OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1165093

Details

Other names	OTTERY ST MARY URC CHARITY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2016-01-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	36 Gerway Close Ottery St. Mary Devon EX11 1GL
Phone	07835095160
Email	SECRETARY@OTTERY-URC.ORG
Website	www.ottery-urc.org

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: The church provides a place of public Christian worship, which includes worship, prayer, bible-study and preaching.We seek to promote our faith and advance Christianity generally through our preaching and teaching and the love we show to others in our lives day to day.The church provides pastoral care and outreach. the church operates predominantly in Ottery St Mary and surrounding areas.

Classification

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

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Geography

- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£65,772	£57,614	-	-
2023-12-31	£56,640	£39,919	-	-
2022-12-31	£45,944	£49,555	-	-
2021-12-31	£42,083	£42,700	-	-
2020-12-31	£70,586	£71,800	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Barbara Jean Beamer		2020-09-13
Graham Harry		2021-02-08

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OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165093

Accounts

Ottery St Mary

United Reformed Church

Annual Reports

2024

Ottery-urc.org

Charity registration number: 1165093

Secretary's Report

In 2024 our preachers spoke on five main themes interspersed with open theme services. From January to March we learned about all aspects of prayer. In April and May the theme was "Faithful and Fruitful – Lessons from the seven churches of the Revelation". A short series on Jonah followed in June before we took a break over the summer holidays and were taught on a number of open theme sermons. The theme throughout September and October was the highly successful Evangelism series. The final theme for the year was the background to each of the most popular Christmas carols. This year we were able to celebrate with a service on Christmas Day where Graham managed to squeeze a full costume Nativity from scratch into a forty-five minute services along with carols, prayers and a sermon. Fun was had by all.

In January I took over from Judith as Ottery St Mary URC church secretary and was fortunate to have a great deal of support from Judith and Lorna along with the Elders to help me learn the ropes.

In September we wished Judith farewell as she sold her house and moved on to pastures new. We have missed her and will continue to do so but she left a real legacy at the church and is still continuing to help with various organisational tasks as the new team learns. On that note, we were delighted that Ruth Roulson offered to help with pulpit supply and managing the Service Plan along with all the other things she does for the church. This will be a great help.

During the latter part of the year, the leadership took a decision to move away from the regular, monthly, Messy Church to an approach of focusing more on key events in the year. The first fruits of this was the "Light Celebration" on the evening of 10th November. This event was well attended and it was particularly pleasing to welcome families of some of the young people who attend FiSH along with other families that were completely new to the church. In early December, an "all age Sunday school" took place, which included a variety of different crafts and activites. This was very popular and is likely to be repeated in 2025.

Members of the church engaged with events in the community by providing drinks and refreshments during the Tar Barrels and during the Christmas lights switch on in Ottery St Mary town centre. Some enthusiastic volunteers even dressed up in Nativity costumes for the lights switch on, where they distributed flyers for our upcoming events over Christmas. Photos are still available on request!

Tom Errington

Youth Team Report

Well, it only seems like the other month that I wrote the last report for the youth and children's team. Time seems to really fly by. But as I look back you can see that so much has gone on with many blessings along the way. As ever I want to firstly thank our amazing volunteers who make up the youth and children's team. Without them it just wouldn't happen. The time and effort going into each session is immense and I just want to say how

much we appreciate everything you do. Also, for everyone who prays for the different aspects of the youth and children's work, thank you so much your prayers are invaluable and so needed.

Over the year we have covered a wide range of themes and topics. During the Spring term we tried a new resource called 'Roots'. It's a resource created for the Church of England and based on their lectionary. It's a very good resource with plenty of ideas and extremely sound doctrinally. The themes we covered were about God's call to us – in terms of listening and discerning and also God's plan for us. Also, we looked at how God hasn't forgotten us, witness and telling and God's good news. The leaders felt it was a good resource but also that Energize, who we had been using, gave more options. So, we reverted back to it. During the Summer term we looked at the subject of church – looking at all aspects from fellowship to worship and evangelism to communion. And then to finish the term we looked at two characters in the bible Moses and Joshua.

In September we did things a little differently. Because we had some children that were now going to secondary school, we felt it was important they had their own group. So, we restarted the second class on a Sunday morning. So now we have a younger class and an older class. Generally, Sue and Ali look after the younger class and Tom and I run the older class (welcome Tom). It has been good running an older class again as we have been able to go a bit deeper and I think the young people have risen to the challenge. Themes for the Autumn term have included school, primarily looking at what it is to be a Christian at school and also, we have looked at Christian Character. With the older group I have also been trying out a new resource from 'Youthscape' called 'Unfold' where basically over the course of the lesson you unfold the resource revealing the next activity. The stories we looked at were the 'wedding at Cana', washing the disciple's feet and Turning Over the tables' This was an excellent resource and definitely engaged the young people and made them think.

Also because of the small team for our Sunday mornings we have also been in the church more for All Age services. Up until September we also had Messy Church as well.

FiSH

It's been another fantastic year for our group. Tom and I have been leading the sessions, and we've had the wonderful support of Ali at times. We continued to mostly meet twice a month mainly on a Saturday. The numbers have also been very good, again having a surge in September as we have had young people join us from the holiday club and have reached the age when they are able to come. Quite a few of our older ones have reduced the amount of time that they come. This is for a number of reasons and is not uncommon with that age range. As young people get older there is more pressure on their time from doing more activities with school, exam revision and also taking on part time jobs. In 2025 we will be looking at how we can retain this age group and meet their ever changing needs.

Over the year we have done many activities. They have been very varied, and everyone certainly seems to enjoy themselves. One of my highlights was the 'Open Doors Escape Room' in September. This activity was based on the persecuted church and we basically smashed up the back hall (made it look like it) as if it had been in a police raid. During the evening the

young people discovered more about what it means to be persecuted for our faith. We had many good comments after the evening about it.

Also once a term we have been going to 'The Gathering' in Exeter held at Belmont Church. This is where young people from all over the area come and join together for worship and teaching. It's basically every form of youth group in one evening from hanging out, structured games and then worship and teaching. We also always finish with chips. Our young people really enjoy going and they enjoy exploring all varieties of worship.

A group of us from FiSH had an amazing time at SPREE 2024 in June. We again went with the Chill Out Youth Group from Newton Poppleford, and it was really good. Our numbers from FiSH were slightly lower this time but we still had a great weekend. The weather was pretty good. This year we placed the furthest we could possibly be from the events, so we certainly got our steps in! Thank you to Tom, Ali, Chloe and Matt for coming to help over the weekend. Again, without them these events just wouldn't happen. Also, a massive thank you to Ruthie and Rachel (from Newton Poppleford) who helped set up the camp on Friday morning. It was so welcome, and I cannot thank them enough. They worked so hard, and Ruthie didn't even have a young person going.

Record breakers Holiday Club

Now, let's talk about the Record Breakers Holiday Club. Once again, we were part of TheO6 Holiday Club, and everyone did an incredible job volunteering. The club was held at our church, and we had a marquee, gazebos, and the church hall to accommodate everyone. We ran the vent again for five days. This year was our biggest yet with 40 children at most sessions. Each session was jam-packed with fun activities, including trying to break silly world records like the quickest time to pack a school bag, blindfold lemon catching and picking up dice with our feet. We also had the usual favourites like games, worship, stories, and challenges. The week ended again with a fantastic Club Celebration and a family BBQ. This year everything reverted back to normality as I lost the weekly challenge, and I ended up being custard pied and soaked. Though Sue did seem to make sure I lost during the final challenge!!

Because of lack of numbers, we didn't do an Easter Holiday club, but we are going to try again for 2025 – a smaller three day one. We will be back again in August 2025 for the Summer one – with a new theme! Watch this space!

Messy Church

We did Messy Church from January to July 2025. The numbers were very varied but all in all were quite disappointing. We just didn't seem to get the numbers we wanted. It was disappointing that everyone worked so hard for the event to go ahead, and the final product was of a real high quality. Easter was the only one that seemed to get good numbers. So, as part of our Church review, we looked at Messy Church and in consultation with the team in September we looked at what we were doing, what we needed to do to change things and where we went from there. It was decided that we would stop Messy Church and look at other different ways to reach out to families in our community and involve everyone in our Church. Whilst Messy Church is deemed as All Age it does seem to primarily be aimed at

children. What we want is to make sure we have a range of activities catering for all Ages. One of the first things we tried was 'A make your own church' at Christmas time. This was where there were several activities set up in church for people to choose from to do. These included a prayer corner, bible study, decoration making and youth activities. Helen did an activity based on the 'Christingle'. I received some lovely reports about it. Thank you, Helen, for doing this. Also thank you, Ruthie, for helping set up the session and for providing the 'message in a bottle activity'. It was a clever activity and one all ages could do. I think it was a good success so we will be adding a couple more in 2025.

The All-Age services and Café church also went well during the year too. We again want to make sure that in all these activities all our congregation feel involved and included. So, thank you for reading the report. It has again been a privilege and a pleasure to serve God and families in the children and youth ministry. I can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for us!

Graham Harry
Youth and Families Pastor

Foodbank

This year we have seen how the increase in prices has really begun to bite into people's household budgets. We have seen an increase in referrals for those with families, particularly the larger families. For the Foodbank this means that more food is being given out and the shelves empty more quickly.

We are very grateful for the people who have responded so generously to our appeal for extra funding. We have been blessed by an increase in the people who are giving monthly and several significant lump sum donations. Thank you to you all.

This year we have provided 630 people with more than 5500 meals and spent £2660 on greengrocery vouchers; we have also had to buy in food when donations were low.

We are very grateful to all the people who donate money and those who donate by monthly banker's order as well as the people who donate food; to Rabbit & Co who continue to accept the greengrocery vouchers; to the Ottery St Mary URC who provide us with premises, insurance and storage and to the Church Elders who have an "oversight" responsibility for the Foodbank.

David Briden

Wednesday Homegroup 7.30pm – 9.30

This year we have we have completed studies on:

Decisions – Making our decisions with God as the basis.
Matthew – Being Discipled by Jesus.
Women of the New Testament
And are currently studying Meeting The Spirit

Our studies are generally taken from the 'Life Builder' series of Bible Studies which involve a Bible Reading followed by questions to stimulate thoughts and reinforce belief.

We are a small group 7-10 people at each session. We welcome all who wish to join us and we can accommodate those who can't manage every session. We can also arrange for people to join us on Zoom if they can't be with us for whatever reason.

Coffee, Tea or a soft drink with biscuits open each session giving a short time of fellowship. We end with prayers for those we know who are in difficulties or for upcoming events.

David Briden

Community Market

We continued in 2024 with similar numbers of stallholders to 2023 and a number of new tables including a regular Fairtrade table.

For publicity Martin writes a piece each month in the Ottery Gazette plus we have two 'cut out and keep' adverts with dates in the Gazette. We also have posters around the town and Martin and one of the stallholders place the Market on a number of online sites.

The Parish Church volunteers continue to produce the refreshments for the Market café, which are very popular.

We have had another increase in charges for hiring The Institute. The charges to the stallholders remain the same.

It is very much a chance to chat to other crafters and producers and there is always a good atmosphere. We pray that we make good contacts with local people.

The surplus for the year is £331.50.

Many thanks to Gary, John, Martin, Ali and Barbara who put out tables, design publicity, do the accounts and for the prayer support.

Penny Hounslow

Fabric Report

Church.

Maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the church and hall continued during the year, arranged as necessary.

In particular, part of the boundary wall along Jesu Street, east of the gates, was badly damaged by a vehicle at the beginning of January, requiring it to be completely rebuilt.

The firm carrying out the Jesu Street boundary wall repairs, also completed repairs to the wall west of the gates. In addition, the firm was able to carry out some small repairs to the Batts Lane and Brook Street boundary walls.

Further property investigations are required, including, for possible roof slate repairs, for the presence of active woodworm in the Sanctuary and roof space and for possible structural movement, (QI refers).

Repairs to the Porch front doors, to enable them to swing more easily, are ongoing.

Manse.

The property continued to be let.

Maintenance and repairs have been undertaken as necessary.

Repairs to the floors continued at the start of the year and it was necessary to replace some of the carpets. Unfortunately, it is possible that floor repairs are again required and this work is being investigated.

Further work to the property is also being considered.

George Moon

Mission Group

The mission group of Judith Webber, Tim Beard, Nesia McCabe and John Nash met on 15 February 2024.

Nesia Derby McCabe provided a report on Pastor Charles progress in Grenada.

A second meeting took place on 25 June 2024 to plan for the mission service in September.

In September we met with Dr Haroon and his wife who is now living in Lancashire, and building bridges with the Muslim community in that area. The work at the hospital in Pakistan continues and so we will try and keep contact with them and Dr Haroon for the next 3 years.

We have received thanks from Pastor John Charles in Grenada for support of very poor people in Grenada.

The support for Mission in 2025 from the general fund will be increased, so, the total mission giving in 2025 should be £21,000.00.

Judith has now moved to Porlock, and we were very grateful for all her help and drive during recent years.

Support for the Persecuted church and refugees will now only be through Open Doors. The mission group judges that it is best to concentrate our support always on one agency.

The latest meeting in 21 January 2025 agreed the following proposals,

Local Evangelism

The O6 Project has continued to make a valuable contribution in Ottery, so it is recommended that the annual contribution from the church is increased to £15,000. This level of giving enables Graham to provide 16 hours each week for youth and families work within the United Reformed Church.

Ottery Christian Youth Pastor (O6)	£15,000

Proposed Overseas support for 2025

The division between mission spends overseas would remain similar to last year but the giving increased for one year, as recommended by the elders.

Summary of Overseas Mission activities supported

Missionary Aviation Fellowship	Using aircraft to provide help for missionary work in remote areas with poor road infrastructure.
Open Doors	Persecuted Christians/ refugees
Thai Pocket Testament League	Evangelism/ Teaching/ Poor relief
Kunhar Christian Hospital, Pakistan	Support building of new infrastructure in remote area
El Shaddai Children's Home, Chennai	Running costs of orphanage and old peoples care.
Family Support in Grenada	John Charles, Ministry for those in need.

Suggested support :

Missionary Aviation Fellowship	£1000
Open Doors	£1000
Thai PTL	£1000
Kunhar Hospital	£1000
El Shaddai	£1000
Grenada	£1000
TOTAL	**£6000**

Total Mission support= £21,000.

Actions agreed: Tim to contact Dr. Haroon to set up further reporting on Kunhar.

AGM to ask for new members for the Mission Group.

Next Mission Group meeting: 20 May 2025

Service on missionary themes , planned for 7 September 2025

John Nash

Ottery St Mary

URC Charity

Registered Charity Number: 1165093

Financial Report

2024

OTTERY ST MARY URC

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2005 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Administrative information

The Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the South West Synod of the Church.

Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is situated at Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. The correspondence address is 3 Gerway Close, Ottery St Mary, Devon, EX11 1GL.

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. The elected elders of the church during 2024 were:

Mrs Barbara Beamer Elder & Treasurer
Mr Graham Harry Elder & Church and Families Pastor

In addition, Tom Errington was the Church Secretary.

The employees of the church during 2024 were:

Mrs Carol Connett ~ Cleaner

The church building and the manse at 27 Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1EL are vested in The Trustees, The United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) Incorporated as trustees and held for the benefit of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

Structure, governance and management

The activities of Ottery St Mary United Reformed 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, in accordance with the normal practice of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church.

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.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are a Church Leader (if appointed) and up to nine members of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church nominated and elected by the members of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in Church Meeting. To be eligible for election, a person must have been worshipping in the church regularly for over one year and either be a member, or indicate that they are prepared to seek membership and be accepted, before being ordained as an Elder. Elders serve for three years, retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. There is no limit to the number of consecutive periods of service.

The Elders' Meeting met 12 times during the year. The Elders' Meeting is assisted in the administration of the church and its property by teams established for Mission, Youth Work, Finance and Fabric. The Church Meeting met 6 times during the year (including an Extraordinary General Meeting and the AGM). Most of the church meetings took place online.

Objectives and activities

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building. The object of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church 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.

