otherwise, no Trustee benefitted from work at the church and there were no personal benefits paid to Trustees.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Coronavirus pandemic impacted all the activities of the church. Our Covid -secure procedures closed the building, except for worship, for parts of the year for the general public.

We rely on volunteers for our activities. These run our Fund Raising activities.

We do not offer grants.

We regularly review our finances to maximise them.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We provided regular Public Worship for all. The worship is led by trained ministers, or lay people who adhere to the central messages of the Christian faith. While in lockdown services were on Zoomed to those able to receive the service. We continue to offer a zoomed service now we are back in church.

We promoted the Christian faith. When we were able we taught the Faith to all ages through Services, Meetings, Bible study groups, and Children's Activities. Children's activities include: Family Church, "Messy Church" and "Open the Book", the latter involves a group from the Church enacting Bible stories at some of the local Primary Schools. Unfortunately Open the Book has been severely curtailed due to Covid.

We served the Community by providing opportunities for quiet reflection when we were able to do so.. We provided a location for baptisms, weddings and funeral services, irrespective of whether the individuals have strong Christian beliefs, or not. We supported the Stowmarket Food Bank.

We provided a venue for a Charity Christmas day dinner which was taken to those on their own.

Except during lockdown or Plan B arrangements we provide opportunities for the community to come together over refreshments.

We continued to give pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress, or poverty

When we were able to be open we provided premises and resources for community groups and activities. The Church allowed local schools, a Dance School, Choirs, U3A, and other organisations to use part(s) of the church premises.

Organisations hired part of the premises for a variety of events and activities. A number of Concerts have been held on our premises.

Most of our main fund raising events have had to be cancelled.

Some Charity enterprises were offered facilities free of charge or at a reduced rate.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We retain £10,000 in our accounts as reserves to meet unexpected demands of a general nature.

Designated funds are held for :Growth; Improvement; Projects; Building; Commitment for Life; Organ; and Pirmasens.

In addition we have historic Restricted funds for Local Needs Benevolent; Coupland; Foord;

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal sources of income are through free will offerings, hire of premises and fundraising. During this financial year we have not always been able to hire out our building on so many occasions as pre-covid

A proportion of our income (approx. 1/3rd) is used exclusively for Ministry and Mission within the wider URC.

We use CAF banking for deposits.

For 2021 Income was £83,586 and expenditure £91,207. Covid continued to impact on our income resulting in Reserves being used.

Section F Other optional information

During the year a new camera was installed to enhance the experience on Zoom and on the screens in church.

Some plans for the year have been curtailed due to the ongoing presence of covid. A number of activities usually evident during the year have not been possible.

During the year we reviewed our banking arrangements and made some changes to ensure we gained maximum benefit from our finances.

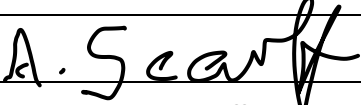
The Finance Groups reviewed the financial arrangements of the church and made some adjustments to our procedures which were shared with the Elders. One improvement will be a monitoring of our finances against our budget on a more regular basis.

Despite a loss in income we are a going concern.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Anne Maureen Scarff	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	14/03/2022	



Stowmarket URC Charity, Registered Charity No 1157857

Stowmarket United Reformed Church

Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

Suffolk, IP14 1AD

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2021

Accounts based on Accrual Accounting FRS102 SORP 2015

**The accounts are prepared in accordance with Charity Law by Ann
Waller, Church Treasurer, January 2022**

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021	2020
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	40,970	—	—	40,970	37,629
Other trading activities	10,055	—	—	10,055	7,916
Investments	4,181	—	—	4,181	4,382
Other income	28,379	—	—	28,379	5,337
Total income	83,586	—	—	83,586	65,266
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	—	—	—	—	45
Expenditure on charitable activities	37,572	413	—	37,986	50,737
Other expenditure	53,221	—	—	53,221	50,188
Total expenditure	90,793	413	—	91,207	100,970
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(7,207)	(413)	—	(7,620)	(35,704)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	10,000	—	—	10,000	33,010
Gross transfers between funds - out	(10,000)	—	—	(10,000)	(33,010)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	(7,207)	(413)	—	(7,620)	(35,704)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	188,225	12,476	—	200,702	236,406
Total funds carried forward	181,018	12,063	—	193,081	200,702

