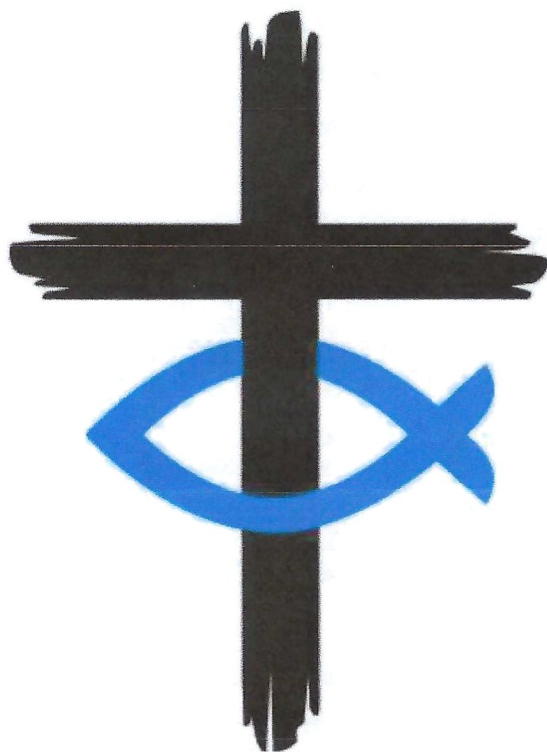


ST COLUMBA'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NORTH SHIELDS



**Financial Statement
for the year
1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023**

TREASURER

H K ARMSTRONG

EXAMINER

**J R MILLS FCCA
Laverick Walton & Co**

1 April 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

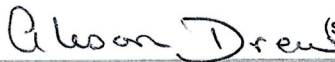
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
RECEIPTS						
Offerings & Gift Aid Tax Refund	3	67,019.45			67,019.45	65,334.19
Donations	4	6,138.21			6,138.21	2,160.40
Fund Raising	5	5,875.51			5,875.51	3,250.00
Church Premises Receipts	6	8,830.00			8,830.00	7,410.00
Legacies	7		10,962.84		10,962.84	
Grants & Insurance Claims	8	1,000.00	29,763.00		30,763.00	1,170.00
Monies Raised for Outside Causes	9			4,074.87	4,074.87	3,986.66
Programme Activity Receipts	10	20.00	249.20		269.20	899.86
Manse Receipts	11					
Investment Receipts	12	51.30	500.00	76.95	628.25	2,124.50
Miscellaneous Receipts	13			1,242.94	1,242.94	1,711.10
Total receipts		88,934.47	41,475.04	5,394.76	135,804.27	88,046.71
PAYMENTS						
Ministry & Mission Assessment	14	44,483.04			44,483.04	41,205.96
Synod Assessment	15					
Ministry Expenses	16	2,231.43			2,231.43	2,475.48
Church Buildings Maintenance	17	16,247.50	70,394.06		86,641.56	12,392.79
Church Running Costs	18	33,930.13			33,930.13	24,749.43
Manse Maintenance	19	1,833.24			1,833.24	356.57
Manse Running Costs	20	2,856.48			2,856.48	3,490.22
Programme Activity Costs	21	519.42	776.50	1,241.08	2,537.00	2,708.93
Cost of Fundraising	22	165.55			165.55	332.80
Support of Outside Causes	23			3,992.00	3,992.00	3,818.00
Other Costs	24	423.15		1,309.76	1,732.91	492.29
Total payments		102,689.94	71,170.56	6,542.84	180,403.34	92,022.47
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)		-13,755.47	-29,695.52	-1,148.08	-44,599.07	-3,975.76
TRANSFERS between funds	2	907.69	-907.69		0.00	0.00
CASH FUNDS b/fwd 1 January		24,471.65	132,585.59	4,942.51	161,999.75	165,975.51
CASH FUNDS c/fwd 31 December		11,623.87	101,982.38	3,794.43	117,400.68	161,999.75

