

# GODALMING UNITARIANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1166019

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-03-11

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Unitarian Chapel  
Meadrow  
Godalming  
GU7 3JB

**Phone** 07952316272

**Email** [secretary@unitariangodalming.org.uk](mailto:secretary@unitariangodalming.org.uk)

**Website** [www.unitariangodalming.co.uk](http://www.unitariangodalming.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF GODALMING UNITARIANS CIO ("THE CONGREGATION") SHALL BE THE PROMOTION OF RELIGION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITARIAN & FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AS DEFINED IN ITS CONSTITUTION AND IN THE ANNEXE HERETO.

**Activities:** An inclusive, liberal religious community offering:- varied and innovative worship, meditation, prayer and rites of passage;- programmes for personal and spiritual development for all ages; - pastoral care and support; - social activities and community engagement; and - charitable activities as an expression of our commitment to peace and justice for all.

## Classification

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

## Geography

- Surrey

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£79,642	£91,934	-	-
2024-09-30	£46,445	£40,890	-	-
2023-09-30	£46,401	£29,412	-	-
2022-09-30	£44,227	£32,802	-	-
2021-09-30	£47,029	£41,214	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Jill Durrant		2021-01-17
Christine Ann Hayhurst		2019-04-07
Christine Sonia Martin		2019-05-19
Dr ADAM MICHAEL BAUMBERG BA, PHD		2016-03-11
LAUREL ANN KULCHER BSC, MAAT		2016-03-11
Nicola Jane Young		2021-01-17
Paul Richards		2019-03-17

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166019

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF GODALMING UNITARIANS

For the period 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025

## Overview

Godalming Unitarians has continued to flourish under the leadership of our chair, Christine Martin and our minister Revd Martin Whitell.

We put on an active programme of Sunday services with great support from worship leaders from our congregation, as well as visiting preachers and interfaith ministers and our minister. A strong sense of community was maintained through regular events, walks, community art cafe and special services.

## About Godalming Unitarians CIO

Godalming Unitarians is a member-led democratic group. Our aims and purposes are to promote in Godalming and surrounding areas a free and inquiring religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches (“the GA”). We do this through ‘the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition’.

## Achievements and Performance

### Worship, meditation, and prayer

Godalming Unitarians offered regular Sunday services that were inspiring, uplifting and also consoling through the good times and the bad. The trustees were pleased to be able to maintain a full programme of services every Sunday each month. We are grateful to our dedicated organist, Larisa, who has greatly enhanced our services with musical interludes and hymn accompaniment.

In November 2024 we had our annual remembrance service led by our part-time minister, Martin Whitell, followed by our “Social Action” Sunday a couple of weeks later. Thanks to generous donations we were able to stock, pack and deliver 75 Christmas Hampers to Godalming & Villages Community Store.

Over Christmas 2024, Martin was able to lead our annual candle-lit carol service. As usual Martin’s services were uplifting, thoughtful and thought-provoking and delivered with great humour and sensitivity. To finish the year we had an informal congregation-led service coordinated by Paul Richards.

In April, Martin led our Easter service and we were pleased to have our former minister, Revd Sheena Gabriel, lead a couple of services throughout the year. In September, Martin led our annual Harvest service followed by a community shared lunch.

As well as our visiting preachers (including Bert Clough, Val Worthington, Mary Jones) special thanks go to interfaith ministers, Edie Campbell, Lindsay Stevens and Anna Lubelska. Also to our lay preachers and service leaders including Steve Williams, Rob Oulton, Paul Richards and Nicola Young

who also worked tirelessly as our preaching coordinator.

We continued to offer “quiet time” sessions in the chapel where anyone is welcome to attend on the last Wednesday of the month and spend 45 minutes in contemplative reflection. Thanks to our chair, Christine Martin for organizing this activity.

We have maintained hybrid services allowing those who are unable to attend in person to be present via Zoom. Thanks go to Adam Baumberg and Paul Richards for continuing to provide the technical support for these services.

### Safeguarding

A new safeguarding group was established in the summer, in line with our legal responsibility to review our policy and practice annually. We are taking advantage of ongoing training opportunities and support sessions provided by the charity 31.8, recommended by Unitarian Headquarters, and are working through a schedule of checks, updates to our written policy, and communication opportunities, including our safeguarding service in November. Our aim is to raise the profile of safeguarding in the Godalming Unitarians community, for both chapel users and hirers of the hall for the benefit of us all.

### Religious education

We have not been able to provide a Children’s Programme but have enjoyed contributions from members of our community in services.

### Pastoral support and rites of passage

Our community is open to people of all faiths and none and it is worth reiterating that there is no dogma or set of beliefs required for those wishing to join or attend Godalming Unitarians.

We were pleased to welcome several new members this year. We would also like to encourage others who may be interested to join as members. Those who prefer to remain as friends or simply commit to occasional groups or activities are, of course, always welcome.

The congregation’s informal pastoral support network, sensitively led by Dana Daniels and supported by other members of the congregation, continued its valuable work behind the scenes, enabling those unable to attend to keep in touch with chapel life.

Godalming Unitarians also hosted one wedding ceremony at the chapel over the year. Sadly, Martin and Sheena were also required to conduct the funeral for John Lohrenz, a long standing member of our congregation.

### Wider Unitarian involvement

Godalming Unitarians maintained a presence at the annual meeting of the General Assembly. We also supported the annual FUSE event (the Festival of Unitarians in the South-East), and will continue to support other events.

We were pleased to hear in April that one of our members, Jeff Teagle, was awarded Honorary Membership of the General Assembly - the UK Unitarians governing body. Congratulations to Jeff on this well deserved recognition.

## Outreach

The monthly Community Art Café has been meeting regularly throughout the year. Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams for organising this along with her team.

This year we were pleased to host our 'Great Community Garden Party' on one of the hottest days of the year. We had the Godalming Band as usual and there was further entertainment from the "Kissing Frogs". The event raised an incredible £700 for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams for organising and for everyone who contributed their baking and time.

Our premises have historically been a well-used resource within the community for meetings of U3A groups, healers, dowers, yoga and Tai Chi enthusiasts, ukulele players and neighbourhood groups. Many of these groups meet in the hall and thanks go to Paul Richards for managing all the bookings.

This year we were unable to have a presence at the Guildford Pride but hope to do so again in future years. However we were pleased to participate in Heritage Open Days in September - opening up the chapel and baptistry to the public on the Saturday and with a heritage themed service led by Martin on the Sunday.

Helping others in need is a demonstration of our commitment to look beyond ourselves. We have continued to offer refreshments after the service, and have been collecting coffee-time donations for Skillway, Green Hub, Step by Step (supporting young people) and the Dan Ely Foundation.

Thanks also to Jill Durrant for keeping our social media fresh and updated.

## Social activities

Our activities groups help to create community. We successfully relaunched our Sunday walks with the "Sunday Strollers" group - combining a short stroll with refreshments, visiting local locations including Farncombe boat house, Waverley Abbey and the Green Hub in Milford where we were given a private tour of this peaceful garden project space.

Thanks to Rosie Fargus, Christine Hayhurst, Christine Martin and others for leading the walks and hosting the refreshments.

The book group continued to meet regularly and discussed a wide range of novels.

## Premises

Our premises team (Christine Hayhurst, Christine Martin and Paul Richards) have been particularly busy after the last year with some major refurbishments over the period (and continuing on).

Our hall is a wonderful space but has suffered from poor acoustics (echo) due to the high vaulted period ceiling. This has now been remedied with new acoustic panels that are a great improvement and the main space has also been repainted. We have also spent considerable efforts to get the cottage ready for new tenants requiring significant investment to get the property to a good standard. Many thanks to the premises team for all their efforts in managing these substantial projects.

## Volunteers

We thank all the volunteers who work hard behind the scenes to keep chapel life going – from meeting and greeting, to providing refreshments, flowers, gardening, DIY and many other tasks. Thanks also to the trustees for their dedication and contribution to the smooth running of Godalming Unitarians in all areas of activity.

## Governance

During the year, Christine Martin has continued as chair of the trustees and we are very grateful for all her hard work and leadership. We currently have just seven trustees so are keen for new members to join us to help keep everything running smoothly. We are grateful to our treasurer Laurie Kulcher who has agreed to continue on in the role.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024-2025

In the year to September 2025 total payments exceeded total receipts resulting in an overall deficit of £12,292.

### Income:

Overall income was much higher than in 2023-24, thanks to a £15k grant from New Gravel Pit Unitarian Chapel Fund (for roof repairs), a £10k bequest, a one-off donation of £3k and double Gift Aid (2022-23 Gift Aid having been claimed late i.e. in financial year 2024-25 rather than 2023-24). Without these additional sources of funds, and taking the 2022-23 Gift Aid into account, adjusted income is about 9% lower than in 2023-24.

