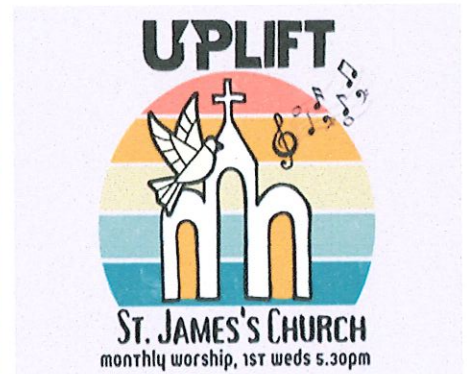
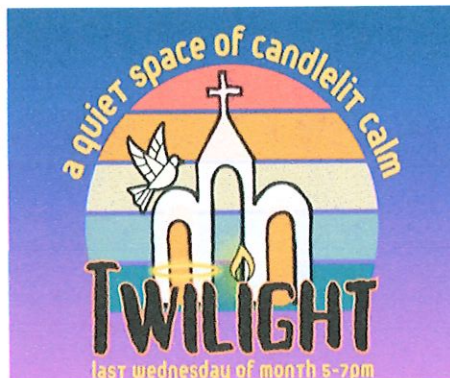


ST JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2025

CHARITY NUMBER 1208611



ST JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2024

St James's United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain and is a member church of the Northern Synod of the Church.

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31/12/2024

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2022, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective October 2019)

1. Objectives and Activities

Aims of the Charity

Mission Statement for St James's

Worship

To offer worship and prayer in the Reformed tradition both on Sundays and during the week.

To provide a high standard of Christian public worship in which preaching, prayer, music and other elements are used creatively and sensitively to glorify God.

To provide space for private prayer.

Witness

To present our collective Christian Witness, as a Local Church of the URC and in ecumenical partnership with other churches in the city centre.

To be visibly present as a Christian group throughout the week.

To be aware of, and respond to, the needs and opportunities offered by the City.

To provide hospitality to as wide a cross-section of Christian and secular groups as may be possible.

To support the personal witness of individual Church Members.

Service

To work in co-operation with the University Chaplaincies and other bodies to minister to the wider community.

To provide support for Students, particularly overseas students, both through the formal structures of the University and through personal contacts.

To make space available in the building for Charities, Churches, and other agencies.

To work collaboratively with the wider URC to serve the City and Region.

2. Public Benefit Statement

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in 'The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and has regard to it in the administration of the Church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the Church provides benefit to the public by:

Providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and

intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers

Promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Providing a space within the City Centre where community connections can be nurtured and grown.

3. Contribution by Volunteers

The church has 2 paid employees

- A part time facilities manager who is employed by the church
- A part time caretaker who is employed by the church

In addition the church has

- A Minister of religion who is employed by the United Reformed Church Central Office
- A full time pioneer youth worker who is employed by the Synod, with contribution from the church
- A part time digital ministries assistant who is employed by the Synod with contributions from the church.

Apart from these people, the work of the church is enabled by volunteers who help with preparation and conduct of worship, project planning, resources management, outreach to the congregation as well as catering.

The managing trustees (with the exception of the Minister who is a trustee ex officio) are volunteers and derive no financial benefit from their position.

4. Achievements and Performance

Main Activities undertaken during the year.

St James's URC is part of the Newcastle North West and Central Joint Pastorate of the URC Northern Synod, with three other United Reformed Churches – St Andrew's Kenton, Jesmond, and West End.

The activities of the church in 2024 fell into three principal categories

1. Provision of worship and witness

Morning services were held each Sunday at 10.45am, with additional services at Easter, Christmas and other church festivals. Apart from the Minister, and a Lay Preacher who is a member of the congregation, visiting preachers from other churches (both URC and other denominations) led a number of services.

A monthly Twilight Church evening service provided an opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer and prayer requests were gathered from the community. This has been a popular service, drawing in many people unused to being in church.

A monthly evening UPLIFT service was launched to provide a contemporary style of mid-week worship and this service continues to be developed.

A "90 Days of John" campaign encouraged daily reflection on the 4th gospel, accompanied by bible study, written material and online daily bible readings.

A weekly Table Talk activity was trialed from June providing simple, free food and an opportunity for fellowship and discussion.

