

**Welwyn Garden City
United Reformed Church**
Church Road
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6PR
Registered Charity Number 1167010



CHARITY REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Report) 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Welwyn Garden City United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building, and described more specifically in its mission statement which remains unchanged:

Our mission is to be an open, welcoming fellowship, providing a Christian Hub where all people can find friendship and support as we learn to love God and each other and work together in our community and the wider world.

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, and
- providing a Community Hub offering a variety of activities which contribute to strong local community and individuals' well-being and which link well to our Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's community aims.

Aims and Purposes

Welwyn Garden City United Reformed Church (hereinafter WGC URC), its Eldership and Minister promote the mission of the whole Church to foster in the congregation, concern for witness and service to the community, evangelism at home and abroad, Christian education, ecumenical action, local inter-church relations and the wider responsibilities of the whole Church.

WGC URC is committed to fulfil these aims by enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church by providing a variety of worship experiences; helping people to put their faith into practice through exploring faith, prayer, and the Bible.

In planning the diary for the year, the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit is considered and in particular the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Our normal pattern of activities include:

- worship, prayer and exploring the Bible to enable people to learn about their faith and develop their knowledge of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus,
- pastoral care for our Church family and wider community,
- making opportunities for mission and outreach, and
- providing social and leisure activities for individual and community well-being.

WGC URC offers a range of different worship experiences during each month throughout the year, which are open to all, and all are welcome. There is a balance of traditional worship, engaging with prayer, hymns, and preached sermons and more modern conversational and sung worship with modern tunes; worship for all ages in the form of family services is offered as well as evening sessions of Christian Meditation.

The above statements remain true and are unchanged from the report for 2021.

Background to the year

The Charity Report for 2021 from the Trustees reported that after a period when the activities of WGC URC's were severely curtailed due to Covid-19 we - in common with most other organisations - hoped that 2022 would see us returning to normal.

Normal Sunday worship restarted at the end of January 2022 and has continued without interruption since; hymn singing was allowed to be resumed and the general feeling that things were getting back to normal grew as the year passed.

But not everything has gone back to as it was before Covid-19, the reliance on Zoom for meetings still continues enabling participants, who for whatever reason were not in WGC, could still join meetings rather than offering apologies for non-attendance. The comforts of Zoom at home are welcomed by the elderly who dislike turning out on winter evenings and dislike driving in the dark. To this extent, Zoom meetings are certain to continue well into the future.

Because of the long break caused by the pandemic, members have become older, and many have decided not to resume their previous duties. This was inevitable and puts greater strain on those who remain, there seems to be a general reluctance on younger folk to take on responsibilities when they do not have to.

Nevertheless, 2022 was a largely successful year through the challenging work of the Elders and volunteers and we have grown closer to and work well in partnership with our fellow Pastorate Churches, namely Harpenden URC and Wheathampstead United Church (also URC).

Since our previous Minister, Rev. Jane Weedon retired at the end of September 2021, WGC URC has been in what is termed 'vacancy'. Seeking a new Minister is only permissible under URC rules when a vacancy is declared, and the recruiting process can begin.

Our vacancy was declared in the autumn of 2022, a year after Jane moved to Lincolnshire.

Rev. Jim Dalgleish was appointed as our Interim Moderator by the URC Thames North Synod to steer us through the vacancy process. As expected, any new Minister will be appointed to the Local Area Group of about a dozen Churches, called Heartland, but with particular responsibility for the three Pastorate Churches named above.

By mid-2022, we had our joint Pastorate Profile in place detailing the buildings and particular characteristics of the three Churches, which with a lot of other information will be made available to enquirers about our vacancy.

We hope that we get to see some potential candidates in 2023.

Before ending this brief overview of the year, it has to be said that our compliance with Government guidelines on the Covid-19 restrictions was stringent, even when official advice for religious observance was far from clear. We always erred on the safe side.

The slowness of previous organisations who used our buildings to return is evident from our lettings income in the annual accounts; we are confident that this will recover next year. Our Manse continues to be rented out.

Achievements and Performance

Average Sunday attendance over the eleven months of normal Sunday worship totalled 36 people, this compares with the average of 58 before the pandemic. But the weekly numbers have been increasing as our elder members become more confident in venturing out again and we hope that this trend will continue into next year.

