

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

England & Wales · Charity number 251033

Details

Other names	THE WESTERN UNION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1967-07-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Flat 26 Fountain Court West End Westbury BA13 3JY
Phone	01373865439
Email	kay.millard@btinternet.com

Activities

Objects: FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION.

Activities: To support Ministry within the area of the Western Union. Constitutionally:"The Council shall transact the current business of the Union e.g. recommend to Annual and Special Meetings of the Union grants to be made towards the ministerial stipends paid by Congregations,"

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Devon
- Somerset
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£176,827	£17,762	-	-
2023-12-31	£24,615	£22,976	-	-
2022-12-31	£22,563	£25,016	-	-
2021-12-31	£92,469	£30,466	-	-
2020-12-31	£332,435	£23,709	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BARBARA HILARY SMITH		
Frances Pitt		2022-03-05
Gerald Edward Witcher		2020-01-01
Gillian Chapman		2022-06-12
KATHRINE ALISON MILLARD		
LINDA MARY MCCARTHY		
Patricia Margaret Fieldhouse		2021-09-18
Peter Anthony Bruce		2022-06-12
ROBERT KENNETH Goddard		
Rev Edgar Demosthenes Maximilian MIHAS		2017-09-02
Robert Anthony Minden Crick		2019-11-28
Roger Lionel Lake		2020-01-04
SHEILA VIOLET EVANS		
Susan Wildman		2022-03-05

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 251033

Accounts

**COUNCIL OF THE WESTERN UNION
OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity No: 251033

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THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the Charity is the encouragement and support of its constituent congregations in the promotion of religion in spirit and in truth.

Achievements and Performance

The Council met on three occasions during 2024/2025 to conduct business. It also held its annual assembly at Frenchay in June 2024, with guest of honour Vince McCully, Immediate Past President of the General Assembly, who led discussion and worship.

Mrs Sheila Evans of Plymouth represented the District at the General Assembly Meetings in Birmingham in April.

The Constitution was amended to enable Council to meet by video-link if circumstances made this necessary.

A successful Retreat was held at Hilfield Priory in Dorset, in November 2024, but unfortunately the Intergenerational Retreat was unsubscribed and therefore cancelled.

Meetings were held with investors to ensure that investment holdings continue to be both fit for purpose and ethically responsible.

Grants totalling £12,250, for 2025, were approved for pulpit supplies or ministry, as follows:

Taunton	£800
Crewkerne	£3,250
Plymouth	£3,250
Bridport	£3,250
Bristol Frenchay	£900
Bristol UMB	£600
TOTAL	£12,050

Financial review

The trustees consider the level of funds held to be sufficient to ensure the continued operation of the Trust. At 31 December 2024, cash in current bank accounts and on deposit with the bank named on page 5 amounted to £86,721.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under number 251033. The charity operates under a constitution ratified in May 2000.

Risk Management

The trustees continuously monitor the risks to which the Trust may be exposed and are satisfied that sufficient controls are in place to deal with any matters that might arise as a result of thereof.

Public Benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****Reference and Administrative Details**

The Trustees of the Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches are the members of the Western Union Council. During the year to 31 December 2024 they were:

Frances Pitt*	President
Edgar Mihas*	Vice President
Kay Millard*	Secretary
Bob Goddard*	Treasurer
Revd. John Harley	Religious Education and Youth Officer
Sheila Evans*	Immediate Past President

And also, the following representatives (and named deputies in parentheses) appointed to Council by their congregations:

Bath	Kay Millard*	(Roderick Millard)
Bridgwater	Patricia Fieldhouse	(Anne Fieldhouse)
Bridport	Roger Lake	(Angelica Kennard)
Bristol Frenchay	Peter Bruce	
Bristol UMB	Susan Wildman	(Peter Wildman)
Crewkerne	Gerald Witcher	(Ann Butler)
Cullompton	Linda McCarthy	
Plymouth	Gillian Chapman	
Sidmouth	Robert Crick	
Stroud & Swindon	Revd. Elizabeth Birtles	(Pam Jenkinson)
Taunton	Jay Waite	(Kathryn McIntosh)
Trowbridge	Barbara Smith*	(Jocelyn Clay)

NOTE: No Council Member may exercise more than one vote.

