

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	Jan	2023		31	Dec	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Seacombe United Reformed Church Charity

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1177964

Charity's principal address

Brougham Road, Seacombe, Wallasey

Merseyside

Postcode

CH44 6PW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Revd Lorraine Aizlewood-Threlfall	Minister		
2	Mrs Nikki Bruce	Elder		
3	Mr Christopher Heath	Elder		
4	Mr David Powell	Elder		
5	Mr Janette Price	Elder		
6	Mrs Irene Smith	Elder		
7	Mrs Julie Somers	Elder		
8	Mrs Anne Williams	Elder		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Governing document issued by the United Reformed Church

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

As a local church of the United Reformed Church

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Election of Elders by the Annual Church Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The main activities undertaken for the public include:

- providing a building used for religious practices – a place of worship;
- raising awareness of religious beliefs and practices;
- generally advancing the religion;
- educating people about the religion;
- providing pastoral care and outreach;
- providing a premises that can be used by the local community for community activities and meetings.

In each of these activities the trustees are guided by the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The church building is awaiting extensive refurbishment to provide appropriate space for worship and community activities. The church hall premises have undergone refurbishment.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the church hall premises remained closed until reopening for public worship only on 4th July 2021. Members gather weekly for worship and other events.

SODA church sponsored group for adults with learning difficulties and their carers recommenced meetings from August 2022 and have met weekly to date.

Seacombe Players Amateur Dramatics Group recommenced in October 2022 and have planned and performed a variety of productions during 2023 including a family pantomime.

Coffee mornings restarted in October 2022 and are held weekly. Seacombe URC registered as a Safe Warm Space inviting the members of the local community to use the church hall premises to keep warm and receive hot refreshments run by church volunteers.

Seacombe URC members held a Coronation Big Lunch and invited members of the community to join them for the celebration.

Primary School visits have been held for:

- *Experience Easter* which is an interactive way to explore the Easter Story with children. There are six stations of the story covering key moments in the Easter narrative, exploring the events of Holy Week.
- *Pentecost Party* – an interactive celebration of the birthday of the Church!
- *Remember Me* & Exhibition provides an opportunity for pupils to understand the importance of remembering and why Remembrance Sunday is observed. The exhibition includes 'story-tellers' who will share their own or family experiences of WW1 & WW2 - for example one will explain about being evacuated, another will explain how the Mersey Ferries were used, and another will explain how the church was damaged following bombing in the area.
- *Experience Christmas, (similar to Experience Easter) is an interactive way for pupils to explore the Christmas Story.*
- One local primary school held their school nativity in the church main hall. Family members and guardians were able to attend the performance.
- School assemblies are conducted monthly at three primary schools.

FERRIES FAMILY GROUP (church sponsored) meets weekly during Term Time offering vital support to new parents and signposting those who may need further help and support in the upbringing of their children.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The charity is one member of six local churches who have come together to form '*Bridging the Wallasey Gap*' in order to provide hot meals for feeding children during the school holidays as mentioned above.

When Covid 19 pandemic commenced in March 2020 Bridging the Wallasey Gap and the charity continued to support vulnerable families, nominated by the Head Teacher of the local 14 primary schools, by delivering Food Hampers to those families. Food Hampers plus Activity Packs (prepared by the church members) were delivered to each of the nominated families. This has continued throughout the year plus the charity supporting 30 vulnerable families weekly. 1,820 food hampers have been delivered during 2023.

The charity is still working towards the refurbishment of the main church building. The refurbishment of the church halls has provided excellent worship space, reliable heating and lighting, and the refurbishment toilets in main hall, provide baby changing facilities and disabled toilet.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Any reserves currently held are intended to be used for the future refurbishment of the main church premises, retaining sufficient to provide a safeguard for predicted shorter-term expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity's principal source of funding is by donations in the form of offerings at the weekly church services attended by members and adherents of the church. There is also income from various fundraising activities held throughout the year.

