

STAND UNITARIAN CHAPEL

England & Wales - Charity number 1180670

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-11-13

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

Contact

Address 3 Hillsborough Drive
Bury
Lancashire
BL9 8LE

Phone 01617968992

Website <http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/stand/index.htm>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO SHALL BE:(1) THE PROMOTION OF RELIGION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AS DEFINED IN ITS CONSTITUTION AND IN THE ANNEXE HERETO;(2) FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL BY (BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING) THE OPERATION OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Activities: We run a non-conformist church with services held every Sunday morning. Anyone is able to attend. There are some social activities connected to the church - contact with the church via its website will give details.

Classification

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

Geography

- Bury

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£12,299	£0	-	-
2024-09-30	£5,300	£15,000	-	-
2023-09-30	£5,371	£20,000	-	-
2022-09-30	£19,075	£26,000	-	-
2021-09-30	£17,890	£38,549	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALAN HARTLEY		2002-11-17
Dorothy Bertenshaw		2022-06-19
IAN ROBERT SOUTHERN MA		1988-02-28
JANE HOOPER		2022-06-19
PETER ROSE		2003-11-23
ROSS ECKERSLEY		1998-02-28
WALTER WHITFIELD		1998-03-07

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TRUSTEES REPORT FOR CHARITY COMMISSION – JANUARY 2026.

Stand Unitarian Chapel – Charity Number 1180670.

The Chapel is a small place of worship situated in Whitefield, on the north side of Manchester. We have 23 members and a weekly attendance – in good weather - of 15/16 people. We have no Sunday School and the average age of our congregation is in the mid-to-late 70s.

The Chapel is open for anyone who wishes to visit us, but like many similar church and chapel congregations up and down the country we receive few visitors and, sadly, no interest at all from families or from younger adults with or without children. We maintain a pattern of weekly services on Sunday mornings from 10.45 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and the services are a mix of hymns, prayers, readings and guided reflection. We do not have a minister attached to the Chapel and our services are led by lay preachers, members of the congregation, and the occasional retired minister.

The Chapel is led by a Trustee board consisting of five people, responsible for maintaining a legal oversight of the Chapel's activities, and a General Council of six people responsible for day-to-day running purposes. The Trustees income consists solely of income generated by investments and the General Council's income derives in the main from letting the Chapel Hall to outside organisations e.g. Slimming World, a reading group, yoga, painting group. Income from fees paid by those groups using the Church Hall depends as to how many groups wish to use our premises at any one time and the Trustees income depends on the vagaries of the financial markets. Neither the Trustees or the General Council employ any person/persons in any capacity.

We manage to keep the Chapel as a going concern but for how much longer is anyone's guess.

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MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES' AGM
Monday, 11 November 2024.

Present: Dorothy Bertenshaw, Ross Eckersley, Alan Hartley, Jane Hooper, Ian Southern, Walter Whitfield.

Apologies: Brian Meller, Peter Rose.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

Dorothy welcomed members of the Trustees to their Annual General Meeting. Apologies for absence were as shown above.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2024 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Brabners – unfortunately Ian had not been able to receive updated information from the company in time for today's meeting.

Tree Trimming – Walter offered to take this matter up with Elms Landscapes.

Committee Room – It was noted that the Committee Room walls were now in the process of being painted. A request had been received from a member of the Incredible Edibles Group, via Mary Bullough, to design a 'garden' painting on one of the walls and this request was agreed by the Trustees. Ian would contact Mary and let her know.

Christmas Services – Ian confirmed the dates of the Chapel services for the month of December as follows:

1 December – congregational Advent Service.

8 December – service to be taken by Helen Mills.

15 December – service to be taken by Joan McFarlane.

22 December – Carol Service at 6.00 p.m. No morning service.

24 December – Christmas Eve Service at 7.30 p.m.

25 December – Christmas Day Service to be taken by Jane Hooper at 11.00 a.m.

29 December – no service to be held in the Chapel.

4. Financial Report.

Jane reported that the Trustees' investments now stood at £321,754.00 and the balance with the CCLA Bank totalled £32,567.71.

5. Secretary's Report.

Ian had prepared a short report on behalf of the Trustees to offer to the congregational AGM arranged for Sunday, 17 November. Copies of the report were circulated and the report was accepted without any further comment.

6. Election of Officers.

The Officers of the Trustees were warmly thanked for their efforts over the past twelve months, as were the members of the Trustee group as a whole. Officers and members of the Trustees were re-elected unanimously to serve for a further twelve months.

7. Minutes of the General Council Meeting, 18 October 2024.

No matters were raised with regard to the meeting of the General Council held on 18 October 2024.

8. Correspondence.

No items of correspondence had been received.

9. Any Other Business.

No items of other business were raised.

10. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Trustees was arranged for Monday, 13 January 2025, beginning at 10.00 a.m. in the Chapel Hall.

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Trustees of Stand Unitarian Chapel

Financial Report at 30th September 2022

In the present climate it is very difficult to provide anything other than an end-of-year snapshot of the Trustees' finances. The combined effects of the international fuel crisis, largely caused by the war in Ukraine, the west's support of that war, and the frequent changes in government personnel and consequent strategy make any real attempt to forecast the immediate future futile, not to say meaningless.