The church's vision is to be a spiritually strong, loving, bible-based family church where

- as individuals we take a personal daily walk with God
- we meet to learn together and encourage each other in the Christian life
- we work together to reach out and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ both locally and beyond in a bold, enthusiastic and effective manner

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the church offers;
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and performance

Wednesday evening housegroup meets regularly, giving opportunities for Bible study and prayer. Weekly prayer meetings have taken place seeking the Lord's help and guidance for the future of the church. In addition, monthly prayer meetings have taken place online.

Sunday morning meetings provide opportunities for worship, teaching and fellowship. Internet links continue to be provided to enable the frail and vulnerable to join the meetings from home.

Early in the year, it was agreed that we would significantly increase our giving to TheO6 in order to sponsor Graham Harry (one of our elders and a youth worker employed by TheO6) to work on behalf of the church for 16 hours per week as a Youth & Families Pastor. Our aim is to reach children and families within Ottery St Mary who aren't currently part of any church with the hope of their joining us.

Messy Church took place most months during the year until the autumn, providing an opportunity for outreach to families within the town, and closer fellowship for those within the church. In the autumn it was decided to reimagine Messy to ensure that it was relevant to more than a very narrow age range. As a start we held a well-attended Light Party in November, and an All-Age Christmas Sunday School in December.

FISH provided opportunities for 11-year-olds upwards to meet together for fun, food and some Christian teaching.

The Ottery St Mary Community Market made a surplus of £331.50 for the year.

We have continued our involvement with Churches Together in Ottery (now known as "Love Ottery"). In the summer we helped run (and hosted) a children's holiday club.

Members of the church have continued to organise and assist in OSM Foodbank, which is housed in the church hall. During the year, the church took over the financial management of the Foodbank, opening an additional account with the Co-operative Bank specifically for Foodbank funds. The Foodbank's existing account with Barclays will be closed in due course.

During the year the church continued its membership of the Evangelical Alliance.

The church buildings are now being used regularly by Brownies, Table Tennis Club, Ottery Choral Society, La La Choir, Ottery Community Theatre, dance classes and OSM foodbank.

At the beginning of the year part of our boundary wall was demolished by a council lorry. An insurance claim was made and the wall was repaired. We are hoping to carry out repairs to the front door of the church, and to carry out an inspection and any necessary repairs to the roof space above the church. Issues of damp within the manse have been inspected, replacement floors and carpets have been installed in some rooms, and further work on the floors is anticipated in the new year.

We thank the Lord for his provision for us, both financially and spiritually. We put our trust in Him as we seek to know His will and to serve Him in Ottery St Mary.

Financial Review

The church's finances are still in a healthy condition, and there has been an increase in our general donations. We have received a gift aid refund of £5,258.58. The manse has been let throughout the year, which has provided a regular monthly income.

Designated Funds: The church has set aside £250.00 each month to be used towards repairs and maintenance at the manse. In addition, the United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) has taken 10% of our rental income at source (£101.20 per month) for similar purposes. At the 31 December the balance held by Synod was £1,536.58 and the balance held by the church was £3,142.57, so that the total funds set aside for manse repairs was £4,679.15.

Restricted Funds: Restricted donations of £6,726.88 were received by the church. These included gifts for mission (or charity), for Graham Harry and for FISH. The amount of our insurance claim (£3,823.33) is also included within this figure. In addition, the Foodbank received donations of £2,890.93 during the year plus a balance carried forward from 31 December 2023 of £3,227.66. The total restricted donations received for the church and the Foodbank were £12,845.47.

Unrestricted Funds: After taking into account designated and restricted funds, there remains a balance of £87,733.74 in general funds (as compared with £83,991.57 in 2023). Ideally, the Elders' Meeting would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months

regular expenditure (approximately £27,500) on unrestricted funds as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. The balance of £87,733.74 at 31 December 2024 represents significantly more than this. However, work required to the church buildings and manse will deplete our reserves. Having said this, we have a lot to be grateful for, and are in a good position financially.

The annual financial report has been prepared on the basis of a Receipts and Payments Account together with relevant notes and will be subject to an Independent Examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Declaration

Approved at a meeting of the church members on
and signed on their behalf by:

T Errington

Mr Tom Errington
Church Secretary

12/8/25

Date

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORM CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of URC and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissions under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

    have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:.....
M A Griffiths FCCA (Director)

Date 5/9/2025

Lentells Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
50 Fore Street
Seaton
Devon, EX12 2AD

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2024

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Cash donations	804.33			804.33	305.00
Payments direct to bank	9,630.14	16,346.41		25,976.55	24,550.00
Tax refund	5,258.58			5,258.58	6,954.74
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Missionary & related objects			810.55	810.55	1,048.60
Legacies	1,003.83			1,003.83	
Community Market	1,354.00			1,354.00	1,451.00
OSM Foodbank			6,118.59	6,118.59	
Sundry income	25.00		5,916.33	5,941.33	3,273.28
Income from investments					
Investment income	1,942.83	59.51		2,002.34	1,429.61
Manse Rent	9,595.10	4,204.90		13,800.00	13,800.00
Use of hall	2,702.00			2,702.00	3,828.00
Total receipts	**32,315.81**	**20,610.82**	**12,845.47**	**65,772.10**	**56,640.23**
PAYMENTS					
Church activities					
Ministry & mission	5,994.00			5,994.00	5,832.00
Missionary & related objects		16,346.41	926.80	17,273.21	5,375.00
Manse	2,121.01	2,890.84		5,011.85	6,126.76
Community Market	1,022.50			1,022.50	869.59
OSM Foodbank			2,862.00	2,862.00	
Church running costs	13,427.97		3,823.33	17,251.30	12,490.67
Worship/activity	3,878.99		141.24	4,020.23	5,586.97
Church management					
Administration/ sundries	2,129.17		2,050.00	4,179.17	3,638.21
Total payments	**28,573.64**	**19,237.25**	**9,803.37**	**57,614.26**	**39,919.20**
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	3,742.17	1,373.57	3,042.10	8,157.84	16,721.03
Bank current and deposit accounts at 01.01.2024	83,991.57	3,305.58	774.54	88,071.69	71,350.66
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31.12.2024	**87,733.74**	**4,679.15**	**3,816.64**	**96,229.53**	**88,071.69**

	Note	General Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
ASSETS	2						
Investments	3						
2022 M & G Charibond Inc.			-			-	2,261.40
360 M & G Charifund Inc.			-			-	5,165.96
2829.77 COIF Ethical Inv Fd			8,751.35			8,751.35	8,517.61
Funds held by Synod			7,534.19			7,534.19	-
Total Investments			**16,285.54**			**22,972.82**	**15,944.97**
Current Assets	4						
Co-operative current account		5,009.05			510.05	5,519.10	10,348.00
Co-operative savings account		82,724.69		3,142.57		85,867.26	76,595.68
OSM Foodbank	8						
Co-operative account					2,919.93	2,919.93	-
Barclays account					160.64	160.64	-
Cash in hand					226.02	226.02	-
URC rental held				1,536.58		1,536.58	1,128.01
Current Balance		**87,733.74**		**4,679.15**	**3,816.64**	**96,229.53**	**88,071.69**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

General
The accounts are prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis and in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

Receipts and Payments
Receipts are the total amount received by the church in offerings and donations. Expenditure is accounted for when it is paid.

Fund accounting
Separate records are kept for funds which have been designated and funds with restricted use. The church's general fund may be used by the church at its discretion to further its stated charitable objectives.

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

~ Land and buildings ~ the church building and manse
~ Furnishings, fixtures and fittings and office equipment

3. Investments held by Provincial Synod on our behalf:

(a) Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2024, and are "permanent". The income only can be used for "general purposes".
(b) In addition, a fund is held by Synod, to be used towards repair and maintenance of the manse.

4. Bank Accounts

We have three bank accounts with Co-operative Bank ~ two Community Directplus Accounts (current accounts) – one for the church and one for OSM Foodbank and a Business Select Instant Access Account (savings account). The Business Select Instant Access Account provides a small amount of interest.

All cash received by the church is initially paid into one of the Co-operative current accounts, with a transfer being made each month of £250 to the Business Select Instant Access Account, earmarked for the Manse Repair Fund. A small amount of cash is held by the Foodbank for incidental expenses

8. Tax Refund

A Gift Aid tax refund amounting to £5,258.58 was claimed.

8. Community Market

Receipts	£ 2024	£ 2024	£ 2023	£ 2023
Table fees		1,354.00		1,451.00
Less				
Payments				
Hire of hall	821.00		700.00	
Publicity	171.82		160.00	
Sundries	29.68	1,022.50	9.59	869.59
Net profit		**331.50**		**581.41**

7. Missionary and Related Objectives

	B/fwd £	Rec'd £	Church £	Total £	Paid £	C/fwd £
Carriacou		100.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	
El Shadai			500.00	500.00	500.00	
Grenada			500.00	500.00	500.00	
Kunhar Christian Hospital			500.00	500.00	500.00	
Missioniary Aviation Fellowship		53.20	500.00	553.20	553.20	
Open Doors			500.00	500.00	500.00	
Ottery Help Scheme		297.35	-	297.35	-	297.35
St Petrock's	413.60	360.00	165.00	938.60	938.60	
Thai Testament			500.00	500.00	500.00	
TheO6			13,081.41	13,081.41	13,081.41	
	413.60	810.55	16,346.41	17,570.56	17,273.21	297.35

The payments shown as "Church" were agreed at an extraordinary church meeting on 25 February 2024 and at the 2024 Church AGM.

8. OSM Foodbank

	£		£
		Bfwd from URC	50.00
Cash in hand	226.02	Bfwd 1 Jan 2024	3,227.66
		Donations etc	2,890.93
Bank a/c - Barclays	160.64		6,168.59
Bank a/c - Co-Op	2,919.93	LESS expenditure	2,862.00
	3,306.59	Total	3,306.59

9. Designated Funds

Manse Repair Fund £ 4,679.45

10. Restricted Funds

Seedlings	£ 212.70
Mission	£ 297.35
OSM Foodbank	£ 3,306.59
	£ 3,816.64

11. Notes

Insurance Cover

Sum insured:-	Church (buildings)	£2,483,420
	Church (contents)	£ 85,471
	Manse (building)	£ 320,783
	Manse (contents)	£ 23,993

Ministry & Mission

The 2024 Assessment was calculated at £11,988.00 to give a monthly payment of £999.00

Since April 2018 the payments have been reduced to 50% of that assessed in accordance with a decision of the Church Meeting as a result of the church's disagreement with the URC's stance on same sex marriage.

The 2025 Assessment has been calculated at £12,288.00 to give a monthly payment of £1,024.00, 50% of which comes to £512.00 per month.

For a more detailed explanation of Ministry and Mission payments, please see the Treasurer.

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165093

Accounts

Ottery St Mary

United Reformed Church

Annual Reports

2023

Ottery-urc.org

Charity registration number: 1165093

Secretary's Report

We are very grateful for all the preachers who come and support us throughout the year. In January, 3 of them were called John! - a good Biblical name. We started the year with open subjects for the preachers.
At the end of January, we started a series **Questions Jesus asked** and the first Sunday in February, was our first **Café church**. People really enjoyed this new format, which took place in the church hall and included fresh coffee and croissants. This relaxed format provided an opportunity to sit around a table with, maybe, people that you would not normally sit with and you could get to know a little better.
Also, during January, Ruth and Hugh MacGregor (New Life) restarted the Sunday evening prayer on zoom at 7pm, to particularly pray for the youngsters in our church.

Messy Church has continued on the last Sunday of the month (read more about 'Messy' in Graham's report below)

During March, Lorna's PET scam was clear for the first time in many years – praise God.
We started a series **Statements of Jesus on the cross** which took us just beyond Easter. At the end of April, the series **Unwrapping the gifts of the Holy Spirit**, spanned Pentecost and ended at the beginning of July.

During June, 13 children and young people from FiSH and ChillOut (Newton Poppleford) along with one parent and 4 leaders went to **SPREE South West** and enjoyed the popular camping and activity weekend for young people aged 8 to 17, who go to explore and deepen their Christian faith. June was also when the **Love Ottery coffee morning** took place in the Rodericks' garden.

Holiday Club started on Monday 7th August, and ran through to Friday 11th ending with a **BBQ.** A special Thank you goes to all those from the various churches in and around Ottery who give up their time to help with this.

August topics on Sundays are always open choice for the preachers. And in July and September, we had a series on **Nehemiah.**
At the end of September and 3 weeks into October, we were pleased to welcome a team from Belmont Chapel, Exeter who took us on a series through James. We are very grateful to Belmont for their continuous support to us over many years.
On the second weekend in November, Graham, together with a couple of helpers took **FiSH** and **Chillout** to **Bernard's Acre** on Dartmoor.

Pictures of Church was the series that took us up to the end of November, then the series called **Gift of Christmas - Unwrapping the True Meaning** took us up to Christmas. On Christmas eve, Graham led a **Pop-up Nativity**, which was great fun. Many people brought younger members of their family and young and old joined in dressing up as the various characters in the Christmas Story.
The Ottery Foodbank, which is housed in our church hall, has probably had its busiest year yet – please read more in the Foodbank report below.
In November, Caroline kindly offered to take over producing the weekly **newssheets**, and these are now sent by email. You can also pick up a paper copy on a Sunday.
The year included 3 other Café Church sessions on a Sunday.

As in previous years, our regular activities took place - Homegroups; hosting the Community Market in The Institute; Tar Barrels refreshments on November 5; garden and church work parties; and the collection and delivery of Christmas shoeboxes and other essential items for Moldova and Ukraine through the CR2EE organisation. As a church we have continued as a member of Churches Together In Ottery (aka Love Ottery) - taking part in the Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

During the year, we were sad to lose three Christian brothers in our church family - John Toy, John Fisher and Colin Pohl. Forever with the Lord.

There are so many people to thank for their contribution to the life of the church during the year – those who preach, lead the music, lead the tech desk, supply flowers, make coffee, look after the building, look after the money. The list is endless and I will surely leave someone out. But a very special thank you to Regina who worked tirelessly during October and November, despite some awful weather, to landscape the front garden. What a difference it has made to the entrance of the church. **Thank you, Regina!**

Youth Team Report

Hey there! I want to start off by giving a big thank you to all the amazing volunteers who lead and assist in Youth Church. You guys bring so much joy and excitement to the sessions with your unique gifts and skills. It's incredible how much effort you put into preparing the lessons, even when you're not sure how many kids will show up or what age group you'll have. Thank you for being such an important part of the youth and children's work here.

Throughout the year, we covered a bunch of awesome themes in Youth Church. Just to name a few, we explored the parables of Jesus, talked about the nature of God (just, faithful, powerful, provider), delved into the Ten Commandments, and dived into the Sermon on the Mount. We also had some special sessions for Halloween, Bonfire Night, Father's Day, Mother's Day, and of course, a fantastic Christmas series.

Now, let's talk numbers. We've had some ups and downs in attendance over the year. Some sessions were packed with enthusiastic kids, while others were more intimate with just a handful of attendees. One thing we've noticed is a bit of an age gap among the children. Ideally, we'd love to have separate groups for older and younger kids, but unfortunately, we don't have enough leaders for that at the moment. However, the teachers we do have are doing an amazing job at making the sessions inclusive for everyone. A big thank you to all the teachers and helpers who make the Sunday sessions possible!

I want to take a moment to celebrate some special moments from the year. We were thrilled to welcome back the Marshall family, especially the children. It's been wonderful to see them back in church, and we're so grateful to God for the healing that continues to happen in Zoe. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Mena, Coco, and Bonnie to our church. It's been a joy to see them getting involved and becoming part of our community.

This year, instead of giving advent calendars to the children and families, we decided to make a donation to St. Petrock's based on what we would normally spend.

FiSH

It's been another fantastic year for our group. Tom and I have been leading the sessions, and we've had the wonderful support of Ali at times. We continued to meet twice a month, initially on the first Sunday and third Wednesday of the month, but it kind of shifted more towards Sundays towards the end. Since September, our numbers have grown significantly, with up to 13 young people attending each session. We explored themes like mental health, spiritual well-being, and prayer. And of course, we had some fun social activities like bowling, escape rooms, a town treasure hunt, and trips to the woods.

