



Doncaster Unitarian and Free Christian Church

Annual Report 2020

Charity Information

Trustees:	Mrs Gwen Underwood Mrs Josephine Copley Mrs Marian Hughes Mr Neville Wells Mr John Foster Mx Holland Morrell
Corporate Trustee:	Sheffield & District Unitarian Church Association Mr Dale Roberts
Secretary:	Mr Dale Roberts
Treasurer:	Mx Holland Morrell
Minister:	Reverend Thomas McCready (Until March) None (After March)
Charity registration number:	234788 / 1182598
Registration date:	3 November 1966
Principal address:	60A Hallgate Doncaster DN1 3PB
Registered Office:	60A Hallgate Doncaster DN1 3PB
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank 12 High Street Doncaster DN1 1ED

Governance

Public benefit

The trustees have taken due regard of the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission.

Trustee and officer selection

Nominations for trustees and officers made via nomination forms prior to the annual general meeting (AGM). At the AGM nominations are proposed and seconded and then subsequently elected if unopposed. Where posts have more than one nomination votes are taken, and candidates elected subject to the outcome.

Aims and objectives

Services are on Sundays at 11am. On the first Sunday of each month the Youth Church meet (except Feb & Sept). Coffee morning open Saturdays 10am-12noon. We interact with other denominations, e.g., Doncaster Interfaith Group where we take our turn to host the meetings. Other social events such as dances are held to raise the church profile. Other times, funds raised go to other appeals e.g., Water Aid.

Activities in relation to objectives

We welcome you to this meeting place where we come together in worship. It is the people who make this place what it is. We accept that worship has many different meanings for each person to explore and discover. Those who speak here have the responsibility of presenting their ideas freely, fearlessly and faithfully. Those who listen have the responsibility of testing what they hear, not only with the critical mind, but also in the living of every day. The principles of freedom, reason and toleration are important to us in the quest for truth. The members at Doncaster are what makes the Church special and all are welcome to join us.

Our church is not only a place of Unitarian and Free Christian worship; it is also a centre for Interfaith Activities in Doncaster and we launched, with the Jamia Mosque, the Doncaster Partnership for Muslim/Christian Friendship in 2016.

We are a group who gather each Sunday to pay homage to something greater than ourselves. We all have different ideas and perceptions of that greater truth, but we recognise that ultimately, we are all walking the same path, hand in hand.

Though our beliefs may differ, our values unite us: the values of freedom, reason, and respect. That is, the freedom to hold our own individual beliefs and to question what we hear; the reason that allows us to look past literal belief in myth and find the deeper meaning, and the respect for others whose beliefs and opinions may not chime with our own.

Our meetings each Sunday morning may appear at first glance to be traditional church services,

with hymns, prayers, readings, and reflections. But when you look closer, you'll notice the language is very carefully chosen to be both inclusive and respectful of differing beliefs. This is our time for peace, spiritual nourishment, and growth. But we also make plenty of time for friendship, conversation, and sharing good food in the fellowship of our spiritual family.

Our Minister

Reverend Tom McCready hails from Scotland and has a background in both Buddhism and Christianity. In addition to being the minister at Doncaster Unitarian and Free Christian Church, Rev. Tom McCready is also the secretary of Doncaster Interfaith.

"We can be frail and flawed, and yet truly at peace with ourselves. We can be troubled, and yet touched by something tender and true and transforming. A loving, forgiving, and renewing light shines brightly in each one of us, in everyone who passes through these doors and everyone who passes by these doors. In every human one of us. You can call it the love of God or the light of inner peace, the reason we are here is to help and encourage each other to uncover that light and to know that love."

Our History

This church finds its roots in the early 1700s and the Protestant dissenters from the established Church of England. Having initially used the minister's house, on Hall Gate, the present site was acquired, and a small chapel was built in 1740. The chapel was built out of sight of the road because previous Unitarian meeting houses and chapels throughout the country had been wrecked or burned earlier in the century for their "heretical" liberal values.

The foundation stones for the present building were laid in 1912, although this building was not designed to be the chapel, which should have been on the site of the two shops fronting Hall Gate. At this time, there was an amalgamation with a liberal Christian group ejected from the Congregational Church. The name 'Free Christian Church' was given at this time, but it was made explicit that "this in no way binds the future of the Church whose free trust deed governs the whole situation".

This open trust ensures freedom from doctrinal test for the minister and members of the congregation. The bond of the union of all within the Church is the unity of the Spirit.