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, as they are not required due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Prior year funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2020	2019
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
Donations and legacies	37,592	37	—	37,629	37,906
Other trading activities	7,916	—	—	7,916	25,629
Investments	4,382	—	—	4,382	4,476
Other income	15,337	—	—	15,337	62,445
Total income	65,229	37	—	65,266	130,457
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Raising funds	45	—	—	45	595
Expenditure on charitable activities	50,444	293	—	50,737	99,664
Other expenditure	50,188	—	—	50,188	43,680
Total expenditure	100,677	293	—	100,970	143,940
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(35,448)	(256)	—	(35,704)	(13,483)
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	21,010	12,000	—	33,010	47,293
Gross transfers between funds - out	(33,010)	—	—	(33,010)	(47,293)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>					
Net movement in funds	(47,448)	11,743	—	(35,704)	(13,483)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward	235,674	732	—	236,406	249,890
Total funds carried forward	188,225	12,476	—	200,702	236,406

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, are not necessary due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Balance sheet (Summary)
As at: 31 December 2021

	As at 31/12/2021 £	As at 31/12/2020 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	29,964	31,754
	<u>29,964</u>	<u>31,754</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	3,751	3,620
Cash at bank and in hand	159,504	165,559
	<u>163,256</u>	<u>169,180</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	138	232
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>163,117</u>	<u>168,947</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>193,081</u>	<u>200,702</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>193,081</u>	<u>200,702</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	30,891	19,473
Designated		
Designated - Improvement Fund	4,946	7,607
Designated - Project Fund	129,163	146,273
Designated - Haughley Fund	—	—
Designated - Growth Fund	8,500	8,500
Designated - Commitment for Life Fund	—	—
Designated - Pirmasens Fund	494	494
Designated - Organ Fund	4,377	4,377
Designated - Pastorate Fund	2,644	1,498
Restricted		
Restricted - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	1,999	2,044
Restricted - Coupland Fund	231	231
Restricted - Foord Fund	9,831	10,200
Funds of the charity	<u>193,081</u>	<u>200,702</u>

Note: Trustees agreed that Restricted and Designated Funds are correct.

Accounts agreed:

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Date: 14.3.2022

Revd: Robert Sheard Chairman

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

As at: 31 December 2021

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Balcony Rails	—	1,059	—	—	1,059	1,530
Staging	—	849	—	—	849	1,212
Kitchenette	—	11,995	—	—	11,995	13,494
New Church Chairs	—	3,043	—	—	3,043	4,869
HP Photocopier	824	—	—	—	824	1,406
Church Technology	—	6,930	—	—	6,930	9,241
New Church Microphone and Camera	—	5,261	—	—	5,261	—
Total	824	29,139	—	—	29,964	31,754
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
CAF General Cash Account	(129,770)	118,322	12,448	—	1,000	650
CAF Gold Account	70,724	—	—	—	70,724	163,144
CAF Pastorate Account	—	2,644	—	—	2,644	1,498
TSB Petty Cash Account	414	20	(299)	—	135	266
TSB Business Instant Access Savings	85,000	—	—	—	85,000	—
Total	26,368	120,987	12,148	—	159,504	165,559
Current assets - Debtors						
Z05 Accounts Receivable	3,751	—	—	—	3,751	3,620
Total	3,751	—	—	—	3,751	3,620
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 Agency collections	—	—	85	—	85	—
Total	—	—	85	—	85	—
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Z04 Accounts Payable	53	—	—	—	53	232
Total	53	—	—	—	53	232
Net total assets	30,891	150,127	12,063	—	193,081	200,702