The good news is that income from donations and pledges was slightly up on last year; however Hall & Chapel rentals were lower and Cottage rental was substantially lower due to the cottage being vacant for the second half of the financial year.

### Expenditure:

Some costs were higher in 2024-25 than in the previous financial year, in particular, building maintenance and repairs.

- Chapel repair costs were higher due to essential repairs to the roof guttering.
- Hall repair costs were much higher, the main expenditure being on roof repairs, a new sound reduction system, decorating and floor refurbishment.
- Chapel Cottage repairs were also much higher due to essential repairs, replacement of appliances and extensive redecoration. There was also the additional expense of utilities that had to be paid by Godalming Unitarians while the cottage was vacant.

Visiting Preachers costs were higher due to a 30% increase in the preaching fee, and higher travel costs. Most other costs were similar to last year.

Although we start financial year 2025-26 with a diminished bank balance, much of

the planned major expenditure (mostly on buildings repairs and maintenance) has been completed, and therefore we do not foresee any major works in this financial year, except, perhaps, replacement of the Chapel roof, for which fundraising has and will be undertaken.

Finally, my thanks go out to David Daniels, Jeff Teagle and the other Trustees for all their help and support throughout the year.

#### **Administrative information**

Godalming Unitarians is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered by the Charity Commission with number 1166019.

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024-25 £	Total 2023-24 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Offertory, Pledges, Donations			19,420	19,420	15,740
Gift Aid	1		8,688	8,688	-
Special Services			660	660	-
Fund Raising Activities and other restricted	2	4,694		4,694	2,375
Grants Received	3	15,270	299	15,569	553
Legacies			10,000	10,000	-
Hall and Chapel Letting Income			9,905	9,905	11,634
Cottage Gross Rent			7,495	7,495	13,066
Bank Interest			3,133	3,133	3,077
Other receipts			78	78	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>		19,964	59,678	79,642	46,445
<b>Payments</b>					
Ministry	3	270	15,475	15,745	15,967
Visiting Preachers			1,390	1,390	766
Musicians			2,400	2,400	2,425
Subscriptions & donations (unrestricted)			1,501	1,501	1,561
Charitable donations and other restricted	2	4,318		4,318	2,616
Conferences & Courses			180	180	530
Post, Telephone & Stationery			31	31	23
Publicity, Publications & Periodicals			-	-	63
Insurance			2,092	2,092	1,966
Grounds Upkeep			1,741	1,741	3,748
Legal Fees/Licences			-	-	-
Professional fees			-	-	-
Chapel Utilities			1,090	1,090	964
Chapel Cleaning			1,162	1,162	1,091
Chapel Maintenance & Repairs	4		3,505	3,505	1,020
Hall Utilities			1,536	1,536	1,897
Hall Cleaning			1,500	1,500	1,954
Hall Maintenance & Repairs	4/5		29,532	29,532	2,922
Cottage Utilities			1,031	1,031	-
Cottage Letting Agent Fees			-	-	-
Cottage Maintenance & Repairs	4		22,348	22,348	553
Bank charges			74	74	68
Sundry & General Administration			758	758	755
<b>Total Payments</b>		4,588	87,346	91,934	40,890
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		15,376	(27,668)	(12,292)	5,555

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025**

Notes to Receipts and Payments Accounts:

- 1 Gift aid for both 2022-23 and 2023-24 received in 2024-25
- 2 The difference between Fund Raising Activities... and Charitable donations... is £376  
This represents funds not passed on to the following charities within the year:

Skillway	140.00
Red Cross Gaza appeal	455.00
Less funds raised in the previous year and passed on this year:	
Conquest Art	(219.00)
- 3 £270 relates to ministry and £15,000 relates to roof repairs
- 4 See 2024-25 maintenance report for details
- 5 Terry Slade's bequest of £6,000 (received in January 2018)  
was used to pay for most of the sound reduction system in the Hall

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 30 September 2024**

**Cash funds:**

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024-25 £	Total 2023-24 £
Cash in bank 1 October 2024	219	117,599	<b>117,818</b>	112,031
Surplus/(Deficit) this year end	15,376	(27,668)	<b>(12,292)</b>	5,555
Cleared cheques		(232)	<b>(232)</b>	232
Cash in bank 30 September 2025	<b>15,595</b>	<b>89,699</b>	<b>105,294</b>	117,818

Represented by:

	£	
CAF Cash account	7,752	<b>7,752</b>
CAF Gold account	58,101	<b>58,101</b>
Charity Bank Deposit Account	31,369	<b>31,369</b>
BOOM! Credit Union Corporate Account	8,072	<b>8,072</b>
	-	<b>105,294</b>

**Assets retained for the charity's own use:**

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Land and buildings - not valued	Restricted	-	-
Furniture, fixtures and fittings - not valued	Unrestricted	-	-

**Liabilities:**

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
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Independently Inspected by JJ Teagle



09/12/2025

## Maintenance Summary

Chapel Maintenance & Repairs		
Date	Description	Amount
14-Oct-24	CF Fire Protection – annual fire equipment maintenance	300.00
14-Nov-24	Phillips Carpentry Service – window repairs	600.00
20-Jan-25	P Richards GU – new toilet seat	27.00
22-Sep-25	M J Coleman And Sons - roof gutter replaced	2,577.60
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,504.60</b>

Hall Maintenance & Repairs		
Date	Description	Amount
14-Oct-24	CF Fire Protection – annual fire equipment maintenance	311.59
20-Jan-25	P Richards GU – new toilet seat	31.50
29-Jan-25	P Richards GU – plunger	14.99
31-Mar-25	J T Simmonds Roofing Ltd – roof work	8,256.00
02-Apr-25	J T Simmonds Roofing Ltd Invoice 198	3,000.00
14-Apr-25	G A Chedd Ltd – gas safety certificate	157.10
17-Apr-25	J T Simmonds Roofing – supply and fit new outside light	420.00
06-Aug-25	Barton Electrical Service - switch repair	129.29
12-Aug-25	P Richards GU expenses - light bulbs	13.49
14-Aug-25	J T Simmonds Roofing Ltd - hall decoration - painting	6,000.00
15-Aug-25	J T Simmonds Roofing Ltd - hall decoration - ceiling repairs & light fixtures	2,400.00
02-Sep-25	Sound Reduction Systems Ltd SRS	6,710.16
09-Sep-25	Surrey Hills Wood Flooring - refurbishment of floor	2,088.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>29,532.12</b>

Cottage Maintenance & Repairs		
Date	Description	Amount
15-Oct-24	G A Chedd Ltd – gas safety certificate	157.10
09-May-25	Chritine Martin new locks	134.76
05-Jun-25	Godalming Carpets kitchen flooring – deposit	596.64
05-Jun-25	Tony Wright decorating	777.48
05-Jun-25	Godalming Carpets Carpets – deposit	943.90
13-Jun-25	Tony Wright decorating	1,067.35
19-Jun-25	Chritine Martin keys	24.00
20-Jun-25	Godalming Carpets kitchen flooring – final	596.64
02-Jul-25	Tony Wright decorating	760.48
11-Jul-25	Tony Wright decorating	1,200.00
11-Jul-25	J T Simmonds Roofing Ltd outhouse roof	1,020.00
24-Jul-25	Tony Wright decorating	1,071.37
06-Aug-25	Tony Wright decorating	468.68
12-Aug-25	Tony Wright decorating	648.99
12-Aug-25	Tony Wright decorating	833.25
03-Sep-25	Tony Wright decorating	1,755.42
09-Sep-25	Chris Hayhurst - Waverley BC planning advice	61.10
15-Sep-25	Tony Wright decorating	944.49
15-Sep-25	D R Smith And Partner Ltd - electrical work	1,203.48
17-Sep-25	J Weatherbed Ltd - kitchen units and appliances	5,453.08
17-Sep-25	J Weatherbed Ltd - kitchen fitting/woodwork	2,630.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>22,348.21</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL** **55,384.93**

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166019

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF GODALMING UNITARIANS

For the period 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

## Overview

Godalming Unitarians continued to thrive over the year under the continued leadership of our chair, Christine Martin and our minister Revd Martin Whitell.

We put on an active programme of Sunday services with great support from worship leaders from our congregation, as well as visiting preachers and interfaith ministers and our new minister. A strong sense of community was maintained through regular events, walks, community art cafe and special services.