Honorary Members:

Eleanor Dixon
Kath Ryder (d. 26.12.2024)

In addition, the following people by reason of their roles or functions were entitled to attend the meetings of the Western Union Council as non-voting members:

Revd. John Harley	Minister
Revd. Elizabeth Harley	Minister
Revd. Lindy Latham	Minister (retired)
Revd. Elizabeth Birtles	Minister (retired)
Revd. Maria Curtis	Minister (retired)
Revd. Kate Whyman	Minister (retired 31.12.2024)
Revd. Michael Dadson	Minister (retired)
Revd. Peter Godfrey	Minister (retired)
Mrs Eleanor Dixon	Lay Pastor (retired)
Mrs Fran Pitt	Lay Leader

*Those marked with an asterisk are currently members of the Executive Committee.

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity (continued)

Charity Name: The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Charity registration number: 251033

Registered Office: 26 Fountain Court
West End
Westbury
BA13 3JY

Principal Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd
PO Box 289
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

Independent Examiner: D C Cox FCA, Harwood, Lane & Co
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Units 1 - 4 Crossley Farm Business Centre
Swan Lane
Winterbourne
Bristol
BS36 1RH

Independent Examiner

D C Cox FCA of Harwood, Lane & Co was re-appointed as the Charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed his willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf.

Fran Pitt
President
Date:

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 7 - 13.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 the seeking of explanations from you as 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.

Independent examiner's statement

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Name of principal:

David Cox

Name of firm:

Harwood, Lane & Co Chartered Accountants

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCA (ICAEW)

Address:

Units 1 - 4
Crossley Farm Business Centre
Swan Lane
Winterbourne
BRISTOL BS36 1RH

Date:

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Endowment	2024 Total	2023 Total
INCOME						
Income from donations & legacies	2	1,118	0	0	1,118	1,244
Investment income	3	7,884	5,499	10,751	24,134	19,488
Separate material item of income	4	0	150,230	0	150,230	0
Other	5	1,345	0	0	1,345	3,883
Total Income		10,347	155,729	10,751	176,827	24,615
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on raising funds	6	200	0	0	200	100
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	16,554	0	0	16,554	15,328
Other	8	687	321	0	1,008	7,548
Total Expenditure		17,441	321	0	17,762	22,976
<u>Other Recognised Gains</u>						
Gain/(losses) on Investments						
Unrealised		-1,362	26,275	17,271	42,184	38,704
Realised		4,872	-8,704	0	-3,832	-5,285
		3,510	17,571	17,271	38,352	33,419
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		-3,584	172,979	28,022	197,417	35,058
Gross transfers between funds		10,751	0	-10,751	0	0
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total Funds Brought Forward	14	170,418	710,773	277,863	1,159,054	1,123,996
Total Funds Carried Forward	14	£177,585	£883,752	£295,134	£1,356,471	£1,159,054

Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed in the two reported financial years.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
FIXED ASSETS			
Fixed Asset Investments	10	1,116,350	971,763
		1,116,350	971,763
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	0	2,051
Current Asset Investments		152,765	130,173
Cash Held in Investment Accounts		1,553	5,210
Cash at Bank and in Hand		88,325	50,818
		242,643	188,252
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	-2,522	-961
		240,121	187,291
Net current assets		240,121	187,291
Total Assets less Total Liabilities	13	£1,356,471	£1,159,054
Capital			
Unrestricted Income Funds	14	1,061,337	881,191
Endowment Income Funds	14	295,134	277,863
		£1,356,471	£1,159,054

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf.