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2021 to 31 December
2021

Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Income and endowments						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Local Needs Benevolent Fund	—	—	—	—	—	37
Donations Received	1,560	—	—	—	1,560	2,418
Donations allocated to Specific Funds	270	—	—	—	270	12
Freewill Offering	34,593	—	—	—	34,593	34,779
Gift Day	4,234	—	—	—	4,234	247
Legacies Received	—	—	—	—	—	10
Commitment for Life	—	312	—	—	312	125
<i>Donations and legacies Totals</i>	40,657	312	—	—	40,970	37,629
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
Coffee Mornings	1,207	—	—	—	1,207	1,384
Premises Letting	8,090	—	—	—	8,090	6,107
Special Fund Raising Events	624	—	—	—	624	277
SHCT (Cycle Ride)	132	—	—	—	132	147
<i>Other trading activities Totals</i>	10,055	—	—	—	10,055	7,916
<i>Investments</i>						
Int on Manse account at Synod	3,737	—	—	—	3,737	3,644
Int on TSB Business Instant Access	88	—	—	—	88	—
Interest on CAF Gold a/c	12	—	—	—	12	156
Yaxley Trust	342	—	—	—	342	582
<i>Investments Totals</i>	4,181	—	—	—	4,181	4,382
<i>Other income</i>						
Church Projects Income	—	1,500	—	—	1,500	—
Funerals	240	—	—	—	240	120
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	3,507	—	—	—	3,507	5,152
Income Tax Gift Aid Refund	7,744	—	—	—	7,744	7,724
Loss of 2020/21 Income Insurance Claim	7,700	—	—	—	7,700	—
Magazines	25	—	—	—	25	7
Miscellaneous Income	10	—	—	—	10	15
Pastorate Group Income	—	6,806	—	—	6,806	2,318
Transfers from Pastorate	845	—	—	—	845	—
<i>Other income Totals</i>	20,073	8,306	—	—	28,379	15,337
Income and endowments	74,967	8,618	—	—	83,586	65,266
Grand totals						

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
<i>Raising funds</i>						
S03 - Special Fund Raising Events	—	—	—	—	—	45
<i>Raising funds Totals</i>	—	—	—	—	—	45
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>						
Church Office	705	—	—	—	705	932
Local Needs Benevolent Fund	—	—	44	—	44	50
Church Projects Expenditure	—	—	—	—	—	5,915
Church Publicity	—	—	—	—	—	79
Donations Made	152	—	—	—	152	150
Donations allocated to specific funds	20	—	—	—	20	12
Food exp	—	—	368	—	368	243
Manse Costs not shared from 1/10/12	669	4,800	—	—	5,469	9,110
Ministerial Costs/Expenses	1,365	—	—	—	1,365	682
Miscellaneous Exp	173	—	—	—	173	570
Organ & Piano Upkeep	260	—	—	—	260	—
Organist	735	—	—	—	735	665
Premises Water	929	—	—	—	929	502
Pulpit Supply	553	—	—	—	553	509
Heating Repairs	710	—	—	—	710	—
Premises Cleaning	474	—	—	—	474	416
Premises Electricity	1,638	—	—	—	1,638	3,718
Premises Fire Precautions	844	—	—	—	844	648
Premises Repair	4,435	—	—	—	4,435	8,796
Premises Heating	7,551	—	—	—	7,551	5,859
Premises Telephone/Broadband	1,012	—	—	—	1,012	1,222
Salaries	9,436	—	—	—	9,436	9,702
Commitment for Life	—	312	—	—	312	125
Worship Miscellaneous	623	—	—	—	623	630
Youth and Children	169	—	—	—	169	196
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities Totals</i>	32,460	5,112	413	—	37,986	50,737
<i>Other expenditure</i>						
Bank Charges	98	—	—	—	98	60
Depreciation	581	6,470	—	—	7,052	7,799
Employee Income Tax Paid	490	—	—	—	490	530
Haughley Fund Transfers	—	—	—	—	—	400
Insurance	4,840	—	—	—	4,840	4,571
Ministry & Mission fund	30,852	—	—	—	30,852	33,020
Pastorate Group Expenditure	—	5,660	—	—	5,660	2,398
Transfers to Pastorate account	4,226	—	—	—	4,226	1,408
<i>Other expenditure Totals</i>	41,090	12,130	—	—	53,221	50,188
Expenditure Grand totals	73,550	17,243	413	—	91,207	100,970