A group of us from FiSH had an amazing time at SPREE 2023 in June. We went with the Chill Out Youth Group from Newton Poppleford, and it was really good. We're grateful for the generous donation that supported our young people's participation. My daughter and her husband, and one of our parents also joined us for the weekend. The former did the catering for the weekend. It was a memorable experience for everyone. We're already looking forward to SPREE 2024!

In November, we had a fantastic weekend away at Bernard's Acre on Dartmoor. This youth residential centre holds a special place in my heart because I have been there a number of times, the first time when I was 14. It has been transformed into quite a luxurious space, and the young people had such a good time. We explored the Christmas theme, engaged in Bible activities, played games in the dark, had a campfire, and even did a Christmas escape room and a Belstone Treasure Hunt. We also enjoyed some Christmas movies and had a festive dinner with crackers and party hats. A huge thank you to Clare, Mena, and everyone involved in the cooking and preparations, even though they weren't feeling their best. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

Record breakers Holiday Club

Now, let's talk about the Record Breakers Holiday Club. Once again, we were part of TheO6 Holiday Club, and everyone did an incredible job volunteering. The club was held at our church, and we had a marquee, gazebos, and the church hall to accommodate everyone. It ran for five days, and we had nearly 60 children register. Each session was jam-packed with fun activities, including trying to break silly world records like putting on as many socks as possible in 30 seconds or sorting skittles by colour. We also had the usual favourites like games, worship, stories, and challenges. The week ended with a fantastic Club Celebration and a family BBQ. It was a huge success, especially since Fiona got gunged and not me, and we're already excited for the Record Breakers Holiday Club in 2024 (5th-9th August). At Easter we will be running a 'Record Breakers Easter Special' on Thursday 4th April.

Messy Church

We've had a great year, with sessions held on the final Sunday of every month. We changed the timing a bit in the second half of the year from 4.00pm until 6.00pm to 3.00pm until 5.00pm but it was still filled with fun activities, crafts, quizzes, and worship. The Christmas, Easter, and Light Party sessions were especially well-attended. And who can forget the Messy Church in the park? Those sessions were a blast, ending with epic water fights. The great thing about these sessions was the number of children and families that joined us

who were simply in the park at the time. We'll be returning to the park in 2024 when the weather is better.
A huge thank you to everyone who has made Messy Church what it is. Thank you to Clare, Ruthie, Ali, and Tom for their amazing ideas and activities. Thank you to Sue, John, Barbara, Gary, Philip, and Judith for the delicious meals. And thank you to the church for providing cakes and other food items. Your contributions have made Messy Church a truly special experience.

As I wrap up this report, I want to express my gratitude for all your prayers and donations. They are truly appreciated. And a big thank you to all the volunteers who make this work possible. Without you, none of this would happen. It's a privilege and a pleasure to serve God and families in the children and youth ministry. I can't wait to see what 2024 has in store for us!

Graham Harry

Foodbank

This year we have seen how the increase in prices has really begun to bite into people's household budgets. We have seen an increase in referrals for those with families, particularly the larger families. For the Foodbank this means that more food is being given out and the shelves empty more quickly.

We decided to repeat our Christmas treat again this year and give each client a £20-£40 Sainsburys gift voucher. We bought £300 of vouchers which were received with surprise and delight.

This year we have provided 674 people with more than 6000 meals, spent £720 on fuel top-ups and more than £3200 on greengrocery vouchers, we have also had to buy in almost £600 of food when donations were low.

Now that the differential on electricity prices between pre-paid meters and regular meters has been removed, we have decided to stop giving gas/electricity top ups to the people on the pre-paid meters.

We are very grateful to all the people who donate money and those who donate by monthly banker's order as well as the people who donate food; to Rabbit & Co who continue to accept the greengrocery vouchers; to the Ottery St Mary URC who provide us with premises, insurance and storage and to the Church Elders who have an "oversight" responsibility for the Foodbank.

David Briden

Wednesday Homegroup 7.30pm – 9.30

This year we have we have completed studies on:
God's Word -The power to shape our lives.
Peter – Learning to be like Jesus.
Decisions – Making our decisions with God as the basis.
We are currently working on Matthew – Being Discipled by Jesus.

We are a small group 7-10 people at each session. We welcome all who wish to join us and we can accommodate those who can't manage every session. We can also arrange for people to join us on Zoom if they can't be with us for whatever reason.
Coffee, Tea or a soft drink with biscuits open each session giving a short time of fellowship. We end with prayers for those we know who are in difficulties or for upcoming events.

David Briden

Community Market

We have had a good year with an increase in the number of stallholders on last year each month, and a good number of new and returning stallholders.

For publicity Martin writes a piece each month in The Gazette plus we have had two adverts with dates in The Gazette. We also had posters around the town and Martin and one of the stallholders place the Market on a number of online sites.
The Parish Church volunteers continue to produce the refreshments for the Market café, which are very popular.

We had a big increase in charges for hiring The Institute at the beginning of the year, following the big increase in 2022. We kept the table fees the same until October when we increased them, which is the first increase in eight years.
It is very much a chance to chat with other crafters and producers. We don't have the numbers of customers and stallholders attending that we have had in the past but it is still a good atmosphere. We pray that we make good contacts with local people.

The surplus for the year is £581.41

Many thanks to Gary, John, Martin, Ali and Barbara who put out tables, design publicity, do the accounts and for the prayer support.

Penny Hounslow

Fabric Report

Church

Maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the church and hall continued during the year, arranged as necessary.

Manse

The property continued to be let.
Maintenance and repairs have been undertaken as necessary.
A new boiler was installed in August. Repairs to the floors commenced at the end of the year and will continue, with some carpets being replaced.

George Moon

Mission Group

The mission group of John Nash, Tim Beard and Judith Webber met on 15 February 2024. Nesia Derby McCabe provided a report on Pastor Charles progress in Grenada.

The Group thanked Judith for organising the service on 14 January about the work of MAF, Missionary Aviation Fellowship. MAF have now replaced TEAR Fund in the churches recommended giving.

We have received thanks from Pastor John Charles in Grenada for support of very Poor people in Grenada.

The support for Mission in 2024 from the general fund, should be slightly increased to that of 2023. So, the total mission giving in 2024 should be £5000.00.

Support for the Persecuted church and refugees will now only be through Open Doors. The mission group judges that it is best to concentrate our support always on one agency.

The meeting agreed the following proposals:

Local Evangelism

TheO6 Project has continued to make a valuable contribution in Ottery, so it is recommended that the annual contribution from the church is retained at £2000

Ottery Christian Youth Pastor (TheO6)	£2000

Funding for TheO6 will change in the coming year, and support for local evangelism may have to change next year.

Proposed Overseas support for 2024

The division of mission spends overseas would remain similar to last year.

Summary of Overseas Mission activities supported

Missionary Aviation Fellowship	Using aircraft to provide help for missionary work in remote areas with poor road infrastructure.
Open Doors	Persecuted Christians/refugees
Thai Pocket Testament League	Evangelism/Teaching/ Poor relief
Kunhar Christian Hospital, Pakistan	Support building of new infrastructure in remote area
El Shaddai Children's Home, Chennai	Running costs of orphanage and old people's care.
Family Support in Grenada	John Charles, Ministry for those in need.

Suggested support:

Missionary Aviation Fellowship	£500
Open Doors	£500
Thai PTL	£500
Kunhar Hospital	£500
El Shaddai	£500
Grenada	£500
TOTAL	**£3000**

John Nash

Next Mission Group meeting: 16 May 2024

Service on missionary themes, planned for 8 September 2024

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORM CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of URC and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissions under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

    have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:.....

M A Griffiths FCCA (Director)

Date 16/5/24

Lentells Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
50 Fore Street
Seaton
Devon, EX12 2AD

Ottery St Mary

URC Charity

Registered Charity Number: 1165093

Financial Report

2023

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2005 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Administrative information

The Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the South West Synod of the Church.

Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is situated at Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. The correspondence address is 3 Gerway Close, Ottery St Mary, Devon, EX11 1GL.

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. The elected elders of the church during 2023 were:

Mrs B Beamer	Elder and Treasurer
Mr G Harry	Elder
Miss J Webber	Elder and Secretary

The employees of the church during 2023 were:

Mrs Carol Connett ~ Cleaner

The church building and the manse at 27 Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1EL are vested in The Trustees, The United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) Incorporated as trustees and held for the benefit of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

Structure, governance and management

The activities of Ottery St Mary United Reformed 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, in accordance with the normal practice of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church.

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.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are a Church Leader (if appointed) and up to nine members of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church nominated and

elected by the members of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in Church Meeting. To be eligible for election, a person must have been worshipping in the church regularly for over one year and either be a member, or indicate that they are prepared to seek membership and be accepted, before being ordained as an Elder. Elders serve for three years, retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. There is no limit to the number of consecutive periods of service.

The Elders' Meeting met 10 times during the year. The Elders' Meeting is assisted in the administration of the church and its property by teams established for Mission, Youth Work, Finance and Fabric. The Church Meeting met 5 times during the year (including the AGM). Most of the church meetings took place online.

Objectives and activities

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building. The object of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church 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.

The church's vision is to be a spiritually strong, loving, bible-based family church where

- as individuals we take a personal daily walk with God
- we meet to learn together and encourage each other in the Christian life
- we work together to reach out and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ both locally and beyond in a bold, enthusiastic and effective manner

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the church offers;
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and performance

Wednesday evening housegroup meets regularly, giving opportunities for Bible study and prayer. Weekly prayer meetings have taken place seeking the Lord's help and guidance for the future of the church. In addition, monthly prayer meetings have taken place online.

Sunday morning meetings provide opportunities for worship, teaching and fellowship. Internet links continue to be provided to enable the frail and vulnerable to join the meetings from home.

Messy Church took place most months during the year, providing an opportunity for outreach to families within the town, and closer fellowship for those within the church.

FISH provided opportunities for 11-year-olds upwards to meet together for fun, food and some Christian teaching.

The Ottery St Mary Community Market made a surplus of £581.41 for the year.

We have continued our involvement with Churches Together in Ottery (now known as "Love Ottery"). Members of the church have continued to organise and assist in the Ottery Food Bank, which is housed in the church hall. In the summer we helped run (and hosted) a children's holiday club.

During the year the church continued its membership of the Evangelical Alliance.

The church buildings are now being used regularly by Brownies, Table Tennis Club, Ottery Choral Society, La La Choir, Ottery Community Theatre, dance classes and OSM foodbank.

During the year a new boiler was installed at the manse, and some flooring was replaced. Further work is needed at the manse and various items of repairs and maintenance to the church, as indicated by a quinquennial inspection, remain outstanding. It is intended to carry out at least some of this work in the coming year.

We thank the Lord for his provision for us, both financially and spiritually. We put our trust in Him as we seek to know His will and to serve Him in Ottery St Mary.

Financial Review

The church's finances are still in a healthy condition, although there has been a drop in our general donations. We have received a gift aid refund of £6,954.74. The manse has been let since January, which has provided a large increase in our monthly income.

Designated Funds: The church has set aside £250.00 each month to be used towards repairs and maintenance at the manse. In addition, the United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) has taken 10% of our rental income at source (£101.20 per month) for similar purposes. At 31 December the balance held was £3,305.58.

Restricted Funds: Restricted donations of £4,071.60 were received. These included gifts for mission (or charity), for Graham Harry and for Rob Marshall, for OSM foodbank and for FISH.

Unrestricted Funds: After taking into account designated and restricted funds, there remains a balance of £83,991.57 in general funds (as compared with £66,188.62 in 2022). Ideally, the Elders' Meeting would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months regular expenditure (approximately £13,000) on unrestricted funds as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. The balance of £83,991.57 at 31 December represents significantly more than this. However, work required to the church buildings and manse will deplete our reserves. Having said this, we have a lot to be grateful for, and are in a good position financially.

The annual financial report has been prepared on the basis of a Receipts and Payments Account together with relevant notes and will be subject to an Independent Examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Declaration

Approved at a meeting of the church members on 4th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

T Errington

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Cash donations	305.00			305.00	464.23
Weekly envelopes					1,645.00
Payments direct to bank	20,160.00	4,390.00		24,550.00	25,855.00
Tax refund	6,954.74			6,954.74	6,492.60
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Missionary & related objects			1,048.60	1,048.60	545.40
Legacies					4,000.00
Community Market	1,451.00			1,451.00	994.00
Building Fund Grants				-	1,262.75
Sundry income	250.28		3,023.00	3,273.28	1,475.01
Income from investments					
Investment income	1,407.62	21.99		1,429.61	665.90
Manse Rent	9,686.80	4,113.20		13,800.00	
Use of hall	3,828.00			3,828.00	2,545.00
Total receipts	**44,043.44**	**8,525.19**	**4,071.60**	**56,640.23**	**45,944.89**
PAYMENTS					
Church activities					
Ministry & mission	5,832.00			5,832.00	5,958.00
Missionary & related objects		4,790.00	585.00	5,375.00	5,110.40
Church leader & Manse	838.05	5,288.71		6,126.76	20,030.10
Community Market	869.59			869.59	533.65
Church running costs	12,490.67			12,490.67	11,477.57
Worship/activity	5,171.97		415.00	5,586.97	4,070.29
Church management					
Administration/ sundries	1,038.21		2,600.00	3,638.21	2,375.93
Total payments	**26,240.49**	**10,078.71**	**3,600.00**	**39,919.20**	**49,555.94**
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	17,802.95	(1,553.52)	471.60	16,721.03	(3,611.05)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 01.01.2023	66,188.62	4,859.10	302.94	71,350.66	74,961.71
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31.12.2023	**83,991.57**	**3,305.58**	**774.54**	**88,071.69**	**71,350.66**

	Note	General Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
ASSETS	2						
Investments	3(a)						
2022 M & G Charibond Inc.			2,261.40				2,190.33
360 M & G Charifund Inc.			5,165.96				5,290.27
2829.77 COIF Ethical Inv Fd			8,517.61				7,744.23
Total Investments			**15,944.97**				15,224.83
Current Assets	4						
Co-operative current account		7,395.89		2,177.57	774.54	10,348.00	5,530.28
Co-operative savings account		76,595.68				76,595.68	65,820.38
URC rental held	3(b)			1,128.01		1,128.01	-
Current Balance		83,991.57		3,305.58	774.54	88,071.69	71,350.66

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting Policies

General
The accounts are prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis and in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

Receipts and Payments
Receipts are the total amount received by the church in offerings and donations. Expenditure is accounted for when it is paid.

Fund accounting
Separate records are kept for funds which have been designated and funds with restricted use. The church's general fund may be used by the church at its discretion to further its stated charitable objectives.

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

~ Land and buildings ~ the church building and manse
~ Furnishings, fixtures and fittings and office equipment

3. Investments held by Provincial Synod on our behalf:

(a) Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2022, and are "permanent". The income only can be used for "general purposes".
(b) In addition, a fund is held by Synod, to be used towards repair and maintenance of the manse.

4. Bank Accounts

We have two bank accounts with Co-operative Bank ~ a Community Directplus Account (current account) and a Business Select Instant Access Account (savings account). The Business Select Instant Access Account provides a small amount of interest.

All cash received is initially paid into the Co-operative current account, with a transfer being made each month of £250 to the Business Select Instant Access Account, earmarked for the Manse Repair Fund.

5. Tax Refund

A Gift Aid tax refund amounting to £6,954.74 was claimed.