## About Godalming Unitarians CIO

Godalming Unitarians is a member-led democratic group. Our aims and purposes are to promote in Godalming and surrounding areas a free and inquiring religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches ("the GA"). We do this through 'the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition'.

## Achievements and Performance

### Worship, meditation, and prayer

Godalming Unitarians continued to offer regular Sunday services that were inspiring, uplifting and also consoling through the good times and the bad. The trustees were pleased to be able to maintain a full programme of services every Sunday each month.

At the start of October 2023 we had our annual harvest service led by our minister with a collection of food and household goods for Godalming & Villages Community Store. Continuing this theme we had our annual "Social Action" Sunday in November and thanks to generous donations, were able to stock, pack and deliver 75 Christmas Hampers to Godalming & Villages Community Store.

Over Christmas 2023, Martin was able to lead our annual candle-lit carol service as well as a service on Christmas Eve and an informal service with contributions from the congregation on New Year's Eve. As usual Martin's services were uplifting, thoughtful and thought-provoking and delivered with great humour and sensitivity.

In March, Martin led our Easter service and we were pleased to have our former minister, Revd Sheena Gabriel, lead a service for us in July. The year rounded off neatly with the harvest service at the end of September.

As well as our visiting preachers (including Bert Clough, Revd Jim Corrigall and Val Worthington) special thanks go to interfaith ministers, Edie Campbell, Lindsay Stevens and Anna Lubelska. Also to our lay preachers and service leaders including Anne-Marie Walsh, Shirley Wardell, Steve Williams,

Rob Oulton and Paul Richards, and to Nicola Young, our preaching coordinator, who has ensured our preaching rota is complete.

We continued to offer “quiet time” sessions in the chapel where anyone is welcome to attend on the last Wednesday of the month and spend 45 minutes in contemplative reflection. Thanks to our chair, Christine Martin for organizing this activity.

We have maintained hybrid services allowing those who are unable to attend in person to be present via Zoom. Thanks go to Adam Baumberg and Paul Richards for continuing to provide the technical support for these services.

### Religious education

We have not been able to provide a Children’s Programme but have enjoyed contributions from the younger members of our community in services. Martin has also continued to provide support to newer service leaders from the congregation.

In November, Martin led a moving Remembrance Service and in January, Edie Campbell led a Sunday service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

### Pastoral support and rites of passage

Our community is open to people of all faiths and none and it is worth reiterating that there is no dogma or set of beliefs required for those wishing to join or attend Godalming Unitarians.

We were pleased to welcome two new members this year. We would also like to encourage others who may be interested to join as members. Those who prefer to remain as friends or simply commit to occasional groups or activities are, of course, always welcome.

The congregation’s informal pastoral support network, sensitively led by Dana Daniels and supported by other members of the congregation, continued its valuable work behind the scenes, enabling those unable to attend to keep in touch with chapel life.

### Wider Unitarian involvement

Godalming Unitarians maintained a presence at the annual meeting of the General Assembly (although we didn’t send an official delegate this year). We also supported the annual FUSE event (the Festival of Unitarians in the South-East), and will continue to support other events.

### Outreach

The monthly Community Art Café has been meeting regularly throughout the year. Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams for organising this along with Anne-Marie Walsh.

This year we were pleased to host our ‘Great Community Garden Party’ again. We had the Godalming Band as usual and there was further entertainment from the “Kissing Frogs”. The event raised £437 for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams for organising and for everyone who contributed their baking and time.

Our premises have historically been a well-used resource within the community for meetings of U3A groups, healers, dowers, yoga and Tai chi enthusiasts, ukulele players and neighbourhood groups.

Many of these groups meet in the hall and thanks go to Paul Richards for managing all the bookings.

In September, Anna and Sarah Jones led our team at the Pride in Surrey event (celebrating Surrey's LGBTQ+ community) at Guildford. We took part in the parade and staffed a stall in Stoke Park to raise our visibility and promote our commitment to equality.

Helping others in need is a demonstration of our commitment to look beyond ourselves. We have continued to offer refreshments after the service, and have been collecting coffee-time donations for Conquest Art, Woking LGBTQ+ Hub, Step by Step (supporting young people) and Mane Chance Sanctuary.

Thanks also to Jill Durrant and Sarah Jones for keeping our social media fresh and updated.

### Social activities

Our activities groups help to create community. The Sunday walking group has continued but due to illness and injuries was not able to continue throughout the year - instead we have looked into community excursions including a visit to a local animal refuge "Mane Chance" in the summer, which was well attended.

Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams, Steve Williams, Adam Baumberg and Paul Richards for leading the walks and to Rosie Fargus for organising the trip to Mane Chance.

The book group continued to meet regularly and discussed a wide range of novels.

### Volunteers

We thank all the volunteers who work hard behind the scenes to keep chapel life going – from meeting and greeting, to providing refreshments, flowers, gardening, DIY and many other tasks. Thanks to the premises team (Christine Hayhurst, Christine Martin and Paul Richards).

Thanks also to the trustees for their dedication and contribution to the smooth running of Godalming Unitarians in all areas of activity.

### Governance

During the year, Christine Martin has continued as chair of the trustees and we are very grateful for all her hard work and leadership. We currently have just seven trustees so are keen for new members to join us to help keep everything running smoothly. We are grateful to our treasurer Laurie Kulcher who has agreed to continue on in the role.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023-2024

In the year to September 2024 total receipts exceeded total payments resulting in an overall surplus of £5,555.

Income:

Overall income was almost exactly the same as in 2022-23, but with some dramatic swings.

- Ignoring a generous bequest received in 2022-23, income from pledges and donations was actually slightly higher than in 2022-23.
- Similarly, Hall & Chapel rentals were higher as was Cottage rental (which was increased from November 2023).
- Bank interest was, once again, up significantly, even compared to last year. This was mainly due to a surge in interest rates in 2023.
- Due to unavoidable delay in submitting numbers to HMRC, our 2022-23 Gift Aid of £4,850 was not received in 2023-24. However, this money has now been received, and will be supplemented by the 2023-24 Gift Aid which will also be received this year.

#### Expenditure:

Most costs were higher in 2023-24 than in the previous financial year.

- Ministry costs were higher due to having a part-time minister for the entire year.
- Musician's fees were higher due to a fee increase implemented in October 2023.
- Hall and Chapel repair costs were higher, the main expenditure being on electrical upgrades/improvements in the Hall.
- Grounds upkeep costs were higher due to necessary tree pruning work.
- The only cost that was significantly lower this year was Cottage maintenance; however, extensive work will need to be done in 2024-25.

Once again, we are in a good financial position at the start of the year and so shouldn't have any problems meeting our financial obligations and objectives in 2024-25.

We wish to thank David Daniels, Jeff Teagle and the trustees for all their help and support throughout the year.

#### Administrative information

Godalming Unitarians is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered by the Charity Commission with number 1166019.

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023-24 £	Total 2022-23 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Offertory, Pledges, Donations	1	75	15,665	<b>15,740</b>	19,577
Gift Aid	2		-	-	3,534
Special Services			-	-	-
Fund Raising Activities and other	3	2,375		<b>2,375</b>	2,545
Grants Received	4	270	283	<b>553</b>	472
Hall and Chapel Letting Income			11,634	<b>11,634</b>	7,496
Cottage Gross Rent			13,066	<b>13,066</b>	11,594
Bank Interest			3,077	<b>3,077</b>	1,184
Other receipts			-	-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>2,720</b>	<b>43,725</b>	<b>46,445</b>	<b>46,401</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Ministry	4	270	15,697	<b>15,967</b>	6,449
Visiting Preachers			766	<b>766</b>	922
Musicians	1	75	2,350	<b>2,425</b>	1,590
Subscriptions & donations			1,561	<b>1,561</b>	1,451
Charitable donations and other	3	2,616		<b>2,616</b>	2,085
Conferences & Courses			530	<b>530</b>	350
Post, Telephone & Stationery			23	<b>23</b>	62
Publicity, Publications & Periodicals			63	<b>63</b>	41
Insurance			1,966	<b>1,966</b>	1,750
Grounds Upkeep			3,748	<b>3,748</b>	1,870
Legal Fees/Licences			-	-	-
Professional fees			-	-	-
Chapel Utilities			964	<b>964</b>	617
Chapel Cleaning			1,091	<b>1,091</b>	983
Chapel Maintenance & Repairs			1,020	<b>1,020</b>	319
Hall Utilities			1,897	<b>1,897</b>	1,000
Hall Cleaning			1,954	<b>1,954</b>	1,500
Hall Maintenance & Repairs			2,922	<b>2,922</b>	272
Cottage Utilities			-	-	-
Cottage Letting Agent Fees			-	-	90
Cottage Maintenance & Repairs			553	<b>553</b>	7,516
Bank charges			68	<b>68</b>	67
Sundry & General Administration			755	<b>755</b>	476
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>2,961</b>	<b>37,930</b>	<b>40,890</b>	<b>29,412</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(241)</b>	<b>5,796</b>	<b>5,555</b>	<b>16,989</b>