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Paid employees

Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	9927	9703
Social security costs	0	0
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	0	0
Other employee benefits	0	0
Total staff costs	9927	9703

Band	Number of employees
£2000 to £6000	1
£6000 to £10,000	1

Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	0.62	0.62
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	0.62	0.62

HMRC Job Retention Grant Received to cover period 1st January to 31st July 2021 was £3507.96. This was passed on to the employees in line with HMRC instructions.

The church used the services of one part-time cleaner to clean the premises, and a part-time Church Administrator to run the Church Office.

We do not run a defined contribution Pension Scheme

Trustee expenses.

There was no trustee's remuneration in the year ended 31st December 2021

Fees for examination of the accounts

The independent examiner fees.

Independent examiner's fee

2021	2020
150	150

Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land & buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year 1/1/2021	75495	50345	125840
Additions	0.00	5262	5262
Revaluations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers *	0.00	0.00	0.00
At end of the year 31/12/2021	75495	55607	131102
**Basis	SL	SL	SL
** Rate	10%	10% & 20%	10% & 20%

At beginning of the year 1/1/2021	60470	33616	94086
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Depreciation	1970	5082	7052
At end of the year 31/12/2021	64630	36508	101138
Net book value at the beginning of the year	15025	16729	31754
Net book value at the end of the year 2021	13055	16909	29964

Items 1, 2 and 3 listed below are assets held by the URC (Eastern Province) Trust

as the Custodian Trustees of these assets and hence these items do not appear in the balance sheet of this church. Fixtures, fittings and equipment purchased since 1st

January 2001 have been capitalized, subject to the following:

(a) The item has a value >£1000 (previously > £500)

(b) The item does not represent a maintenance, or replacement item.

(c) If the item is a gift of equipment, or money to purchase

equipment, it must add significantly to the existing

overall value of the church premises, or have a significant immediate realisable value.

1. The Freehold and contents in the Church in Ipswich Street.

2. The Freehold of the Manse in Temple Road.

3. £117k invested by the Synod in COIF Bank. (The income alone is expendable, allowable by existing URC policy- may be subject to change).

The church does not have a policy for revaluation of assets.

Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

2021	2020
£	£
0.00	0.00
1194	1141
2558	2480
Total	3752
	3621

Creditors and accruals

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

Analysis of creditors

Bank loans and overdrafts

Accruals and deferred income

Taxation and social security

Other creditors

Total

Amounts falling due within one year	
2021	2020
£	£
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
53	232
53	232

There is no Security over assets:

Endowment and Restricted Funds

The church has no Endowment Funds

Grant-making policy

Grants made to institutions in a given year are agreed at a Church Meeting.

Benevolent Collections for other Charities 2021

The figures below are not included in the Main Accounts. They are classed as Agency Collections as the church collection is on behalf of charities.

Boys Brigade & Girls Assn	106.00
East Anglian Air Ambulance	143.37
EACH	313.10
SHCT	265.00
Homestart	168.00
Stowmarket Food Bank	112.00
YANA	33.00
Bible Society	104.28
Tools with a Mission	30.00
Total	<u>£1274.75</u>

Note: These are funds received and paid to the charities above by the Stowmarket URC Charity during 2021.

STOWMARKET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stowmarket United Reformed Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31st 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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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.