6. Community Market

Receipts	£ 2023	£ 2023	£ 2022	£ 2022
Table fees		1,451.00		994.00
Less				
Payments				
Hire of hall	700.00		476.00	
Photocopying/printing	-		-	
Publicity	160.00		45.00	
Sundries	9.59	869.59	12.65	533.65
Net profit		**581.41**		**460.35**

7. Missionary and Related Objectives

	B/fwd £	Rec'd £	Church £	Total £	Paid £	C/fwd £
El Shadai		585.00	465.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	
Grenada			465.00	465.00	465.00	
Kunhar Christian Hospital			465.00	465.00	465.00	
Missioniary Aviation Fellowship			465.00	465.00	465.00	
OSM Foodbank		50.00		50.00	-	50.00
Release International			465.00	465.00	465.00	
St Petrock's		413.60		413.60	-	413.60
Thai Testament			465.00	465.00	465.00	
TheO6			2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
		1,048.60	4,790.00	5,838.60	5,375.00	463.60

The payments shown as "Church" were agreed at the 2022 Church AGM.

8. Designated Funds

Manse Repair Fund £ 3,305.58

9. Restricted Funds

Seedlings	£ 212.70
FISH	£ 98.24
Mission	£ 463.60
	£ 774.54

10. Notes

Insurance Cover

Sum insured:-	Church (buildings)	£2,775,446
	(contents)	£ 85,471
	Manse (building)	£ 313,265
	Manse (contents)	£ 23,993

Ministry & Mission

The 2023 Assessment was calculated at £11,664.00 to give a monthly payment of £972.00

Since April 2018 the payments have been reduced to 50% of that assessed in accordance with a decision of the Church Meeting as a result of the church's disagreement with the URC's stance on same sex marriage.

The 2024 Assessment has been calculated at £11,988.00 to give a monthly payment of £999.00 50% of which is £499.50.

For a more detailed explanation of Ministry and Mission payments, please see the Treasurer.

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165093

Accounts

Ottery St Mary

United Reformed Church

Annual Reports

2022

Ottery-urc.org

Charity registration number: 1165093

Secretary's Report

Towards the end of 2021 Rob and Graham facilitated two new events on a Sunday afternoon. These were called Forest Church and Fire Church. The background was that for some time, the leadership had been considering alternative ways to encourage newcomers to the church. In the main, we are an aging congregation although at the same time we are also blessed with a number of families. These 2 events could be seen as a forerunner to the proposal that was presented at the January church meeting to commence Messy Church.

At the Church meeting held on 10 January, there was a discussion regarding the Messy Church proposal that Rob had put together and the meeting agreed by a majority vote to adopt the proposal for an initial period of 12 months.

Thankfully, from the start of 2022 we were able to meet together in the church following on from the restrictions that Covid had brought in the previous two years. Covid had not 'gone away' completely however and during the earlier part of the year a number of households had the virus.

Gwen passed away peacefully at the beginning of March. What a faithful servant to the church and her Lord was Gwen. I can remember when I first came to Ottery that Gwen was running a bible study – and like her best friend Anne, she had a large library of reference books to help with the studies which were always very interesting and thought provoking.

In June, it was agreed that Rob would take an extended Leave of Absence from his role of Church leader due to the illness of their daughter and the impact this was having on the family. As a church we were then saddened but not surprised when Rob formally gave his notice to the church at the end of the summer. We miss Rob and the family very much, and trust our Lord and Saviour for Zoe's healing - looking forward to the day when we can welcome them back as a family again.

Rob left a hole in various places, and we are thankful for the additional help with the Sound Desk, Projector and Zoom in particular. Training began at the beginning of the year and there is now a rota of four which we are hoping to further expand during 2023.

John and Pamela Toy, who have attended the church for many years, became members in October together with Rob.

During the year we have seen some of our regular activities take place again – Homegroups; Fellowship lunches; Holiday Club in August; Tar Barrels refreshments on November 5; garden and church work parties; and the collection and delivery of Christmas shoeboxes and other essential items for Moldova and Ukraine through the CR2EE organisation. As a church we have continued as a member of Churches Together In Ottery – taking part in the Walk of Witness on Good Friday and the Money Course which ran from 26 September to 31 October.

As a leadership team we are very grateful to all of those who come to preach and teach on Sunday mornings. Particular thanks to Graham who has taken on the responsibility of additional preaching since Rob stepped down. We have been through a number of series/themes including: Mark – God has arrived; Bad words; Holy Spirit – Fruit; 3:16 Series; Joseph; Philippians; Advent – The Characters of Christmas. And we are also thankful to the many visiting speakers who continue to help.

I cannot close without mentioning 'our three girls' and their families who have had a difficult year in similar but not the same circumstances. We thank God for the privilege and opportunity to continue to lift the girls and their families to Him for safe keeping and healing.

"Now all glory to God, who is able to keep (us) from falling away and will bring (us) with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to him who alone is God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen. "
Jude v24-25 (NLT)

Youth Team Report

Youth Church

Right from the beginning I would like to thank everyone who volunteers to lead and assist in Youth Church. Everyone comes with many unique gifts and skills that make the sessions enjoyable for the children. Everyone puts so much hard work into preparing the lesson despite being unsure of numbers and typical age of the group that week. Thank you so much for being part of the youth and children's work here.

Over the year we covered a number of themes, I have listed some of them below.

- Miracles of Jesus
- Fruits of the Spirit – *love, peace, joy, kindness, faithfulness, self-control*
- Stories from the life of Jesus – *baptism, disciples, transfiguration, Easter etc*
- Bible characters – *Peter, John the Baptist, Paul, Mary Magdalene etc*
- Christian Foundation – *Who is God? Who is Jesus? Why did he die? etc*

The illness of Zoe has had a big impact on Youth Church and the wider work in general. Obviously as she is in Bristol, we don't see her for now and the boys are with family at the weekends. This has also meant we no longer, for now, see Lucy or Rob. We continue to hold the family in our prayers and we long for a miraculous healing touch on Zoe's life. We look forward to welcoming them back on a Sunday.

It has been great to see Joel continue on the sound desk.

At Christmas an advent calendar was given out to all the children of the church including FiSH.

FiSH

2022 was also another good year for FiSH. We started the year well with Rob and myself running the sessions. We tended to do FiSH twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Our numbers have been lower this year, with some of our older members leaving the group. We have had anywhere between 3 and 8 coming. Themes last year included the answering of different questions – for example 'What is heaven like?' 'Is Christianity the only way to heaven? We also did socials last year including bowling, valentines escape room, a town treasure hunt and visiting the woods. One of the funniest evenings was a water themed evening. This was during the summer heatwave. It was a really funny evening and everyone got drenched through, including me!
When Rob had to step back halfway through the year a number of people stepped in including Judith, Ali and Tom to help. Thank you to everybody who has helped with FiSH this year.

A group from FiSH also went to SPREE 2022 and Shobrooke Park, Crediton in June last year. We went with members of Chill Out Youth Group from Newton Poppleford. Six of our group went. We had a very kind donation from someone to help support the young people going. Ali (Rosie and Gracie), my daughter Chloe and one of our parents came and helped at the weekend. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and got a lot out of the weekend. My grandson Logan, who also came with the group, made a commitment to Jesus that weekend.

Superhero Academy Holiday Club

This year again we were also part of TheO6 Holiday Club, 'Superhero Academy'. A lot of our youth leaders volunteered to take part. This year again it was held at our church, with a marquee on the grass at the back, a few gazebos and the church hall. It was held over four days with over 55 registering. Each session saw us with great numbers – the highest being 38 children. We ran it the same as 2021 in that there was a carousel of activities for the children to do along with the normal fun, games, worship stories and challenges that Batman and Batgirl offered (a.k.a Graham and Fiona). The culmination of the week was a Holiday Club Celebration in the church and a family BBQ after. A number of children and their families attended. The celebration wasn't as well attended as last year so we are planning to incorporate the celebration service during the holiday club week instead in 2023. And for your diaries, the dates of holiday club 2023 is the 7th – 11th August.

Messy Church

In January last year we started Messy Church. This was held on the final Sunday of every month from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. The session would involve activities related to a theme including crafts, challenges, stories, quizzes and worship. The final part of each session would be a meal with everyone sat down together.

The first half of the year was really good with some pretty healthy numbers coming. Following the loss of Rob and family it took a bit of a dip with us trying to work things out and myself leading it solely. However, the last few sessions of 2022 really got us back on track. Some of the most memorable sessions include the two that we did at the Land of Canaan. It was great doing it out in the open and on both occasions, we had people joining us who just happened to be in the park. The sessions were slightly different but even so we were really pleased. We will be returning to the park when the weather is better in 2023. I think the best session was the November one. This I think really showed the potential of what Messy Church could be in reaching all ages. It was a Christmas themed Messy – with people of all ages coming. Activities included wreath making, challenges, arts and crafts.

Thank you to everyone who has made Messy Church what it is. Thank you to Clare and Ali who come up with a lot of the craft ideas. Thank you to Tom who helps with the more 'out of the box' activities. Thank you to Sue and John, Barbara and Gary, Philip and Judith who have fed and watered everyone with their wonderful meals. And thank you to Rachel and Michaela who come and helps at the sessions. And lastly thanks to the church who has provided cakes and other food items for the sessions.

So, as I end this report, I just would like to say thank you for all your prayers and donations to the work. They are so greatly appreciated. It is such a privilege we have to be able to speak into the lives of the young people and I know that through its God will be glorified and the church and children will be blessed.

Graham Harry

Foodbank

This year has been a very strange one. We started the year in hope that now Covid was over things would be getting back to normal, sadly however, we now find ourselves in the middle of a national financial crisis.

The frightening rate of inflation, particularly in the cost of energy and food was well known by September and so we took the decision to increase the help we give to or clients. We decided that we would double the amount we give to people on the prepaid meter system for the winter and increase the value of greengrocery vouchers for families according to the size of the families. We also decided to give each client a £20-40 Sainsbury gift voucher as a treat for Christmas.

We are currently helping about 1/3rd more clients than we were before the crisis hit us so naturally our expenditure has increased both because of the increased help we are giving and the increase in people needing our help. We do have sufficient financial resources to get us through the coming year.

This year we have provided 674 people with more than 6000 meals, spent £710 of fuel top-ups and more than £2300 on greengrocery vouchers, we have also had to buy in almost £600 of food when donations were low.

We are very grateful to all the people who donate food as well as the people who donate money and those who donate by monthly bankers orders and to the Ottery St Mary URC who provide us with premises and storage.

David Briden

Community Market

We were able to hold the market for the full year for the first time in 3 years. We started the year still under covid restrictions but still had quite good attendances. It was quieter in the summer, which is usual, and then much busier approaching Christmas.

We did not have any leaflets or posters printed this year but had a 'cut out and keep' advert in The Gazette with the dates for the year. One of the stallholders very kindly does publicity for us on Facebook and Martin places the market on a number of online sites, which prompt quite a number of enquiries.

The Ottery WI disbanded during the year and now the café refreshments are produced by the Parish Church Volunteers, who are basically the same group of ladies but under the Parish Church auspices! Lydia -vicar- is usually in attendance at the market all morning serving the refreshments which is great.

At the beginning of the year there was a huge increase in the charges for hiring The Institute. We managed not to increase our table fees to stallholders, as we didn't have the cost of printing and distributing leaflets.

It is very much a chance to chat with other crafters and producers and there have been some very encouraging comments from those who enjoy the atmosphere, not to mention the bacon rolls! We pray that we make good contacts with local people.

The surplus for the year was £460.35.

Many thanks to Gary, John, Martin, Ali and Barbara who put out tables, do publicity and do the accounts and for the prayer support.
Penny Hounslow

Fabric Report

Church
Maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the church and hall continued during the year, arranged as necessary.

Manse
Maintenance and repairs have been undertaken as necessary.

Following the vacating of The Manse in the Autumn, repairs and redecorating were carried out and the property was let to Tenants before Christmas.

Quinquennial Inspections
Inspections of both the church buildings and The Manse were completed during the year. The recommendations are being considered.

George Moon

Missionary Report

The mission group of Tim Beard, John Nash, Nesia Derby-McCabe and Judith Webber met on 22 October 2022.

The provision of funds for Christian Relief work in Grenada was discussed and Nesia provided helpful comment on 2 options. It was agreed that the best way of meeting the need in the poorer areas of Grenada was to provide funds to be used by John Charles the pastor of Nesia's church as the needs became clear.

So, during late 2022 support for the poorer people in Grenada began, administered through John Charles the Pastor of Nesia's church.

Recommendations for Home and Overseas Missionary Giving in 2023 for consideration by the Annual General Meeting.

Financial support for Mission in 2023 from the general fund, should be the same as in 2022. So, the total mission giving in 2023 should be £4400.00 plus a top up from Gwen's bequest of £65 for each topic.

This year the support for the Persecuted church and refugees will be through Release International.

As several church members are linked to Missionary Aviation Fellowship, it is proposed to replace support for TEAR Fund with support for Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is a Christian organisation reaching men, women and children in more than 25 countries. Operating more than 100 aircraft, MAF's pilots overcome terrain that has become inaccessible due to derelict roads, natural disaster, or violent conflict. MAF aircraft fly into more than 1000 destinations - transporting food and water, health professionals and medical supplies, and emergency workers and Christian missionaries where they are needed most. Each flight brings practical help, spiritual hope and physical healing to thousands of isolated people in remote communities for whom flying is a lifeline not a luxury.

Local Evangelism

The O6 Project continues to make a valuable contribution in Ottery, so it is recommended that the annual contribution from the church remains £2000.

Ottery Christian Youth Pastor (O6)	£2000

Proposed Overseas support for 2023

The division of mission spends overseas would remain similar as last year, apart from replacing TEAR Fund with Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

Summary of Overseas Mission activities supported

Missionary Aviation Fellowship	Using aircraft to provide help for missionary work in remote areas with poor road infrastructure.
Release International	Helping Persecuted Christians
Thai Pocket Testament League	Evangelism/ Teaching/ Poor relief
Kunhar Christian Hospital, Pakistan	Support building of new infrastructure in remote area
El Shaddai Children's Home, Chennai	Running costs of orphanage and old peoples' care.
Family Support in Grenada	John Charles, Ministry for those in need.

Suggested support (basic church + bequest top up):

Missionary Aviation Fellowship	£400 +65
Release International	£400 +65
Thai PTL	£400 +65
Kunhar Hospital	£400 +65
El Shaddai	£400 +65
Grenada	£400 +65
TOTAL	**£2400 + 390= £2790**

John Nash

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORM CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of URC and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissions under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

   have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:.....

M A Griffiths FCCA (Director)

Date 26/5/2023

Lentells Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
50 Fore Street
Seaton
Devon, EX12 2AD

Ottery St Mary

URC Charity

Registered Charity Number: 1165093

Financial Report

2022

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2005 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Administrative information

The Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the South West Synod of the Church.

Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is situated at Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. The correspondence address is 1 St Mary's Park, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1HZ.

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. The elected elders of the church during 2022 were:

Mrs B Beamer	Elder and Treasurer
Mr G Beamer	Elder
Mr G Harry	Elder
Miss J Webber	Elder and Secretary

The employees of the church during 2022 were:

Mr Robert Marshall ~ Church Leader
Mrs Carol Connett ~ Cleaner

The church building and the manse at 27 Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1EL are vested in The Trustees, The United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) Incorporated as trustees and held for the benefit of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

Structure, governance and management

The activities of Ottery St Mary United Reformed 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, in accordance with the normal practice of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church.

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.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are the Church Leader and up to nine members of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church nominated and elected by the members of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in Church Meeting. To be eligible for election, a person must have been worshipping in the church regularly for over one year and either be a member, or indicate that they are prepared to seek membership and be accepted, before being ordained as an Elder. Elders serve for three years, retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. There is no limit to the number of consecutive periods of service.

The Elders' Meeting met 13 times during the year. The Elders' Meeting is assisted in the administration of the church and its property by teams established for Mission, Youth Work, Finance and Fabric. The Church Meeting met 7 times during the year (including the AGM). Most of the church meetings took place online.

Objectives and activities

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building. The object of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church 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.

The church's vision is to be a spiritually strong, loving, bible-based family church where

- as individuals we take a personal daily walk with God
- we meet to learn together and encourage each other in the Christian life
- we work together to reach out and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ both locally and beyond in a bold, enthusiastic and effective manner

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the church offers;
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and performance

Wednesday and Thursday evening housegroups meet regularly, giving opportunities for Bible study and prayer. Weekly prayer meetings have taken place seeking the Lord's help and guidance for the future of the church.