Notes to Receipts and Payments Accounts:

- 1 £75 donation (restricted) to cover musician's fee at April 2024 coffee morning.
- 2 Gift aid of £4,854.02 was not received until after year end, due to the claim having been submitted late.
- 3 The difference between Fund Raising Activities... and Charitable donations... is -£240.63.  
This represents funds not passed on to the following charities within the year:
 

Conquest Art	219.37
Less funds raised in the previous year and passed on this year:	
Godalming & Villages Community Store	(207.50)
Broadwater Youth	(177.50)
CAB Waverley	(75.00)
- 4 The £270 restricted grants received relate to ministry,

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 30 September 2024**

<b>Cash funds:</b>	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	<b>Total 2023-24 £</b>	Total 2022-23 £
Cash in bank 1 October 2023	460	111,571	<b>112,031</b>	95,042
Surplus/(Deficit) this year end	(241)	5,796	<b>5,555</b>	16,989
Uncleared cheques		232	<b>232</b>	
Cash in bank 30 September 2024	<b>219</b>	<b>117,599</b>	<b>117,818</b>	112,031

Represented by:	£		
CAF Cash account		10,673	<b>10,673</b>
CAF Gold account		67,704	<b>67,704</b>
Charity Bank Deposit Account		31,369	<b>31,369</b>
BOOM! Credit Union Corporate Account		8,072	<b>8,072</b>
	-	117,818	<b>117,818</b>

<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use:</b>	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Land and buildings - not valued	Restricted	-	-
Furniture, fixtures and fittings - not valued	Unrestricted	-	-

<b>Liabilities:</b>	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
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Independently Inspected by JJ Teagle

JJ Teagle

13/12/2024

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166019

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF GODALMING UNITARIANS

For the period 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023

## Overview

Looking through the monthly calendars, I am reminded how Godalming Unitarians continued to thrive over 2023 – doing the things we do best such as raising money for good causes. We managed to put on an active programme of Sunday services (thanks to Nicola Young) with great support from some new worship leaders from our congregation, as well as visiting preachers and interfaith ministers whilst we were looking for a new minister. A strong sense of community was maintained through regular events, walks, community art cafe and special services.

I am pleased to say we were able to fully open the chapel after Covid and were able to resume singing – old favourites as well as new hymns (with varying success!). We were delighted to have our new part-time minister Rev'd Martin Whitell, join us officially in April. He was known to us having taken services for us over the last 20 years, starting when he was minister with Portsmouth Unitarians, then as District Minister and he has been a wonderful fit with the congregation bringing us regular services full of hope, reflection and humour.

## About Godalming Unitarians CIO

Godalming Unitarians is a member-led democratic group. Our aims and purposes are to promote in Godalming and surrounding areas a free and inquiring religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches (“the GA”). We do this through ‘the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition’.

## Achievements and Performance

### Worship, meditation, and prayer

Godalming Unitarians continued to offer regular Sunday services that were inspiring, uplifting and also consoling through the good times and the bad. The trustees were pleased to be able to restore our services to every Sunday each month.

In November we were thankful to members Pam and Steve Williams who led our annual Remembrance Service and to Anne Marie Walsh who led the Social Action Sunday which raised £506 for Godalming and Villages Community Store.

Over Christmas 2022 the congregation again pulled together with a “congregation led” Christmas Carol service (coordinated by Christine and Bill Hayhurst) and a New Year “congregation led” service on 1st January (coordinated by Nicola Young). We are grateful for everyone’s contributions.

As well as our visiting preachers, special thanks go to interfaith ministers, Edie Campbell, Lindsay Stevens and Anna Lubelska. Also to our lay preachers and service leaders including Shirley Wardell

and to Nicola Young, our preaching coordinator, who has ensured our preaching rota is complete.

We continued to offer a “quiet time” monthly session in chapel where anyone is welcome to attend on the last Wednesday of the month and spend 45 minutes in contemplative reflection in the chapel. Thanks to our chair, Christine Martin for organizing this activity.

Over this period, we had successful “Cafe Church” services (led by Pam Dalton Williams and Shirley Faraday) and since the end of March we have enjoyed regular services led by our new minister Rev’d Martin Whitell including a “Welcome Service” for Martin in May 2023. We continue to offer hybrid services allowing those who are unable to attend in person to be present via Zoom. Thanks go to Adam Baumberg and Paul Richards for continuing to provide the technical support for these services.

### Religious education

We have not been able to offer engagement groups exploring faith issues but hope these may resume at some point. Martin has started a group for our local worship leaders – discussed in his report (below). We have not been able to provide a Children’s Programme but have enjoyed contributions from the younger members of our community in services.

In November, a remembrance service took place from the chapel. In January, Edie Campbell led a Sunday service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

### Pastoral support and rites of passage

Our community is open to people of all faiths and none and it is worth reiterating that there is no dogma or set of beliefs required for those wishing to join or attend Godalming Unitarians.

We were pleased to welcome four new members this year – Sarah, Anna, Amanda and Tony – taking our membership up to 36. We would also like to encourage others who may be interested to join as members. Those who prefer to remain as friends or simply commit to occasional groups or activities are, of course, always welcome.

The congregation’s informal pastoral support network, sensitively led by Dana Daniels, and supported by other members of the congregation, continued its valuable work behind the scenes, enabling those unable to attend to keep in touch with chapel life.

### Wider Unitarian involvement

Godalming Unitarians continued to send delegates to the annual meeting of the General Assembly and we also maintained a presence at the annual FUSE event (the Festival of Unitarians in the South-East), and will continue to support other events.

### Outreach

The monthly Community Art Café has been meeting regularly throughout the year. Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams for organising this along with Anne Marie Walsh

This year we were pleased to host our ‘Great Community Garden Party’ again. Despite the rain we had the Godalming Band (performing inside) and there was further entertainment from the “Kissing Frogs”. The event raised £355 for Godalming and Villages Community Store and the new Broadwater Youth Centre.

Our premises have historically been a well-used resource within the community for meetings of U3A groups, healers, dowzers, yoga and Tai chi enthusiasts, ukulele players and neighbourhood groups. Many of these groups have been able to return to the hall and thanks go to Paul Richards for managing all the bookings.

In September 2023 we opened up the chapel for “European Heritage Open Days” and many thanks to the team (Roger Hurley, Amanda Clegg, Alan Day, Bill Hayhurst, Bob Weston and Martin Whitell, Dana Daniels, Jenny Janes, Christine Hayhurst and Laurie Kulcher) for all their hard work.

Helping others in need is a demonstration of our commitment to look beyond ourselves. We have continued to offer refreshments after the service, and have been collecting coffee-time donations for Parkinson’s UK, Oakleaf Enterprise, South West Surrey Citizens Advice and Godalming and Villages Community Store.

We adopted “Send a Child to Hucklow” (SACH) as our Charity for 2022 as it was their 60th Anniversary. SACH is a Unitarian charity that arranges and administers holidays at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire for groups of disadvantaged children. We raised over £1300 for SACH in total and about half of this fell within this accounting year.

Thanks also to Jill Durrant and Sarah Jones for keeping our social media fresh and updated.

### Social activities

Our activities groups help to create community. The Sunday walking group has continued fairly regularly (depending on the weather) - generally a moderate walk with picnic lunch. Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams, Steve Williams, Paul Richards and Bill and Christine Hayhurst for leading the walks.

The book group continued to meet regularly and discussed a wide range of novels.