Signed: *L Baker*

Name: Lorraine Baker (MAAT) License 4978

Address: 32 Chilton Avenue

Stowmarket

Suffolk

IP14 1LB

Date: 30/05/2022

STOWMARKET URC CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1157857

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
		Day 1st	Month January	Year 2020	Day 31st	Month December	Year 2020
From					To		

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Stowmarket United Reformed Church
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1157857
Charity's principal address	Ipswich Street
	Stowmarket
	Suffolk
Postcode	IP14 1AD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1.	The Revd Robert Sheard	Chair	From 1 st July 2020	Church Meeting
2	Miss Anne Scarff	Secretary		Church Meeting
3	Mrs Mary Durrant	Assistant Secretary		Church Meeting
4	Mrs Janet Webb			Church Meeting
5	Mrs Helen Freeman			Church Meeting
6	Mr John Webb			Church Meeting
7	Mrs Jane Gurney			Church Meeting
8	Mrs Margaret Jackson			Church Meeting
9	Mrs Joyce Gardiner			Church Meeting
10	Mr Michael Martin			Church Meeting
11	Mrs Lois Muller			Church Meeting
12	Mr Keith Scarff			Church Meeting
13	Mrs Linda Baxter		From July 2019	Church Meeting

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Eastern Synod URC	

--	--

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Trust

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected by Church Members at Church Meeting.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Activities of the church are overseen by the Elders' Meeting of the Church in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and supplemented by the Stowmarket URC constitution.

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

Groups (Buildings, Community and People, Discipleship, Finance, Publicity and Promotion) look at aspects of church matters and report to the Elders meeting. Elders report to Church Meeting which has overall decision making.

The Finance Group review financial practice using guidance from Charity Commission.

The Elders of the church are Church Members and Trustees. Elders normally serve a 3year period and then are able to be re-nominated. All Elders, and therefore Trustees, are nominated by Church Members and then an annual election takes place at a Church Meeting.

The Minister is a Trustee and is the Chair of both Elders and Church meetings. A new Minister has been appointed and took over as Chair in July 2020.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have regard to the guidance by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

The Charity is a Public benefit Entity - we are set up to benefit the general public.

Our activities include:

- Providing regular public worship for all.
- Promoting the Christian Faith.
- Teaching the faith to all ages.
- Providing training, nurture and activities for children and young people.
- Serving the community.
- Giving pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress or poverty.
- Providing premises and resources for community groups and activities.

We are not aware of any detriment or harm resulting from the implementation of our purposes.

No Trustee benefitted from work at the church and there were no personal benefits paid to Trustees.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We rely on volunteers for our activities. These run our Fund Raising activities.

We do not offer grants.

We regularly review our finances to maximise them.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We provided regular Public Worship for all. The worship is led by trained ministers, or lay people who adhere to the central messages of the Christian faith. While in lockdown services have been Zoomed to those able to receive the service.

We promoted the Christian faith. Up until Lockdown we taught the Faith to all ages through Services, Meetings, Bible study groups, and Children's Activities. Children's activities include: Family Church, "Messy Church" and "Open the Book", the latter involves a group from the Church enacting Bible stories at some of the local Primary Schools.

We served the Community by providing opportunities for quiet reflection and prayer at advertised times on weekdays this has continued on Zoom. We provided a location for baptisms, weddings and funeral services, irrespective of whether the individuals have strong Christian beliefs, or not. We supported the Stowmarket Food Bank.

We provided a venue for a Charity Christmas day dinner which was taken to those on their own.

Up until Lockdown we provide opportunities for the community to come together over refreshments. Currently we are holding virtual coffee mornings.

We gave pastoral care and support to members and others in need, particularly those in sickness, distress, or poverty

When we were able to be open we provided premises and resources for community groups and activities. The Church allowed local schools, a Dance School, Choirs, U3A, a fitness group and other organisations to use part(s) of the church premises. Organisations hired part of the premises for a variety of events and activities. A number of Concerts have been held on our premises including one for charity. Our main fund raising event had to be cancelled.

Some Charity enterprises were offered room/rooms free of charge or at a reduced rate.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We retain £10,000 in our accounts as reserves to meet unexpected demands of a general nature.
Designated funds are held for :Growth; Improvement; Projects; Building; Commitment for Life; Organ; and Pirmasens.
In addition we have historic Restricted funds for Local Needs Benevolent; Coupland; Foord;

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal sources of income are through free will offerings, hire of premises and fundraising. Although for much of the year we have not been able to hire out our building.