The church is a member of Citizens UK and participated in Assemblies and campaigning events to address social issues affecting citizens in the North East.

2. Digital presence

The church conducted a re-branding exercise with new logo and visual identity. The website was updated and a TikTok channel established with regular updated content from the minister and others. An online Youth Forum was established to connect the increasing number of younger worshippers. The church had established a monthly Zoom social connect during the pandemic and this has been maintained as a way of connecting some of the community who are not able to get to church. It is also used to enable them to be active participants in the deliberations of Church Meeting.

3. Fabric and structural work

A recent survey highlighted important maintenance work that needed to be conducted and this has been largely completed. The works included re-bedding of ridge tiles, repairs to roof leaks, stripping and repainting of woodwork on the spire. The remaining work will be completed early in 2025.

Other improvements were made to the interior, including the repair of the organ, lifting old carpeting, sanding and varnishing the floor, renewal of the sound system, installation of projection screens and equipment for livestreaming.

In the church hall, the kitchen was renewed following water damage, and safety bannisters were fitted to the gallery.

The church was part of a joint bid (with a neighbouring URC) for a Church Related Community Worker (CRCW). The bid was successful and approved by the URC but the managing committee have yet to make an appointment due to a lack of suitable candidates. There is a plan to review this project (based on loneliness and isolation) in 2025.

In addition to core activities, the church has widened its impact by offering facilities to other congregations and groups whose objectives and aims are sympathetic to those of the congregation:

- Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church: a worldwide denomination with a particular ministry to the LGBTQ+ community.
- Newcastle Dream Church. A Korean language church ministering to Korean students in the city, and online.
- Newcastle Chinese Christian Fellowship. A weekly gathering of Chinese Christians.
- Food for Thought. An initiative of Agape UK offering weekly evening food and discussion.

The church is used during the week as a base for the Music Department of Northumbria University. This arrangement is three years old and was renewed in September for a further three years.

5. Investments

Skipton savings account	25,810
Cambridge& Counties fixed rate bond	62,557
CCLA Investments	165,233

Policy on investment:

The CCLA investments are within their Ethical Fund

6. Financial review

Review of the year

The results for the year and the charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statements.

During the year the Charity had income of £121,720 (2023: £117,680) and expenditure of £178,076 (2023: £103,773). There was an operating deficit of £56,356 (2023: surplus: £13,907) due to the initial implementation of our policies of mission and outreach, and partly funded from our designated reserves.

At 31/2/2024 the Charity had net assets of £269,034 (2023: £311,512)

7. Reserves policy

The church has a general reserve policy of holding working capital at a level sufficient to cover 6 months ordinary expenditure, plus up to 12 months Ministry and Mission donations. This currently runs at £65,000.

In addition reserves are held in the following designated funds:

Community engagement fund

Missional building improvement fund

Energy efficiency improvement fund

These funds have been set up to ring-fence monies for future plans as set out below.

8. Plans for future periods

Future Plans.

Plans for the future include further development of some key areas.

1. The CRCW project has not yet appointed a community worker and the scope of both project and the person specification will be reviewed. The focus will remain on loneliness and isolation in Jesmond and Sandyford areas of the city.
2. Development of mid-week ministry. The UPLIFT service is now well established and plans will be made to grow and expand its reach. Other mid-week outreach activities will be planned in conjunction with the Synod and the Pioneer Youth Worker.
3. Outreach to students. The church has a steadily growing number of students who are regular worshippers as well as frequent new visitors, mainly on a Sunday. Activities will nurture this community and help them to engage with the church and its wider mission.
4. After major investments in the building and facilities, there are no plans for large scale fabric projects in 2025 but ongoing maintenance will be needed as well as a review of security and an opportunity to simplify the lock/key arrangements.

9. Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Registered charity name

St James's United Reformed Church

Charity number

1208611

The Church registered with the Charities Commission on 11th June 2024

Registered office

St James's United Reformed Church
Northumberland Road
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JF

Trustees

Names of the Trustees for the year:

Revd Ryan Sirmons; Minister
Dr Andrew Graydon; Serving Elder: Church Secretary
Mrs Jackie Aitken; Serving Elder: Church Treasurer
Revd Ann Jackson; Serving Elder:

Independent Examiner

Doug Maltman FMAAT
Connected Voice Business Services Ltd
Higham House
Higham Place
Newcastle upon Tyne.
NE1 8AF.

