



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

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

<p>The Church is a congregation of the United Reformed Church.</p> <p>All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches' and employees' insurance.</p> <p>An annual review of the Safeguarding policy is carried out.</p>
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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.

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)
Transfers					
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

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