Section F

Other optional information


Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Lorraine Aizlewood-Threlfall

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

03.03.2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022/23 Total £
RECEIPTS				
Offerings	11,536			11,536
Fund raising and donations	4,796	-		4,796
Monies raised for outside causes	185			185
Gift Aid Repayments				
Legacies	53,228	-		53,228
Property - church/hall users	4,562			4,562
Other Income	3,377	-		3,377
Benevolent Fund	-	225		225
Bank interest & investment income	2,413	-		2,413
Total receipts	80,096	225	-	80,321
PAYMENTS				
Ministry & Mission Fund	12,372			12,372
Ministry/Group expenses	3,360			3,360
Church running costs	21,291	-	-	21,291
Programme activity costs		-	-	-
Support of outside causes	325	-	-	325
Maintenance of church buildings	9,217	-	-	9,217
Project Costs	6,470			6,470
Other	1,708	200		1,908
Total payments	54,743	200	-	54,943
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)	25,353	25	-	25,378
TRANSFERS between funds				-
CASH FUNDS b/fwd 1st January	9,190	427	-	9,617
CASH FUNDS c/fwd 31 December	5,930	452	-	34,995

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary assets				
Cash	-			-
Bank current account	5,930	452		6,382
COIF	63,379	-		63,379
Total monetary assets	69,309	452	-	69,762
Other assets				
Gift Aid recoverable				
Other monies due to church				
Assets used for church purposes				
Buildings under statutory trusts	Church buildings and manse			
Church contents	Furnishings and equipment			
Liabilities				
Loans outstanding				
Significant creditors				

APPROVED by the Trustees on

and signed on their behalf

by (name)

(signature)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

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 £
	427.00	225.00	- 200.00	452.00
Totals for designated funds	427.00	225.00	- 200.00	452.00

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 £	Balance c/fwd £
Bequest for				-
Totals for restricted funds	-	-	-	-

3 MONIES RAISED FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES

Other

Totals raised for outside causes

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2022/23 Total £
Other	-			-
Totals raised for outside causes	-	-	-	-

4 PROPERTY INCOME

Other lettings income

Total property income

Other lettings income	4,562			4,562
Total property income	4,562	-	-	4,562

5 CHURCH RUNNING COSTS

Gas and electricity

Insurance

Water rates

Licences and music

Cleaning/caretaking

Accounts Examination

Total church running costs

Gas and electricity	13,586			13,586
Insurance	4,325			4,325
Water rates	715			715
Licences and music	142.00			-
Cleaning/caretaking	2,197			2,197
Accounts Examination	-			-
Total church running costs	20,964	-	-	20,822

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES - continued

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This Year 2022/23 Total £
6 PROGRAMME ACTIVITY COSTS				
Total programme activity costs	-	-	-	-
7 SUPPORT OF OUTSIDE CAUSES				
Other	-			-
CHARLES THOMPSON	190			190
CHRISTIAN AID	35			35
Total support of outside causes	225	-	-	225
8 MAINTENANCE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS				
Other property repairs	8,905			8,905
Total maintenance of church buildings	8,905	-	-	8,905

9 MONETARY 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.

10 ASSETS USED FOR CHURCH PURPOSES

The manse at 98 Penkett Road, New Brighton, CH45 7QA, Merseyside is vested in the United Reformed Church (Mersey Province) Trust Limited as trustees and is not a church asset

The manse is held for the benefit of Seacombe United Reformed Church in accordance with the statutory trusts applicable to URC properties under the URC Acts.

Seacombe United Reformed Church buildings are vested in The United Reformed Church Mersey Province Trust and registered at HM Land Registry title number: MS583938

For insurance purposes the church buildings are insured by Congregational Insurance; the church building £3,369,115 (standing empty), the church hall £1,728,710, the church contents are insured by the church for £20,300.

11 INVESTMENTS HELD FOR CHURCH PURPOSES

Seacombe United Reformed Church hold an account with COIF Charities Funds being church investments relating to legacies, other gifts and fund raising. The release of these funds are decided by Seacombe United Reformed Church alone. Details of amounts received during the year are included in these accounts.


TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 3 for the year ended 31 December 2023 from the accounting records of the church.

Julie Somers

(signature)

(date)


1/3/24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Seacombe United Reformed Church for the year ended 31 August 2019, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

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

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination of the church funds, nothing came to my attention which gave me cause to believe otherwise than that the financial statements accord with the accounting records of the church, and that those records satisfied the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner:



Date: 1st March 2024

Name and address of the Independent Examiner:

Esther Steele
16 Roseate Court, Wallasey,
Merseyside, CH45 3QW


TREASURER'S STATEMENT

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(signature)

(date)


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