Because of frailty, we have a number of members who have chosen to remain on Zoom and others are happy to receive a copy of the full script of the service including the sermon delivered or posted to them during the preceding week.

Holy Communion has reverted to being in person on the first Sunday of each month without fail and is always well attended.

Being without a Minister has meant more combined services with our other Pastorate Churches, an increased reliance on lay preachers from elsewhere in the former St. Albans district; and more importantly we have made more use of home-grown talent in our own worship team. We have added one of our own Elders to those authorised to preside at Communion in addition to our own Robert Harvey who has always been our stand-by if any of our previous Ministers was unavailable.

At present, the fifth Sunday in any month is always a Joint Pastorate service with the venue alternating.

Weekly Bible Study groups restarted in person, but Christian Meditation remains on Zoom.

Memorable services during the year included the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the URC's 50th Anniversary and special services with invited musicians.

Wendy Lidgate, our Children and Families Worker, employed using a Synod grant, continued to do a remarkable job in staying connected with our young families and making them feel still involved even if family circumstances preclude attending Sunday worship.

Other Church groups and events such as community coffee mornings, tea dances, Knit and Natter group, Thursday Club for older folk have all been kept going during the year and are expanding again now all restrictions have been finally lifted.

Similarly, Elizabeth Laing, our Mission Enabler kept our community outreach work expanding; our partnership with Sainsbury's, the supermarket opposite the Church, continued and in fact increased its donations to compensate for the fact that elderly Church members found it difficult to bring heavy items of food donations into Church on a Sunday. All our collections were distributed through the New Zion Food Bank in WGC.

Elizabeth also continues to support the local Women's Refuge, Homestart and other similar support charities.

However other organisations such as some NHS support groups and Alcoholics Anonymous closed down during the first lockdown and have not returned. The reduction in hall hire obviously has an effect on Church income.

Special services, separate from Sunday morning worship, included Time to Remember, Longest Night, and Pet services.

Within the URC Thames North Synod, we are grouped with a dozen other Churches in what is called the Heartland group. This group extends west to include Luton and Dunstable. Regular meetings are held on Zoom and no doubt joint Local Area Group events will be held again in the future.

WGC URC holds monthly Elders' Meetings, all on Zoom in 2022, and quarterly Church Meetings in person in Church, but available on Zoom for people unable to attend, who can still vote on important matters. Postal votes and proxy voting are precluded by our constitution, as a result Zoom attendance has proved to be a benefit.

We gained new members in 2022; we said good-bye to two dear friends but lost no one directly due to Covid-19; we had no baptisms or blessings but had one wedding. Nowadays most funerals are held at the local crematorium.

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care teams have continued to support our congregation throughout the year with visits, sharing prayer requests and generally staying connected either by e-mail or telephone. We abide by GDPR rules rigorously.

An increase in the number of Elders in November 2022 will help to spread the load a bit.

Flowers used in morning worship are distributed to those with something to celebrate or who might be unwell or suffered bereavement.

Communion is offered by our long-standing authorised person to those who are house-bound, and this small act is often much appreciated.

Special occasions such as Easter and Christmas were marked with cards and presents, all hand delivered or posted if distant.

Community

Outreach work in WGC and beyond was picked up again in 2022.

As part of promoting Christian values, we work with the community to provide opportunities to access activities for a wide range of people with support for their physical and mental well-being. We provide for all ages from toddlers and families to our more senior citizens.

Our regular events include our Community Café, Church run groups for babies and for toddlers, as well as for providing free space for child minders to run their own events.

Every month there is a tea dance and a fortnightly get togethers for the over 55s along at our Thursday Club and separately a Knit and Natter group.

In addition, our halls are used to provide access to dance classes, weight management, family support, exercise, recreational and educational groups.

We use our central location in Welwyn Garden City as an opportunity to provide more facilities to the community alongside our regular worship events and we are looking to redevelop our building as a community hub with improved circulation space, toilets, and kitchen.

Our yearly Christmas Fayre was a good example of where arduous work gets us back to pre-pandemic levels, and in 2022 we raised £2,450 of which half was donated to the local Hospice.