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary assets						
Cash		208.15		11.11	219.26	
Bank Account		11,415.72	101,982.38	3,783.32	117,181.42	161,999.75
Total monetary assets	25	11,623.87	101,982.38	3,794.43	117,400.68	161,999.75
Other assets - Debtors						
Gift Aid Recoverable		2,924.48			2,924.48	3,224.93
Non Church use of premises		285.00			285.00	253.00
URC Northern Synod - Expenses						453.72
United Reformed Church - Expenses						72.00
Total Debtors		3,209.48			3,209.48	4,003.65
Assets used for church purposes						
Buildings under Statutory Trusts	26	Church buildings and manse				
Church Contents	26	Furnishings and equipment				
Liabilities - Creditors						
Compassion - Food and Most Needed				250.87	250.87	92.00
Total Creditors				250.87	250.87	92.00

APPROVED by the Trustees on 11 January 2024 and signed on their behalf

by ALISON DREW (name)  (signature)

The notes on pages 2 to 6 form part of this financial statement

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 Section 133, using the Receipts and Payments basis available to small charities, and the United Reformed Church guidance.

2 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted Funds may be used by the church for any of its ordinary purposes.

Designated Funds represent unrestricted funds set aside by the church for specific designated purposes; they can be transferred back into general funds at the church's decision.

Designated Fund name & purpose:	Balance b/fwd £	Receipts in year £	Payments in year £	Transfers for year £	Balance c/fwd £
a Traidcraft Reserve	915.57	249.20	-776.50	-388.27	0.00
b Legacy Reserve	56,986.82	10,962.84		-59,177.00	8,772.66
c Buildings Reserve	30,000.00				30,000.00
d Janet Dall Thomson Charity	383.20	500.00		-519.42	363.78
l Church Buildings: Major Works	0.00	29,763.00	-70,394.06	55,277.00	14,645.94
m General Reserve Fund	44,300.00			3,900.00	48,200.00
Totals for Designated Funds	132,585.59	41,475.04	-71,170.56	-907.69	101,982.38

Restricted Funds represent income which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of a trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. These funds can only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund for future expenditure on that specific purpose, or returned; it cannot be absorbed into general funds.

Restricted Fund name & purpose:	Balance b/fwd £	Receipts in year £	Payments in year £	Balance c/fwd £
e Educational Projects	980.90		-641.08	339.82
f Electrical Equipment/Projector Fund	617.77			617.77
g Glen Fund (Flowers)	24.30	76.95	-76.05	25.20
h Monies raised for outside causes	443.96	4,074.87	-3,992.00	526.83
i New Technology/Mission Project Fund	632.21			632.21
j Contra Entries		1,166.89	-1,166.89	
k Manse Reserve				
n Flower Fund Reserve	243.37	76.05	-66.82	252.60
o Maud Driver Junior Church Reserve	2,000.00		-600.00	1,400.00
Totals for Restricted Funds	4,942.51	5,394.76	-6,542.84	3,794.43

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
3 OFFERINGS					
a Gift Aid Offerings	47,130.40			47,130.40	45,636.70
b Gift Aid Tax Refund	13,543.04			13,543.04	12,752.78
c Free Will Offerings	6,346.01			6,346.01	6,944.71
Total Offerings	67,019.45			67,019.45	65,334.19
4 DONATIONS					
a From Organisations	2,295.66			2,295.66	992.54
b From Individuals	3,842.55			3,842.55	1,167.86
c From individuals - Educational Projects					
d From individuals - New Tech/Mission					
Total Donations	6,138.21			6,138.21	2,160.40
5 FUND RAISING					
a For General Purposes	5,875.51			5,875.51	3,250.00
Total Fund Raising	5,875.51			5,875.51	3,250.00
6 CHURCH PREMISES RECEIPTS					
a Non Church Use of Premises	8,780.00			8,780.00	7,410.00
b Weddings and Funerals	50.00			50.00	
c Major Works Income					
Total Church Premises Receipts	8,830.00			8,830.00	7,410.00
7 LEGACIES					
a For General Purposes		10,962.84		10,962.84	
b For Restricted Purposes					
Total Legacies		10,962.84		10,962.84	

