

**Monton Unitarian Church CIO  
(Charity No. 1199569)  
Monton Green  
Monton  
Eccles  
Manchester  
M30 9NX**

**Trustees' Annual Report for the year 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023**

**The charity's purpose is as follows:**

1. To promote a free and inquiring religion through worship of God and the celebration of life, the service of humanity and respect for all creation and the upholding of the Liberal Christian tradition, including by providing a place of worship to serve the community of Monton and Greater Manchester and the surrounding area; and
2. To benefit the residents of Monton and Greater Manchester and the surrounding area, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race, or political, religious or other opinions, by advancing education and providing facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for residents.

This is an associational Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and its constitution has been approved by the Charity Commission. It was established in summer 2024, and took over the former charities of Monton Church (Unitarian) and Monton Memorial School Trustees on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

**Trustees at the time of this report were:**

Wendy Donald  
Irene Hitchcock  
Rennie McFarlane  
Colin Morse  
Lynne Stopani  
Gloria Taylor  
Dave Ward-Speers  
Pam Ward-Speers

New trustees are invited to stand at each AGM, but must already be church members. They must be proposed and seconded by church members. There is also the option for the trustees to co-opt new trustees until the next AGM.

## **Financial Situation**

This was the first year of the CIO, which had seen the assets of both Monton Church (Unitarian) and Monton Memorial Hall Trustees combined into the one new charity. The CIO therefore comprises both properties and the whole graveyard area, and the whole property of Boddan Lodge and the bowling green land. The various bank accounts of the two charities were combined initially into a single bank account – as often happens, this was not a speedy process and there were some hiccups along the way, but we eventually managed it. We know that we now need to set up some savings accounts to protect the significant sum that we are now responsible for, and will action this as soon as possible.

*[Partly because of the challenges of being at the start of a new CIO, with new bank accounts to deal with, along with a change of treasurer at just that moment in time, and partly because of situations facing the officers and the minister in their personal lives, we were unable to complete the accounts for 2023, despite our best efforts, until early 2025. We realise that this was unacceptable – and we believe that we are now in a much clearer position to maintain our proper reporting.]*

## **Chairman's Report on the activities of the year.**

Reflecting on the past year, I am delighted to report that 2023 has been another vibrant and fulfilling year for Monton Unitarian Church. Our community has continued to thrive, and we have upheld our commitment to worship, fellowship, and outreach. Throughout the year, we have hosted numerous events, services, and activities that have brought us together in faith and friendship.

### **Worship and Services**

We began the year with a variety of special services, including our St Valentine Service in February, Mothering Sunday in March, and our Easter celebration in April. Our traditional Flower Communion Service in June was a moment of beauty and unity, while the Harvest Service and Gift Day in October allowed us to give thanks and support those in need. In November, we paid tribute to those who have served with our Remembrance Day Service.

The Advent season brought a wonderful sense of warmth and anticipation. Our Toy Service and Faith Meal in December encouraged generosity, while the Christmas Tree Festival filled our church with festive spirit. The Blue Christmas Service provided a space for reflection

and solace, and the Carol and Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve were truly moving. We closed the year with our New Year's Eve Service, welcoming 2024 with hope and gratitude.

## **Community Engagement and Social Events**

Our regular Open Mic Nights remained a success, providing a welcoming space for musicians and performers to share their talents. The Film Club also continued, offering engaging discussions and entertainment.

We also participated in larger community events, including hosting the Eccles Community Choir Concert in May and the Heritage Open Day in September, which gave visitors an insight into our church's history and mission. The Monton Festival in July was another opportunity to connect with the wider community. This was particularly important as the council had just handed ownership of Boddan Lodge back to us, and we used the festival to engage with the local public and conduct a questionnaire as to what they would like to see happen in that space. In addition, we hosted several outstanding musical performances, including the Telemann Baroque Ensemble Concert, the Mancunian Singers Concert, and the Monton Voices Concert. December was particularly festive with a special performance by the Eccles Brass Band, adding to the holiday cheer.

## **Governance and Decision-Making**

Our committee meetings have provided an essential platform for discussion and decision-making, ensuring that our church remains well-managed and responsive to the needs of our congregation. We held our Annual General Meeting in March, which was particularly poignant as it marked the closing of the original two charities (Monton Church and Monton Memorial Hall) and the launching of the new Monton Unitarian Church Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

In addition, a Boddan Lodge working group was established to begin processing the work that would need to be done – it was clear the building needed to be demolished so that was the first priority, but other groups were looking at fundraising, needs identification and design etc.

## **Running the Memorial Hall**

We are proud to be able to support a thriving community of external organisations by renting out our Memorial Hall, as per the second part

of our Object. Among the groups that use it are franchises such as Slimming World, Soccerstars, Dance Like a Mother and Bloom Toddlers, but also a good number of local community groups such as Monton Bridge Club and Salford Bridge Club, Monton Art Group, Mancunian Singers, Salford Local History Group, a pilates group and our own coffee mornings. We are also home to Monton Village Community Association, who meet in our upstairs room, and who collaborate with us in the running of some community events.

## **Looking Forward**

As we enter 2024, we remain committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive community. We aim to continue our successful programs while exploring new opportunities for worship, outreach, and fellowship. Thank you to all who have contributed their time, effort, and passion to making Monton Unitarian Church a place of warmth and welcome. With gratitude and optimism,

**Dave Ward-Speers**

Chair, Monton Unitarian Church

# Receipts & Expenditure Account

Monton Unitarian Church

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Account	2023
<b>Turnover</b>	
Collections	8,642.32
Donation Revenue	14,775.41
Hall Rental	14,294.00
Interest Income	274.31
Rites of Passage	5,311.00
<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>43,297.04</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>	
Direct Expenses	1,365.00
Direct Wages	24,680.27
Warden Costs	2,530.00
Gardening	6,515.00
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>35,090.27</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>8,206.77</b>
<b>Administrative Costs</b>	
Audit & Accountancy fees	606.00
Bank Fees	160.00
Charitable and Political Donations	0.00
Cleaning	0.00
General Expenses	630.00
Insurance	10,632.55
IT Software and Consumables	507.50
Light, Power, Heating	13,850.99
Minister's Expenses	3,475.97
Pensions Costs	5,827.20
Repairs & Maintenance	4,810.00
Staff Training	1,800.00
Telephone & Internet	483.96
<b>Total Administrative Costs</b>	<b>42,784.17</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>(34,577.40)</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Building Dilapidation	80,000.00
External Grants	27,817.74
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>107,817.74</b>
<b>Profit on Ordinary Activities</b>	<b>73,240.34</b>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

MONTON UNITARIAN CHURCH

On accounts for the year  
ended

31/12/2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1199569

Set out on pages

3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 /12 /2023**.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

*Carolyn Cullen*

Date:

19/12/2024

Name:

CAROLYN CULLEN

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

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF ENGLAND & WALES  
(ICAEW)

**Address:**

5 HAWTHORN AVENUE

ECCLES, MANCHESTER

M30 9NE

**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 details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

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