Secretaries Report for 2020

The membership is currently 17.

The church pulpit was occupied by the Rev Tom McCready until the end of March when the Minister retired. The pulpit supply has been organised by a pulpit sub-committee and thanks are deserved by Brian Morrell and Josephine Copley who have arranged for services during the year to be taken by members of the congregation and visiting preachers.

The committee have met regularly once a month, to manage the affairs, running and day to day activities of the Church.

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The Church again provided the venue for a number of Interfaith activities and a number of other functions. A special Women's service was held to celebrate the anniversary of women's emancipation, which included attendance by the Local Member of Parliament. A summer fete was held, although attendance was low.

A word of thanks must go to the Trustees for maintaining our place of worship.

There have been a few events in Church this year, some musical with support of the members of the congregation. The Minister has promoted the Church as a venue for various 'Interfaith' events. The congregation has supported these events and thanks to all individuals who have given their time. The Trustees continued to allow the Congregation to run a shop in the now vacant 'Kenberne's' unit, which is staffed by the Minister and members of the congregation.

Thank you to all who have supported us during the year. Special thanks to those that are not members but give their time to the Church. We look forward to the year 2021, our 330th in existence in the town and our 278th in a building on this site.

Annual General Meeting 2020

The annual general meeting in relation to 2019 was held on Sunday 23rd February 2020 at 12:30pm

1. OPENING PRAYER. The meeting was opened with a prayer from the Minister.
2. ELECTION OF CHAIR. Mrs Sue Mitchell was elected unanimously as chair for the meeting.
3. ATTENDEES / APOLOGIES Present: Mx Holl Morrell, Mr Neville Wells, Mr John Foster, Mrs Josephine Copley, Mrs Jacqui Roberts, Mr Dale Roberts, Mr Brian Morrell, Mrs Sue Mitchel, Mrs Gwen Underwood, Mr Francis Elliot-Wright, Rev. Thomas McCready (The Minister).

Apologies: Mrs Marian Hughes, Mrs Brigitte McCready, Mrs D King

4. MINUTES of previous AGM, held on Sunday 24th February 2019 were approved at the first committee meeting after the AGM last year, as is the custom, with the following amendments.

Item 5c, line3 should read, 'negotiating to take the lease....'
Item 5c, line4 should read, 'Trustees accounts were in...'
Item 5c, line7 replace 'tenet' with 'tenant'.
Item 5d, line8 omit 'there', should read 'year, if a replacement...'
Item 5f, should read, 'Thanks were expressed...'
Item 5h, replace 'Doncopolition' with 'Doncopolition'.Item.

5. ANNUAL REPORTS. Copies of written reports were available to all.
 - a. Secretary. Copies of the report were circulated. The staffing of the shop on Hall Gate was raised, which is being undertaken by the Minister and B McCready and the Minister indicated

that he intends to 'revamp' the current layout. It was noted that the shop is being marketed for future tenants as 'Shell fit' by the Trustees, which allows a future tenant to adapt the space to their requirements. Mrs J Copley expressed thanks to Mr B Morrell for his work in co-ordinating the pulpit supply. The committee were thanked for their work.

- b. Treasurer. A written report with a verbal explanation was given by the treasurer which indicated future long-term financial prospects. Items highlighted were,
- Ministers pension has been underpaid for this year and will be rectified.
 - General Assembly subscription payment for last year was missed and needs to be paid this year.
 - There is a 'lack of funds' in the Committee account, with expenditure being greater than income. The deficit has been made up by funds from the Trustees, as it has in previous years. More income needs to be raised to cover costs. There has been lower fundraising, partly due to lower donations with fewer groups using the church buildings and less income from the shop.
 - Heating. It was noted that the timer for the new heating system to the Church Hall needs resetting, in order to reduce costs.
 - The complexity of how the accounts are presented was raised and it asked if these could be simplified for the future.
 - The Treasurer is still in the process of taking over the accounts due to issues with transfer of authority with the banks.
 - The treasurer was thanked for the work that goes into compiling the accounts.
- c. Trustees. The Trustees presented a verbal report. The shops have tenants for 60 Hall Gate and 5 Wood Street. 61 Hall Gate is being used as a Church Shop whilst a tenant is sought. 5 Wood Street has had works done so that it was in a condition to meet the requirements of the new tenant. The Trustees are currently seeking a Secretary. Thanks, were expressed to the Trustees.
- d. Ministers Report. The Minister gave a written report. The Minister confirmed his retirement at the end of next month, at which time he intends to become a member of the Church. A round of applause was expressed for his tenure at this Church.
- e. Flower Secretary. Mrs J Copley gave a verbal report. The flower fund currently stands at £35.49p and Josephine thanked the congregation for their donations. A few Sundays are currently available. Thanks to Sue Mitchell who collated the flower schedule. Thanks, were expressed to Josephine Copley.
- f. Caretaker. A written breakdown of fees from lettings was provided by the Caretaker, John Foster. Income was £2,935.94p. A verbal outline of caretaker's activities was given. His report was accepted with thanks
- g. Pulpit Supply. B Morrell gave a verbal outline of current supply, the pulpit is nearly full until April 2021 (only 4 vacant services). Consideration of how the pulpit will be filled after this period was discussed. It was suggested that supply be arranged up to April 2022, subject to

