



**ST JAMES'S ALNWICK URC CHARITY
POTTERGATE, ALNWICK**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO

31ST DECEMBER 2024

CONTENTS

	Page No
Statement of Financial Activities	1
Balance Sheet	2
Notes to the Financial Statements	3 - 6
Treasurer's Statement	7

ST JAMES'S ALNWICK URC CHARITY

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST December 2024**

		2024				2023
		Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds		Total 2024	Total 2023
Notes		General Fund £p	Flower Fund £p	Commitment For Life £p	£p	£p
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from generated funds:						
	2	63,106	-	389	63,495	53,848
	3	17,539	-	-	17,539	14,570
	4	26,789	-	-	26,789	55
	5	808	-	-	808	430
		108,242	-	389	108,631	68,902.51
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Charitable Activities:						
	6	35,485	-	-	35,485	35,441
	7	59,171	37	-	59,208	41,183
	8	17,215	-	389	17,604	6,059
		111,871.64	37	389	112,298	82,682.24
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)						
		(3,629)	(37)	-	(3,666)	(13,780)
		(26,500)	-	-	(26,500)	-
		5,779			5,779	10,331
		(24,350)	(37)	-	(24,387)	(3,449)
Total funds b/fwd 1 January 2024						
		143,184	333	-	143,518	146,967
Total funds c/fwd 31st December 2024						
		118,834	296	-	119,131	143,518

The notes on pages 3 to 6 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET**AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

		2024			2023
		Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds		
		General Fund £p	Flower Fund £p	Commitment For Life £p	Total 2024 £p
					Total 2020 £p
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	-	-	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and Accruals	10	-	-	-	-
Bank and Cash Balances		32,686	296	-	32,982
Investment at current Market Value		86,874	-	-	86,874
		119,560	296	-	119,857
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors payable within one year	11	726	-	-	726
		726	-	-	726
NET CURRENT ASSETS	12	118,834	296	-	119,131
TOTAL NET ASSETS		118,834	296	-	119,131
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Income Funds:		118,834	-	-	118,834
Restricted Income Funds		-	296	-	296
		118,834	296	-	119,131
		Held in Investment, Current and Deposit A/C's			

APPROVED by the Trustees Meeting held on

26.03.2025

32,256

and signed on its behalf by Elizabeth Spence and Julie Wightman

Elm. SpenceDate: 26.3.2025J. Wightman

The notes on pages 3 to 6 form part of these financial statements

ST JAMES'S ALNWICK URC CHARITY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued by the Charity Commission and the United Reformed Church guidance. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted where deemed relevant and the principal accounting policies set out below have been applied.

1b Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant.

1c Tangible Fixed Assets

Property: The church and manse premises are not included in the balance sheet because reliable cost information is not available and valuation would incur significant costs which would be onerous compared with the additional benefit gained by the user of the Accounts. A note of the insurance valuation is shown in Notes to the Accounts - No 9.

Furniture and Equipment: The contents of the premises are not capitalised in the accounts because expenditure incurred on the property was written off in the year it was incurred. See again Notes to the Accounts - No 9

1d Incoming Resources

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received. For purposes of clarification, tax refunds claimed from gift aided donations have been recognised as income when the refund of tax is received. Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified. All other income is generally recognised when it is received, including VAT which may be recoverable under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Increase or Decrease in Market Value of Investments is taken from the report provided by our Fund Manager at 31st December in the current year.

1e Resources Expended

The URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates. Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1f Taxation

As part of the United Reformed Church, the church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly, it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds		
	General Fund	Flower Fund	Commitment For Life	Total 2024
	£p		£p	£p
				£
2 VOLUNTARY INCOME				
Offerings	32,131	-	-	32,131
Legacies and Funeral Gifts	486	-	-	486
Donations	2,087	-	-	2,087
Specific Charitable Causes - Collections	17,587	-	389	17,976
Warkworth URC Shared Costs	-	-	-	-
HMRC - Gift Aid Recovered	7,591	-	-	7,591
URC Northern Province - Reimbursements	3,225	-	-	3,225
	63,106	-	389	63,495
3 Activities for Generating Funds				
Fundraising Activities / Events	185	-	-	185
Use of Premises	17,344	-	-	17,344
Sale of Book - History of St James's	10	-	-	10
	17,539	-	-	17,539

ST JAMES'S ALNWICK URC CHARITY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