A proportion of our income (approx. 1/3rd) is used exclusively for Ministry and Mission within the wider URC.

We use CAF banking for deposits.

For 2020 Income was £65,266 and expenditure £100,970 A loss of revenue caused by Covid resulted in Reserves being used.

Section F

Other optional information

The Trustees had plans to monitor the impact of our new boiler on expenditure connected with heating. Unfortunately, Covid has meant the curtailment of services and activities so this year has not been a true reflection of normal expenditure.

A new kitchenette and technology in the Sanctuary were able to be installed during Lockdown.

Extra expenditure was incurred to ensure the Manse was brought up to standard for our new Minister.

In the coming year we aim to look at our reserves and consider how best they may be placed to ensure that we continue to gain maximum benefit from our finances.

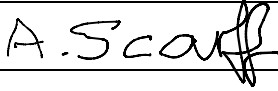
Despite a loss in income we are a going concern.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Anne Maureen Scarff	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	31/1/2021	



Stowmarket URC Charity, Registered Charity No 1157857

Stowmarket United Reformed Church

Ipswich Street

Stowmarket

Suffolk, IP14 1AD

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2020

Accounts based on Accrual Accounting FRS102 SORP 2015

**The accounts are prepared in accordance with Charity Law by Ann
Waller, Church Treasurer, January 2021**

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Prior year funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2020	2019
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	37,592	37	—	37,629	37,906
Other trading activities	7,916	—	—	7,916	25,629
Investments	4,382	—	—	4,382	4,476
Other income	15,337	—	—	15,337	62,445
Total income	65,229	37	—	65,266	130,457
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	45	—	—	45	595
Expenditure on charitable activities	50,444	293	—	50,737	99,664
Other expenditure	50,188	—	—	50,188	43,680
Total expenditure	100,677	293	—	100,970	143,940
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(35,448)	(256)	—	(35,704)	(13,483)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	21,010	12,000	—	33,010	47,293
Gross transfers between funds - out	(33,010)	—	—	(33,010)	(47,293)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	(47,448)	11,743	—	(35,704)	(13,483)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	235,674	732	—	236,406	249,890
Total funds carried forward	188,225	12,476	—	200,702	236,406

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, not necessary due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2019	2018
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
Donations and legacies	37,889	16	—	37,906	194,966
Other trading activities	25,629	—	—	25,629	26,846
Investments	4,476	—	—	4,476	4,210
Other income	62,445	—	—	62,445	9,106
Total income	130,440	16	—	130,457	235,129
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Raising funds	595	—	—	595	221
Expenditure on charitable activities	99,432	232	—	99,664	46,510
Other expenditure	43,680	—	—	43,680	48,260
Total expenditure	143,708	232	—	143,940	94,991
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(13,267)	(215)	—	(13,483)	140,138
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	47,293	—	—	47,293	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(47,293)	—	—	(47,293)	—
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>					
Net movement in funds	(13,267)	(215)	—	(13,483)	140,138
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward	248,941	948	—	249,890	109,751
Total funds carried forward	235,674	732	—	236,406	249,890

Statement of Cashflows has not been included, not necessary due to thresholds.

There are no related party transactions

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Balance sheet (Summary)

As at: 31 December 2020

	As at 31/12/2020	As at 31/12/2019
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	31,754	13,007
	31,754	13,007
Current assets		
Debtors	3,620	32,408
Cash at bank and in hand	165,559	195,388
	169,180	227,796
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	232	4,397
Net current assets less current liabilities	168,947	223,399
Total assets less current liabilities	200,702	236,406
Total net assets less liabilities	200,702	236,406
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	19,473	62,821
Designated		
Designated - Improvement Fund	7,607	10,267
Designated - Project Fund	146,273	155,233
Designated - Haughley Fund		400
Designated - Growth Fund	8,500	500
Designated - Commitment for Life Fund		
Designated - Pirmasens Fund	494	494
Designated - Organ Fund	4,377	4,377
Designated - Pastorate Fund	1,498	1,578
Restricted		
Restricted - Local Needs Benevolent Fund	2,044	57
Restricted - Coupland Fund	231	231
Restricted - Foord Fund	10,200	443
Funds of the charity	200,702	236,406