a review. This needs to be considered in the wider context of how to fill the vacant pulpit. The Committee need to raise this item for discussion. Thanks, were expressed to Brian.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Nomination forms had been posted in the Church entrance, as is required in the Church's Constitution.

- a. Chair of the Committee. Mrs M Hughes was nominated, proposed (S Mitchell), seconded (B McCready) and elected unopposed.
- b. Secretary. Mr Dale Roberts was nominated, proposed (M Hughes), seconded (S Mitchell), and elected unopposed.
- c. Treasurer. Holl Morrell was nominated, proposed (B McCready), seconded (S Mitchell) and elected unopposed.
- d. Assistant Secretary. No nomination. If a suitable volunteer comes forward at a later date, Committee will discuss and delegate.
- e. Assistant Treasurer. No nomination. If a suitable volunteer comes forward at a later date, Committee will discuss and delegate.
- f. General Members of the Committee.
 - Brigitte McCready (prop B Morrell, sec)
 - Brian Morrell (prop B McCready, sec)
 - Gwen Underwood (prop M Hughes sec B McCready)
 - Josephine Copley (prop B McCready, sec)
- g. Flower Secretary. Josephine Copley was elected unopposed.
- h. Publicity. H Morrel was elected unopposed.

7. ELECTION OF DELEGATES

- a. G.A. Delegate. B McCready has agreed to attend.
- b. Sheffield District Association (2). Dale Roberts was elected. The second position is open for any member of Church to attend.
- c. Sheffield District Association Executive (1). Dale Roberts was elected.

8. FORTHCOMING DATES

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| a. Mothering Sunday | 22nd March. Arek is scheduled to take this service. |
| b. Church Open Day | TBC. |
| c. Sheffield AGM | 6th June at Stannington. |
| d. Harvest | 4th October. |
| e. Tree Trimming & Party | 6th December. |
| f. Candlelight Service | 20th December at 3pm. |

Copies of written reports were available to all.

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer will confirm if Janet Pryke will continue to undertake the role of independent examiner.

10. A.O.B.

- a. Future Minister. It was proposed that the committee arrange for the congregation to discuss future ministry and options that are available. A similar process was undertaken in the past, with short-medium & long-term planning goals set out, these previous goals should be made available as a guide.
- b. Keyholders. A request was made for additional help in opening and closing Church for groups using the building.

All attendees were thanked for coming, and the meeting was closed at 2.20pm. The Next Committee meeting will be on Monday 4th March 2020 at 7:15pm

Independent financial review

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

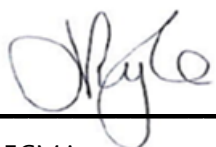
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  _____

Date: 15th April 2021

Janet Pryke FCMA
9 Springwell Grove
Sheffield
S20 1XE

Financial reserve policy

The church is fortunate to hold reserves well in excess of annual expenditure requirements made up of property holdings, long term investments and cash held in deposit accounts.

Each year the general day-to-day running costs of the church are in the region of £30,000. Monies held in bank accounts alone are more than sufficient to cover this requirement for several years without considering the need to crystallise any investments.

Due to the above there is no specific reserves policy in place at the current time as it is considered unnecessary.

Financial Statements

The church finances are managed across three different funds, a general trustee fund, the Mabel Campbell trust fund and the committee fund, all of which are unrestricted.

The committee fund income is secured by a combination of an annual trustee grant and collections during the weekly service. If a deficit is foreseen the trustees will provide further grants throughout the year.

To follow are the income and expenditure statements for each fund. This is preceded with the summary of total income and expenditure and total reserves.

All financial reports have been created under the receipts and payments method, not accruals-based accounting.