While the Independent Examiner has examined these accounts, there is no certificate, as the only certificate supplied is for the 6 months during which the church has been registered with the Charities Commission

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

10. Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The activities of the Church are overseen by the Trustees within the Elders' Meeting of the Church, in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and supplemented by the rules of the Church.

The trustees are also the managing trustees for the land and buildings. The title to the church land and buildings, including the church, church hall, and attached house, 8 College Lane vested in the Northern Synod Trust of the URC, as trustees and held for the benefit of St James's URC in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties. The church is a Grade 2* listed building. It is insured for £22,586,827

11. Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity SORP requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of incoming resources and application of resources, including the receipts and payments of the charity for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on

9 May 2025

and signed on their behalf by:

[Signature]

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT

For the year ended 31.12.2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts from:					
Donations and legacies	6	11,122	-	11,122	11,471
Charitable activities					
Grants and contracts	7	-	-	-	1,000
Other trading activities	8	95,906	-	95,906	88,811
Investments	9	14,692	-	14,692	16,398
Total receipts		121,720	-	121,720	117,680
Payments on:					
Raising funds	10	905	-	905	985
Charitable activities					
Operation of the charity	11	177,171	-	177,171	102,789
Total payments		178,076	-	178,076	103,774
Reconciliation of funds					
Net of receipts/payments		(56,356)	-	(56,356)	13,906
Cash funds brought forward		314,373	11,017	325,390	311,484
Cash carried forward		258,017	11,017	269,034	325,390

The Receipts and Payments Statement includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All receipts and payments derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages form an integral part of these accounts.

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Charity Number 1208611

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash funds					
Cash at bank and in hand	18	258,017	11,017	269,034	325,390
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year					
	19			528	468

These financial statements were approved by the Elders on:

9 May 2025

and are signed on its behalf by:

[Signature]

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31.12.2024

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

2 Basis of accounting

2.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. An audit is not required by the charity's constitution and has not been requested by the trustees.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

St James United reformed Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The charity reported total unrestricted funds at the year end of £258,017 and has already secured a significant amount of funding for the current year. The trustees are of the view that the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

3 Receipts

3.1 Recognition of receipts

Receipts are recognised when the charity has received the resources, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of receipt have been met.

3.2 Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of receipts and payments, unless required or permitted by SORP.

3.3 Grants and donations

Receipts from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has received the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met.

3.4 Donated goods and services

Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Donated services and facilities are included in the Statement of Receipts and Payments when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided that the value of the gift can be measured reliably. Donated services and facilities that are consumed immediately are recognised as a receipt with the equivalent amount recognised as a payment under the appropriate heading in the Statement of Receipts and Payments

3.5 Volunteer help

The value of volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31.12.2024

report.

3.6 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when received.

3.7 Income from membership subscriptions

Membership subscriptions received in the nature of a gift are recognised in donations and legacies.

3.8 Investment gains and losses

This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments.

3.9 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

4 Expenditure and liabilities

4.1 Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised when it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

4.2 Charitable activities

Payments on charitable activities includes the costs of work and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

4.3 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance cost and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

4.4 Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the payment was incurred.

4.5 Liabilities

The charity has liabilities which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31.12.2024

Analysis of receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2024 £
6 Donations and legacies				
Donations and collections	8,539	-	8,539	9,209
Gift Aid tax refund	2,583	-	2,583	2,262
	<u>11,122</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,122</u>	<u>11,471</u>
7 Charitable activities				
<u>Income from grants</u>				
Community Engagement	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
8 Other trading activities				
Congregational fundraising	-	-	-	148
Church and hall rentals	39,588	-	39,588	35,787
Leased rentals	48,591	-	48,591	44,676
House rental	7,500	-	7,500	8,200
Other receipts	227	-	227	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>95,906</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,906</u>	<u>88,811</u>
9 Receipts from investments				
Bank and investment interest	5,797	-	5,797	2,519
Revaluation of investments	8,895	-	8,895	13,879
	<u>14,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,692</u>	<u>16,398</u>