Note: Trustees agreed that Restricted and Designated Funds are correct Accounts agreed

Signed on behalf of the Trustees 

8th February 2021

Revd: Robert Sheard

Chairman

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

As at: 31 December 2020

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Balcony Rails	—	1,530	—	—	1,530	2,001
Staging	—	1,212	—	—	1,212	1,576
Kitchenette	—	13,494	—	—	13,494	—
New Ovens for kitchen	—	—	—	—	—	593
New Church Chairs	—	4,869	—	—	4,869	6,695
Ricoh Photocopier	—	—	—	—	—	154
HP Photocopier	1,406	—	—	—	1,406	1,987
Church Technology	—	9,241	—	—	9,241	—
Total	1,406	30,348	—	—	31,754	13,007
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
C30 CAF General Cash Account	(148,856)	137,029	12,476	—	650	628
C31 CAF Gold Account	163,144	—	—	—	163,144	192,915
C34 CAF Pastorate Account	—	1,498	—	—	1,498	1,578
C36 TSB Petty Cash Account	266	—	—	—	266	266
Total	14,554	138,528	12,476	—	165,559	195,388
Current assets - Debtors						
Z05 Accounts Receivable	3,620	—	—	—	3,620	32,408
Total	3,620	—	—	—	3,620	32,408
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 Agency collections	—	—	—	—	—	179
Total	—	—	—	—	—	179
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Z04 : Accounts Payable	107	125	—	—	232	4,218
Total	107	125	—	—	232	4,218
Net total assets	19,473	168,752	12,476	—	200,702	236,406

The United Reformed Church Stowmarket - 1157857

Analysis of income and expenditure

Selected period: 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2020	Total 2019
Income and endowments						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
B7 - Local Needs Benevolent Fund			37		37	16
C15 - Collections Special						210
01 - Donations Received	2,418				2,418	1,338
02 - Donations allocated to Specific Funds	12				12	
F3 - Freewill Offering	34,779				34,779	32,939
G6- Gift Day	247				247	2,524
LI - Legacies Received	10				10	
W3 - Commitment for Life		125			125	767
Y2 - Youth and Childrens Work						109
<i>Donations and legacies Totals</i>	37,467	125	37		37,629	37,906
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
C1 - Coffee Mornings	1,384				1,384	6,988
PB - Premises Letting	5,764				5,764	15,210
S1 - Special Fund Raising Events	277				277	1,376
S5- SHCT (Cycle Ride)	147				147	143
W2 - Wide Horizons						1,911
<i>Other trading activities Totals</i>	7,573				7,573	25,629
<i>Investments</i>						
112 - Int on Manse account at Synod	3,644				3,644	3,564
16 - Interest on CAF Gold a/c	156				156	329
Y1 - Yaxley Trust	582				582	582
<i>Investments Totals</i>	4,382				4,382	4,476
<i>Other income</i>						
F4 - Funerals	120				120	195
H2 - HMRC Job Retention Scheme	5,152				5,152	
11 - Income Tax Gift Aid Refund	7,724				7,724	7,675
M1 - Magazines	7				7	17
MB - Miscellaneous Income	15				15	61
P28 - Pastorate Group Income		2,318			2,318	2,234
P29 - Premises Electric Insurance Claim						429
P30 - Premises Water Insurance Claim						377
P31 - Heating Repairs Insurance Claim						51,235
T4 - Transfers & Credits to TSB Petty Cash						100
W1 - Weddings						120
<i>Other income Totals</i>	13,018	2,318			15,337	62,445
Income and endowments Grand totals	62,442	2,443	37		64,923	130,457

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Paid employees

Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	9703	9278
Social security costs	0	0
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	0	0
Other employee benefits	0	0
Total staff costs	9703	9278

Band	Number of employees
£2000 to £6000	1
£6000 to £10,000	1

Average head count in the year		This year Number	Last year Number
The parts of the charity in which the employees work	Fundraising	-	-
	Charitable Activities	0.62	0.62
	Governance	-	-
	Other	-	-
	Total	0.62	0.62

HMRC Job Retention Grant Received to cover period 23rd March to 31st Dec 2020 was £5152.00. This was passed on to the employees in line with HMRC instructions.