## MINISTER’S REPORT

*The last eight months have flown by for me since you gave me the great honour of joining you as your Minister at Meadow. The welcome I received back in April was wonderful and it has been good to get to know you as we have shared the work of being a congregation together. I am really grateful to you all – thank you.*

*As a congregation you were among the first in the country to adapt to on-line, interactive services during the pandemic. It was a ‘lifeline’ for most of you I know and all praise to your former Minister and those of you who made that happen. The task of ‘recovering’ from those long months of separation and distancing has left its mark on most faith communities and other groups. For some it meant a final closing of their doors, others have not regained their former strength. We seem to have done better than most. We now have the advantage of on-line involvement for those who cannot be physically present, and we have done well to restore our previous strength by meeting together physically in the Chapel. In fact, we have started to grow again, and I was delighted when four new members joined our congregation a few months ago. I hope we will be able to encourage others to do so in the New Year.*

*It takes time for a different minister to 'settle in' and the Trustees and Officers have been very supportive. I hope that you are settled too. It has been a privilege for me that a number of you have shared things with me in my spiritual and pastoral role in recent months. I see this as a sign of hope and trust.*

*Our congregation has people with an array of skills and gifts and let me say 'thank you' for all that happens seen and unseen. I am particularly encouraged that we have started a group for our local worship leaders. It is good to enjoy a variety of styles and approaches to our services but people who are 'trying us out' need some regularity and consistency if we are to keep them. All being well this local group will work together to offer Unitarian worship in its richness of depth and breadth.*

*Being a faith community in these times is not as easy as it once was. Churches and Chapels have been in decline for years. However, we seem to have risen above that and we are a caring, joyful, thinking and generous group seeking to enrich the lives of others as well as our own. The coming year will give us the opportunity to build on all the good that has gone before us and add our footprints and hallmarks to the journey and the work of our Chapel.*

*Your friend,*

*Martin*

Rev'd Martin Whitell

## Volunteers

We thank all the volunteers who work hard behind the scenes to keep chapel life going – from meeting and greeting, to providing refreshments, flowers, gardening, DIY and many other tasks. Thanks to the premises team (Christine Hayhurst, Christine Martin and Paul Richards).

Thanks also to the trustees for their dedication and contribution to the smooth running of Godalming Unitarians in all areas of activity.

## Governance

During the year, Christine Martin has continued as Chair of the trustees and we are very grateful for all her hard work and leadership. We currently have just seven trustees so are keen for new members to join us to help keep everything running smoothly. We are grateful to our treasurer Laurie Kulcher who has agreed to stand for one more year but will be stepping down at the end of 2024 after many years of service. So if anyone with a finance background (not a requirement) is interested, we will also be looking for a new treasurer.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022-2023

In the year to September 2023 total receipts exceeded total payments resulting in an overall surplus of £16,989. The main reasons for the surplus (which exceeded the previous year's surplus of £11,475) were:

- Income from pledges and donations was significantly higher than in 2021-22

- Bank interest, although not a great contributor, was also up significantly, thanks to HMRC for kindly increasing interest rates
- Ministry costs were lower as we have only had our new, part-time minister since April 2023
- Hall and Chapel repair costs were also much lower than last year

I would like to add a word of caution here. Although we have achieved a favourable result this year i.e. a substantial surplus, next year is not likely to be quite so favourable. Ministry costs will increase, as they will extend over the whole year and there are essential maintenance jobs that need to be undertaken. But the good news is that we are in a good financial position at the start of the year and so shouldn't have any problems meeting our financial obligations and objectives in 2023-24.

Once again I wish to thank David Daniels, Jeff Teagle and my fellow trustees for all their help and support throughout the year.

### [Administrative information](#)

Godalming Unitarians is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered by the Charity Commission with number 1166019.

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2022-23 £	Total 2021-22 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Offertory, Pledges, Donations			19,577	<b>19,577</b>	15,302
Gift Aid			3,534	<b>3,534</b>	3,371
Special Services			-	-	470
Fund Raising Activities and other	1	2,545		<b>2,545</b>	3,461
Grants Received		220	252	<b>472</b>	574
Hall and Chapel Letting Income	2	(30)	7,526	<b>7,496</b>	8,252
Cottage Gross Rent			11,594	<b>11,594</b>	11,594
Bank Interest			1,184	<b>1,184</b>	317
Other receipts				-	937
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>2,735</b>	<b>43,666</b>	<b>46,401</b>	<b>44,277</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Ministry		220	6,229	<b>6,449</b>	9,577
Visiting Preachers			922	<b>922</b>	862
Musicians			1,590	<b>1,590</b>	883
Subscriptions & donations			1,451	<b>1,451</b>	1,548
Charitable donations and other	1	2,085		<b>2,085</b>	3,185
Conferences & Courses			350	<b>350</b>	490
Post, Telephone & Stationery			62	<b>62</b>	215
Publicity, Publications & Periodicals			41	<b>41</b>	78
Insurance			1,750	<b>1,750</b>	1,536
Grounds Upkeep			1,870	<b>1,870</b>	1,650
Legal Fees/Licences			-	-	-
Professional fees			-	-	891
Chapel Utilities			617	<b>617</b>	592
Chapel Cleaning			983	<b>983</b>	968
Chapel Maintenance & Repairs			319	<b>319</b>	277
Hall Utilities			1,000	<b>1,000</b>	915
Hall Cleaning			1,500	<b>1,500</b>	1,270
Hall Maintenance & Repairs			272	<b>272</b>	1,590
Cottage Utilities			-	-	-
Cottage Letting Agent Fees			90	<b>90</b>	-
Cottage Maintenance & Repairs			7,516	<b>7,516</b>	5,981
Bank charges			67	<b>67</b>	142
Sundry & General Administration	2		476	<b>476</b>	153
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>2,305</b>	<b>27,107</b>	<b>29,412</b>	<b>32,802</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>430</b>	<b>16,559</b>	<b>16,989</b>	<b>11,475</b>

Notes to Receipts and Payments Accounts:

1 The difference between *Fund Raising Activities...* and *Charitable donations...* is £460.

This represents funds not passed on to the following charities within the year:

Godalming & Villages Community Store	£207.50
Broadwater Youth	£177.50
CAB Waverley	£75.00

2 -£30 represents refund of key deposit

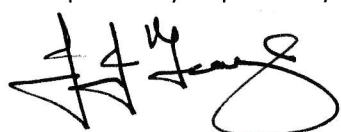
**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 30 September 2023**

<b>Cash funds:</b>	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	<b>Total 2022-23 £</b>	Total 2021-22 £
Cash in bank 1 October 2022	30	95,012	<b>95,042</b>	83,567
Surplus/(Deficit) this year end	430	16,559	<b>16,989</b>	11,475
Cash in bank 30 September 2023	<b>460</b>	<b>111,571</b>	<b>112,031</b>	95,042
Represented by:			£	
CAF Cash account	460	7,482	<b>7,942</b>	
CAF Gold account		66,033	<b>66,033</b>	
Charity Bank Deposit Account		30,000	<b>30,000</b>	
BOOM! Credit Union Corporate Account		8,056	<b>8,056</b>	
	<b>460</b>	<b>111,571</b>	<b>112,031</b>	

Notes:

<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use:</b>	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Land and buildings - not valued	Restricted	-	-
Furniture, fixtures and fittings - not valued	Unrestricted	-	-
<b>Liabilities:</b>	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

Independently Inspected by JJ Teagle



09/01/2024

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166019

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF GODALMING UNITARIANS

For the period 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022

## Overview

Although Covid has not completely gone away, over the year we have been able to restart the majority of activities at Godalming Unitarians at the chapel and within our community. Unfortunately our part-time minister, Sheena resigned in October 2021 due to health reasons. Sheena was able to resume duties for a few months taking us through the Christmas period and bowing out with a couple of superlative services in January and then returning for an emotional farewell in June. We are so incredibly grateful for all the years of service that Sheena has put into the chapel and wish her well for the future.

As the year progressed we have benefited from a variety of visiting ministers and lay leaders to deliver a regular Sunday service and are very grateful to Nicola Young for taking on the task of coordinating as well as delivering many services herself. The trustees are looking into all the options for preaching long term taking into consideration the finances of the organisation and the future costs of maintaining our wonderful historic chapel. We are grateful that the chapel members have been able to support the cost of having a minister over many years and it is only through these generous donations that this has been remotely possible - each Unitarian congregation is financially independent so we don't have access to central funds for these purposes and our other income mainly covers the costs of maintaining the buildings.

A full discussion of the financial year is included later at the end of this report.

## About Godalming Unitarians CIO

Godalming Unitarians is a member-led democratic group. Our aims and purposes are to promote in Godalming and surrounding areas a free and inquiring religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches ("the GA"). We do this through 'the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition'.

## Achievements and Performance

### Worship, meditation, and prayer

Worship is at the heart of any religious community and Godalming Unitarians continued to offer regular Sunday services that are inspiring, uplifting and also consoling through the good times and the bad. The trustees have continued the decision to limit our provision to three or four Sunday services each month, keeping one Sunday free. This was due to the added complexity of offering access to services via Zoom and gives us some breathing space when filling the rota from our pool of visiting preachers.

For the months from October to January, Sheena was able to conduct around two services each

month – in chapel and online. We appreciate the efforts required to provide hybrid worship in chapel whilst allowing remote participants to join via Zoom. Particular thanks to Sheena and also Rob Oulton for leading the way and more recently for all those involved in technical support of our hybrid services in particular Adam Baumberg and Paul Richards.