4 Investment Income

The charity holds current and deposit accounts with Lloyds Bank, Bondgate, Alnwick
Drawdown from Legacy Investment
Bank Interest

	26,500			26,500	-
	289	-	-	289	55
	26,789	-	-	26,789	55

5 Income Resources from Other Charitable Acts

Weddings and Funerals
Sundry income

	305	-	-	305	100
	503	-	-	503	330
	808	-	-	808	430

Total Income

	108,242	-	389	108,631	68,903
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6 Ministerial Costs

Ministry & Mission Fund

The church contributes to the central URC costs of training and providing ministers (including the centralised payment of stipends, pension contributions and other benefits for ministers), running the denomination and the wider missions of the national church. Total unrestricted expenditure in 2023 was £26.6m, 81% of which related to ministry costs. The major funding is provided through the Ministry & Mission contributions from local churches.

Ministry & Mission fund	33,606	-	-	33,606	30,551
Minister's Car Allowance	455	-	-	455	1,366
Manse Costs	1,424	-	-	1,424	3,524
	35,485	-	-	35,485	35,441

7 Costs of Church Activities

Church and Halls Costs:

Cleaning, Kitchen and Event Supplies	5,689	-	-	5,689	5,689
Heat, Light & Telephone	10,299	-	-	10,299	8,306
Insurance and Council Tax and Water	6,392	-	-	6,392	5,828
Repairs & Renewals, Planned Mntnce	28,262	-	-	28,262	12,467
Office Expenses and Booking Software	191	-	-	191	274
Printing, Photocopying and Publicity	672	-	-	672	1,845
Bank Charges	146	-	-	146	142
	51,651	-	-	51,651	34,551

ST JAMES'S ALNWICK URC CHARITY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	2024			Total 2024 £p	2023
	Unrestricted Fund	Flower Fund	Restricted Fund		2023 £p
	General Fund £p		Commitment For Life £p		
Worship and Teaching Costs					
Worship, Licences and Music	2,616	37	-	2,653	2,620
Pulpit Supply	874	-	-	874	933
	<u>3,491</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,528</u>	<u>3,553</u>
Other Programmes					
Outreach and Other Donations	-	-	-	-	48
Ignite	-	-	-	-	825
Shelter					825
Taxi Fund	1,985				589
	<u>1,985</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,287</u>
Other Expenses					
Wedding & Funeral fees	100	-	-	100	-
Sundry Expenditure	1,532	-	-	1,532	524
Subscriptions	110	-	-	110	110
Carbon Footprint Offset - Americas Portfolio	303	-	-	303	158
	<u>2,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,045</u>	<u>791</u>

8 Specific Donations and Restricted Funds Passed On

In 2024, for C for L we are supporting Israel & Palestinian Territories

Commitment for Life Payment	-	-	389	389	700
Northern Synod Ignite Donation	15,000	-	-	15,000	3,750
Specific Causes - Payments	2,215	-	-	2,215	1,610
	<u>17,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389</u>	<u>17,604</u>	<u>6,059</u>
Total Expenditure	111,872	37	389	110,313	82,682

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Premises:

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1c, the church and manse buildings are not evaluated in Tangible Fixed Assets.

For information, the church building's insurance valuation is £ 8,58,8188. The Manse insurance is covered in the Northern Synod Trust Block Policy

10 Investments

Balance brought forward	107,595			107,595	97,264
Drawn down 2024	(26,500)			(26,500)	-
Net unrealised investment gain 2024	5,779			5,779	10,331
Balance carried forward	<u>86,874</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,874</u>	<u>107,595</u>

Investments comprise the balance of The Gordon Wood Legacy, invested in a Standard Life Elevate General Investment Account. Within that account, the principal holding (c99%) is in a Liontrust Sustainable Future Managed Income Fund. The balance of the account is held as cash in a money market account.

11 Debtors and Accruals

Accrual has been made for the following income

	£	£	£	£
None accrued				-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

12 Current Liabilities and Provisions

Provision has been made for the following expenditure

	£	£	£	£
Reimbursement of Overpayment from N Synod	240		-	240
Payment of Expenses (Various	276			276
Shelter and Crisis Christmas Collections	210			210
	<u>726</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>726</u>

ST JAMES'S ALNWICK URC CHARITY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

12 Restricted Funds

The church accounts include two Restricted Funds, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the church. These monies are not at the disposal of the Church Meeting for any other purpose:

- 1) Commitment for Life Fund - the church takes part in the URC initiative to support specific projects on an on-going basis. Income for the full year is usually paid over to the URC on an annual basis at the beginning of the following year
- 2) Flower Fund - Bequest of £500 was received during 2012.