Special collections were taken throughout the year enabling donations to be made for relief efforts in Ukraine, for 10 spaces at Crisis at Christmas, amongst other worthy causes.

Mission and Outreach

Both Wendy Lidgate, our Children and Young Families Worker and Elizabeth Laing, our Mission Enabler are involved in various local authority forums as a means of extending our influence out into the community.

We continue to be available to share with our fellow Churches in WGC on ecumenical events, such as the outdoor Good Friday service held in the town centre and Carol singing at Christmas. We hope to expand similar joint events next year.

We distributed copies of adult's and children's books in connection with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, both published by and purchased from Hope International.

Harvest and Gift Day gifts were distributed to the local Food Bank, Resolve Homeless charity, Homestart and Happy Days, another children's charity.

The newly installed Tea Point at the back of the main worship space has proved a remarkable success with main hall users.

Family Worship continues on the second Sunday of the month, a two-tier arrangement with coffee being served to those who stayed on after the children's service and those arriving early for the main Sunday worship, the interaction at this time has proved worthwhile.

As well as her employment on children's work, WGC URC with the support of a Synod grant, gifts a proportion of Wendy Lidgate's time to various interfaith and schools projects.

WGC URC recognises that its town centre location, its car park, and extensive grounds all give it a huge advantage when it comes to local events.

WGC URC ran an Alpha course on Zoom from January to May 2022, and concurrently a New Seekers Bible Study course was offered to anyone who had previously attended an Alpha course.

Every six to eight weeks, the Mid Herts Book Club was run throughout 2022.

Teapot Tuesday was a new initiative started in 2022 as a social gathering for over 60s every Tuesday afternoon; during winter it was advertised as a recognised 'warm space'.

Our third-party hall hirers (in other words non-Church run groups) have increased partially, but not entirely, cancelling out those lost because of Covid-19.

Finance Review for 2022

Full details of our finances for the year are included in the Accounts, which have been independently verified and a copy of which accompanies this Trustees' report. They are in the format recommended by the URC.

Overall, the year showed a surplus of £19,683. There was an unrealised capital loss on our investments of £7,432 resulting in a net surplus of £12,251. We completed our 'big' windows replacement scheme in the main worship space, and continued paying professional construction work fees, etc. all from our own funds without outside assistance.

During the time when we were not able to meet in Church, people took out standing orders and we hope that we may benefit for this method of regular payments rather than relying on less dependable 'cash in the plate'.

One of our biggest overheads is the payment we make to URC "head office" through what is called the Ministry and Mission contribution. The annual amount paid by monthly direct debit is calculated by a formula method, which becomes our set target for the year. We are proud that we have not had to default on payments in 2022.

Employees and volunteers

The year 2022 saw us getting back to normal activities using our industrious employees and our volunteers, but we are not quite there yet.

Michael Cooper, our long-serving Caretaker retired in 2022 and was replaced by Lee Nicholls, who went on to become one of our own members. There were no other changes.

Membership

At the end of 2021, the membership roll showed 75 members with approximately 25 regular attendees who are not Church members. In 2022 two members died but we welcomed three new members into fellowship, with another two that had to be postponed into early 2023. As a result, the roll on 31 December 2022 stood at 76 members.

Redevelopment plans

During 2022 WGC URC gained unconditional planning permission for alterations and an extension which will improve our accommodation with better circulation space meaning that all rooms can be accessed without going through other rooms or spaces which might be occupied by others. Fund-raising started with our 'Big Build Project' appeal and work is going on behind the scenes hopefully enabling tenders to be sought in 2023. Although a change of job Architect and a funding shortfall and seeking grants may have to delay this,

Other notable events

In 2022, we hosted a summer evening garden party where all Church building users could meet each other and meet the Elders.

In Christian Aid week 2022, we held a WGC Male Voice Choir concert and the proceeds together with other collections enabled us to donate £1,177.50 for Joint Pakistan Flood Relief.

Whenever building maintenance and repairs are required, we try to follow the most sustainable route, for instance we have installed secondary double glazing in the Church offices and are moving towards total LED lighting.

