

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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Registered Charity No: 1162065

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

TRUSTEES

Sorrel Eyres
Jill Fresen
Jonathan Herring
Kirsten Johnson
Rosemary Knagg
Adrian Moore
David North
Andrew Smith
Gordon Woods

REGISTERED ADDRESS

St Columba's United Reformed Church
Alfred Street
Oxford
OX1 4EH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Ian Parkinson

BANKERS

CAF Bank Ltd
Virgin Money

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Charitable Status

St Columba's Oxford United Reformed Charity is a charity, registered in England, number 1162065.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the year ended 31 December 2023 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Sorrel Eyres

Jill Fresen

Jonathan Herring

Kirsten Johnson

Rosemary Knagg

Adrian Moore

David North

Andrew Smith

Gordon Woods

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was established by a governing document (Constitution) adopted on 23 February 2014. It was formed in order to acquire the assets and liabilities of St Columba's United Reformed Church, Oxford, an excepted charity.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the church meeting; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

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. It carries out this purpose by providing a place where all are welcome to participate in regular public worship.

The charity serves the whole community by hiring out premises and providing services for a wide range of community groups and activities. It has an active ministry within the LGBT community, which is being developed by the charity's Outreach Worker.

Achievements and performance

The charity has maintained a regular pattern of worship and witness to its members and to the wider community, both through worship in the church buildings, and through services and other activities provided online. Numbers participating in regular Sunday worship, notably students and younger people, have held up well, and several House Groups have also met on a regular basis.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in dealing with children and vulnerable adults.

The Finance and Property Committee regularly monitors the income both from member contributions and from future potential hiring income, as well as keeping a tight rein on premises expenditure; appropriate safeguarding measures remain in place.

Financial Review

All the assets and liabilities of St Columba's United Reformed Church, Oxford were transferred to the charity on 28 February 2016.

Income for the year included legacies of £10,500, and totalled £162,490 (2022 £136,463); expenditure totalled £161,876 (2022 £136,372), and included the installation of a new audio visual system at a cost of £16,381. The resulting surplus of £614 (2022 surplus of £91) has been added to reserves, resulting in funds carried forward of £132,224, of which £5,949 were restricted funds.

Voluntary income, mostly from church members, held up well, and income from hirings for the year increased to £56,215 (2022 £44,863). The only abnormal item of expenditure was the AV system referred to above.

The Trustees are satisfied that the unrestricted fund balance of £124,908, representing almost 12 months of normal expenditure, is more than adequate to underpin future activities, and accordingly that the charity remains a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report.

Plans for Future Periods

The emphasis of the charity will continue to be on keeping its worshippers together, by means of worship and other resources delivered online and/or in the church buildings, and to develop further its outreach focussed on the wider community, in furtherance of its core objectives.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

Ian Parkinson has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 21 September 2024, and signed by order of the Trustees by:



.....
Adrian Moore, Trustee & Joint Church Secretary



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

St Columba's Oxford United Reformed Charity

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1162065

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

07/09/2024

Name:

Ian Parkinson

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Voluntary Income	2	88,492	7,240	95,732	83,215
Activities for Generating Funds	3	62,422	3,226	65,648	52,918
Investment Income	4	1,110		1,110	330
TOTAL INCOME		152,024	10,466	162,490	136,463
EXPENDITURE					
Cost of generating funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	5, 6	145,403	16,473	161,876	136,372
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		145,403	16,473	161,876	136,372
Net Income before Transfers		6,621	(6,007)	614	91
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		6,621	(6,007)	614	91
Transfers Between Funds	7			-	-
Net Incoming Resources After Transfers		6,621	(6,007)	614	91
Total Funds Brought Forward		119,654	11,956	131,610	131,519
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£126,275	£5,949	£132,224	£131,610

The accounting policies and notes on pages 7-9 form part of the financial statements.
Detailed comparative figures for the Statement of Financial Activities are shown on page 10.

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets		0	0
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	35,567	19,713
Cash at Bank and in Hand			
Deposit Accounts		97,163	107,073
Current Account		4,462	6,396
		<u>137,192</u>	<u>133,182</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Falling due within one year	9	<u>(4,968)</u>	<u>(1,572)</u>
Net Current Assets		132,224	131,610
Total Assets		<u><u>£132,224</u></u>	<u><u>£131,610</u></u>

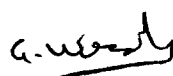
Represented by:

Unrestricted Income Funds	126,275	119,654
Restricted Income Funds	<u>5,949</u>	<u>11,956</u>
	<u><u>£132,224</u></u>	<u><u>£131,610</u></u>

The Financial Statements on Pages 5 to 10 were approved by the Trustees on 21/09/2024 and signed on their behalf by



Adrian Moore
Trustee & Joint Church Secretary



Gordon Woods
Trustee & Joint Church Secretary

The accounting policies and notes on pages 7-10 form part of the financial statements.