Sunday morning meetings provide opportunities for worship, teaching and fellowship. Internet links continue to be provided to enable the frail and vulnerable to join the meetings from home.

Messy Church took place most months during the year, providing an opportunity for outreach to families within the town, and closer fellowship for those within the church.

FISH provided opportunities for 11 year olds upwards to meet together for fun, food and some Christian teaching.

The Ottery St Mary Community Market made a surplus of £460.35 for the year. A significant rise in hall fees accounted for the drop in profit.

We have continued our involvement with Churches Together in Ottery (now known as "Love Ottery"). Members of the church have continued to organise and assist in the Ottery Food Bank, which is housed in the church hall. In the summer we helped run (and hosted) a children's holiday club.

During the year the church continued its membership of the Evangelical Alliance. Partnership UK has merged with Counties, which does not have a formal membership structure, but continues to provide support and advice to the church.

The church buildings are now being used regularly by Brownies, Table Tennis Club, Ottery Choral Society, La La Choir, Ottery Community Theatre and dance classes.

The refurbishment of the church has been completed. The need for various further items of repairs and maintenance to the church and manse were indicated by a quinquennial inspection of the church buildings and the manse, some of which were carried out during the year. The manse was redecorated throughout, some flooring was repaired, some cleaned and some replaced, and the property was generally spruced up ready to receive new tenants, who moved in in December.

We were saddened by the severe illness of Zoe ~ Rob and Lucy's daughter. Rob was unable to continue as church leader and the family moved out of the manse. The church continues to pray for the family, and in particular for Zoe's recovery.

We thank the Lord for his provision for us, both financially and spiritually. We put our trust in Him as we seek to know His will and to serve Him in Ottery St Mary.

Financial Review

The church's finances are still in a healthy condition, although there has been a drop in our general donations. We have received a gift aid refund of £6,492.60, and received a legacy of £4,000 from Gwen Tilt's estate.

Designated Funds: The church has set aside £250.00 each month to be used towards repairs and maintenance at the manse. At 31 December the balance held was £4,459.10. The church also set aside £400 of Gwen's legacy towards mission.

Restricted Funds: Restricted donations of £1,814.40 were received. These included gifts for mission (or charity), gifts for Graham and for Rob, for the foodbank, for FISH, towards the costs of our Zoom subscription and Messy Church and a gift towards the Winter Warm Ups being organised by Love Ottery.

Unrestricted Funds: After taking into account designated and restricted funds, there remains a balance of £66,188.62 in general funds (as compared with £64,028.60 in 2021). Ideally, the Elders' Meeting would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months regular expenditure (approximately £17,000) on unrestricted funds as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. The balance of £66,188.62 at 31 December represents more than this. However, work required to the church buildings and manse will deplete our reserves. Having said this, we have a lot to be grateful for, and are in a good position financially.

The annual financial report has been prepared on the basis of a Receipts and Payments Account together with relevant notes and will be subject to an Independent Examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Declaration

Approved at a meeting of the church members on 13th MARCH 2023
and signed on their behalf by

Miss Judith Webber (Secretary)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Cash donations	464.23			464.23	1,952.45
Weekly envelopes	1,645.00			1,645.00	1,600.00
Payments direct to bank	18,455.00	7,400.00		25,855.00	26,150.00
Tax refund	6,492.60			6,492.60	5,884.74
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Missionary & related objects			545.40	545.40	726.12
Legacies	3,600.00	400.00		4,000.00	-
Community Market	994.00			994.00	716.00
Building Fund Grants	1,262.75			1,262.75	3,579.22
Sundry income	206.01		1,269.00	1,475.01	417.39
Income from investments					
Investment income	665.90			665.90	573.27
Use of hall	2,545.00			2,545.00	484.00
Total receipts	**36,330.49**	**7,800.00**	**1,814.40**	**45,944.89**	**42,083.19**
PAYMENTS					
Church activities					
Ministry & mission	5,958.00			5,958.00	6,260.00
Missionary & related objects		4,400.00	710.40	5,110.40	5,611.12
Church Leader & manse	11,423.79	8,606.31		20,030.10	13,981.25
Community Market	533.65			533.65	215.29
Church running costs	11,477.57			11,477.57	8,816.60
Refurbishment	-			-	4,011.81
Worship/activity	2,976.53		1,093.76	4,070.29	2,176.84
Church management					
Administration/ sundries	1,800.93		575.00	2,375.93	1,627.41
Total payments	**34,170.47**	**13,006.31**	**2,379.16**	**49,555.94**	**42,700.32**
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	2,160.02	(5,206.31)	(564.76)	(3,611.05)	(617.13)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 01.01.2022	64,028.60	10,065.41	867.70	74,961.71	75,578.84
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31.12.2022	**66,188.62**	**4,859.10**	**302.94**	**71,350.66**	**74,961.71**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	General Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2022 £	Totals 2021 £
ASSETS	2						
Investments	3						
2022 M & G Charibond Inc.			2,190.03			2,190.03	2,450.06
360 M & G Charifund Inc.			5,290.27			5,290.27	5,602.32
2829.77 COIF Ethical Inv Fd			7,744.23			7,744.23	8,842.18
Total Investments		-	**15,224.53**	-	-	**15,224.53**	**16,894.56**
Current Assets	4						
Co-operative current account		5,530.28				5,530.28	15,121.74
Co-operative savings account	8,9	60,658.34		4,859.10	302.94	65,820.38	59,839.97
Current Balance		66,188.62	-	4,859.10	302.94	71,350.66	75,578.84

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting Policies

General
The accounts are prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis and in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

Receipts and Payments
Receipts are the total amount received by the church in offerings and donations. Expenditure is accounted for when it is paid.

Fund accounting
Separate records are kept for funds which have been designated and funds with restricted use. The church's general fund may be used by the church at its discretion to further its stated charitable objectives.

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

~ Land and buildings ~ the church building and manse
~ Furnishings, fixtures and fittings and office equipment

3. Investments held by Provincial Synod on our behalf:

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2022, and are "permanent". The income only can be used for "general purposes".

4. Bank Accounts

We have two bank accounts with Co-operative Bank ~ a Community Directplus Account (current account) and a Business Select Instant Access Account (savings account). The Business Select Instant Access Account provides a small amount of interest.

All cash received is initially paid into the Co-operative current account, with a transfer being made each month of £250 to the Business Select Instant Access Account, earmarked for the Manse Repair Fund.

5. Tax Refund

A Gift Aid tax refund amounting to £6,492.60 was claimed.

6. Community Market

Receipts	£ 2022	£ 2022	£ 2021	£ 2021
Table fees		994.00		716.00
Less				
Payments				
Hire of hall	476.00		192.00	
Photocopying/printing	-		11.30	
Publicity	45.00		11.99	
Sundries	12.65	533.65		215.29
Net profit		**460.35**		**500.71**

7. Missionary and Related Objectives

	B/fwd £	Rec'd £	Church £	Total £	Paid £	C/fwd £
Able2Achieve (Silver Otter)	165.00	35.00		200.00	200.00	
Christian Aid		50.40		50.40	50.40	
El Shadai			400.00	400.00	400.00	
Farming Community Netw'k		300.00		300.00	300.00	
Grenada			400.00	400.00	400.00	
Kunhar Christian Hospital			400.00	400.00	400.00	
Open Doors			400.00	400.00	400.00	
TEAR Fund		50.00	400.00	450.00	450.00	
Thai Testament			400.00	400.00	400.00	
TheO6		110.00	2,000.00	2,110.00	2,110.00	
	165.00	545.40	4,400.00	5,110.40	5,110.40	

The payments shown as "Church" were agreed at the 2021 Church AGM.

8. Restricted Funds

Seedlings	£ 212.70
FISH	£ 40.24
Winter warm ups	£ 50.00
	£ 302.94

9. Designated Funds

Manse Repair Fund	£ 4,459.10
Mission Fund	£ 400.00
	£ 4,859.10

10. Notes

Insurance Cover

Sum insured:-	Church (buildings)	£2,382,357
	(contents)	£ 71,704
	Manse (building)	£ 282,221
	Manse (contents)	£ 20,129

Ministry & Mission

The 2022 Assessment was calculated at £11,916 to give a monthly payment of £993.

Since April 2018 the payments have been reduced to 50% of that assessed in accordance with a decision of the Church Meeting as a result of the church's disagreement with the URC's stance on same sex marriage.

The 2023 Assessment has been calculated at £11,664 to give a monthly payment of £972, 50% of which is £486.

For a more detailed explanation of Ministry and Mission payments, please see the Treasurer.

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165093

Accounts

Ottery St Mary

United Reformed Church

Annual Reports

2021

Ottery-urc.org

Charity registration number: 1165093

Church Leader's Report

Vision

The Bible's vision for the town of Ottery St Mary can be summed up in the words of the prophet:

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

We regularly remind ourselves that God's glory is fully revealed in the person of Jesus:

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..." Hebrews 1:3

And so, as Christians living in this town and surrounding villages, we seek to fill Ottery with the knowledge of Jesus by word and embodiment. We believe that eternal life - life in all its fulness - comes by the knowledge of God as revealed in Jesus (John 17:3).

Leadership Team

Our AGM in February saw the retirement of three long serving and faithful Elders. Lorna, John and Anne all stood down at the completion of their terms and following a period of hand-over to the current team who had begun in the summer of 2020, and Graham Harry who was newly inducted as Elder in March 2021.

We now have four serving Elders: Judith Webber (Secretary), Barbara Beamer (Treasurer), Gary Beamer, and Graham Harry. We are extremely grateful for all their service to the church, both past and present.

Sadly, Anne died soon after retiring following many years of battling cancer. Her funeral was unfortunately limited by the Coronavirus restrictions during May, but it was clear how much people near, and far love and miss her.

The year began with another 'Lockdown' and so the leadership team began to meet weekly to engage with some new church revitalisation material prepared and distributed by Partnership UK. The purpose of this was to build relationships within the team, consider the future of the church in terms of direction, leadership, outreach and how we might be able to use what God has given us to join in with the mission of God in Ottery St Mary. This material culminated in a week of prayer and reading of Ephesians in June and the Leadership Away Day on 26 June.

Following Church Meetings in July it was clear that the only realistic option to consider further was a parallel church approach to revitalisation and given our context this was specifically considered in the form of 'Messy Church'. The Church Meeting on 10 January 2022 decided to commence with this fresh expression. We look forward to seeing how this will reach and bless the community.

Sunday Worship

Our Sunday worship gatherings have continued in-and-out of various lockdowns and personal isolations. Zoom has enabled us to continue to gather regardless, and it has also proved to be a more permanent capability, allowing those who cannot join us physically in the building to still participate in collective worship.

During this year we have reintegrated the children into the beginning of the service before they leave for their groups. This was enabled as the restrictions continued to ease during the summer months.
We have also experimented with some new forms of all-age worship on Sunday afternoons. Forest Church in August at East Hill saw children, parents and grandparents gather to worship. In November Fire Church gathered at Weston Chapel and again saw multi-generational worship take place.

Some special services were also held on Sunday mornings: Youth Family service in February, Missions Sunday in April, Holiday Club celebration in August, Alpha Sunday in September, and Candles by Candlelight in December with the Brass Class.

One of the many features of Sunday worship is the teaching. This year we have covered the following passages of scripture and topics:

- Humility – a character study, based on multiple parts of scripture considering how humility is a force for good: as resistance, peace-making, worship, hope, and the like.
- Lent / Easter – a survey through Luke looking at the alternative Kingdom, one that is unexpected, unrecognised, misunderstood, etc..
- Holy Spirit – a study of the works of the Spirit of God as revealed from Genesis through to the New Testament letters.
- Colossians – seven-part series on the letter written to show what the 'New Humanity' looks like, raised by Christ.
- Trust – we studied the lives of Abraham and Sarah and how they were shown that God can be trusted in all circumstances – even when we don't understand, or it seems impossible.
- Character of God – we made use of the Bible Project's video series on God's self-revelation of His character to Moses at Mount Sinai in Exodus.
- Getting ready for God – our advent preparation saw us follow some Lectionary readings as we sought to be ready for the arrival of God in Jesus.

We are especially grateful to Ivan, for his ministry on the piano/ organ/ sound/ vision/ Zoom almost every week of the year. We are struggling with a lack of musicians currently and it is something we need to pray about. But we are also encouraged that Joel and more recently Jaydon have both taken a keen and capable interest in running 'the desk'. This continues to be a focus of our efforts – encouraging and equipping multiple, all-age participation in worship services.

Outreach and Discipleship
Beginning in April we hosted a prayer course (24/7 Prayer) online via Zoom. This was held on Monday evenings for eight weeks and was well attended by people from our church and those in other churches and the wider community. The plan is to host the follow-up course in 2022. The prayer course, like all courses, had mixed responses from the guests – some very positive, others critical. It demonstrated a way of working with the Churches Together in Ottery (CTiO) that was well supported, whereby we as a church hosted a course and invited all to participate in various ways from other churches.

We also took a leading role in hosting and enabling the CTiO Alpha Online course which commenced in September for 12 weeks. This was a jointly led effort, seeing leaders from multiple churches involved and a devoted prayer team. The most encouraging aspect of this course was the inter-church participation, the shared enthusiasm for helping those new and experienced in the faith to grow through the delivery of the material. The feedback of this course was excellent, and we intend to host this again in the Autumn of 2022 either physically or online.

Summary

Having reflected on 2021 we look forward to the opportunities of 2022 and the fresh chance to place our trust in the Lord Jesus who continues to establish his Kingdom on Earth, in Ottery St Mary, so that his will is done.

"Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change."

2 Peter 3:8-9 MSG

Robert Marshall

Secretary's Report

2021 started as 2020 ended in another Lockdown and all services being held on zoom. However, as the year progressed, we were eventually able to meet in person whilst still staying on zoom for those who wished to.

As soon as the church was open, a young lady called Maria came to practice on the organ on a Sunday morning – before the service. This was lovely to hear for those who were there early enough to hear it, this stopped in the Autumn when Maria went off to boarding school.

Graham joined the team of Elders and was ordained and inducted in March. Unfortunately, we couldn't share the hand of fellowship with Graham, as Rob and Graham were on their own in the church that morning due to restrictions. It has been great to have Graham's fellowship and input at the leadership meetings.

Sadly, Anne passed away in April after a brave battle with cancer and I still miss her when we try a descant – I always used to look across at Anne and we shared a smile as we both attempted to sing it! Then in August, Shirley Collins passed away. Shirley had been faithful in coming back to worship when lockdown initially finished. Connie Whitfield's family asked if they could scatter Connie's ashes in the front garden and place a memorial stone – this took place in October.

Work on the Church building has continued with carpentry work by Rob Johns (east porch shelves and remodeling the cabinet in the south corner so useful for items for the young ones); new doors fitted upstairs by the carpenter and painted by Martin and David; plumbing hot water in the small toilet and various touching up of paintwork. Upstairs has also been cleared of various items of unnecessary furniture, toys have been re-homed and there is still the ongoing need to tidy and empty cupboards and shelves.

Rob and family have been with us for nearly 2 years and his contract will be renewed at the beginning of 2022 to a 12-month rolling contract.

There is so much work that is done behind the scenes and I would like to thank all of those who prepare flowers, look after the maintenance of the building and grounds, set up and prepare the techie side; submit the monthly article to the Gazette; send birthday cards; take Minutes; look after our Health and Safety and have prepared various iterations of Covid-19 procedures and risk assessments, together with ensuring the church is warm and anything else I may have forgotten. And lastly, but certainly not least, a big thank you to Rob for all his help in leading the church through the last year and for guiding the meetings of the Leadership team.