Administration

WGC URC is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain and a member of the Thames North Synod. Charity details given at the head of this annual report.

Our website is www.wgcurc.org.uk which is kept up to date for public viewing.

The Church Office remains open on Wednesday to Friday mornings when staff are available.

The Church building itself and our Manse at 49 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JQ are vested in the URC Thames North Trust company as trustees and held for the benefit of WGC URC in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

WGC URC registered in 2016 as Charity Number 1167010.

Structure, Governance and Management

The activities of WGC URC 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 URC and supplemented by the constitution of WGC URC.

The governing document of the registered charity is a statement adopted in a Church Meeting.

The Church Meeting (of all members wishing to attend) and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit provides direction on the life and work of the Church.

On a day-to-day level, the Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, and the care and maintenance of Church premises and The Manse. Pastoral care of our members, adherents and friends is the responsibility of the Minister (when we have one) and of the Elders and partly delegated to Pastoral Friends.

Elders, who have to be approved in a vote at Church Meeting before being ordained, are elected to serve for three years, and can continue for a further term.

They retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election after a one-year break. Co-option of former serving Elders is permitted.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for reviewing Church policies from time to time, deciding if changes have become necessary and whether a new policy is required to keep up to date.

Production of a Staff Handbook, embodying all our employee policies, has slowed but will progress next year.

During 2022, Church rotas have restarted involving other members in the day-to-day running of Church activities, such as Welcoming, arranging Flowers, Coffee, and the like.

WGC URC publishes a bi-monthly Church Magazine for all three Pastorate Churches.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are recognised as the charity trustees.

At the end of 2022, these were:

Minister (currently vacant)

Joyce Nicolson – Elder and Joint Church Secretary

Philip Read – Elder and Joint Church Secretary

Cherylle Cooper – Elder

Derek Groves – Elder (non-serving Elder co-opted back into the Eldership)

Sanjay Jayaraj – Elder

Sharon John – Elder

John Mortimer – Elder

Adegbemiga Onasile – Elder

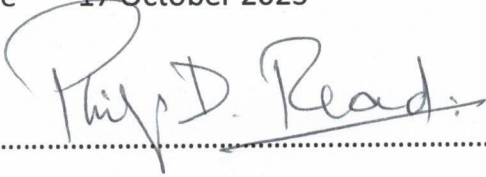
Matthew Read – Elder

Helen Kaye, another non-serving Elder continued as Church Treasurer for the whole of 2022.

This report was approved by the Eldership in October 2023

..... Mrs. Joyce Nicolson, Joint Church Secretary

Date 17 October 2023

..... Mr. Philip Read, Joint Church Secretary

Date 17 October 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2022 Total £	Last Year 2021 Total £
RECEIPTS						
Tithes and Offerings	3	40,207	146	13,745	54,098	47,515
Gifts and Legacies	4	870	10	12,406	13,286	8,366
Fund raising and Grants	5			75,947	75,947	60,094
Property income	6	43,058		3,525	46,583	29,752
Interest, investment income	14a	53	2,344		2,397	2,146
Other income	7			5,480	5,480	12,115
Organisation income	14b			2,014	2,014	346
Total receipts		84,188	2,500	113,116	199,805	160,334
PAYMENTS						
Wider Ministry	8	24,769		3,161	27,930	37,038
Ministry/Group expenses	9	17,028		65,527	82,555	85,908
Church running costs	10	18,830	12,502	2,191	33,523	41,324
Exceptional Expenses	11	12,241		23,873	36,114	35,392
Total payments		72,868	12,502	94,752	180,122	199,662
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)		11,321	-10,002	18,364	19,683	-39,328
TRANSFERS between funds		-165	500	-335	0	0
UNREALISED CAPITAL GAIN/LOSS			-7,432		-7,432	10,176
FUNDS b/fwd 1 January		6,525	53,037	50,606	110,168	139,319
FUNDS c/fwd 31 December		17,681	36,103	68,635	122,418	110,168

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets

Monetary Assets

Bank account	1,372	466	6,921	8,759	13,139
Savings Account	16,309	913	23,601	40,823	16,771
Flower Account			13	13	2