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES - continued

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
8 GRANTS & INSURANCE CLAIMS					
a Grants	1,000.00			1,000.00	1,170.00
b HMRC JRS Grant					
c Insurance Claims					
d Church Buildings: Major Works		29,763.00		29,763.00	
Total Grants	1,000.00	29,763.00		30,763.00	1,170.00
9 MONIES RAISED FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES					
a Monies Raised for Outside Causes			4,074.87	4,074.87	3,986.66
Total Monies Raised for Outside Causes			4,074.87	4,074.87	3,986.66
10 PROGRAMME ACTIVITY RECEIPTS					
a Traidcraft Receipts		249.20		249.20	899.86
b Other Receipts	20.00			20.00	
Total Programme Activity Receipts	20.00	249.20		269.20	899.86
11 MANSE RECEIPTS					
a Manse Rent Receipts					
b Manse Other Receipts					
Total Manse Receipts					
12 INVESTMENT RECEIPTS					
a Charifund: Glen Fund Flowers			76.95	76.95	74.70
b Charifund: Glen Fund General	51.30			51.30	49.80
c Thomson Charity Drawdown		500.00		500.00	2,000.00
Total Investment Receipts	51.30	500.00	76.95	628.25	2,124.50
13 MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS					
a Contra entries			1,166.89	1,166.89	
b Miscellaneous Receipts			76.05	76.05	1,711.10
Total Miscellaneous Receipts			1,242.94	1,242.94	1,711.10
14 MINISTRY & MISSION ASSESSMENT					
a Ministry & Mission Assessment	44,483.04			44,483.04	41,206.00
Total Ministry & Mission Assessment	44,483.04			44,483.04	41,205.96
15 SYNOD ASESMENT					
a Synod Assessment					
Total Synod Assessment					
16 MINISTRY EXPENSES					
a Car Mileage Allowance	257.40			257.40	98.10
b Fixed Car Allowance	1,365.60			1,365.60	1,374.35
c Ministers Expenses	434.15			434.15	505.61
d Book Allowance	147.87			147.87	152.94
e P11D National Insurance	13.52			13.52	13.52
f Pulpit Supply	710.00			710.00	610.00
g Interim Moderators/Vacancy Expenses					
h URC/Synod Contribution	-697.11			-697.11	-279.04
Total Ministry Expenses	2,231.43			2,231.43	2,475.48
17 CHURCH BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE					
a Annual Service / Maintenance Costs	3,687.29			3,687.29	3,642.29
b Decorating Internal / External					
c Electrical / IT Work	3,472.13			3,472.13	4,279.39
d Internal Works	7,945.40			7,945.40	45.00
e External works	1,111.18			1,111.18	775.00
f Purchase / Renewal of Equipment					3,634.91
g Other	31.50			31.50	16.20
h Church Buildings: Major Works		70,394.06		70,394.06	
Total Church Buildings Maintenance	16,247.50	70,394.06		86,641.56	122,392.79