Looking at the various elements that make up our finances we can see that the overall trend is negative.

The FTSE index started the year at 7086 and finished at 6894, a fall of 2.74%. Since all monetary matters ultimately reflect the FTSE, it is no surprise to note that the value of our investments has also dropped, in this case from £342,486 to £317,715, a drop of 7.23%. This shows up in our investment income which is now less than £6,500 compared with over £10,000 ten years ago.

Inevitably the support given by the Trustees to the General Council for its day-to-day running of Chapel has increased, now to the sum of £26,000 in the last financial year. From this it can be seen that the Trustees face an annual short fall of about £20,000 which, in the long run is unsustainable. Our bank balances confirm this trend showing a fall of 25.4%

In addition, Chapel's membership is in decline and we are faced with several expensive maintenance projects which are necessary to protect the fabric of the buildings themselves. The spire is allowing water to enter the Memorial Hall and the committee room is a disaster area.

It is for these reasons that the Trustees were forced to the conclusion that we could no longer afford a minister and, with great reluctance, decided to make the post redundant.

Brian Meller (Hon. Treasurer)

Trustees of Stand Unitarian Chapel
Charity Commission Number: 236147
CIO Reference: 1180670.

Financial Statement as at 31 March 2024.

<u>Income.</u>		<u>Expenditure.</u>	
COIF Interest	£1,096.29	General Council	£5,000.00
CIO	£4,274.82	General Council	£15,000.00
Total	£5,371.11	Total	£20,000.00

Excess Income v Expenditure: -£14,628.89

<u>Balance Sheet.</u>			
COIF Opening Balance	£41,173.87	COIF Closing Balance	£26,544.98
Add Excess Income	-£14,628.89		
Total	£26,544.98		

<u>Investments</u>	
Value at 31.3.24	£316,350.00
Add COIF closing balance	£26,544.98
Total	£342,894.98

FTSE Index @1.10.23	7592
FTSE <u>Index@31.3.24</u>	7931

% Change 10.10

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Brian Meller (Hon. Treasurer)

Trustees Report for the AGM, November 2022.

Over the past twelve months the Trustees have met on seven occasions, namely 24 January, 11 April, 30 May, 19 June, 11 July, 22 August and 10 October 2022. Our main discussions during those meetings have centred around finance - basically, the reduced income from investments and from other sources of revenue - and the ensuing difficulties which would be presented to the Chapel if the situation were to continue unchecked. It was therefore with considerable heaviness of heart that the Trustees decided to make the position of minister at the Chapel redundant as from the date of the end of our minister's current contract as this would then allow our finances to decrease less quickly than would otherwise be the case.

We remain extremely grateful to Susan Cahal for her continuing role as Chairman of the Trustees, but we were sorry to lose the services of Brian Meller as our Treasurer in May 2022, although Brian will remain in an advisory role with the Trustees for the time being.

Ian Southern
Secretary to the Trustees.

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REPORTS FOR AGM - 28 NOVEMBER 2021.

General Council Report and Secretary's Report for AGM - November 2021.

Since the last Annual General Meeting of the congregation held in February 2021 the General Council has met on seven occasions. One of the main topics of the meetings has concerned the gradual re-opening of Chapel in the light of government guidance regarding Covid-19, and from a very cautious beginning in April of this year we have now reached a position of relative normality, including singing hymns during our services and enjoying each others' company for tea and coffee in the schoolroom at the end of our weekly devotions. The national picture with regard to Covid-19 still looks quite varied but so far the government has decided not to issue any further advice/restrictions with regard to those wishing to attend public worship.

Other matters considered by the General Council during the past few months include the presence - or otherwise - of Japanese knotweed on the school field, the upgrading of the security lights outside the Sunday School building, and the removal of the covering over the passage outside the kitchen door.

The General Council's finances are kept in good order under the watchful eye of our Treasurer, David McFarlane. We are just about holding our own in terms of income and expenditure but this balancing act requires occasional financial support from the Trustees. Assistance from the General Assembly's Sustentation Fund, which supports the costs of ministry, has been very much welcomed, as has the Gift Tax rebate from central government. Problem areas for the future include the threatened rise in heating and lighting costs as well as costs relating to maintaining the Chapel's website. Thanks are due to David, to the General Council's Chairman Brian Meller, and to all the Council's officers for their help in keeping the ship afloat over a prolonged period of turbulence.

It would be most remiss of me not to include a mention of our gratitude to our Minister, Rev Shammy Webster, who has nobly

prepared and disseminated services of worship via Facebook and Zoom during the latter stages of the lockdown, and then from the pulpit following our return to weekly worship on Easter Sunday. This has been no easy task and I am sure we are all grateful to Shammy for her thoughtful contributions to our worship experience. Thanks are due too to those who take services in Shammy's absence from the pulpit, including, on occasion, our own members.