Investment Assets

Investment COIF		32,618	25,540	58,158	65,810
Investment Jupiter		2,106	12,560	14,666	14,446

Totals	12	17,681	36,103	68,635	122,418	110,168
---------------	-----------	---------------	---------------	---------------	----------------	----------------

Other assets

Gift Aid recoverable


Assets used for church purposes

Buildings	13	Church buildings and manse
Church contents		Furnishings and equipment

Liabilities

Key deposits			235	235	235
--------------	--	--	-----	-----	-----

APPROVED by the Church Members on 16 April 2023 and signed on their behalf

by  (name) PHILIP D. READ (signature)

The notes on pages 2 to 5 form part of this financial statement

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTES

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 Section 42(3), using the Receipts and Payments basis available to small charities, and the United Reformed Church guidance.

2 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

	Balance b/fwd	Receipts in year	Payments in year	Transfers for year	Balance c/fwd
Totals for unrestricted fund	6,525	84,188	-72,867	-165	17,681

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

Fund name & purpose:	Balance b/fwd £	Receipts in year £	Payments in year £	Transfers for year £	Balance c/fwd £
Benevolent Fund	308	156			464
Maintenance Fund	10,911		-12,502	12,500	10,909
Minister's Car Replacement	10,000				10,000
Reserve Fund	31,817	2,344		-12,000	22,161
Totals for designated funds	53,037	2,500	-12,502	500	43,535

Unrealised Capital Gain/Loss (Reserves)

-7,432

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

Fund name & purpose:	Balance b/fwd £	Receipts in year £	Payments in year £	Transfers in year £	Balance c/fwd £
Building Fund	10,802	1,530			12,332
Chatter and Tots	509	449			958
Community Development	345	565	-251		659
Earmarked Fund	4,043	7,915	-6,111		5,848
Equipment Fund (Tea Point)	2,562	4228.88	-6,542		249
Fabric Fund	11,011	4,449	-13,368	625	2,718
Special Collections	22	1,621	-1,643		0
Liabilities	235				235
Mission and Children Family Funds	21,074	70,170	-63,595		27,649
Lottery Grant	0	9,804	-2,315	-960	6,529
Flower Fund	2	940	-929		13
BackToWork	0	1,000			1,000
Legacy Fund	0	10,443			10,443
Totals for restricted funds	50,606	113,116	-94,752	-335	68,635

Totals for all funds

110,168 199,805 -180,122 0 129,850

Total C/F Inc Loss

122,418

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTES - continued

RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2022 Total £	Last Year 2021 Total £
3 TITHES AND OFFERINGS					
Cash and Cheque Giving	2,875	146	369	3,390	3,373
Direct Giving	23,487			23,487	22,633
Envelopes	6,829			6,829	3,629
Gift Aid	7,015		1,650	8,665	7,066
Special collections			1,918	1,918	1,616
Youth ,Mission, Build Pledges			9,808	9,808	9,198
Total Tithes and Offerings	40,207	146	13,745	54,098	47,515
4 GIFTS and LEGACIES					
Gifts inc carpet	870	10	1,962	2,842	8,366
Legacies			10,443	10,443	0
Total Gifts and Legacies	870	10	12,405	13,286	8,366
5 FUND RAISING, GRANTS					
Events inc Coffee			4,245	4,245	2,580
Synod Grants (Note 14c)			58,762	58,762	53,000
URC Equipment Grant			2,000	2,000	2,000
National Lottery Grant (Note 14d)			9,804	9,804	0
Synod Survey Grant			1,136	1,136	0
Extra Synod Grant (Note 14e)					2,514
Total Fundraising and Grants	0	0	75,947	75,947	60,094
6 PROPERTY INCOME					
Hall Hire	22,108			22,108	13,340
Car Park	4,886		2,500	7,386	6,117
Key and car park deposits			800	800	595
Funeral and weddings			225	225	100
Manse Rental (Note 14f)	16,065			16,065	9,600
Total Property income	43,058	0	3,525	46,583	29,752
7 OTHER INCOME					
Harpenden,Wheatsted,IFG group			710	710	683
JRS HMRC Furlough					11,132
Barrier Insurance received			3,779	3,779	0
Flowers (Note 14g)			990	990	300
Total Other income	0	0	5,480	5,480	12,115