It has been wonderful to be able to re-open the chapel and see the majority of the congregation being comfortable to return to services in chapel. We appreciate that sometimes it is difficult for everyone to attend in person, due to Covid concerns or illness or long distances to travel. So we have continued to try to make our services available online via Zoom and this seems to be working well despite the occasional technical glitch.

As before, we have benefited from a pool of talented members and visiting speakers, including interfaith ministers and lay preachers, to lead Sunday services. Special thanks go to interfaith ministers, Edie Campbell, Lindsay Stevens and Anna Lubelska. Also thanks to our lay preachers and service leaders including Shirley Wardell and Nicola Young who have often stepped in at short notice. We value their contributions and also the work of Nicola Young, our preaching coordinator, who has ensured our preaching rota is complete.

We no longer are able to offer our own weekly meditation group (although Sheena and Rob continue to offer this online under the UK Unitarian banner). However we are now offering a “quiet time” monthly session in chapel where anyone is welcome to attend on the last Wednesday of the month and spend 45 minutes in contemplative reflection in the chapel. Thanks to our chair, Christine Martin for organizing this activity.

As has become our custom, Sheena offered two Christmas services this year: a Zoom-only Xmas Carol service and a more peaceful, contemplative hybrid service the following week also led by Sheena in the chapel. For those who do not wish to meet in person or online, we have made services available to read-through where possible.

### Religious education

Due to Covid and Sheena leaving we have not been able to offer engagement groups exploring faith issues but hope these may resume at some point. We also have not been able to provide a Children’s Programme but have enjoyed contributions from the younger members of our community joining in person or via Zoom and also video clips they have produced.

In November, a remembrance service took place from the chapel. In January, Edie Campbell led a Sunday service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day focussing on the inspirational life and writings of Etty Hillesum and in September Anna Lubelska led a service on Peace Building.

### Pastoral support and Rites of Passage

Our community is open to people of all faiths and none and it is worth reiterating that there is no dogma or set of beliefs required for those wishing to join or attend Godalming Unitarians.

During the year we have said goodbye to a few members or friends who have moved away from the area or left for health or personal reasons. Membership at the end of the period covered here

remains stable at 32 members. We would also like to encourage those who may be interested to join as members. Those who prefer to remain as friends or simply commit to occasional groups or activities are, of course, always welcome.

During the year there has been one same-sex wedding in the chapel and one naming ceremony, both conducted by Sheena.

The congregation's informal pastoral support network, sensitively led by Dana Daniels, and supported by Christine Hayhurst and other members of the congregation, continued its valuable work behind the scenes, enabling those unable to attend to keep in touch with chapel life.

### Wider Unitarian involvement

Godalming Unitarians continues to send delegates to the annual meeting of the General Assembly, which took place in Birmingham this year.

We also maintain a presence at the annual FUSE event (the Festival of Unitarians in the South-East), and will continue to support other events.

### Outreach

The monthly Community Art Café has been meeting regularly throughout the year. Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams for getting this going again.

Unfortunately, we were unable to put together a community event for the Jo Cox Great Get-Together or the Jubilee celebrations, although we were able to have a farewell lunch for Sheena at the end of June. Surrey Pride this year was hosted in Camberley and we were able to support this event in person in late August with a stand and a colourful turnout in the parade.

Our premises have historically been a well-used resource within the community for meetings of U3A groups, healers, dowsers, yoga and tai chi enthusiasts, ukulele players and neighbourhood groups. Many of these groups have been able to return to the hall after Covid restrictions have eased.

Helping others in need is a demonstration of our commitment to look beyond ourselves. For online special services we encourage participants to give directly to the charities concerned. We have continued to offer refreshments after the service, and have been collecting coffee-time donations.

We adopted "Send a Child to Hucklow" (SACH) as our Charity for 2022 as it was their 60th Anniversary and they had a special appeal to raise £60K. SACH is a charity that arranges and administers holidays at the Unitarian Holiday Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire for groups of disadvantaged children. So far this calendar year we have raised over £1300 for SACH. However only about half of this fell within our accounting year.

Thanks also to Jill Durrant for keeping our social media updated.

### Social activities

Our activities groups help to create community. The Sunday walking group has continued fairly regularly (depending on the weather) - generally a moderate walk with pub or picnic lunch. Thanks to Pam Dalton Williams, Steve Williams and Paul Richards for leading the walks.

The book group continued to meet regularly and discussed a wide range of novels.

## Volunteers

We thank all the volunteers who work hard behind the scenes to keep chapel life going – from meeting and greeting, to providing refreshments, flowers, gardening, DIY and many other tasks. Particular thanks go to Paul Richards for taking on the management of the buildings and Rob Oulton for his help in passing this on and long service handling this task. Thanks to the premises team (Christine Hayhurst, Christine Martin and Paul Richards).

Thanks also to the trustees for their dedication and contribution to the smooth running of Godalming Unitarians in all areas of activity.

## Governance

During the year, Christine Martin has continued as Chair of the trustees. We currently have just seven trustees so are keen for new members to join us to help keep everything running smoothly. We are a friendly and cohesive bunch. The normal serving period for Trustees is three years according to our constitution, and being a trustee does not need to be a particularly onerous responsibility.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW 2021-2022

In the year to 30 September 2022 total receipts exceeded total payments resulting in an overall surplus of £11,475. The reasons behind this surplus are:

- Ministry costs were approximately 2/3 lower this year due to our minister, leaving in January. This is undoubtedly the reason behind the bulk of the surplus.
- Although income from donations and pledges was lower than in 2020-21, letting income was significantly higher.
- And although a considerable amount was spent on cottage maintenance and repairs, costly repairs to a chimney were postponed until the next financial year.

Most other income and expenditure items were up on the previous year, mainly because of the return to Sunday services and other activities in the chapel and the hall.

As always, we are very grateful to our members and friends for their generous support. However, I would like to insert a note of caution here. For the past few years our ability to fund a minister from donations has been decreasing. This is partly due to the fact that we went from a 50% time minister to a 60% time minister in January 2019, but it is also the case that donations have been decreasing in real terms for the past 3 years. If this chapel is to continue to thrive, it behoves us all to consider what we wish to and are able to contribute, both in monetary and non-monetary terms e.g. volunteering to greet or do refreshments or serve as a trustee.

Finally, particular thanks go to the following groups and individuals:

- David Daniels for his continuing assistance to the Treasurer.
- Adam Baumberg, Paul Richards and Christine Martin for their support with on-line and in-person banking.

- Jeff Teagle, for once again acting as our Independent Examiner.
- The Trustees of the Highgate Hill Unitarian Church Fund and the Trustees of the General Baptist Assembly for their continuing monetary support.

### Administrative information

Godalming Unitarians is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered by the Charity Commission with number 1166019.

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2022**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2021-22 £	Total 2020-21 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Offertory, Pledges, Donations			15,302	15,302	18,131
Gift Aid			3,371	3,371	3,958
Special Services	1	50	420	470	330
Fund Raising Activities and other restricted	2	3,461		3,461	1,150
Grants Received	3	321	253	574	1,152
Hall and Chapel Letting Income	4	30	8,222	8,252	3,701
Cottage Gross Rent			11,594	11,594	11,554
Bank Interest			317	317	31
Other receipts	5		937	937	7,022
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>3,862</b>	<b>40,415</b>	<b>44,277</b>	<b>47,029</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Ministry	3	321	9,256	9,577	26,558
Visiting Preachers	1	150	712	862	604
Musicians	1	65	818	883	385
Subscriptions & donations (unrestricted)			1,548	1,548	1,665
Charitable donations and other restricted	2	3,185		3,185	1,426
Conferences & Courses			490	490	-
Post, Telephone & Stationery			215	215	357
Publicity, Publications & Periodicals			78	78	-
Insurance			1,536	1,536	1,424
Grounds Upkeep			1,650	1,650	1,172
Legal Fees/Licences				-	-
Professional fees			891	891	1,673
Chapel Utilities			592	592	574
Chapel Cleaning			968	968	591
Chapel Maintenance & Repairs			277	277	822
Hall Utilities			915	915	683
Hall Cleaning			1,270	1,270	808
Hall Maintenance & Repairs			1,590	1,590	1,150
Cottage Utilities				-	-
Cottage Letting Agent Fees				-	-
Cottage Maintenance & Repairs			5,981	5,981	647
Bank charges	6		142	142	
Sundry & General Administration (including bank chgs)	7		153	153	678
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>3,721</b>	<b>29,081</b>	<b>32,802</b>	<b>41,214</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>11,334</b>	<b>11,475</b>	<b>5,816</b>

Notes to Receipts and Payments Accounts:

- 1 Of the fees received for Special Services (weddings & namings) a proportion is set aside to pay the service leader & the musician. £165 was received in 2020-21 all of which was paid in 2021-22. £50 was received in 2021-22 all of which was paid in 2021-22.
- 2 The difference between *Fund Raising Activities...* and *Charitable donations...* is £276. This represents the gift aid on *Fund Raising Activities...* that was received in 2021-22 but attributable to expenditure in 2020-21.
- 3 The £321 restricted grants received relates to ministry
- 4 The £30 restricted Hall and Chapel Letting Income is a Key deposit paid by Waverley Dowsers
- 5 This is the final insurance settlement re Covid-19. Covers loss of earnings from financial year 2019-20 & part of 2020-21.