Judith Webber

Youth Team Report

Youth Church

So, 2021 began just as we spent a lot of 2020 in lockdown. This meant that we were unable to meet in person. However, we did meet online again and we had great attendance most weeks. Online sessions involved a lot of the youth team leaders – some doing stories, crafts, and games. For the craft we took around a craft pack each week to each of our families' homes. This contained all they needed for the craft – also it often included a little treat. We started the year looking at Jonah and then following that session we began a four-week series on the nature of God – looking at Grace, Friend, Holy and Just. This took us all the way up until half-term when I did an all-age service. Following half-term, we then looked at some of the parables in the New Testament. On the 23rd March we were very pleased to start back meeting physically. To start with we met fortnightly and then from the 15th May we started to meet weekly. Over the term we looked at 'God in the Psalms' and Colossians. You will notice that some of the themes are similar, if not the same, as the church. This is because we feel that it would be good, where we can, to follow the themes of the church. This will mean that all the family are looking at the same scriptures and will enable whole family discussions. It would be great for everyone to listen to each other and see what they learnt from Church.

At Easter we had a Children's Easter Service on the grass at the back of the church. This was a lot of fun and the children really enjoyed it. We played games, had an interactive story and also did pebble painting. Each child received an Easter Egg. Also, Michaela ran a competition to design a face mask which some of the children entered. Again, there were lots of goodies as prizes.

Following our Summer break, we looked at a number of series including 'School', a continuing of 'The Nature of God' and Advent. During the year we were also part of 'Forest Church' and 'Fire Church'. The children really enjoyed doing church outside in a different way. Who would have thought that den making, picnics, toasting marsh mallows and going on scavenger hunts could be church!

During the year our numbers sadly went down when the Randall Family left. This also meant we lost a teacher and leader. In this report I would like to say a massive thank you to Iain for all the work that he did for the youth in church. He was extremely passionate about sharing the gospel with the young people and he had a big heart for them. I know he is missed. Because the numbers went down in the older group for a variety of reasons, we decided that we would stop the older group. This meant that the older ones would stay in

church if they came. It has been great to see both Joel and Jaydon looking after the sound and visual desk.
At Christmas an advent calendar was given out to all the children of the church including FiSH.

FiSH

Again, due to COVID we did begin the year meeting online for FiSH twice a month. We did various things including games, quizzes, crafts, worship and discussions. Two highlights for me included Michaela showing the young people how to journal in the bible. Very generously she supplied a kit for each of the young people. The other highlight was a Valentines Escape Room. This is where the young people split into three teams to solve various clues to find a code. All the clues were based on God's love. It was a great session, even if it was quite challenging. We also welcomed Michaela and Rob onto the FiSH team when Iain left. Since we have met in person, Rob has continued to support the group. A massive thank you goes to both Rob and Michaela for stepping in. We have now started using the hall in church to meet for FiSH. We meet regularly once a month now with a second session each month where we can. Some of the sessions that we have done in person have included a Treasure hunt in Sidmouth; a train timetable quiz, a town scavenger hunt; an Easter Who Dunnit and a joint Christmas Quiz Night with the young people of Newton Poppleford. We also did 'Board game Roulette' which involved six types of board games and a time limit.

Superhero Academy Holiday Club

This year again we were also part of TheO6 Holiday Club, this year called 'Superhero Academy'. A lot of our youth leaders volunteered to take part. Thankfully too we were able to do it physically rather than being online. This year it was held at our church, making use of a marquee on the grass at the back, a few gazebos and the church hall. It was held over four days with over 48 registering. Each session saw us with great numbers – the highest being 38 children. It was slightly different this year in that there was a carousel of activities for the children to do along with the normal fun, games, worship stories and challenges that Batman and Superman offered (a.k.a Graham and Iain). The culmination of the week was a Holiday Club Celebration in the church on the following Sunday and a family BBQ on the lawn afterwards. An encouraging number of children and their families attended.
As I conclude I would like to thank every member of the youth team for all they do. God has certainly given you all great gifts and talents that we are so lucky to have at our church. Thank you for your time commitment in not only delivering the work but also planning it. I would also like to thank the wider church for your support and prayers. The Youth and Children's work is not just the responsibility of the youth team. The responsibility also lies within the whole church. Your prayers, monetary gifts and support mean so much and help the team do all that they need to do. Here's to a great 2022.

Graham Harry

Housegroups

West Hill Homegroup

This year we have completed studies on Images of God, James, Parables and Spiritual Warfare.

We are currently working through a 12-part study of Jonah, Joel and Amos. We have completed Jonah and Joel and are now on Amos - Not the most uplifting book of the Bible but it does give plenty of fuel for discussion.

We are a small group at present, 8-10 people each session. We welcome all who wish to attend and are happy to accommodate those who cannot manage every session. We also include, on Zoom, those who cannot come to the session. Tea, Coffee or a soft drink and biscuits open each session.

David Briden

Ottery Homegroup

We are a very small group and would love to see others join us this year – even just occasionally. Since September we have been meeting fortnightly in each other's homes on Thursdays at 8.00. We take it in turns to either lead or host the sessions (but you are welcome to just turn up!)

We usually start the evening with a chat and a hot drink and biscuits. We have been using the Bible Society's Lyfe materials which are based around six themes: Prayer, the Holy Spirit, Scripture, Authenticity, Compassion and Everyday Life. Each session includes a short video, a bible-reading, a weekly challenge and prayer. We have completed the introductions to each of the themes, and plan to continue by studying each theme in more depth – starting with Prayer.

We have found the material provided by the Bible Society refreshingly different from many bible studies, and it has led to some interesting and thought-provoking discussions - and perhaps some practical ideas of how we can and should be living out our faith.

If you would like to join us, please feel free to just turn up on the night. The venue should be advertised in the weekly newsletter and Rob's update emails, but if you're not sure please ask Barbara or one of the elders.

Barbara Beamer

The Church Library

The Church Library will shortly be reviewed, dusted and sorted, in expectation of a return to normal living soon.

David Briden

Foodbank

The last 12 months have been different and difficult but also encouraging. The Covid crisis meant that we had to adapt to a system of delivering food to clients, with the help of a team of drivers provided through the Ottery Covid help scheme. Over the course of the lockdown, including 2020 and beyond, the team delivered more than 650 food parcels providing 11,400 meals for 1267 people.

In 2021 up to the end of November the Foodbank has issued 307 parcels providing 6030 meals to 670 people. We have also issued £2760 worth of Greengrocery vouchers and re-started the Fuel top-up scheme which had to be suspended during the lockdown period.

We aim to provide three days food to cover three meals a day giving a balanced diet of largely tinned or long-life foods. In addition, we also give vouchers for fresh greengrocery from Rabbit & Co. the greengrocer in the Square, and £10 worth of gas/electricity per month for those on the smart key' system.
We are very grateful to all our donors; the generosity of everyone around us continues to exceed expectations. Particular thanks to our loyal donors who give by Bankers Order each month. Our thanks also to Rabbit & Co. who manage the voucher scheme and also give to the Foodbank.

The Ottery St Mary Parish Church, West Hill Parish Church, Feniton Parish Church, Ottery URC and Sainsburys and McColls keep collection boxes for food donations and we thank them and also the people who empty the boxes and deliver the foodstuffs to us regularly.

We are also very grateful to our volunteers who all give their time generously and without remuneration. No expenses are paid or expected by anyone associated with the Foodbank.

As the generosity of our donors of both food and money has also increased our income in 2021 has once again exceeded our expenditure and we begin the New Year in a very good position to continue to help those most in need.

David Briden

Community Market

We re-started the Community Market in June 2021 after having no markets for 16 months during the several lockdowns. (One of the stallholders had very helpfully organised virtual markets during the lockdown.)
When we re-started, we had all the national and The Institute requirements in place – no café, masks, one way system, sanitiser, far fewer tables so that they could be spaced out, social distancing. The WI café has been held for the last four months. The markets have been smaller than those previously held and footfall has been less but all the stallholders are enthusiastic about the market continuing and we will be continuing the market in 2022.
The market is organised as part of the church's wider witness and work in the community. (This is the heading on the stallholders' Terms and Conditions.) We offer local crafters, growers, bakers, those with something to sell or a charity or project to promote a space. There

is a friendly atmosphere and the social aspect is enjoyed as well as the buying/ selling. We pray that we can make good contacts with local people.
Huge thanks to Gary, John, Martin, Ali and Barbara who have supported the market with putting out tables, publicity and doing the accounts. Also thank you for the prayer support.
The surplus for the year is £500.71.

Penny Hounslow

Fabric Report

Church

Maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the church and hall continued during the year, arranged as necessary.

Manse

The employed Church Worker and his family have continued in occupation.
Maintenance and repairs have been undertaken as necessary.
The damaged front wall is expected to be repaired in the New Year.

Quinquennial Inspections

Inspections of both the church buildings and The Manse are in progress.

George Moon

Missionary Report

The mission group of Judith Webber, Tim Beard and John Nash has met twice this year in December 2021 and January 2022. We wish to thank Anne Brinton for all her contributions in previous years and she is sadly missed now.
In the last month Nesia Derby-McCabe has started to work in the group.

The results from the most recent meeting plus subsequent discussions are attached below.

Recommendations for Home and Overseas Missionary Giving in 2022 for consideration by the Annual general meeting.

Financial support for Mission in 2022 from the general fund, should be increased slightly. So, the total mission giving in 2021 should be £4400.00

This year the support for the Persecuted church and refugees will be through Open Doors.

Local Evangelism
The O6 Project is making a valuable contribution in Ottery, so it is recommended that the annual contribution from the church is increased from £1500 to £2000.

Ottery Christian Youth Pastor (O6)	£2000

Proposed Overseas support for 2021
The division of mission spends overseas would remain similar to last year.

Summary of Overseas Mission activities supported

Ethiopia EKC Self-help Project	Support to Tear Fund will be continued but a decision needs to be made about whether support to Ethiopia in particular is practical at this time.
Open Doors	Persecuted Christians/ refugees
Thai Pocket Testament League	Evangelism/ Teaching/ Poor relief
Kunhar Christian Hospital, Pakistan	Support building of new infrastructure in remote area
El Shaddai Children's Home, Chennai	Running costs of orphanage/ old people's care.
Orphanage in Grenada	If suitable arrangements can be made with a church in Grenada

Suggested support

TEAR Fund	£400
Open Doors	£400
Thai PTL	£400
Kunhar Hospital	£400
El Shaddai	£400
Grenada	£400
TOTAL	**£2400**

John Nash

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORM CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of URC and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissions under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

   have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:.....

M A Griffiths FCCA (Director)

Date 21/7/2022

Lentells Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
50 Fore Street
Seaton
Devon, EX12 2AD

Ottery St Mary

URC Charity

Registered Charity Number: 1165093

Financial Report

2021

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2005 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Administrative information

The Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the South West Synod of the Church.

Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is situated at Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. The correspondence address is 1 St Mary's Park, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1HZ.

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. The elected elders of the church during 2021 were:

Mrs B Beamer	Elder and Treasurer
Mr G Beamer	Elder
Mr G Harry	Elder
Miss J Webber	Elder and Secretary

The employees of the church during 2021 were:

Mr Robert Marshall ~ Church Leader
Mrs Carol Connett ~ Cleaner

The church building and the manse at 27 Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1EL are vested in The Trustees, The United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) Incorporated as trustees and held for the benefit of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

Structure, governance and management

The activities of Ottery St Mary United Reformed 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, in accordance with the normal practice of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church.

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.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are the Church Leader and up to nine members of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church nominated and elected by the members of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in Church Meeting. To be eligible for election, a person must have been worshipping in the church regularly for over one year and either be a member, or indicate that they are prepared to seek membership and be accepted, before being ordained as an Elder. Elders serve for three years, retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. There is no limit to the number of consecutive periods of service.

The Elders' Meeting met 12 times during the year and also had a day away to discuss, pray about and seek the Lord's will concerning the future of the church. The Elders' Meeting is assisted in the administration of the church and its property by teams established for Mission, Youth Work, Worship, Finance and Fabric. The Church Meeting met 6 times during the year (including the AGM). Due to the COVID crisis, the church meetings took place online.

Objectives and activities

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building. The object of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church 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.

The church's vision is to be a spiritually strong, loving, bible-based family church where

- as individuals we take a personal daily walk with God
- we meet to learn together and encourage each other in the Christian life
- we work together to reach out and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ both locally and beyond in a bold, enthusiastic and effective manner

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the church offers;
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and performance

Wednesday and Thursday evening housegroups meet regularly, giving opportunities for Bible study and prayer. Weekly prayer meetings have taken place seeking the Lord's help and guidance for the future of the church.

Sunday morning meetings provide opportunities for worship, teaching and fellowship. At the start of the year, all meetings were taking place online, but as restrictions have eased we have been able to return to the church buildings and both the children and adults have been able to meet together in the church since Easter. Internet links continue to be provided to enable the vulnerable to join the meetings from home.

FISH provided opportunities for 11 year olds upwards to meet together for fun, food and some Christian teaching.

The Ottery St Mary Community Market recommenced in June, and after a slow start the numbers hiring tables have increased so that the Market made a surplus of £500.71 for the year.

We have continued our involvement with Churches Together in Ottery (now known as "Love Ottery"). Members of the church have continued to organise and assist in the Ottery Food Bank, which is housed in the church hall. In the summer we helped run (and hosted) a children's holiday club and in the autumn several members were involved in running an online Alpha Course.

During the year the church continued its membership of the Evangelical Alliance and of Partnership UK.

From September several organisations have started to use the church facilities - some for the first time. The building is now being used regularly by Brownies, Table Tennis Club, Ottery Choral Society, Ottery Community Theatre and dance classes.

The refurbishment of the church was nearing completion by the end of 2021. Work completed included the provision of a new cupboard and shelving, new doors in the school rooms, decoration of those doors and replacement of the PC and monitors for use in services.

We thank the Lord for his provision for us, both financially and spiritually. We put our trust in Him as we seek to know His will and to serve Him in Ottery St Mary.

Financial Review

The church's finances are still in a healthy condition. Once again, overall giving to the church has increased slightly, with most people now giving to the church online. We have received a refund of VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, amounting to £3,579.22.

Designated Funds: The church has set aside £250.00 each month to be used towards repairs and maintenance at the manse. At 31 December the balance held was £10,065.41.

Restricted Funds: Restricted donations of £916.12 were received. These included gifts for mission (or charity), and gifts for FISH, towards the costs of our Zoom subscription and Messy Church.

Unrestricted Funds: After taking into account designated and restricted funds, there remains a balance of £64,028.60 in general funds (as compared with £66,185.44 in 2020). Ideally, the Elders' Meeting would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months regular expenditure (approximately £20,000) on unrestricted funds as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. The balance of £64,028.60 at 31 December represents more than this. However, we are shortly to receive the results of a recent quinquennial inspection of the church buildings, with a similar inspection of the manse soon to take place. It is likely that work will need to be carried out which will deplete our reserves. Having said this, we are doing considerably better than anticipated and have a lot to be grateful for.

