

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

We are so fortunate at Stalybridge to have a steady, consistent number of members, with a strong congregation attending regularly. We have a lovely blend of long-standing members and a good many younger families, bringing along their wonderful children. This ensures our Sunday School is well attended each week, with dedicated leadership from Jennifer Price, helped by the parents who are available at any given time. It is lovely to see so many coming in through the doors and we aim to make them feel welcome and part of our community.

We are also fortunate to be led in our worship by Rev. Andrew Parker, who is with us twice a month. Andrew has such a thoughtful, gentle way of drawing us all in to the themes of his services and always gives us something to think about. We have our team of lay leaders to fill the monthly service rota, to whom we are very grateful. It makes for a variety of interesting subjects and services throughout the year. We mark all the special occasions during the year whoever may be leading the worship on the day.

The Craft group which meets every Thursday has brought new members to church services and to the fund-raising activities we have had during the year. They have swelled the numbers attending our Summer and Christmas Fairs, and events such as Beetle Drives, Quiz Nights and Desert Island Discs evenings, to name just a few.

The Tots in Motion group meets each Friday in church, bringing potentially new people through our doors. We can only hope this leads to interest from these young families in years to come. If they've already set foot through the door, they may not be so reluctant to do it again.

Although we have lost some people who were very involved in our own church, and the wider Unitarian community, who we must remember with grateful thanks for their work, our aim should be to build and strengthen our numbers so their legacy lives on.

The officials of the church work hard to achieve this goal, and for their guidance we are extremely grateful. The committee offer their support and aid decision making so we can continue the Unitarian faith in Stalybridge. We hope to encourage our younger members to feel able to join the work involved in keeping the church alive and drive this along in the coming years.

We remain committed to being a welcoming, warm environment for people to join, whatever their needs may be.

Abridged from Secretary's Report for Church AGM.

Stalybridge Unitarian Free Christian Church Annual Accounts Summary 24/25

1st April 24 - 31st March 25

| | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenditure</u> |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Opening Balance | £42,917.67 | |
| Interest payments/investment dividends | £22,559.04 | Investments |
| Cash account ; | £54,908.13 | |
| <i>Transfer from savings & Sunday School account</i> | <i>£42,753.92</i> | <i>Donations</i> |
| <i>Chalice</i> | <i>£195.00</i> | <i>Trading</i> |
| <i>Fund raising</i> | <i>£3,419.81</i> | <i>Charitable</i> |
| <i>Donations/Collection/Membership</i> | <i>£7,281.40</i> | <i>Donations</i> |
| <i>Rites of passage</i> | <i>£300.00</i> | <i>Trading</i> |
| <i>Tots in Motion</i> | <i>£800.00</i> | <i>Trading</i> |
| <i>Other</i> | <i>£158.00</i> | <i>Other</i> |
| <i>Pulpit supply</i> | | -£421.67 |
| <i>Subscriptions</i> | | -£2,306.55 |
| <i>Postage</i> | | -£151.82 |
| <i>Flowers</i> | | -£114.87 |
| | | -£225.00 |
| Polling Station | £850.00 | Other |
| Donations/ Flowers | £370.00 | Donations |
| Other - Gift Aid/ ECU - Sunday School expenses & donations | £3,019.23 | Donations |
| Stationary/Printing/Postage | | -£597.81 |
| Services - BT/Water/Insurance/ Gas & Electric | | -£1,396.17 |
| Caretaking/Gardening | | -£10,867.67 |
| Organist & Organ maintenance | | -£5,223.00 |
| Repairs/ Maintenance - Garden Wall repair | | -£3,971.00 |
| Pulpit supply /minister stipend | | -£71,843.56 |
| Total Income | £81,706.40 | -£10,038.17 |
| Total Expenditure | | -£103,937.38 |
| Closing Balance | | £20,686.69 |

Business Reserve Savings Account - 50143123

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | £ | 4,035.09 |
| Income - Interest | £ | 4.49 |
| Withdrawn | £ | - |
| Balance | £ | 4,039.58 |

Investment summary - BNY Mellon

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------|
| Fund balance as of 31/3/2025 | £ | 935,020.10 |
|------------------------------|---|------------|

Investment summary - NSIB

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
| Fund balance as of 1/4/2025 | £ | 40,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|

Independent Examiner's Report on the Financial Accounts of Stalybridge Unitarian Church for the Year 2024/2025

Respective Responsibilities of the Committee and the Examiner

The Treasurer of Stalybridge Unitarian Church is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. Stalybridge Unitarian Church consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts. My current job role involves the preparation of accounts and VAT returns for a small organisation. I am in charge of all accounting aspects for the company. I am not a qualified accountant so would class myself as a non-professional examiner but deal with accounts / financial management on a daily basis.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

For my examination I have:

- Completed a review of the accounting records kept by the treasurer
- Made a consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seek explanations from the Treasurer concerning any such items

Independent Examiner's Statement

After reviewing the accounts I can confirm that:

No matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause for concern.

Signed: 

Date: 15.04.25