

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
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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)

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

Date16/5/24.....

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



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

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
RECEIPTS					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>					
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
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
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
<i>Income from investments</i>					
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					
<i>Church activities</i>					
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
<i>Church management</i>					
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)
<i>Bank current and deposit accounts</i>					
at 01.01.2023	66,188.62	4,859.10	302.94	71,350.66	74,961.71
<i>Bank current and deposit accounts</i>					
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. 2829.77 COIF Ethical Inv Fd			5,165.96				5,290.27
			8,517.61				7,744.23
Total Investments			<u>15,944.97</u>				<u>15,224.83</u>
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		<u>83,991.57</u>		<u>3,305.58</u>	<u>774.54</u>	<u>88,071.69</u>	<u>71,350.66</u>

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	
Missionary Aviation Fellowship			465.00	465.00	465.00	
OSM Foodbank Release International		50.00		50.00	-	50.00
			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
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9. Restricted Funds

Seedlings	£	212.70
FISH	£	98.24
Mission	£	463.60
	£	<u>774.54</u>

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.