The annual financial report has been prepared on the basis of a Receipts and Payments Account together with relevant notes and will be subject to an Independent Examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Declaration

Approved at a meeting of the church members on 21st February 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Mr Robert Marshall (Pastor)

Miss Judith Webber (Secretary)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Cash donations	1,952.45			1,952.45	1,799.10
Weekly envelopes	1,600.00			1,600.00	2,357.50
Payments direct to bank	19,350.00	6,800.00		26,150.00	21,953.00
Tax refund	5,884.74			5,884.74	6,123.22
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Missionary & related objects			726.12	726.12	1,140.00
Legacies				-	9,291.19
Community Market	716.00			716.00	116.00
Building Fund					
Grants	3,579.22			3,579.22	23,675.64
Sundry income	227.39		190.00	417.39	832.70
Income from investments					
Investment income	573.27			573.27	576.77
Use of hall	484.00			484.00	774.00
Rental income from manse				-	1,946.82
Total receipts	**34,367.07**	**6,800.00**	**916.12**	**42,083.19**	**70,585.94**
PAYMENTS					
Church activities					
Ministry & mission	6,260.00			6,260.00	3,296.50
Missionary & related objects		4,730.00	881.12	5,611.12	5,761.00
Church Leader & manse	13,515.96	465.29		13,981.25	16,224.26
Community Market	215.29			215.29	267.07
Church running costs	8,816.60			8,816.60	10,933.68
Refurbishment	4,011.81			4,011.81	31,527.49
Worship/activity	2,076.84		100.00	2,176.84	2,823.96
Church management					
Administration/ sundries	1,627.41			1,627.41	966.14
Total payments	**36,523.91**	**5,195.29**	**981.12**	**42,700.32**	**71,800.10**
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	(2,156.84)	1,604.71	(65.00)	(617.13)	(1,214.16)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 01/01/2021	66,185.44	8,460.70	932.70	75,578.84	76,793.00
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31/12/2021	**64,028.60**	**10,065.41**	**867.70**	**74,961.71**	**75,578.84**

	Note	General Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2021 £	Totals 2020 £
ASSETS	2						
Investments	3						
2022 M & G Charibond Inc.			2,450.06			2,450.06	2,537.21
360 M & G Charifund Inc.			5,602.32			5,602.32	4,941.25
2829.77 CCLA Ethical Inv Fd			8,842.18			8,842.18	7,903.83
Total Investments		-	**16,894.56**	-	-	**16,894.56**	**15,382.29**
Current Assets	4						
Co-operative current account		15,121.74				15,121.74	18,756.92
Co-operative savings account	8,9	48,906.86		10,065.41	867.70	59,839.97	56,821.92
Current Balance		64,028.60	-	10,065.41	867.70	74,961.71	75,578.84

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting Policies

General
The accounts are prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis and in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

Receipts and Payments
Receipts are the total amount received by the church in offerings and donations. Expenditure is accounted for when it is paid.

Fund accounting
Separate records are kept for funds which have been designated and funds with restricted use. The church's general fund may be used by the church at its discretion to further its stated charitable objectives.

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

~ Land and buildings ~ the church building and manse
~ Furnishings, fixtures and fittings and office equipment

3. Investments held by Provincial Synod on our behalf:

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2021, and are "permanent". The income only can be used for "general purposes".

4. Bank Accounts

We have two bank accounts with Co-operative Bank ~ a Community Directplus Account (current account) and a Business Select Instant Access Account (savings account). The Business Select Instant Access Account provides a small amount of interest.

All cash received is initially paid into the Co-operative current account, with a transfer being made each month of £250 to the Business Select Instant Access Account, earmarked for the Manse Repair Fund.

5. Tax Refund

A Gift Aid tax refund amounting to £5,884.74 was claimed.

6. Community Market

Receipts	£ 2021	£ 2021	£ 2020	£ 2020
Table fees		716.00		116.00
Less				
Payments				
Hire of hall	192.00		24.00	
Photocopying/printing	11.30		15.00	
Publicity	11.99	215.29	228.07	267.07
Net profit		500.71		(151.07)

7. Missionary and Related Objectives

	B/fwd £	Rec'd £	Church £	Total £	Paid £	C/fwd £
Able2Achieve (Silver Otter)		165.00		165.00	-	165.00
El Shadai			500.00	500.00	500.00	
FORCE	320.00			320.00	320.00	-
Kunhar Christian Hospital			500.00	500.00	500.00	
O6 Project		200.00	2,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	
Release			565.00	565.00	565.00	
St Petrock's		261.12		261.12	261.12	
TEAR Fund		100.00	665.00	765.00	765.00	
Thai Testament			500.00	500.00	500.00	
	320.00	726.12	4730.00	5,776.12	5,611.12	165.00

The payments shown as "Church" were agreed at the 2021 Church AGM.

8. Restricted Funds

Mission Fund	£	165.00
Seedlings	£	212.70
Spree	£	400.00
FISH	£	40.00
Messy Church	£	50.00
	£	867.70

9. Designated Funds

Manse Repair Fund	£ 10,065.41

10. Notes

Insurance Cover

Sum insured:-	Church (buildings)	£2,230,671
	(contents)	£ 65,723
	Manse (building)	£ 255,635
	Manse (contents)	£ 20,129

Ministry & Mission

The 2021 Assessment was calculated at £12,492 to give a monthly payment of £1,041.

Since April 2018 the payments have been reduced to 50% of that assessed in accordance with a decision of the Church Meeting as a result of the church's disagreement with the URC's stance on same sex marriage. Payments were reduced further to £215 per month in 2020 in line with the URC Synod's recommendation to make up for the loss of rental income due to the covid pandemic. In January 2021 it was noticed that these payments had been miscalculated, and £380 per month has been paid throughout 2021, with an additional back-payment of £1,700 to make up for the earlier error.

The 2022 Assessment has been calculated at £11,916 to give a monthly payment of £993, 50% of which is £496.50.

For a more detailed explanation of Ministry and Mission payments, please see the Treasurer.

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165093

Accounts

Ottery St Mary

United Reformed Church

Annual Reports

2020

Ottery-urc.org

Charity registration number: 1165093

Secretary's Report

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1 : 9

As we entered 2020 we were optimistic about the future having recently appointed Robert Marshall as our Church Leader. No sooner had he and his wife, Lucy, and family arrived and the Commissioning service taken place, than the country was put in Lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. No longer were places of worship to remain open in order to keep people safe. Life was no longer the same with so many restrictions on what we could and could not do, where we could go and who we could see. It is good to remember that God was with us throughout that time and is still watching over us as we enter another lockdown.

With Robert at the helm we were soon worshipping via Zoom and weekly attendance was very encouraging. No longer able to meet in person we joined together over the internet and had a chance to catch up with one another in the breakout rooms. Prayer meetings were held each Sunday, Housegroups began meeting again and the Elders continued to meet regularly to keep routine work going and prepare for a "New Normal". A "New Normal" team was appointed to look at how we could re-open the Church with all the guidance given and what measures were needed to comply with the restrictions. Their hard work was much appreciated and we give them our thanks. Quiz evenings gave us a much needed social break from our daily routines and we must give thanks to Martin for organising these. The Elders felt it was necessary to meet the needs of our young people as a priority and so when restrictions allowed the young people met upstairs for their Sunday morning classes with the Church service being streamed from the building via Zoom to those still at risk and unable to attend at Church. This began in October with the intention of holding services fortnightly from the Church. Another lockdown prevented this from happening for long and even our Christmas Day service was via Zoom only. However a new Zoom service was added for the young people beginning at 10.00am each Sunday. What a blessing these services have been for the youth of the Church and for us with mainly preachers from our own fellowship. Preaching themes have again been evident throughout this time and thanks go to Philip for arranging our preaching plan. A book read, re(Union) by Bruxy Cavey, was held online and proved both encouraging and thought provoking. God is with us!

It has been encouraging to hear about people phoning one another and keeping in regular contact. Those shielding at home have greatly appreciated this and recognized they are not alone and that they are remembered in prayer. Some have had hospital visits and continuing treatment with telephone and video consultations becoming the norm. Sadly Deirdre's partner, Mike passed away in October and we continue to uphold Deirdre in our prayers. The arrival of a new grandchild is always a blessing although once again Covid restrictions meant we have not been able to see our families as much as we would like. Nan has once again done a great job sending out cards on special occasions.

We were very pleased to welcome Graham Harry and Lucy Marshall into membership and induct Barbara Beamer, Gary Beamer and Judith Webber back to the Eldership. Their contributions to the running of the Church are greatly appreciated.

Work on the Church building has been ongoing with new boilers and a new kitchen fitted and the exterior painted. Broadband was installed to allow us to stream the morning service via Zoom on those days when the Church was open. Ivan has once again been of great assistance in sorting out the technology required.

The Foodbank has continued to supply those in need and are grateful for your generous donations and for the volunteers who put food parcels together and those who made the deliveries. The pandemic has meant more people were in need. The Community Market has only been able to meet once but Martin has kept everyone up to date with his regular piece in the local Gazette. The stallholders held a virtual market before Christmas.

I would just like to finish by thanking Rob and the Elders for all their support throughout a difficult year and all of you for your faithfulness in joining us in worship.

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, Children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

Philippians 2 :14 – 16

Lorna Mackie
Church Secretary

Church Leader's Report

What a year 2020 has been! Lucy, the children, and I arrived to our first service in January where John Nash spoke, calling on all of us to be courageous, quoting the words from Paul: "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

Although John could not possibly have seen what was to come, this word has been totally relevant to what we have experienced and continue to experience today. We've seen so many of the church be courageous with what is entirely new to many – Zoom! Thinking back to April, there were many who were struggling with the technology, it amazes me how normal it is for all of us now.

A real encouragement to us all has been the faithful participation of the wider church family in our worship services. Zoom has proven to be an enabler in many ways, and it would not be a surprise if we always include some element of this technology in the life of the church after the current restrictions lift.

COVID-19 and the associated restrictions have proven to be extremely disruptive to life in general, but perhaps especially to life together as church and that's because church involves different households meeting together, regularly.

Lucy and I really appreciate the welcome and prayerful support we have received, and thanks to the church, despite the restrictions, are beginning to feel settled here in our new town.

Much of the first few months my attention was focused on familiarising myself with names, faces, and the needs of the church. I particularly enjoyed hearing many of the testimonies of the church, stories of God's faithfulness over the years. Aside from adjusting everything as a result of COVID restrictions, one of the immediate needs was to seek God's provision of a new Eldership team as Lorna, John, and Anne had all expressed a wish to stand down on completion of their terms, in February 2021. Thankfully, Judith, Barbara and Gary, answered the call and were reappointed as serving Elders in the summer. We as a church are very blessed to have such a capable team, and I am personally grateful to all six of them for their service to the church and their patience with me during my first year here.

I'm also very grateful for the work Philip has done in assisting me with the preaching series over the year. It has been so helpful to bounce ideas around and pray through them with Philip. We started the year off looking at Acts 2:42 and learning from what the first church in Jerusalem were devoted to: the Apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Despite the restrictions and by the grace of God, we have been able to follow their example and continue our devotion to these things this year, primarily through our Sunday morning worship, youth and children's groups, and house groups.

Other series were on the subject of Forgiveness following our first Zoom service on Easter Sunday. We then moved into the final two chapters of Hebrews, concluding a long running series in that letter by fixing our eyes on Jesus.
Out of that came a series on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) where we looked more deeply into Jesus' core teachings to his Disciples, who were in turn the ones sent as Apostles to teach the church. After a short return to the Psalms we began our Advent series on Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy, before focusing on Light by celebrating a Christmas Day Christingle.

In preparing these talks, it never ceases to amaze me how themes and messages are regularly so relevant to our lives. The Holy Spirit is at work.

A highlight for me this year has been the Book Read group that we held during the Autumn. A group of us eager to consider, discuss, and learn, what it is that we share as Good News with one another and the people around us. We read (re)Union by Bruxy Cavey. Some found the book difficult and unconventional. Others found it very helpful and engaging and have been inspired to continue exploring our faith more deeply. It's likely we will continue something like this again in 2021.

As a church some are eager to find ways of engaging with our community, exploring ways in which we can reach people and tell them the good news of Jesus. This is a challenge that is not unique to us and given the scale of change in society that will arise in the wake of this Pandemic, all churches will be seeking God's help in shaping the way in which we can best serve Him and make Him known in our community. We have great hope, great expectation, and worship a great God who has shown us His will and all His glory in the face of Jesus.

We rest on this promise:
"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

Robert Marshall

Youth Team Report

Pre-schoolers
There are 3 pre-schoolers and at the moment, the Covid Risk Assessment only allows for one parent and child upstairs at one time because the room that is used for this group is too small to allow social distancing of an additional family.

Younger Group
During this year we have continued to use the Urban Saints materials for both the younger and senior youth groups as the materials cover 3-18 year olds. As mentioned last year, all the resources are web-based and can be printed as needed.

All went well for the first 3 months of the year and in mid-January we started with a series entitled 'Encounters with Jesus'. This came to a halt when the first lockdown started on 23rd March, in fact our last full session in church was Sunday 15th March. From then and through the summer we had a 10 minute or so slot in the Sunday zoom service. This worked well, although some youngsters found the use of zoom difficult to engage with especially as time went on. So, after the government opened up activities and Graham had written youth risk assessments (general and Covid), Youth Church started on 4th October. For the following weeks we rotated being upstairs in church (when church met downstairs) and being on zoom. It was really great to see the youngsters enjoying each other's company again.
In November, the 2nd lockdown arrived and it was then we decided to do zoom at 10am each Sunday morning for the youth. A separate session allows singing, story-telling, prayer and craft.

There are 7 children in the younger group.

10+
During the first part of last year the group met in the church lounge most Sundays for a mixture of games, video clips, and discussions about how the Bible applies to our lives. The move to Zoom hasn't been easy for our older ones, so the more recent fortnightly onsite 'youth church' gatherings were a great relief. This year we will do what we can to keep the focus on the Word and help our young people make the most of their Bibles to get to know God better, through whatever format we can use.

FiSH (Fun in Someone's House, or Station Hall)
This group traditionally meets on Saturdays monthly in the house or in the hall, still with up to 14 young people (aged between 11 and 16), but has met more frequently online during periods of lockdown. As with the Sunday ministry we are pleased that the young people now have their own bibles and are beginning to study them as part of the sessions, as well as enjoying all the crazy games that Graham comes up with!

Holiday Club – WonderZone
What seemed impossible became impossible in August 2020 when we met for five morning sessions over Zoom with families from around the area. The materials from Scripture Union were great and focused in on the wonder of creation and our wonderful God. We even managed to keep up the usual levels of mayhem, with songs, games,

bible study groups and forfeits galore. We are thankful for God that this was able to happen, and hope to be in a position to do something like this again in the future.

Judith Webber
Iain Randall

Housegroups

Wednesday Evening

We meet with joy and friendship, in comfort and a relaxed atmosphere to study and learn about God with fellow Christians, and I urge anyone who may be hesitating to take the step, to try a House Group. There is plenty of opportunity in our Christian Family.

In this year of the Covid we met through Zoom which brings a whole new dimension to the group and although we miss the personal contact we are meeting in the comfort and security of our own homes.
In the last year our studies have included –
The Lord's Prayer
Super Star [a study for Lent taking highlights from the musical as a basis for bible study].
Romans
Meeting God
We are currently studying James, which is very challenging in its interpretation but also very thought provoking and sometimes demanding of the Christian.

We are a small group at present, 9-12 people each session. We welcome all who wish to attend and are happy to accommodate those who cannot manage every session.
In normal times Tea, Coffee or a soft drink with biscuits open each session.

David Briden

Ottery Homegroup

We have continued to be blessed by fellowshipping together around God's word, in spite of spending most of the year on Zoom. This last year we have undertaken studies of the books of Daniel and James amongst other things. We are always open to new members, and meet fortnightly at 8pm on a Thursday online.

Iain Randall

Foodbank

In her Christmas message this year our Queen said:-
"In the United Kingdom and around the world, people have risen magnificently to the challenges of the year, and I am so proud and moved by this quiet indomitable spirit…".
and
"We continue to be inspired by the kindness of strangers and draw comfort that – even on the darkest nights – there is hope in the new dawn."

From the Foodbank we have seen this at first hand!
When lockdown hit in March our volunteer force was immediately reduced by more than half as the over 70's isolated. The remaining team members organised a system to pack and label food parcels and the Town Council, through the Covid 19 volunteer group provided volunteers to deliver the parcels, sometimes in atrocious weather, to those in need.

This Covid year we have seen a record increase in <u>everything</u> relating to the Foodbank. The number of clients, expenditure, donations of food and donations of money have all exceeded any previous year.

This year we have issued 440 'food parcels' to provide food for 844 people which covers 7596 meals. We have also issued 413 greengrocery vouchers and given £200 of gas/electricity top-ups. A new service this year was to give vouchers at Christmas for people to buy meat and we issued £170 worth of meat vouchers. These figures show an increase in need of 33% over 2019, however 2019 showed a big increase over 2018 and this year compared to 2018 is a 144% increase.

The final figures for this year are not yet available but so far we have spent £3418.88 of which £2814.88 has been client expenditure [including buying in £1216.09 worth of additional food], £125 mobile phone costs and a computer [see below].