The church used the services of one part-time cleaner to clean the premises, and a part-time Church Administrator to run the Church Office.

We do not run a defined contribution Pension Scheme

Trustee expenses.

There was no trustee's remuneration in the year ended 31st December 2020

Fees for examination of the accounts

The independent examiner fees.

	2020	2019
Independent examiner's fee	150	150

Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land & buildings	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At the beginning of the year 1/1/2020	60500	38794	99294
Additions	14995	11551	26546
Revaluations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers *	0.00	0.00	0.00
At end of the year 31/12/2020	75495	50345	125840
**Basis	SL	SL	SL
** Rate	10%	10% & 20%	10% & 20%

At beginning of the year 1/1/2020	58499	27787	86286
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Depreciation	1970	5829	7799
At end of the year 31/12/2020	60470	33616	94086
Net book value at the beginning of the year	2001	11007	13008
Net book value at the end of the year 2020	15025	16729	31754

Items 1, 2 and 3 listed below are assets held by the URC (Eastern Province) Trust as the Custodian Trustees of these assets and hence these items do not appear in the balance sheet of this church. Fixtures, fittings and equipment purchased since 1st January 2001 have been capitalized, subject to the following:

- (a) The item has a value >£1000 (previously > £500)
 - (b) The item does not represent a maintenance, or replacement item.
 - (c) If the item is a gift of equipment, or money to purchase equipment, it must add significantly to the existing overall value of the church premises, or have a significant immediate realisable value.
1. The Freehold and contents in the Church in Ipswich Street.
 2. The Freehold of the Manse in Temple Road.
 3. £117k invested by the Synod in COIF Bank. (The income alone is expendable, allowable by existing URC policy- may be subject to change).

The church does not have a policy for revaluation of assets.

Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

2020	2019
£	£
0.00	0.00
1141	1060
2480	31348
Total	3621
	32408

Creditors and accruals

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

Analysis of creditors

Bank loans and overdrafts

Accruals and deferred income

Taxation and social security

Other creditors

Total

Amounts falling due within one year	
2020	2019
£	£
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00
0.00	0.58
232	4160
Total	4218

There is no Security over assets:

Endowment and Restricted Funds

The church has no Endowment Funds

Grant-making policy

Grants made to institutions in a given year are agreed at a Church Meeting.

Benevolent Collections for other Charities 2020

The figures below are not included in the Main Accounts. They are classed as Agency Collections as the church collection is on behalf of charities.

Boys Brigade & Girls Assn	50.00
Christian Aid	401.08
Marys Meals	200.41
SHCT	285.00
Stroke Association	136.38
Stowmarket Food Bank	50.00
St Elizabeth Hospice	170.00
Total	<u>£1292.87</u>

Note: These are funds received and paid to the charities above by the Stowmarket URC Charity during 2020.

PASTORATE ACCOUNT
2020

INCOME

B/fwd from 2019	1578.48
Income from Chapels & Stowmarket etc	2318.80
Total Income 2020	3897.28

EXPENDITURE

Council Tax	1131.76
Telephone	286.32
Travel	87.30
Anglia Water	269.73
Manse Brown Bin	44.10
Stationery & Books	113.19
Other	126.95
New Laptop	279.00
Monthly Bank Charges	60.00
Total Expenditure	2398.35

Balance Sheet 2019

b/fwd from 2020	1578.48
Income	2318.80
Expenditure	(2398.35))
c/fwd to 2021	£1498.93

Ann Waller

Treasurer