6 Bank charges were included in Sundry & General Admin in prior years

7 This is primarily expenditure on cleaning & kitchen supplies, with one exception: £74.93 towards the purchase of 2 new benches

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 30 September 2022**

<b>Cash funds:</b>	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	<b>Total 2021-22 £</b>	Total 2020-21 £
Cash in bank 1 October 2021	(111)	83,678	<b>83,567</b>	77,751
Surplus/(Deficit) this year end	141	11,334	<b>11,475</b>	5,816
Cash in bank 30 September 2022	<b>30</b>	<b>95,012</b>	<b>95,042</b>	83,567

Represented by:	£		
CAF Cash account	30	20,829	<b>20,859</b>
CAF Gold account		15,221	<b>15,221</b>
Charity Bank Deposit Account		50,938	<b>50,938</b>
BOOM! Credit Union Corporate Account		8,024	<b>8,024</b>
	<b>30</b>	<b>95,012</b>	<b>95,042</b>

Notes:

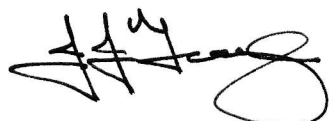
**Assets retained for the charity's own use:**

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Land and buildings - not valued	Restricted	-	-
Furniture, fixtures and fittings - not valued	Unrestricted	-	-

**Liabilities:**

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Waverley Dowsers key deposit	Restricted	30	

Independently Inspected by J J Teagle



15/04/2023

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166019

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF GODALMING UNITARIANS

For the period 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021

## Overview

This has been another challenging year for our community as the pandemic has ebbed and flowed around us. This report covers the period from autumn 2020, a difficult Christmas period and up to the end of summer 2021 when we were able to get back to a more normal situation.

Despite the difficult circumstances, Godalming Unitarians continued to rise to the challenge, meeting digitally online, in chapel and with hybrid services accommodating both online and in person worship. Under the leadership of our minister, the Rev Sheena Gabriel with support from the trustees, we have continued to offer a spiritual home for enquiring minds. Unfortunately, we have had to restrict some of our activities but hope there is still something for everyone to enjoy.

Although not strictly covered in this report, we are sad to say that Sheena felt the need to resign for health reasons in early October. We are incredibly grateful for the many years of service that she has put into the chapel and wish her well for all her future endeavours.

This year has been a difficult time for many organisations financially, but we have been able to claim back some of the shortfall due to Covid from the previous year from our insurance provider. We are also very grateful to the many people who, over the years, through generous giving, donation, bequests and financial management have made sure we have a strong foundation and we hope this will continue into the future. Full discussion of the financial year is included later at the end of this report.

## About Godalming Unitarians CIO

Godalming Unitarians is a member-led democratic group. Our aims and purposes are to promote in Godalming and surrounding areas a free and inquiring religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches (“the GA”). We do this through ‘the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition’.

## Achievements and Performance

### Worship, meditation, and prayer

Worship is at the heart of any religious community and Godalming Unitarians continued to offer regular Sunday services that are inspiring, uplifting and also consoling through the good times and the bad. The trustees made a decision to limit our provision to three or four Sunday services each month, keeping one Sunday free. This was due to the added complexity of offering Zoom and “hybrid” services.

Our half-time minister, Sheena has generally been able to conduct two services each month –

whether in the chapel or online or more recently, combining both. We appreciate the efforts required to provide hybrid worship in chapel whilst allowing remote participants to join via Zoom. Particular thanks to Sheena and also Rob Oulton for the in-chapel technical support. Also, thanks to the generosity of a chapel member, we have been able to benefit from a large monitor in the chapel for these services which has been invaluable.

At the start of May the trustees agreed to a cautious re-opening of the chapel for services. Since then, we have been tweaking the format of services in the chapel. Initially these were by invite only for those who may not be confident attending online. Later we have been able to open up chapel services to all who wish to attend with the option to attend virtually on Zoom. Hopefully we can continue to refine this approach as restrictions may come and go over the next year.

As before, we have benefited from a pool of talented members and visiting speakers, including interfaith ministers and lay preachers, to lead Sunday services. Special thanks go to interfaith ministers, Edie Campbell, Jenny Miller and Lindsay Stevens. Also thanks to our lay preachers and service leaders including Shirley Wardell and Nicola Young who have often stepped in at short notice. We value their contributions and also the work of Nicola Young, our preaching coordinator, who has ensured our preaching rota is complete.

Weekly meditation, now in its 14th year, continues to be led by Rob Oulton and Sheena and is much appreciated by those who attend in person and more recently via Zoom. We have continued to hold occasional services of a reflective/interfaith nature including music, meditation and readings. Sheena and Rob Oulton were unable to offer their usual Good Friday service and lunch - but instead led a service via Zoom and were joined by Unitarians from other congregations.

Our monthly Prayer Circle group concluded in October, offering fellowship and support in a contemplative environment. As has become our tradition, we offered two Christmas services this year: a candle-lit carol Zoom service led by Sheena and a more peaceful, contemplative service the following week also led by Sheena in the chapel by invite and on Zoom.

For those who do not wish to meet in person or online, we have made services available to read-through where possible, via email, and a few hard copies have been printed and hand-delivered to those not on email. Service recordings have also been made available for streaming online where possible.

### Religious education

Due to Covid we have not been able to offer engagement groups exploring faith issues but hope these may resume at some point. We also have not been able to provide a Children's Programme but have enjoyed contributions from the younger members of our community via Zoom and also video clips they have produced.

In November, a remembrance service took place from the chapel (via Zoom due to the 2nd lockdown). In January, Edie Campbell led a Sunday service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. At the end of May, Shirley and David Faraday led a climate change themed service on Zoom with original music recorded at the hall.

### Pastoral support and Rites of Passage

Our community is open to people of all faiths and none and it is worth reiterating that there is no dogma or set of beliefs required for those wishing to join or attend Godalming Unitarians.

During the year we have said goodbye to a few members or friends who have moved away from the area or left for health or personal reasons. Membership at the end of the period covered here remains stable at 33 members. We would also like to encourage those who may be interested to join as members. Those who prefer to remain as friends or simply commit to occasional groups or activities are, of course, always welcome.

During the year Sheena conducted one (same-sex) wedding. Another wedding couple chose to postpone their ceremony, and 2 child naming ceremonies were unable to go ahead due to Covid restrictions. Thankfully, Sheena was not required to conduct any funerals for Chapel members.

The congregation's informal pastoral support network, sensitively led by Dana Daniels, and supported by Christine Hayhurst continued its valuable work behind the scenes, enabling those unable to attend to keep in touch with chapel life.

### Wider Unitarian involvement

Godalming Unitarians continues to send delegates to the annual meeting of the General Assembly, which again took place as an online event this year.

We also maintain a presence at the annual FUSE event (the Festival of Unitarians in the South-East), and will continue to support other events as they restart post-Covid or continue as online only events.

### Interfaith and ecumenical relationships

Sheena has continued to represent Unitarians at the Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum (GGIFF). In November she chaired their annual Interfaith service (on Zoom), with contributions from different faiths exploring the theme of mental health and well-being during Covid times.

Sheena also participated in an ecumenical 'Rainbow' service and has supported a new 'Open Table' initiative locally (part of an ecumenical Christian network seeking to provide inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ within churches).

### Outreach

The monthly Community Art/Cuppa group has taken a break this past year due to Covid restrictions. During the break Pam Cookney tried to keep in touch with participants, a small group met informally over the summer, and sessions resumed in September.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 interfered in our regular tea-party in memory of Jo Cox although we were able to have a family friendly service followed by a picnic outside in June. Surrey Pride this year was hosted in Godalming and we were able to support this event in person in late September with a stand in the park and a colourful turnout in the parade (thanks to Lizzie Baumberg for her placard making workshop and designing the flyers and T shirts).