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES - continued

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
18 CHURCH RUNNING COSTS					
a Gas and Electricity	14,143.11			14,143.11	5,843.94
b Insurance	6,660.63			6,660.63	6,603.31
c Water Rates	122.01			122.01	91.65
d Telephone and Internet	1,380.14			1,380.1	1,164.80
e Cleaning	4,680.35			4,680.35	4,483.27
f Printing/Stationery, Photocopying & Office	1,653.07			1,653.1	1,648.60
g Publications	143.86			143.9	143.90
h Licences / Subscriptions	1,216.84			1,216.84	1,114.89
i Accounts Examination	264.00			264.00	264.00
j Secretarial Costs	33.92			33.92	50.22
k Church Organists / Music	3,632.20			3,632.20	3,340.90
Total Church Running Costs	33,930.13			33,930.130	24,749.43
19 MANSE MAINTENANCE					
a Repairs and Renewals	2,536.64			2,536.64	383.09
b URC/Synod Contribution	-703.40			-703.40	-26.52
Total Maintenance of Manse	1,833.24			1,833.24	356.57
20 MANSE RUNNING COSTS					
a Council Tax	2,548.74			2,548.74	2,431.77
b Insurance	705.60			705.60	1,036.64
c Telephone and Internet	574.07			574.07	526.55
d Water Rates	355.75			355.75	310.10
e Gas and Electric Bills					
f URC/Synod Contribution	-1,327.68			-1,327.68	-814.84
Total Manse Running Costs	2,856.48			2,856.48	3,490.22
21 PROGRAMME ACTIVITY COSTS					
a Childrens' activities			600.00	600.00	432.90
b Youth Activities					
c Worship / Educational Projects / Training	146.68		641.08	787.76	483.49
d Traidcraft purchases / Donations		776.50		776.50	1,010.52
e Trio Stewardship Campaign					
f Good Practice	145.00			145.00	145.00
g Miscellaneous	227.74			227.74	637.02
h Projects					
Total Programme Activity Costs	519.42	776.50	1,241.08	2,537.00	2,708.93
22 COST OF FUNDRAISING					
a Offerings	165.55			165.55	97.11
b Other					235.69
Total Cost of Fundraising	165.55			165.55	332.80
23 SUPPORT OF OUTSIDE CAUSES					
a Funds for Outside Causes			3,992.00	3,992.00	3,818.00
b Incurred Expenses					
Total Support of Outside Causes			3,992.00	3,992.00	3,818.00
24 OTHER COSTS					
a Miscellaneous	423.15		66.82	489.97	421.19
b Glen Fund Flowers			76.05	76.05	71.10
c Contra Payments			1,166.89	1,166.89	
d Legacy Reserve Payments to Reserves					
Total Other Costs	423.15		1,309.76	1,732.91	492.29
25 MONETARY ASSETS					

The church monies are not held in segregated accounts, but for the sake of this financial statement the total of each account is allocated appropriately over the various funds.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES - continued

26 ASSETS USED FOR CHURCH PURPOSES

The church building and the manse at 15 West Dene Drive, North Shields are vested in the United Reformed Church (Northern Province) Trust as trustees and are not church assets. They are held for the benefit of St Columba's United Reformed Church, 30 Northumberland Square, North Shields NE30 1PW in accordance with the statutory trusts applicable to URC properties under the URC Acts. For insurance purposes the church buildings are insured by the church for £9,896,512. The church contents are insured by the church for £358,439. The insurers are Integra Insurance Solutions Ltd. trading as Congregational. Since 29 September 2023 the responsibility for insuring the Church Manse has been with the United Reformed Church Northern Synod block policy.

27 INVESTMENTS HELD FOR CHURCH PURPOSES

Janet Dall Thomson Charity Trust Fund

The United Reformed Church (Northern Province) Trust company holds on behalf of the church investments representing money received as a Legacy from Janet Dall Thomson. The release of this to the church is decided by the church alone. Amounts received during the year are included in these accounts. The value of the investments and deposits and the treatment of the income is as follows:

	<u>Market value</u>		<u>Application of income</u>
	<u>31.12.2022</u>	<u>31.12.2023</u>	
Janet Dall Thomson Trust	£33,289.69	£36,547.29	Retained by Trustees, Drawdown included above

Glen Family Memorial Flower Trust Fund

M&G Charifund holds on behalf of the church an investment representing money received in memory of the Glen Family. The capital is held in trust with the income being received by the church quarterly. As laid down in the trust 60% of the income is to be spent on providing flowers in the church on the last Sunday in October each year with the remaining 40% of the income for the general purposes of the church. Amounts received during the year are included in these accounts. The value of the investment is as follows:

	<u>Market value</u>		<u>Application of income</u>
	<u>31.12.2022</u>	<u>31.12.2023</u>	
Glen Family Trust Fund	£2,204.28	£2,152.49	60% Flowers for church 40% General purposes

28 CHARITABLE STATUS

With effect from the 9 December 2015 St Columba's United Reformed Church was registered by the Charity Commission and it has been entered onto the Register of Charities as follows.