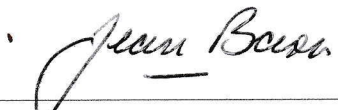
The movements in the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	2024			2023
	Flower Fund	Commitment For Life	Total 2024	£
Balance b/fwd	333	-	333	413
Direct Giving	-	389	389	491
Gift Aid Income	-	-	-	136
Total Income:	333	389	722	1,041
Restricted Funds Passed On	37	-	37	708
Accrued Expenditure - Specific Causes	-	389	389	-
Accrued Income	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure:	37	389	426	708
Balance to carry Forward	296	-	296	333

**ST JAMES'S ALNWICK URC CHARITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 - 6 for the year ended 31st December 2024

Signed: 
Jean Barr

Date 26th March 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

St James's Alnwick URC Charity

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1089954

Set out on pages

1 - 6

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

26/3/25

Name:

JOHN WRIGHT

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACIB ACII

Address:

ABBAY DORE, Y STAPPEY LANE.
LESBURY ALNWICK
NORTHUMBERLAND NE66 3PU

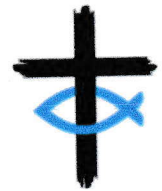
Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners)

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

ST. JAMES'S ALNWICK URC CHARITY
Pottergate, Alnwick, Northumberland



Charity Registration Number: 1178326

TRUSTEES REPORT 2024

Structure, Governance & Management:

Trustees who have served between 1st January 2024 and the date of this Report:

Minister and Chair: Rev Joan Grindrod-Helmn (until 30th April 2024)

Church Coordinators

And Secretary: Liz Spence and Julie Wightman

Church Treasurer: Jean Barr

Elders: Henry Crosier

Kay Hetherington

Madeline Russell

Wade Sherman

David Wilkinson

Margaret Wilkinson

St James's Alnwick is a member church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain which was established by the 1972 United Reformed Church Acts. The church has its own Constitution and Governing Documents as approved by the Church Meeting.

The Church Meeting of St James's Alnwick URC elects the Trustees (serving Elders). Management decisions are taken by the Trustees' Meetings and formally ratified by the Church Meeting. All management decisions are approved by consensus or majority at properly constituted meetings.

Objectives and Activities

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.

To meet this objective, the Charity supports the wider councils of the United Reformed Church through giving and participation. The Charity also provides regular acts of worship, promoting Christian teaching which is in accordance with the traditions of the United Reformed Church. The Charity recognizes the importance of working with other faith communities on an ecumenical basis and is an active member of Christians Together in Alnwick.

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that this requirement is met by the activities set out in the reports below.

Further and more detailed, information on the activities of the Charity may be found in the extracts below, taken from Reports provided by the Church Co-Ordinator and Joint Church Secretary and the Treasurer.

31st December 2024



Church Centre Coordinator Annual Report (Extract)

Year Ending 31st December 2024

Office Bearer Liz Spence

Joint Church Secretary Julie Wightman

Report

We were very sad to bid farewell to Joan, our Minister, at the end of April. She had been in Alnwick for 22 years and had supported this congregation from the major change in developing our building to become fit for purpose to the national changes of modern society and the effects of the Covid epidemic. She was also supportive to the Alnwick Community including Churches Together in Alnwick and the Northern Synod and was ably supported for many years of her ministry here by Monty, her husband who sadly died a few years ago. We all wish her well in her retirement.

While Joan had worked hard to prepare us for the vacancy, the reality of being without a minister has been a steep learning curve and the Trustees have worked together to make things happen. The URC strategy to bring the six churches of North Northumberland together to form a new pastorate with one minister for all the churches has now been formally accepted as the North Northumberland Pastorate and the group continues to develop a strategy for integration for 2026. Part of the URC Northern Synod's current Manse Strategy is to sell Manses that are surplus to requirements as ministers can now choose where they might wish to live. St James's Manse has become surplus to requirements and will go up for sale soon.

Our Membership sits at 74 members and about 30 friends. Unfortunately, as we have many members in the older age group, we have had some deaths of both members and friends. However, we were delighted to celebrate the marriage of one of our young members and the baptism of her daughter.