Income for the year totalled £30,304 (£31,355 – 2019) with expenditure of £29,511 (£46,649 – 2019) generating a net increase in reserves of £794 (net decrease £15,294 - 2019)

The church continues to operate within income received during the year.

Doncaster Unitarian & Free Christian Church

Registered Charity 234788

Total of All Funds**Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2020**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>From Properties</i>				
Rents		14,250		12,147
Insurance Contribution		979		
<i>From Investments</i>				
Investments	1,720		1,695	
Dividends	8,867		6,412	
Collections	1,689		290	
Donations	<u>3,655</u>	15,932	<u>5,663</u>	14,059
<i>Other Income</i>				
Bank Interest	193		78	
Furlough		193	<u>4,021</u>	4,099
Total Receipts		<u>31,355</u>		<u>30,304</u>
Payments				
<i>Expenses</i>		35,248		26,881
<i>Building Repairs, redecoration & renewals</i>				
Shops				
Church	620		2,183	
<i>Buildings Other</i>				
Shops: Rates / Utilities etc	<u>1,408</u>	2,027	<u>446</u>	2,630
<i>Purchases & Acquisitions</i>				
Insurance Church		4,694		
Lease / Legal Fees		2,280		
<i>Other Expenses</i>				
Management / Administration	2,400			
Miscellaneous		<u>2,400</u>		
Total Payments		<u>46,649</u>		<u>29,511</u>
Net Surplus / (Defecit) for the Year		<u>-15,294</u>		<u>794</u>
Unrealised profit/(loss) on investments		9,110		19,260
Gross Surplus / (Defecit) for the Year		<u>-6,184</u>		<u>20,054</u>
General fund balances				
<i>Balance b/fwd at 1st January</i>		<u>433,016</u>		<u>426,831</u>
<i>Balance c/fwd at 31st December</i>		<u>426,831</u>	429,034	<u>446,885</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Assets				
<i>National Savings Income Bonds</i>		28,000		28,000
<i>Fund Units</i>				
Global Growth & Income fund units: 80,386.29		109,390		114,374
Fixed Interest Units: 31,493.58		43,319		44,778
Global Growth & Income fund units: 144,184.94		192,328		205,146
<i>Cash Balances</i>				
Trustee Funds	35,010		28,664	
Mabel Campbell Funds	18,205		18,253	
Committee Funds	<u>579</u>	<u>53,794</u>	<u>7,672</u>	<u>54,588</u>
		<u>426,831</u>		<u>446,885</u>

Doncaster Unitarian & Free Christian Church

Registered Charity 234788

General Fund**Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2020**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>From Properties</i>				
Rents		14,250		12,147
Insurance Contribution		979		
<i>From Investments</i>				
Mabel Campbell Income	7,091		5,515	
Net Saving Income Bonds	322		296	
Global/Newton Growth & Income Fund	<u>3,174</u>	<u>10,587</u>	<u>2,295</u>	<u>8,106</u>
<i>Other Income</i>				
Bank Interest	74		30	
Interest from Manse Fund	<u></u>	<u>74</u>	<u></u>	<u>30</u>
<i>Other Income</i>				
Total Receipts		<u>25,890</u>		<u>20,283</u>
Payments				
<i>Grant to Congregation</i>		26,500		24,000
<i>Building Repairs, redecoration & renewals</i>				
Shops				
Church	620		2,183	
<i>Buildings Other</i>				
Shops: Rates / Utilities etc	<u>1,408</u>	<u>2,027</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>2,630</u>
<i>Purchases & Acquisitions</i>				
Insurance Church		4,694		
Lease / Legal Fees		2,280		
<i>Other Expenses</i>				
Management / Administration	2,400			
Miscellaneous	<u></u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Total Payments		<u>37,901</u>		<u>26,630</u>
Net Surplus / (Defecit) for the Year		<u>-12,011</u>		<u>-6,347</u>
Unrealised profit/(loss) on investments		3,987		4,984
Gross Surplus / (Defecit) for the Year		<u>-8,024</u>		<u>-1,363</u>
General fund balances				
Balance b/fwd at 1st January		180,424		172,400
Balance c/fwd at 31st December		<u>172,400</u>		<u>171,037</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Assets				
<i>National Savings Income Bonds</i>		28,000		28,000
<i>Global Growth & Income fund units: 80,386.29</i>				
2019 @ 136.08	109,390	109,390		
2020 @ 142.28	114,374			114,374
<i>Cash Balances</i>				
Business Reserve	36,675		12,705	
Current Account	<u>-1,665</u>	<u>35,010</u>	<u>15,959</u>	<u>28,664</u>
		<u>172,400</u>		<u>171,037</u>
Properties Held				
Church Building	2,535,043	Value of insurance		
60 Hallgate	543,754	Value of insurance		
61 Hallgate	423,238	Value of insurance		
5 Wood Street		No value noted		
	<u>3,502,035</u>			