Although Chapel members seem to have come through the pandemic in relatively good shape we were all deeply saddened by the loss of Pat Booth earlier this year, in January to be precise. Pat was a hive of industry in her own right supporting Chapel to the hilt in her own inimitable way and her loss to our Chapel community has been immense. Her life was honoured at a funeral service taken by her family at Radcliffe Crematorium on 5 February, and at the end of August we remembered one of our former members, Ellen Harrison, who passed away in Scotland in the early months of the pandemic and whose family provided some interesting memories of her during her memorial service.

Finally, may I end with my own personal expression of thanks to the many people behind the scenes who have kept the Chapel running smoothly and in good working order since our last AGM in February of this year.

Ian Southern
Secretary to the General Council

Lettings Secretary's Report.

The schoolroom was out of use for lettings since the first lockdown in early 2020 but now that we are open for business the lettings are slowly building up and the schoolroom is being used at some point during most weekdays, as follows:

On Monday afternoons there is Chair Exercise (1p.m. - 2p.m.), followed by Manc Art, and in the evenings Yoga classes for mums-to-be.

On Tuesday afternoons there is a Creative Writing Group and Yoga in the evening.

On Wednesdays Slimming World meet in the mornings and early evenings.

On Thursday mornings there is Yoga for mums and babies and in the afternoons Incredible Edibles and Homestart. Incredible Edibles are on the field from 1.00 p.m. and round off the afternoon with a cuppa in the schoolroom. Homestart use the schoolroom during the afternoon for paperwork.

I have tried to keep Fridays free for Chapel use, and also Saturdays.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for help provided to keep the lettings running smoothly.

Joan McFarlane
Lettings Secretary.

Maintenance Report.

We have been through another difficult year but still tried to keep on top of maintenance. The lawns have been regularly mowed all through the summer and the car park hedges have been cut. At the moment it is leaf-clearing time and the gutters will need clearing. The memorial garden has been weeded and tidied up.

New security lights have been installed around the car park and memorial garden. Light bulbs have been replaced in Chapel where needed. The defibrillator has been moved to a better place and is now situated opposite the kitchen door. The two electric water heaters have been thoroughly cleaned after not having been used for many months and they are now up and running.

Walter Whitfield
Maintenance Officer.

Membership Secretary's Report.

Over the last twelve months our total membership has slightly fallen but the total in contributions has increased significantly to £6889.70. In the year 2020 payments to Free Will Offering/Subscriptions were rather unpredictable because of the Covid virus and so comparisons with previous years are not entirely accurate. The Gift Aid tax rebate for this year was £1395.00 which is a welcome addition to the Chapel's funds.

Peter Rose
Membership Secretary.

Trustees Report for AGM, November 2021.

Since the last AGM in February of this year the Trustees have met on three occasions, namely 6 June 2021, 28 June 2021, and 27 September 2021. Ian confirmed that the processes to officially register the Chapel's land with the Land Registry had been completed just after lockdown in April 2020 but really there is not much else to report at the present time from the Trustees' point of view. Our finances seem to be in excellent shape thanks to the oversight of our Treasurer, Brian Meller, who has prepared a separate financial report for consideration by those attending the AGM, and our meetings are kept in good order thanks to our Chairman, Susan Cahal.

Ian Southern
Secretary to the Trustees.

Trustees' Treasurer's Report (as at 30 September 2021).

The year has continued to be adversely affected by the tail end of Brexit and the pandemic, making it difficult to predict future trends. Significant increases in energy prices and labour shortages add to that uncertainty from 2022 onwards.

Nevertheless, the Trustees' finances remain in a satisfactory state.

Our bank balances have shown a decrease from £28,346.00 to £24,175.00, a fall of 4.7%. This is explained by the level of support given to the General Council this year, a sum of £18,000.00. It was also necessary to use £10,000.00 of capital

from our investments. Fortunately, growth in the financial market more than made up for this.

Currently the capital value of our investments stands at just over £366,000.00, compared with £341,000.00 last year. However, income from the investments is lower, at £6,500.00. The performance of our investments depends on the FTSE 100 Index as well as on the skill of our stockbrokers, Brewin Dolphin, who continue to do well for us. For months now the FTSE 100 Index has been floating around the 7000 mark and I see little to expect it to change.

As to the future, we must continue to be careful and maximise income to protect ourselves from inevitable rises in costs. The exterior of the Chapel will need attention and quotes are being obtained.

Brian Meller
Treasurer to the Trustees.

Worship Committee Report.

After a difficult and frustrating year we are at last, hopefully, getting back to some normality in our Sunday worship.

Many thanks to Shammy for leading us in worship on most Sundays. The special services – Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Women’s League, and Chapel Anniversary – were all well received. Sadly, the Mayor of Bury was unable to attend our Chapel Anniversary service owing to a prior engagement. We also had a lovely memorial service for Ellen Harrison at the end of August which was led by Shammy. Many thanks must also go to our organist Ian for filling our Chapel with music each Sunday.

The Friends of Heaton Hall group visited Chapel in September. They were interested in finding out all about our Chapel’s history and they thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Many thanks to Pat and to Ian for speaking to them.

Hoping we can carry on enjoying our Sunday worship and looking forward to having Christmas in our Chapel this year.

Barbara Whitfield
Secretary of the Worship Committee.