

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023
FOR
NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

P B Syddall & Co
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81 Chorley Old Road
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BL1 3AJ

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN MISSION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The charity is established to support the seventeen congregations of the Mission area and to help promote Unitarianism throughout the north and east Lancashire areas.

Public benefit

Each year the trustees review the objectives and activities of the charity to ensure they continue to reflect their aims and provide public benefit. The trustees are more than satisfied that they do.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

All investment decisions are undertaken by the finance committee with the approval of the general committee.

Financial controls

NELUM has a finance committee who make recommendations to the general committee with regard to the charity's financial affairs.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Organisational structure

The North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission is a registered charity (number 226163) and is one of thirteen district associations in England and the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. The association is also known as NELUM.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

226163

Principal address

c/o Ms K Diggle
8 Neyland Close
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 5DF

Trustees

Ms K Diggle
Reverend B Allerton
Miss J Thompson

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

A J Syddall M.A., A.C.A.
P B Syddall & Co
Chartered Accountants
Grafton House
81 Chorley Old Road
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 3AJ

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

Solicitors

Clough & Willis
2 Manchester Road
Bury
Lancashire
BL9 0TD

Financial Advisers

Charles Stanley & Co Limited
25 Luke Street
London
EC2A 4AR

NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN MISSION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This will be the last of my twenty secretary's annual reports as I have resigned as from the imminent Annual General Meeting. It is a tempting time to look back but I am not going to do this as my report is, as always, about this past year and an attempt at an overview of where our churches are today.

At a recent General Committee Meeting Reverend Jo James came as the representative of the Executive Committee. He spoke about change, how we had to embrace it and be prepared to accept it. Churches and chapels have been dealing with and accepting change for a long time now, many that have been beyond our control as they are part of the changes in society. Congregations are smaller, as they are throughout all religious communities, and that is something we regret. Yet there are positives. If anything, people are more committed and value their churches and chapels and their communities as something precious. People have accepted the changes they could do nothing about and in the light of this embraced the changes they could control to keep their churches alive to offer the unique blessings that only churches can.

The Executive Committee has begun the process of introducing a scheme, The Innovation Challenge, offering financial support to churches who come forward with ideas, mainly for growth, though this has not been spelled out. Personally, I don't think money is the answer; certainly money alone cannot make this happen. It is about the commitment, the love and the propensity for hard work in our congregations and these three are never in doubt. The energy and determination just to keep going in these challenging times is often underestimated and underappreciated.

Reading through the annual report there is a sense of a year with no major problems. Some of our churches saw their congregation grow and the rest seem to be holding steady. This is something to be proud of in a culture that is largely secular. There have been one or two special events that have been well supported by churches coming together as well as attracting back former members and friends. These inter-congregational events offer so much in encouragement, support and friendship. It is perhaps something we should do more often.

All of us felt the impact of the rise in the cost of living this year and churches were no exception to this. Churches, chapels and meeting rooms tend to be large spaces, therefore expensive to heat, and this had a huge affect on budgets. To help with the increased charges NELUM gave £1,000 pro rata grants to all the District churches.

In 2024 we have churches celebrating significant anniversaries of their buildings. Bury and Rochdale built in the buoyant years of the 1960's and now celebrating 50 years. Padiham celebrate 150 years at Knight Hill. Congratulations, may you go forward and prosper.

A final thank you to the congregations who support NELUM and through it all the Unitarian communities in North and East Lancashire. Thank you to all the churches and chapels who offer us warm and comfortable places in which to hold NELUM meetings. Thank you to the delegates who attend on behalf of their churches so that there is meaningful dialogue to take us forward. Thank you to the NELUM Officers and the Finance Committee who work assiduously for the benefit of everyone.

I hope you will allow me a personal thank you to my fellow officers, particularly to Treasurer Karen Diggle, who has served with me for twenty years. Her expertise and commitment have been second to none.

Thank you to everyone in NELUM for your help, support and friendship. It has been at times a challenge but always rewarding to be District Secretary.