ST COLUMBA'S NORTH SHIELDS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY
Charity Number 1164784

29 EXAMINATION OF CHURCH ORGANISATION ACCOUNTS

The Finance and Property Care Team of St Columba's United Reformed Church, in accordance with Charity Commission Requirements, have examined the accounts of the following organisations attached to the Church for the period to 31 December 2023.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>Charitable Gifts</u>
Café 2-2-1	2,039.66	1,012.17
HANDS	486.04	1,045.00
Junior Church	208.82	---
Parent & Toddler Group	940.77	40.00
Square Table	153.10	---
UNICEF	4.25	541.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Donations & Fund Raising

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2023 Total £	Last Year 2022 Total £
DONATIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS					
HANDS	500.00			500.00	300.00
Hand Made Cards	141.65			141.65	120.00
Sunday Morning Coffee	554.01			554.01	372.54
Café 2-21	500.00			500.00	200.00
Parent & Toddlers	500.00			500.00	
Donation - NHS Ret Fellowship imo R Fellows	100.00			100.00	
Totals donations from Organisations	2,295.66			2,295.66	992.54
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER ACCOUNTS					
From Traidcraft Account to General Account	388.27	-388.27		0.00	0.00
From Janet Dall Thomson Charity to General	519.42	-519.42		0.00	0.00
Totals donations from Other Accounts	907.69	-907.69		0.00	0.00
DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS					
From Individuals	2,797.55			2,797.55	50.98
From Funerals	730.00			730.00	631.00
In lieu of Christmas Cards	285.00			285.00	85.00
For Advent Books	20.00			20.00	85.98
For Church Stationery	10.00			10.00	25.00
For use of Tables					50.00
For bus for Beamish					152.00
Candle Stand					87.90
Total Donations from individuals	3,842.55			3,842.55	1,167.86
FUND RAISING					
Granny's Attic	1,534.62			1,534.62	893.45
Christmas Market	1,854.23			1,854.23	1,840.95
Sale of Books	100.00			100.00	
Pie & Pea Lunch	525.00			525.00	
King Charles III Coronation Tea	510.00			510.00	
Summer Evening Concert	743.10			743.10	
Strawberry Fayre	460.59			460.59	
NTC All Together	147.97			147.97	
Heritage Open Day					15.00
Northumberland Square Reopening					500.60
Sale of Marmalade & Lemon Curd					50.00
Total Fund Raising	5,875.51			5,875.51	3,250.00
DONATIONS TO OUTSIDE CAUSES					
Compassion			1,086.00	1,086.00	1,058.00
UNICEF			541.00	541.00	453.00
Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal			1,011.00	1,011.00	
Toilet Twinning			618.00	618.00	
New to the UK			186.00	186.00	
Christmas Market - Fishermans Mission			200.00	200.00	
Christmas Eve - Little1Stop			350.00	350.00	
Christian Aid - Afghanistan Appeal					381.00
North Tyneside Young Carers - Jubilee					1,000.00
Christian Aid - Pakistan Floods Appeal					286.00
Christmas Market - Pearey House					240.00
CEve-North East Young Dads & Lads Project					400.00
Total Fund Raising			3,992.00	3,992.00	3,818.00

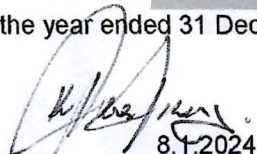
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 6 for the year ended 31 December 2023 from the accounting records of the church.

Keith Armstrong

(name)


8.1.2024

(signature)

(date)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of St Columba's United Reformed Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 6.