In September the Chapel opened its doors for Heritage Open Day and welcomed a steady stream of visitors. Thanks to Christine and Bill Hayhurst for organising the displays and to all who helped with the set-up, welcoming of guests and serving refreshments.

Our premises have historically been a well-used resource within the community for meetings of U3A groups, healers, dowsers, yoga and tai chi enthusiasts, ukulele players and neighbourhood groups. Some of these groups have been able to return to the hall as restrictions have eased.

Helping others in need is a demonstration of our commitment to look beyond ourselves. For online special services we encourage participants to give directly to the charities concerned. From September we have been able to offer refreshments after the service, and have restarted collecting coffee-time donations.

## Social activities

Our activities groups help to create community. The Sunday walking group was paused due to Covid restrictions during the period of this report, but we have since been able to restart regular walks again.

The book group continued to meet regularly in person or online and discussed an eclectic mix of novels. The Ukulele group set up by members Shirley Wardell and David Faraday is now independent of the chapel but still includes some of our members who enjoyed playing and performing music together and on Zoom.

The regular Tuesday afternoon Zoom “chat” continued up until the Summer, providing social interaction through the lockdown period. Thanks to Sheena for hosting and facilitating this. Connecting online has been very beneficial for keeping up our spirits – especially for those living alone who have limited opportunities for social interaction.

The Godalming Pride placard workshop was another social activity we were able to run in this period.

## Volunteers

We thank all the volunteers who work hard behind the scenes to keep chapel life going – from meeting and greeting, to providing refreshments, flowers, gardening, DIY and many other tasks. Particular thanks go to Rob Oulton for managing the buildings along with the premises team (Christine Hayhurst, Christine Martin and Paul Richards). Rob has also stepped in as onsite tech operator for live broadcasts from the chapel.

Thanks also to the trustees for their dedication and contribution to the smooth running of Godalming Unitarians in all areas of activity.

## Ministry

The trustees wish to thank Sheena again for yet another year of fine spiritual leadership and for all her hard work and commitment, especially given the recent challenging circumstances and her health issues.

## Governance

During the year, Christine Martin has continued as Chair of the trustees. We currently have just seven trustees so are keen for new members to join us to help keep everything running smoothly. We are a friendly and cohesive bunch. The normal serving period for Trustees is three years according to our constitution, and being a trustee does not need to be a particularly onerous

responsibility.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW 2020-2021

In the year to 30 September 2021 total receipts exceeded total payments resulting in an overall surplus of £5,786. A deficit of £10,630 had been budgeted for but several factors combined to avoid this dire prediction.

The two main reasons that the expected deficit turned into a surplus were a) planned maintenance work, particularly on the chimney, was not undertaken and b) a hoped for, but uncertain insurance pay-out was received.

Repeated lock-downs, as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, meant that lettings *were sporadic for most of the year and even lower than last year. Fortunately, the Supreme Court's decision in the "Business Interruption Insurance Test Case" was in favour of policyholders, and as a result we were able to claim on our insurance and received a substantial interim payment in August. Our claim will be finally and fully settled in the near future, though at this point it is not known if the final amount will exceed the interim payment already received.*

As with last year, and again as a result of the pandemic, expenditure on conferences, utilities, musicians and visiting preachers were all lower than usual.

As always, we are very grateful to our members and friends for their generous support during another challenging year; also to the Trustees of the Highgate Hill Unitarian Church Fund and the Trustees of the General Baptist Assembly.

Finally, our particular thanks to the following individuals:

- David Daniels for his continuing assistance to the Treasurer.
- Adam Baumberg, Paul Richards and Christine Martin for their support with on-line and in-person banking.
- Rob Oulton for, amongst his many other duties, overseeing lettings of Hall, Chapel and Cottage.
- Jeff Teagle, for his ongoing guidance and support and for once again acting as our Independent Examiner.

### Administrative information

Godalming Unitarians is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered by the Charity Commission with number 1166019.

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2021**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2020-21 £	Total 2019-20 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Offertory, Pledges, Donations			18,131	<b>18,131</b>	18,732
Gift Aid			3,958	<b>3,958</b>	3,302
Special Services	1	165	165	<b>330</b>	200
Fund Raising Activities and other restricted	4	1,150		<b>1,150</b>	1,829
Grants Received	3	901	251	<b>1,152</b>	3,713
Hall and Chapel Letting Income			3,701	<b>3,701</b>	7,183
Cottage Gross Rent			11,554	<b>11,554</b>	10,928
Bank Interest			31	<b>31</b>	1,452
Other receipts	5		7,022	<b>7,022</b>	10
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>2,216</b>	<b>44,813</b>	<b>47,029</b>	<b>47,349</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Ministry	1,2&3	570	25,988	<b>26,558</b>	27,826
Visiting Preachers			604	<b>604</b>	246
Musicians			385	<b>385</b>	970
Subscriptions & donations (unrestricted)			1,665	<b>1,665</b>	1,875
Charitable donations and other restricted	4	1,426		<b>1,426</b>	1,829
Conferences & Courses			-	<b>-</b>	-
Post, Telephone & Stationery			357	<b>357</b>	178
Publicity, Publications & Periodicals			-	<b>-</b>	65
Insurance			1,424	<b>1,424</b>	1,344
Grounds Upkeep			1,172	<b>1,172</b>	1,812
Legal Fees/Licences			-	<b>-</b>	-
Professional fees			1,673	<b>1,673</b>	1,060
Chapel Utilities			574	<b>574</b>	1,094
Chapel Cleaning			590	<b>590</b>	632
Chapel Maintenance & Repairs	3	431	391	<b>822</b>	2,431
Hall Utilities			683	<b>683</b>	1,014
Hall Cleaning			807	<b>807</b>	826
Hall Maintenance & Repairs			1,149	<b>1,149</b>	912
Cottage Utilities			-	<b>-</b>	856
Cottage Letting Agent Fees			-	<b>-</b>	-
Cottage Maintenance & Repairs			647	<b>647</b>	12,797
Sundry & General Administration (including bank chgs)			678	<b>678</b>	763
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>2,427</b>	<b>38,787</b>	<b>41,214</b>	<b>58,526</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(211)</b>	<b>6,026</b>	<b>5,815</b>	<b>(11,177)</b>

Notes to Receipts and Payments Accounts:

- 1 Of the fees received for Special Services (weddings & namings) 50% is paid to the minister.  
£165 was received in 2020-21 all of which will be paid in 2021-22.
- 2 Of the fees received for Special Services (weddings & namings) 50% is paid to the minister.  
£100 was received in 2019-20 all of which was paid in 2020-21.
- 3 Of the £901 worth of restricted grants received, £470 related to ministry and £431 related to chapel maintenance work done in 2019-20
- 4 The difference between *Fund Raising Activities...* and *Charitable donations...* is £276.  
This represents the gift aid on *Fund Raising Activities...* that will be received in 2021-22.
- 5 Includes £7,000 interim insurance settlement re Covid-19.  
Covers loss of earnings from financial year 2019-20 & part of 2020-21.

**GODALMING UNITARIANS**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 30 September 2021**

<b>Cash funds:</b>	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	<b>Total 2020-21 £</b>	Total 2019-20 £
Cash in bank 1 October 2020	100	77,651	<b>77,751</b>	88,929
Surplus/(Deficit) this year end	(211)	6,026	<b>5,815</b>	(11,177)
Cash in bank 30 September 2021	<b>(111)</b>	<b>83,677</b>	<b>83,566</b>	77,751
Represented by:			<b>£</b>	
CAF Cash account	(111)	9,804	<b>9,693</b>	
CAF Gold account		15,195	<b>15,195</b>	
Charity Bank Deposit Account		50,680	<b>50,680</b>	
BOOM! Credit Union Corporate Account		8,000	<b>8,000</b>	
	<b>(111)</b>	<b>83,678</b>	<b>83,567</b>	

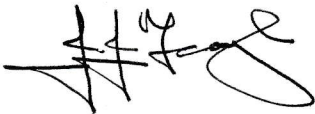
Notes:

<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use:</b>	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Land and buildings - not valued	Restricted	-	-
Furniture, fixtures and fittings - not valued	Unrestricted	-	-
<b>Liabilities:</b>	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Special Services fee collected in August	Restricted	165	Nov-21

**General:**

The Covid 19 pandemic has, once again, had a negative impact upon the charity's finances, particularly affecting the lettings income for the Hall. However, some of this loss has been compensated by an interim insurance payment. Receipts from the Chapel Cottage letting and regular pledged income from the congregation have remained steady.

Independently Inspected by J J Teagle



01/01/2022