We are very grateful to all our donors. Particular thanks to our loyal donors who give by Bankers Order each month; the Ottery St Mary URC; The Rotary Club of Otter Vale, the Town Council and many others and to our volunteers who all give of their time generously and without remuneration and also the volunteers from the Ottery Covid 19 help team.

We are also grateful to the Ottery Town Council who gave us a grant to buy a computer. Until now our records have been kept on personal computers. Now that we have a dedicated laptop computer of our own it will be much easier and safer to keep the records.

Thanks to Otter Produce, both the previous owners, who agreed to the voucher scheme, and the new owners who have agreed to continue the greengrocery vouchers. Thanks also to Country Farm Butchers who agreed to join with us and accept vouchers for meat.

As the generosity of our donors of both food and money has also increased our income in 2020 has exceeded our expenditure and we begin the New Year in a very good position to continue to help those most in need.

David Briden

Community Market

At the start of 2020 we had 4600 Market publicity leaflets delivered to Ottery and several surrounding villages. The February Market took place as usual in The Institute. And then lockdown happened. So there was no March Market. We expected to start back again later in the year but as the situation developed it became clear that we could not re-start any time this year. In the light of all the very lengthy and detailed advice from Government and from the Trustees of the Market it was simply not practical to set up from scratch, maintain social distancing, clean and clear away all in the same morning.

Martin has continued to write a piece each month for the Ottery Gazette so the Market is still kept in mind. Each piece also includes a puzzle!

In November/ December one of the stallholders ran a Virtual Community Market on Facebook which was very successful. A number of stallholders were missing the Market in the run-up to Christmas particularly. The Virtual Market will continue into 2021.

Penny Hounslow and team

Fabric Report

Church

During the year new boilers and heating controls were installed, the kitchen refurbished and external decoration of the church and hall was completed.
Maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the church and hall continued during the year, arranged as necessary.

Manse

Following the Tenants vacating the property, the employed Church Leader and his family took up occupation of The Manse in June.
Maintenance, repairs and redecorating has been undertaken as necessary.

Quinquennial Inspections

Inspections of both the church buildings and The Manse are now due and will be arranged for early in the new year.

George Moon

Missionary Report

The mission group of Judith Webber, Tim Beard and Anne Brinton with John Nash has met once this year. The results of the most recent meeting plus subsequent discussions are attached below.

Note: Last year a special gift of £500 plus additional gifts of £410 from church members was forwarded to Kunhar Christian hospital.

Recommendations for Home and Overseas Missionary Giving in 2021 for consideration by the Annual general meeting.

Financial support for Mission in 2021 from the general fund should be increased slightly to £3800. This will be coupled with a further allocation from the Alan Cooper fund of £930.

So, the total mission giving in 2021 should be £4730.00

This year the support for the Persecuted church and refugees will be through Open Doors.

Local Evangelism

The O6 Project is making a valuable contribution in Ottery, so it is recommended that the annual contribution from the church continues to be £1500, and an additional gift of £500 be made from some of the Alan Cooper bequest money.

Ottery Christian Youth Pastor (O6)	£1500
Alan Cooper bequest	£500
TOTAL	**£2000**

Proposed Overseas support for 2021

The division of mission spends overseas would remain similar to last year.

Summary of Overseas Mission activities supported

Ethiopia EKC Self-help Project	Connected church Project in current form finished, but continued support to Ethiopia is recommended.
Release	Persecuted Christians / refugees
Thai Pocket Testament League	Evangelism/ Teaching/ Poor relief
Kunhar Christian Hospital, Pakistan	Support building of new infrastructure in remote area
El Shaddai Children's Home, Chennai	Running costs of orphanage / old peoples care.

Suggested support

TEAR Fund	£665
Release	£565
Thai PTL	£500
Kunhar Hospital	£500
TOTAL	**£2730**

This proposal, gives each agency a minimum of £500 for the year and spends all the remaining mission component of the Alan Cooper bequest.

John Nash

Ottery St Mary

URC Charity

Registered Charity Number: 1165093

Financial Report

2020

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2005 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Administrative information

The Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the South West Synod of the Church.

Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is situated at Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. The correspondence address is 47 Raleigh Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1TG.

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. The elected elders of the church during 2020 were:

Mrs B Beamer	Elder and Treasurer
Mr G Beamer	Elder
Mrs A Brinton	Elder
Mrs L Mackie	Elder and Secretary
Dr J Nash	Elder
Miss J Webber	Elder

The employees of the church during 2020 were:

Mr Robert Marshall ~ Pastor
Mrs Carol Connett ~ Cleaner

The Church building and the manse at 27 Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1EL are vested in The Trustees, The United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) Incorporated as trustees and held for the benefit of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

Structure, governance and management

The activities of Ottery St Mary United Reformed 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, in accordance with the normal practice of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church.

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.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are the Pastor and up to nine members of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church nominated and elected by the members of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in Church Meeting. To be eligible for election, a person must have been worshipping in the church regularly for over one year and either be a member or, indicate that they are prepared to seek membership and be accepted before being ordained as an Elder. Elders serve for three years, retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. There is no limit to the number of consecutive periods of service.

The Elders' Meeting met 16 times during the year. The Elders' Meeting is assisted in the administration of the Church and its property by committees established for Mission, Youth Work, Premises, Finance and Worship. The Church Meeting met 5 times during the year (including the AGM). Due to the COVID crisis, many of the meetings took place online.

Objectives and activities

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building. The object of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church 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.

The Church's vision is to be a spiritually strong, loving, bible-based family church where

- as individuals we take a personal daily walk with God
- we meet to learn together and encourage each other in the Christian life
- we work together to reach out and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ both locally and beyond in a bold, enthusiastic and effective manner

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the Church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and performance

Wednesday and Thursday evening housegroups meet weekly, giving opportunities for Bible study and prayer. Weekly prayer meetings have taken place seeking the Lord's help and guidance for the future of the church. In recent times all of these meetings have taken place online.

It has been a great blessing to be joined by Rob Marshall and his family. Rob started work as Pastor in mid January and is employed by us for 20 hours a week. He and his family moved into the manse in June, towards the end of the first lockdown. Although he has been severely limited by government restrictions which meant the church building had to close for several months, he has managed to get to know each one of us, and has enabled us to hold online meetings throughout the pandemic.

Sunday morning meetings provide opportunities for worship and teaching. At the end of the meeting break out groups provide the opportunity for further fellowship in small groups. A separate online youth church has been started, taking place half an hour before the main church service. As soon as it was possible, and after careful risk-assessment, we reopened the church so that both children and adults could meet in the building (but separately) each fortnight. Internet links were provided to enable older members and the vulnerable to join the meetings from home.

FISH provided opportunities for 11 year olds upwards to meet together for fun, food and some Christian teaching. During the lockdown these meetings took place online.

Mission remains close to our hearts and the Mission Group have kept us up to date with regular articles in the Newsletter.

The Ottery St Mary Community Market took place only once in 2020 but was then closed due to the pandemic. The Market produced an overall loss of £151.07 during the year.

There were fewer opportunities to socialise, but a series of weekly online quizzes provided some light relief.

We have continued our involvement with Churches Together in Ottery. Members of the church have continued to organise and assist in the Ottery Food Bank, which is housed in the church hall. For the time being food has been delivered by the Ottery Volunteers, which has been a great help but has limited the opportunities for outreach. Members of the church were also involved in organising and helping to run the “Wonder Zone” online children’s holiday club.

During the year the church continued its membership of the Evangelical Alliance and of Partnership UK.

At the start of the year a number of different organisations were using the church facilities, including Brownies, Table Tennis club, Kurling Club, Ottery Warblers and Ottery Choral Society. Unfortunately, none of these organisations have been able to meet at the church since the end of March. All of these organisations made a financial contribution to work of the church, which has come to an end for the time-being. We have also lost the income from the manse, which is now used by our Pastor and his family.

New boilers and a new kitchen were installed during 2020.

We thank the Lord for his provision for us, both financially and spiritually. We put our trust in Him as we seek to know His will and to serve Him in Ottery St Mary.

Financial Review

The church's finances are still in a healthy condition. As a result of the pandemic, many people have switched from giving cash to making payments direct to the church bank account and overall giving to the church has increased slightly. The church had already reduced its Maintenance of Ministry contributions, but reduced them further during the lockdown to reflect our loss of income from the manse.

Designated Funds: The church has set aside £250.00 each month to be used towards repairs and maintenance at the manse. At 31 December the balance held was £7,530.70. The final payment of £9,291.19 was received from the Alan Cooper estate. £930.00 of this was designated for mission.

Restricted Funds: Restricted donations of £25,638.34 were received. These included grants totalling £23,675.64 towards the refurbishment of the church buildings. Other gifts included £210.00 towards the cost of youth bibles and £400.00 towards the cost of SPREE. £212.70 is now held on account for the Seedlings toddler group which does not meet at present.

Unrestricted Funds: After taking into account designated and restricted funds, there remains a balance of £66,185.44 in general funds (as compared with £68,276.30 in 2019). Ideally, the Elders' Meeting would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months regular expenditure (approximately £19,500) on unrestricted funds as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. The balance of £66,185.44 at 31 December represents more than this. However, this year we have received a substantial legacy and some rental income from the manse, neither of which are likely to be repeated in the near future. If these items of income are excluded, our general expenditure exceeds our general income by over £11,500, and if this continues the balance on general fund will rapidly be eroded.

The annual financial report has been prepared on the basis of a Receipts and Payments Account together with relevant notes and will be subject to an Independent Examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Declaration

Approved at a meeting of the church members on
and signed on their behalf by

Mr Robert Marshall (Pastor) Mrs Lorna Mackie (Secretary)

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Cash donations	1,799.10			1,799.10	5,494.45
Weekly envelopes	1,722.30	635.20		2,357.50	6,816.80
Payments direct to bank	16,038.20	5,914.80		21,953.00	12,416.00
Tax refund	6,123.22			6,123.22	6,010.45
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Missionary & related objects			1,140.00	1,140.00	1,093.31
Legacies	8,361.19	930.00		9,291.19	5,000.00
Community Market	116.00			116.00	1,260.70
Building Fund					
Grants			23,675.64	23,675.64	3,000.00
Donations			-	-	1,632.00
Sundry income	10.00		822.70	832.70	784.65
Income from investments					
Investment income	576.77			576.77	604.89
Use of hall	774.00			774.00	1,762.00
Rental income from manse	1,196.82	750.00		1,946.82	10,032.00
Total receipts	**36,717.60**	**8,230.00**	**25,638.34**	**70,585.94**	**55,907.25**
PAYMENTS					
Church activities					
Ministry & mission	3,296.50			3,296.50	6,168.00
Missionary & related objects		4,800.00	961.00	5,761.00	7,153.27
Pastor's & manse expenses	14,529.26	1,695.00		16,224.26	754.71
Community Market	267.07			267.07	732.27
Church running costs	10,933.68			10,933.68	13,973.40
Refurbishment	6,251.85		25,275.64	31,527.49	51,198.88
Worship/activity	2,563.96		260.00	2,823.96	3,362.17
Church management					
Administration/ sundries	966.14			966.14	1,325.64
Total payments	**38,808.46**	**6,495.00**	**26,496.64**	**71,800.10**	**84,668.34**
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	(2,090.86)	1,735.00	(858.30)	(1,214.16)	(28,761.09)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 01.01.2020	68,276.30	6,725.70	1,791.00	76,793.00	105,554.09
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31.12.2020	**66,185.44**	**8,460.70**	**932.70**	**75,578.84**	**76,793.00**

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	General Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2020 £	Totals 2019 £
ASSETS	2						
Investments	3						
2022 M & G Charibond Inc. Shares			2,537.21			2,537.21	2,469.47
360 M&G Charifund Inc. Units			4,941.25			4,941.25	5,126.51
2829.77 COIF Ethical Inv Fund Inc. Units			7,903.83			7,903.83	6,207.38
Total Investments		**-**	**15,382.29**	**-**	**-**	**15,382.29**	**13,803.36**
Current Assets	4						
Co-operative current account		18,756.92				18,756.92	63,921.90
Co-operative savings account	8,9	47,428.52		8,460.70	932.70	56,821.92	12,871.10
Current Balance		**66,185.44**	**-**	**8,460.70**	**932.70**	**75,578.84**	**76,793.00**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting Policies

General
The accounts are prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis and in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

Receipts and Payments
Receipts are the total amount received by the church in offerings and donations. Expenditure is accounted for when it is paid.

Fund accounting
Separate records are kept for funds which have been designated and funds with restricted use. The church's general fund may be used by the church at its discretion to further its stated charitable objectives.

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

~ Land and buildings ~ the church building and manse
~ Furnishings, fixtures and fittings and office equipment

3. Investments held by Provincial Synod on our behalf:

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2020, and are "permanent". The income only can be used for "general purposes".

4. Bank Accounts

During the year, the bank accounts that we had with Barclays were closed and new accounts with the Co-operative Bank were opened. There are now two bank accounts with Co-operative Bank ~ a Community Directplus Account (current account) and a Business Select Instant Access Account (savings account). The Business Select Instant Access Account provides a small amount of interest.

All cash received is initially paid into the Co-operative current account, with a transfer being made each month of £250 to the Business Select Instant Access Account, earmarked for the Manse Repair Fund.

5. Tax Refund

A Gift Aid tax refund amounting to £6,123.22 was claimed.

6. Community Market

Receipts	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
	2020	**2020**	**2019**	**2019**
Table fees		116.00		1,260.70
Less				
Payments				
Hire of hall	24.00		264.00	
Photocopying/printing	15.00		19.55	
Publicity	228.07		425.47	
Net profit		267.07	23.25	732.27
		(151.07)		528.43

7. Missionary and Related Objectives

	B/fwd	**Rec'd**	**Church**	**Total**	**Paid**	**C/fwd**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
El Shadai			400.00	400.00	400.00	-
Farming Community Network		410.00		410.00	410.00	-
FORCE		320.00		320.00	-	320.00
Kunhar Christian Hospital		410.00	900.00	1,310.00	1,310.00	-
O6 Project			2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Open Doors			500.00	500.00	500.00	-
St Petrock's	141.00			141.00	141.00	-
TEAR Fund			600.00	600.00	600.00	-
Thai Testament			400.00	400.00	400.00	-
	141.00	1,140.00	4,800.00	6,081.00	5,761.00	320.00

The payments shown as “Church” were agreed at the 2020 Church AGM and at subsequent church meetings.

8. Restricted Funds

Mission Fund	£	320.00
Seedlings	£	212.70
Spree	£	400.00

9. Designated Funds

Manse Repair Fund	£	7,530.70
Mission Fund	£	930.00

10. Notes

Insurance Cover

Sum insured:-	Church (buildings)	£2,146,941	"
	(contents)	£ 65,526	
	Manse (building)	£ 255,125	
	Manse (contents)	£ 20,069	

Ministry & Mission

The 2020 Assessment was calculated at £12,612 to give a monthly payment of £1,051.00. In accordance with a decision by the church meeting the monthly payment was reduced to half the assessed rate. During the first lockdown the elders received a letter from the Synod offering them the opportunity to reduce payments in the light of the loss of income from lettings. Due to a misunderstanding the monthly payments were reduced from £525.50 to £215.00 per month in error, whereas they should have been £380.00 per month.

The 2021 Assessment has been calculated at £12,492 to give a monthly payment of £1,041.00. The church intend to pay the shortfall of £1,700 from last year with ongoing payments of £380 per month for the time being.

For a more detailed explanation of Ministry and Mission payments, please see the Treasurer.

We thank the Lord for his provision for us, both financially and spiritually. We put our trust in Him as we seek to know His will and to serve Him in Ottery St Mary.

Financial Review

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The annual financial report has been prepared on the basis of a Receipts and Payments Account together with relevant notes and will be subject to an Independent Examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Declaration

Approved at a meeting of the church members on 8th February 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Mr Robert Marshall (Pastor)

L J Mackie

Mrs Lorna Mackie (Secretary)

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORM CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of URC and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissions under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

   have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:.....
M A Griffiths FCCA (Director)

Date 14/4/2021

Lentells Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
50 Fore Street
Seaton
Devon, EX12 2AD