Respective responsibilities

The church is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and considers that the audit requirement of Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination of the church funds, nothing came to my attention which gave me cause to believe otherwise than that the financial statements accord with the accounting records of the church, and that those records satisfied the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner:

date: 11/1/24

Name and address of the Independent Examiner:

Mr J R Mills FCCA
Laverick Walton and Co.
83 Kingfisher House
Team Valley
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE11 0JQ

**St Columba's North Shields United Reformed Church
Charity**

Charity Number 1164784

**Annual Report and Accounts
For the Year Ended
31st December 2023**



**St Columba's North Shields United Reformed Church
Charity
Trustees Report For the year ended 31st December 2023**

Trustees	Alison Drew	Church Secretary
	Norma McAvoy	From April 2021
	Wendy Bradley	From April 2019
	Helen Saunders	From May 2018 Until
		April 2023
	Lesley Waugh	From May 2020
	Jill Thompson	From September 2020
	Barbara White	From September 2020
	Veronica Hall	From May 2022
	Lisa McAvoy	From May2022
	Shirley McKay	From May2023
	Liz Morrell	From May 2023

Minister **Revd. Dr. Trevor Jamison**

Treasurer **Mr Keith Armstrong**

Address **30 Northumberland Square**
North Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE30 1PW

Bankers **Lloyds Bank**
69 Bedford Street,
North Shields
NE29 OAU

Independent
Examiner **Mr Jonathan R Mills**
Laverick Walton & Co
83 Kingfisher House
Team Valley
Gateshead
NE11 0JQ

St Columba's North Shields United Reformed Church
Charity
Trustees Report For the year ended 31st December 2023

The Trustees who are also the Serving Elders of the Church submit their report and the examined accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Structure Governance and Management

The Church was registered under the terms of the Charities Act 2006, in 2016. The governing documents are the Trust distilled from the United Reformed Church acts (1972 & 1981) and scheme of Union (1972) adopted 25th June 2014.

The Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

The Trustees (Serving Elders) are elected by the Church Meeting of St Columba's United Reformed Church. Nominations are sought by direct approach. Individuals can indicate their willingness to serve, they then must seek a nominator. All Trustees (Serving Elders) must be members of the United Reformed Church.

The Trustees (Serving Elders) meet each month and in their capacity as Trustees deal with legal, financial and property needs of the Church. Financial matters are reviewed in liaison with the Finance and Property Team, the Trustees receive and act on relevant matters contained in the reports provided by the Church teams responsible for the maintenance and fabric of the Church.

Risk Management

The Trustees are aware of their responsibilities to assess risks in relation to its activities. To this end the Church has adopted the Safe Guarding Policy produced by the United Reformed Church Northern Synod and have appointed a dedicated Safe Guarding Co-ordinator and Assistant.

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. St Columba's URC is committed to enabling people to worship as the Church and to become part of the Church family.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. We endeavour to enable those in the community to live out their faith as part of the Church family;

- Worship and prayer.
- Provision of Pastoral care for the community.
- Mission and outreach to the community.

Achievements and Performance

The Church continued to offer morning and evening services in the church building. Additionally, we live stream our Sunday morning worship. Online versions of group bible study still continue, led by our Minister. This is also shared with our sister church St Andrew's URC Monkseaton. A Zoom version is also offered and opened to all in Northern Synod & Churches Together in North Shields.

The following events are held at the church for the church congregation and community through the week:

- Tuesday - Café 2-21 serves coffee and light lunches; also offers a quiet prayer time in Church
 - Wednesday - Parent and Toddlers
 - HANDS monthly meeting for the ladies of the church
 - Age UK Singing for the Brain meet on a weekly basis
 - Thursday Evening - Bible Study in person
 - Bible Study on Zoom
 - Saturday - Coffee Morning
 - Sunday morning - an "Early Bird" breakfast is available for anyone in need; when friendship and sharing time is also appreciated
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- ❖ Slimming World meets twice a week
 - ❖ Yoga class meets weekly, when possible, organised by a Church member.
 - ❖ Messy Church normally is held every other month on a Sunday afternoon, and organised by a very keen team of leaders,
 - ❖ Fairtrade Stall was available every Sunday morning but now ended following closure of Traidcraft
 - ❖ Normally, family Services are encouraged, especially on Mothering Sunday, Easter, Father's Day, Harvest, Operation Christmas Child, Remembrance Sunday, Nativity and Carol Services. The 2023 Carol Service & Nativity Service took place in the building and was Live streamed
 - ❖ Normally, every Sunday within Morning Worship Junior Church caters for all children of any age which comprises of a Creche area and a working area for crafts and games related to a Bible story.