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and the United Reformed Church guidance. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b Fund Accounting

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

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

1c Tangible Fixed Assets

Freehold property: The Trustees of the church and manse buildings are the URC Wessex Synod Trust who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with St Columba's URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

The insured value of the church buildings (at Alfred Street, Oxford OX1 4EH) is £3,348,423 (2022: £2,989,663).

1d Incoming Resources

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received. Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received. Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified. All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

1e Resources Expended

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

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. Governance costs, if any, represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

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

1f Taxation

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

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
2 VOLUNTARY INCOME				
Offertory	45,452		45,452	45,936
Grants and donations	32,040	7,240	39,280	37,039
Legacies	10,500		10,500	0
Other	500		500	240
	88,492	7,240	95,732	83,215
3 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS				
Chaplaincy Fund	4,840	3,226	8,066	8,055
Hiring of church buildings	57,582		57,582	44,863
	62,422	3,226	65,648	52,918

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
4 INVESTMENT INCOME				
Deposit interest	1,110		1,110	330
	1,110	0	1,110	330

5 RESOURCES USED: CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

URC Ministry & Mission Fund	34,662	0	34,662	34,669
Special Collections and donations	0	7,240	7,240	2,652
Property costs (note 6)	82,982	0	82,982	65,682
Local mission costs	3,468	1,136	4,604	5,269
Outreach project	24,291	8,097	32,388	27,745
Other	0	0	0	355
	145,403	16,473	161,876	136,372

6 PROPERTY COSTS

Major systems renewals	20,522	0	20,522	8,569
Maintenance & utilities	23,435	0	23,435	23,830
Church cleaning & caretaking	13,117	0	13,117	6,842
Manse expenses (gross)	3,029	0	3,029	6,327
Church administrator & office expenses	19,842	0	19,842	15,298
Insurance	3,037	0	3,037	2,736
	82,982	0	82,982	63,602

7 DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund name	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried forward
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General	19,637	152,024	145,403	-	26,258
Centenary Appeal (des)	12,779	-	-	-	12,779
Buildings (des)	12,824	-	-	-	12,824
Insurance claim proceeds (des)	50,414	-	-	-	50,414
Emergency Reserve (des)	24,000	-	-	-	24,000
	119,654	152,024	145,403		126,275
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Children and Families	237	-	-	-	237
Commitment for Life	-	7,240	7,240	-	-
Chaplaincy	11,719	3,226	9,233	-	5,712
	11,956	10,466	16,473	-	5,949

Chaplaincy Fund represents monies collected and set aside for student ministry. It was agreed with the URC in 2013 that this fund, would in future be split 60:40 between general funds and student-related ministry in future, with existing funds to be de-restricted; 25% of the Outreach Project cost (£8,097; 2022 £6,936) has been charged against the Fund in respect of the student outreach.

Children & families refers to funds raised by a collection dedicated towards work with children and families.

The Centenary Fund represents monies raised during and after the centenary year for use towards major projects in future.

The other designated reserves are the emergency reserve of £24,000 (c. 3 months' normal expenditure), the insurance claim proceeds Fund and the Buildings Fund designed to fund long-term building works.

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 DEBTORS AT YEAR END	2023	2022
	£	£
URC Trust (Chaplaincy Fund)	8,000	2,000
HMRC – unclaimed Gift Aid	9,480	9,000
Amounts due from hirers	2,577	1,558
Grants for Outreach project	15,510	5,511
Utility refund	0	1,644
	<u>35,567</u>	<u>19,713</u>

9 CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2023	2022
	£	£
Utilities	2,205	0
Advance hiring receipts	1,210	0
Organists and preaching fees (Dec)	227	160
HMRC (income tax /national insurance)	1,326	1,237
Agency collections	0	175
	<u>4,968</u>	<u>1,572</u>

10. STAFF AND SALARIES

The church employed 1 full time and two part time employees in the year (2022: 1 and 1) on total gross salaries annualised of £51,028 (2022 £38,006).

11. APPEALS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

These are collected and then paid to the organisation concerned together with any Gift Aid claimed. They were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Commitment For Life	7,240	2,500
Archway Foundation	0	52
Oxford Street Pastors	0	100
	<u>7,240</u>	<u>2,652</u>

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

None of the church trustees received remuneration from the charity in 2023 (2022: NIL). One trustee received reimbursement of expenses of £37; expenses totalling £2,448 were reimbursed to the Minister in 2022.

The previous year's SOFA is given here to show the breakdown between restricted and unrestricted funds for 2022

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Voluntary Income	83,215	-	83,215
Activities for Generating Funds	49,696	3,222	52,918
Investment Income	330	-	330
Total Incoming Resources	133,241	3,222	136,463
EXPENDITURE			
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	127,824	8,548	136,372
	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended	127,824	8,548	136,372
Net Incoming Resources Before Transfers	5,417	(5,326)	91
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	5,417	(5,326)	91
Transfers Between Funds	-	-	-
Net Incoming Resources After Transfers	5,417	(5,326)	91
Total Funds Brought Forward	114,237	17,282	131,519
Total Funds Carried Forward	£119,654	£11,956	£131,610