Beryl Allerton.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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 order of the board of trustees on 10 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Ms K Diggle - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

A J Syddall M.A., A.C.A.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

P B Syddall & Co
Chartered Accountants
Grafton House
81 Chorley Old Road
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 3AJ

10 April 2024

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		41,635	-	41,635	15,655
Investment income	2	46,794	50	46,844	40,973
Total		88,429	50	88,479	56,628
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charity expenses		53,449	-	53,449	23,850
Net gains/(losses) on investments		1,958	(9,325)	(7,367)	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		36,938	(9,275)	27,663	32,778
Transfers between funds	8	(2,880)	2,880	-	-
Net movement in funds		34,058	(6,395)	27,663	32,778
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		411,721	62,635	474,356	441,578
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		445,779	56,240	502,019	474,356

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

**BALANCE SHEET
30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	4	296,195	54,792	350,987	358,354
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	39,500	-	39,500	41,870
Investments	6	525	-	525	531
Cash at bank		224,945	1,448	226,393	188,987
		<u>264,970</u>	<u>1,448</u>	<u>266,418</u>	<u>231,388</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(115,386)	-	(115,386)	(115,386)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>149,584</u>	<u>1,448</u>	<u>151,032</u>	<u>116,002</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>445,779</u>	<u>56,240</u>	<u>502,019</u>	<u>474,356</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>445,779</u>	<u>56,240</u>	<u>502,019</u>	<u>474,356</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				445,779	411,721
Restricted funds				56,240	62,635
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>502,019</u>	<u>474,356</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10 April 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

K Diggle - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other fixed asset investments	42,894	40,468
Bank interest received	3,950	505
	<hr/> 46,844 <hr/>	<hr/> 40,973 <hr/>

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 September 2023 nor for the year ended 30 September 2022.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 September 2023 nor for the year ended 30 September 2022.

4. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other	350,987	358,354
	<u><u>350,987</u></u>	<u><u>358,354</u></u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Investments (neither listed nor unlisted) were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Nelum Inc fixed interest fund	54,792	64,117
Nelum Inc equity fund	296,195	294,237
	<u><u>350,987</u></u>	<u><u>358,354</u></u>

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Loan to Bank Street Church	-	2,370
Loan to Walmsley Church	6,000	6,000
Coronavirus loans	21,500	21,500
Loan to Blackpool Church	12,000	12,000
	<u><u>39,500</u></u>	<u><u>41,870</u></u>

6. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank deposits held at stockbrokers	525	531
	<u><u>525</u></u>	<u><u>531</u></u>

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
North & East Lancashire Unitarian Mission Trustee Company (Incorporated)	23,003	23,003
Newchurch	89,383	89,383
Accruals and deferred income	3,000	3,000
	<u>115,386</u>	<u>115,386</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	411,721	36,938	(2,880)	445,779
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds	62,635	(9,275)	2,880	56,240
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>474,356</u>	<u>27,663</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>502,019</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	88,429	(53,449)	1,958	36,938
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds	50	-	(9,325)	(9,275)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>88,479</u>	<u>(53,449)</u>	<u>(7,367)</u>	<u>27,663</u>

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.10.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	378,950	32,771	411,721
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	62,628	7	62,635
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>441,578</u>	<u>32,778</u>	<u>474,356</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	56,621	(23,850)	32,771
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	7	-	7
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>56,628</u>	<u>(23,850)</u>	<u>32,778</u>

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 September 2023.

10. GRANTS

The trustees made the decision to award extra grants to a number of churches this year, amounting to £15,750 as a result of the surplus of funds recorded in the previous year.

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

11. BANK STREET CHURCH

During the year, following the closure of the Bank Street Church, funds were received by the charity amounting to £43,170. This was considered to be a refund of grants paid to Bank Street Church over a number of years and as settlement of a loan that was included within debtors at the start of the year amounting to £2,370.

**NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN
MISSION**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	15	15,025
Subscriptions	820	630
Bank Street Church	40,800	-
	<u>41,635</u>	<u>15,655</u>
Investment income		
Other fixed asset investments	42,894	40,468
Bank interest received	3,950	505
	<u>46,844</u>	<u>40,973</u>
Total incoming resources	88,479	56,628
EXPENDITURE		
Charity expenses		
Donations	6,400	5,850
Administration expenses	285	110
Meeting expenses	903	613
Newchurch expenses	4,970	5,168
Accountancy	2,016	1,992
Sundry expenses	28	50
Grants made to churches	26,750	-
Specific sustentation grants	12,000	9,952
Bank charges	97	115
	<u>53,449</u>	<u>23,850</u>
Total resources expended	53,449	23,850
Net income	<u>35,030</u>	<u>32,778</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements