

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 our 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
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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)

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

Date 26/5/2023

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Webber', written in a cursive style.

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					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>					
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
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
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
<i>Income from investments</i>					
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					
<i>Church activities</i>					
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
<i>Church management</i>					
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)
<i>Bank current and deposit accounts</i>					
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
	<u>£ 302.94</u>

9. Designated Funds

Manse Repair Fund	£ 4,459.10
Mission Fund	£ 400.00
	<u>£ 4,859.10</u>

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.