Receipts were £121,720 of which £121,720 was unrestricted or designated and £0 was restricted

Analysis of payments on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
10 Raising funds				
Charitable donations	905	-	905	985

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31.12.2024

	905	-	905	985
11 Charitable activities				
<u>Direct costs</u>				
Ministry and Mission	10,752	-	10,752	10,349
Service expenses	5,056	-	5,056	4,001
Ministerial expenses	3,804	-	3,804	3,872
Church study day	-	-	-	997
Open door exhibition	-	-	-	705
Mission outreach fund	10,276	-	10,276	-
Mission fabric fund	26,764	-	26,764	-
<u>Support costs</u>				
Subscriptions to Citizens UK	-	-	-	735
Church Building repairs	52,614	-	52,614	16,402
Church rates and insurance	11,168	-	11,168	9,120
House administration	2,725	-	2,725	1,168
Salaries	26,709	-	26,709	23,331
Gas	15,042	-	15,042	18,975
Electricity	3,507	-	3,507	3,810
Cleaning, Office and Sundry	7,171	-	7,171	7,594
Telephone, mobile and broadband costs	1,258	-	1,258	962
Payroll fees	325	-	325	300
<u>Governance costs</u>				
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on	-	-	-	468
	<u>177,171</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>177,171</u>	<u>102,789</u>

Payments on charitable activities were £178,076 of which £178,076 was unrestricted or designated and £0

Fees for examination of the accounts

12

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	528	468
	<u>528</u>	<u>468</u>

There were no other fees paid to the examiner (2023: nil)

Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31.12.2024

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	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	26,709	23,331
	26,709	23,331

No employee received remuneration above £60,000

Staff numbers

14

The average monthly head count was 2 staff (2023: 2 staff).

Transactions with trustees

15

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

In the period the charity has paid trustees remuneration and benefits.

Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred in the year.

Transaction(s) with related parties

The following detail the related party transactions in the reporting period.

party	Relationship	of the transaction	Amount £	period end £	written off £
Dr A Graydon	Serving Elder	Donation	600	600	-
Revd. R Simons	Minister	Donation	660	660	-
Revd. A Jackson	Minister	Donation	730	730	-

Defined contribution pension scheme

16

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

Corporation Taxation

17

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives.

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31.12.2024

Cash at bank and in hand		
18		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Barclays Current account	15,338	11,565
Petty cash and Float	96	477
Virgin savings account	-	10,456
Skipton Savings account	25,810	66,016
Cambridge Counties fixed rate bond	-	20,540
Cambridge Counties fixed rate bond	62,557	60,000
CCLA Investment	165,233	142,458
	269,034	311,512

Liabilities (payable within 1 year)		
19		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examination of accounts	528	468
	528	468

Events after the end of the reporting period

20

No events (not requiring adjustment to the accounts) have occurred after the end of the reporting period but

Analysis of charitable funds

21

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	balances balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Exceptional item £	Fund balances carried forward £
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted fund	190,810	121,720	(141,036)	-	171,494
Designated funds					
Community Engagement	23,563	-	(10,276)	-	13,287
Missional Building	50,000	-	(26,764)	-	23,236
Energy Efficiency	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	314,373	121,720	(178,076)	-	258,017

Purpose of unrestricted funds

ST JAMES UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31.12.2024

General unrestricted fund	The 'free reserves' of the charity
Designated Funds:	
- Community Engagement	Funding for identifying and developing outreach opportunities
- Missional Improvement	Funding for internal flexibility for additional charitable usage
Improvement	Funding for building upgrading for improved energy efficiency

Analysis of movement in restricted funds

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	balances balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Exceptional item £	Fund balances carried forward £
Restricted funds					
James Project	9,757	-	-	-	9,757
Window Fund	865	-	-	-	865
Key Deposits	395	-	-	-	395
Totals	11,017	-	-	-	11,017

Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income resources used for a specific purpose within the charity as identified by the

James Project	Professional help relating to further ministry of the Church.
Window Fund	Restoration of stained glass windows.
Key Deposits	Deposits for bookings held in a restricted fund.

Capital commitments

22

As at 31 December 2024, the charity had no capital commitments