At present there are 85 members on the Church Roll, with 12 adherents and 6 on the Community Roll.

We had a regular attendance on a Sunday morning of 50 people. The last Sunday evening of the month a service is held in the church being led by the minister or a visiting preacher, with about 20 people attending

We have a very committed team of people combining Pastoral and Congregation Care under the title of Congregational Care Team. Additionally, in 2023 we continued with a *Weekly Update* to all members of the church to help maintain links across the congregation.

The Church members also sponsor three children through Compassion UK. One young boy Dan, now 19 years old, is from Uganda and two children 9 years old from Rwanda.

The Church produces a monthly magazine which is available for all people connected to the Church, which includes friends, families, students and the community. In 2020 this was redesigned and is delivered online to most, and by post to the remainder.

Volunteers

The Church relies on members of the congregation to maintain the life, worship and fabric of the Church, volunteers act in the following capacities:

- Stewards – who welcome and assist people at services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and who in 2023, with the help of appropriate training, ensured the safety of those participating in worship.
- Finance and Property Team deal with the day- to -day financial matters of the Church under the oversight of the Trustees.
- Congregational Care Team - attends to the pastoral needs of the Church which includes visiting, and during 2023, keeping in touch by phone and letter or visiting members.
- Worship and Nurture Care Team – assists in the ministry, worship and prayerful care of the congregation.
- Technical Team – look after the overhead screen and sound system and they ensure all services go well. Also, during 2023 the Team oversaw use of technology for online worship and meetings, and production and delivery of weekly updates and church magazines online. We have recently up graded our internet provision.
- In September 2022 we began live streaming our morning services and sometimes funeral services when requested.
- There is also a Prayer Circle who meet regularly to pray and share together concerns of people in need.

Other Activities

St Columba's is a member of Churches Together in North Shields, represented by one or two Members of the Church and our Minister. This is a body of various Church denominations who meet on a regular basis to arrange joint ecumenical services, discuss matters of ecumenical interest and seek to work closely within the community.

Financial Review

The Church has a policy of maintaining sufficient reserves to provide the necessary income for the efficient running of the Church's administration. The Church holds £30,000 in a Buildings Reserve and also 6 months of annual budgeted expenditure in a General Reserve Fund.

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Total receipts on the unrestricted General Account were £89,842 and payment from the account totalled £102,690, resulting in a loss on the year of £12,848. This left the General Account standing at £11,624.

Whilst we ended the year with a deficit it was encouraging that we ended the year £6,771 better than we had budgeted for. This was mainly achieved due to an increase in fund raising and donations. Our expenditure however showed a significant increase mainly due to increases in gas and electricity costs, after the expiry of our fixed rate contracts. We also had larger than expected expenditure on routine building repairs. Particularly encouraging was that our main source of income, offerings, came in at £1,919 over the budgeted figures.

Total receipts on the Designated Reserves were £41,475 and payments from these reserves totalled £72,078 giving a deficit on the year of £30,603. This left the Designated Reserves standing at a total of £101,982. £8,773 of this is Legacies which are held awaiting allocation whilst £30,000 is held in a Buildings Reserve and £44,300 in a General Reserve Fund. £14,646 is awaiting expenditure on major maintenance works to the exterior of the buildings which we are undertaking.

Total receipts on the Restricted Reserves were £5,394 and payments from these reserves totalled £6,543 giving a deficit on the year of £1,198. This left the Restricted Reserves standing at a total of £3,794.

The Trustees also have available to them the funds held in The Janet Dall Thomson Charity, which has as its Custodian Trustees the United Reformed Church (Northern Province) Trust. The Balance of the Charity at 31 December 2023 was £36,547.

Whilst our reserves reduced over the year, they are still sufficient to cover any shortfall that we may incur in the coming year.

Signed Alison Drew Date 1.4.2024