Following Joan's retirement, we are pleased that attendance has not fallen but has remained steady with an average of 45 in the morning and 12 at the two evening services a month. We thank our Pulpit Supply Secretary and also the Worship Group, who have been most supportive in filling pulpit supply on a regular basis.

The Alnwick Quakers hold their worship meeting weekly in the church. We are also a venue for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and other denominations have held prayer vigils.

The Church Premises continue to be well used for a wide variety of uses. We host the Christians Together in Alnwick meetings, Open the Book groups (taking Bible Stories into schools), Lenten Lunches and Ecumenical Coffee Mornings as well as many other community groups, Training and social groups. We have been aware of the increase in the confidence of people meeting again since the pandemic and that is reflected in the increase in revenue from the halls from £12000 last year to £17000 this year.

Our costs have increased. Heating is a continuing high cost and this year, following several repairs to old lighting, we replaced the lighting with LED fittings.

The roof has been a cause of major expenditure as a minor leak led to a major repair to protect the stonework and that led to the discovery of damage caused by subsidence! Unfortunately, this meant that we had to use invested funds.

We thank our Newsletter Editor for his continued editing of Pilgrim Ways. It is now published fortnightly and emailed out or posted out to those without electronic support. This keeps everyone up to date with Church and Synod news.

We are going through many changes and next year will not be easy, but, with the help of the congregation, and the support of the Elders and the Church groups, we hope that St James's will continue to be proactive and responsive to need. We shall work together to continue God's work in this community.



CHURCH TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT (Extract)

Office Bearer: Jean Barr

Year ending: 31st December 2024

General Expenditure: In common with other URC churches, we pay an annual sum to the URC Trust to sustain Ministry & Mission in the wider church, this being our biggest item of expenditure. Our contribution, at £33,606 for 2024, remained similar to 2023 (£30,501). While Northern Synod Trust have taken over Manse Insurance payments, we continue to be responsible for the maintenance of our Manse. We were very sad to see the retiral in April of our minister of 22 years, Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn, who will be very much missed by all our congregation. While we do not yet know when we will be allocated a new Minister, we have been informed that we will share this minister with several other churches in north Northumberland. Together with Northern Province Trust, the decision has been taken to sell our current Manse. Income from this will be split between our church and the Trust. In due course, it is hoped that a suitable Manse will be purchased by the Trust to service all congregations within our Pastorate.

While many areas of our expenditure once again stayed close to or within budget, the notable exceptions were Utilities, Roof Repairs and General Maintenance costs. Rising Electricity and Gas costs remain a concern, and we continue to monitor those. Making repairs to repair our leaking roof cost £15,793. We also upgraded our lighting at a cost of £6,168 towards which we were grateful to receive a grant from our Synod Trust of £2,450. A drawdown of £20,000 from our Legacy Fund went towards these costs.

While no Legacy Grants were made in 2024, we received £15,000 from our Northern Province Trust to pass on as funding for Ignite, a local Christian charity who focus on youth and schools' work. Other donations and outreach funding made were also covered by matching income. Including the above, total expenditure in 2024 was £112,298 against a budget of £72,072.

General Income: Our main Income comes from our Offertory. Until 2024, this has remained reasonably steady, but it has fallen slightly this year from our 2023 level (£35,500) to £32,131. Halls income, at £17,344, exceeded budget, as did Donations and Gift Aid income. Including the matched funding for the expenditure items reported above, and a drawdown from investments, our total Income was £108,631 against a budget of £58,900. Net Expenditure was (£3,666) and the General Fund carries forward £32,256 into 2025, which compares with £35,922 brought forward from 2023.

Wood Legacy Fund: The estimated value of our investments at the end of 2023 was £107,595, from which we drew down a total of £26,500 to cover charity payments made from General Fund in 2022 (£6,500) and repair costs in 2024 (£20,000). The estimated value of the Fund at the end of 2024 was £86,874.

Commitment for Life Fund Commitment for Life income is received from direct gifts, and from tax recovered on gift aided offerings. The total paid over to URC in London has been decreasing over recent years. In 2024 it was £389. We have invited a Commitment for Life representative to visit our church in 2025 to inform our congregation about where these Funds go.

Once again, our gratitude goes to all our congregation and friends for the continuing support of our church, both financial and pastoral. Continued thanks also go to our Minister, now retired, and the members of the Finance & Property committee for their invaluable work and support. Special thanks go to our Examiner of Accounts, for availing us of his time and expertise.