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTES - continued
PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2022 Total £	Last Year 2021 Total £
8 WIDER MINISTRY					
Donations	133		3,161	3,294	3,590
Ministry and Mission	24,636			24,636	33,448
Total Wider ministry costs	24,769	0	3,161	27,930	37,038
9 MINISTRY GROUP EXPENSES					
Flowers			979	979	403
Licenses	730			730	1,336
Office support	971		93	1,063	1,674
Audit/Bank Charges	211			211	50
Printing	397		510	907	1,424
Pulpit Supply	670			670	120
Telephone	269		82	351	529
Transport			17	17	302
Worship support & Organists	1,465		85	1,550	1,241
Youth and Mission Work			453	453	609
Employee salaries, NI and Pensions	11,967		62,578	74,546	74,916
Events inc Catering	348		730	1,078	3,190
Miscellaneous					115
Total Ministry Group expenses	17,028	0	65,527	82,555	85,908
10 CHURCH RUNNING COSTS					
Cleaning and supplies	9,041		1,361	10,402	3,608
Grounds	961			961	2,131
Insurance	4,209			4,209	3,368
Maintenance Church		8,913	13	8,926	16,350
Maintenance Manse		3,589		3,589	8,779
Manse Utilities /Council Tax	580			580	3,642
Church Utilities	4,040		817	4,857	3,447
Total Church running costs	18,830	12,502	2,191	33,523	41,324
11 EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES					
Build Planning	8,178		6,225	14,403	11,411
Equipment Purchase	1,119		196	1,315	278
Projects (see Note14h)	2,945		17,452	20,396	23,703
Total Exceptional Expenses	12,241	0	23,873	36,114	35,392

12 ASSETS

The church monies are not held in segregated accounts, but for the sake of this financial statement the total of each account is allocated appropriately over the various funds. Investment Assets are also allocated across funds mainly Reserves and the Car Fund

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTES - continued

13 ASSETS USED FOR CHURCH PURPOSES

The church building and the manse are vested in URC North Thames Synod Trust as trustees and are not church assets. They are held for the benefit of Welwyn Garden URC in accordance with the statutory trusts applicable to URC properties under the URC Acts. For insurance purposes the church buildings are insured by the church for £3,019,176 and the manse for £562,394. The church contents are insured by the church for £134,275

14 CHURCH SPECIFIC NOTES

14a CAPITAL GAINS AND INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income is allocated to the Reserve Fund and to the General Fund
Unrealised Capital losses are recorded against the Reserve Fund held in the investment account .

14b CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Some church organisations use the church main accounts for their monies - transfers can occur to the window and building fund as part of their gifting to the church. Includes Chatter & Tots

14c SYNOD GRANTS

Grants are received from the Synod for our Community and Family Youth Work and for Mission Developer

14d LOTTERY GRANT

Transfers are made from this grant to church general funds for use of resources

14e GRANT OVERPAYMENT RECEIVED

Thames North Synod have overpaid grants in 2020. Resolved in 2021.

14f MANSE RENTAL

Our sister church (Harpenden) pays WGCURC their share of the Manse rental in accordance with Group Rules. This ceased in January 2022 when WGC Manse was let - an additional source of income in 2022 .

14g FLOWERS

Donations are used to provide Flowers for Worship in Church.
The flower account is used to hold income and expenditure for the year.

14h PROJECTS

We have installed a tea point at the back of our Main Hall and replaced 2 windows
An audio video bell for the office was installed.
Our insurance paid for the car park barrier to be replaced after it was damaged.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 5 for the year ended 31 December 2022 from the accounting records of the church.

Helen Kaye

Helen Kaye

(date) 10/3/23

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Welwyn Garden City URC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 5

Respective responsibilities

The church is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and considers that the audit requirement of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I have carried out an examination of the accounting records kept by the church and the accounts presented with these records. The examination does not provide the evidence required in an audit and I therefore do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Independent Examiner's statement

Signed by the Independent Examiner:

Jennie King

date:

29/3/23

Name and address of the Independent Examiner:

JENNIE KING
76 KIMPTON ROAD
WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS, AL4 8LX