Doncaster Unitarian & Free Christian Church*Registered Charity 234788***Committee Fund*****Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2020***

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Grant from Trustees</i>		26,500		24,000
<i>Collections</i>		1,689		290
<i>Other</i>				
Donations - room hire	1,291		3,436	
Donations - other	726		2,189	
Furlough			4,021	
Charity Shop	668			
Coffee morning refreshments	95		38	
Calendars / Leaflets / Books	6			
Special Events	870	3,655		9,684
<i>Other Income</i>				
Bank Interest				0
Total Receipts		<u>31,845</u>		<u>33,974</u>
Payments				
<i>Minister</i>				
Stipend	14,274		3,216	
Pension	1,427		1,098	
Travel	40	15,741		4,314
<i>Other Staff Costs</i>				
Training & Travel				
Pulpit Supply	1,243		1,635	
Organist	1,775		1,610	
Cleaner / Caretaker	8,848	11,866	9,044	12,289
<i>Site Costs</i>				
Heat & Light	4,041		2,898	
Water rates	323		246	
Repairs & Renewals			41	
Purchases & Acquisitions				
Cleaning Materials	294		100	
Servicing				
Telephone	1,043		944	
Printing & Stationery				
Youth Church				
Events				
Admin fee (Payroll services)				
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,740	7,440	6,049	10,278
<i>Other Costs</i>				
General Assembly Meetings				
Conferences / Courses				
Contribution to General Assembly				
Contribution to District Assembly				
Subscriptions & Donations	200	200		
Total Payments		<u>35,248</u>		<u>26,881</u>
Surplus / (Defecit) for the Year		<u>-3,403</u>		<u>7,093</u>
<i>Balance b/fwd at 1st January</i>		3,982		579
<i>Balance c/fwd at 31st December</i>		<u>579</u>		<u>7,672</u>

Doncaster Unitarian & Free Christian Church*Registered Charity 234788***Mabel Campbell Trust****Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2020**

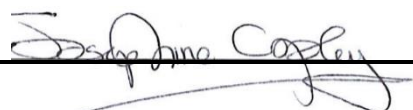
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Interest & Dividends</i>				
Charities deposit account	120		48	
Fixed Interest Share Dividends	1,398		1,398	
Capital Reserve Account				
Global/Newton Growth & Income Fund	<u>5,693</u>	7,211	<u>4,117</u>	5,563
<i>Donations</i>				
Total Receipts		<u>7,211</u>		<u>5,563</u>
Payments				
<i>Purchases & Acquisitions</i>				
<i>Miscellaneous</i>				
<i>Other Expenses</i>				
Total Payments				
Net Surplus / (Defecit) for the Year		<u>7,211</u>		<u>5,563</u>
Unrealised profit/(loss) on investments		5,123		14,276
Payments received in current account		-7,091		-5,515
Gross Surplus / (Defecit) for the Year		<u>5,242</u>		<u>14,324</u>
General fund balances				
<i>Balance b/fwd at 1st January</i>		248,610		253,852
<i>Balance c/fwd at 31st December</i>		<u>253,852</u>		<u>268,176</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Assets				
<i>Fixed Interest Units: 31,493.58</i>				
2019 @ 1.3755	43,319	43,319		
2020 @ 1.4218	44,778			44,778
<i>Global Growth & Income fund units: 144,184.94</i>				
2019 @ 1.3339	192,328	192,328		
2020 @ 1.4228	205,146			205,146
<i>Cash at bank</i>	<u>18,205</u>	<u>18,205</u>	<u>18,253</u>	<u>18,253</u>
		<u>253,852</u>		<u>268,176</u>
Represented by				
<i>Original bequest (Unrestricted)</i>		80,882		80,882
<i>Retained Income (Unrestricted)</i>	167,848		172,971	
<i>Loss / Increase in Investment</i>	<u>5,123</u>	<u>172,971</u>	<u>14,276</u>	<u>187,295</u>
		<u>253,852</u>		<u>268,176</u>

Trustee approval

This report was approved by the trustees on 30th April 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed: 

Name: Josephine Copley

Signed: 

Name: Marian Hughes