Fran Pitt
President
Date:

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to that income, it is probably that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1.3 Expenditure recognition

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 the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

1.4 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

2 Income from donations and legacies

				2024	2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
Donations and gifts	70	0	0	70	20
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	0
Membership subscriptions	1,048	0	0	1,048	1,224
	£1,118	£0	£0	£1,118	£1,244

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3	Investment Income				2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Interest Income	3,307	2,683	0	5,990	2,020
	Dividend Income	4,577	2,816	2,430	9,823	9,944
	B&FUA - Bath	0	0	2,637	2,637	2,385
	- Exeter	0	0	5,684	5,684	5,139

£7,884	£5,499	£10,751	£24,134	£19,488
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4	Separate material item of income				2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Trowbridge Unitarians	0	0	0	0	0
	Ilminster Trust	0	0	0	0	0
	Yeovil Trust	0	0	0	0	0
	Cirencester Trust	0	150,230	0	150,230	0

£0	£150,230	£0	£150,230	£0
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5	Other				2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Retreat Payments	1,185	0	0	1,185	1,105
	Intergenerational Retreat Payments	0	0	0	0	575
	Collection at Annual Meeting	0	0	0	0	118
	Trowbridge (return of funds)	0	0	0	0	2,000
	Miscellaneous	140	0	0	140	0
	CAF Bank Sweeping Payments	20	0	0	20	85

£1,345	£0	£0	£1,345	£3,883
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6	Expenditure on raising funds				2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Donations	200	0	0	200	100

£200	£0	£0	£200	£100
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THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7	Expenditure on charitable activities				2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Grants - Taunton	700	0	0	700	600
	- Cullompton	3,000	0	0	3,000	2,750
	- Bridport	3,000	0	0	3,000	0
	- Plymouth	3,800	0	0	3,800	3,500
	- Bridgwater	0	0	0	0	1,500
	Safeguarding Support Membership	150	0	0	150	109
	Travelling expenses	958	0	0	958	1,101
	Premises hire	195	0	0	195	185
	Annual meeting	105	0	0	105	50
	GA booking fee & expenses	340	0	0	340	350
	WU Annual Assembly expenses	348	0	0	348	308
	Training meeting expenses	0	0	0	0	0
	Bursaries - Worship Study Course	0	0	0	0	0
	Independent examiner	918	0	0	918	888
	Honorariums	1,200	0	0	1,200	1,050
	Postage, stationery & other expenses	368	0	0	368	232
	Website & Sleeper Phone	72	0	0	72	425
	Society of St Francis (Retreat)	1,400	0	0	1,400	2,250
	Retreat refund	0	0	0	0	30
		£16,554	£0	£0	£16,554	£15,328

8	Other				2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Bank charges	547	321	0	868	5,385
	CAF Bank Sweeping Payment	0	0	0	0	5
	Annual meeting gifts	0	0	0	0	40
	Send a Child to Hucklow	0	0	0	0	118
	Trowbridge Fellowship Seed Funding	0	0	0	0	2,000
	Miscellaneous	140	0	0	140	0
		£687	£321	£0	£1,008	£7,548

9 Staff costs

The charity had no paid employees. Total expenses reimbursed to council members in the year was £754 (2023 - £760). Honorariums were paid to the secretary amounting to £300 (2023 - £300), treasurer amounting to £300 (2023 - £300), RE co-ordinator amounting to £300 (2023 - £300), and to the Website Manager amounting to £300 (2023 - £150).

10 Fixed Asset Investments

2024

Historical Cost at 31.12.2024

£686,766

Market Value at 31.12.2024

£1,116,350

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

11	DEBTORS	2024	2023				
	Investment Income	0	2,051				
		£0	£2,051				
12	CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023				
	Bank Overdraft	1,604	73				
	Accruals	918	888				
		£2,522	£961				
13	Analysis of fund balances between the net assets	Unrestricted	Designated	Endowment	Total		
	Fixed Assets	100,795	720,421	295,134	1,116,350		
	Current Assets	79,312	163,331	0	242,643		
	Current Liabilities	-2,522	0	0	-2,522		
		£177,585	£883,752	£295,134	£1,356,471		
14	Movement in funds	Brought Forward	Income	Revenue Expenditure	Realised/ Unrealised Gains	Transfers	Carried Forward
	Unrestricted Funds						
	General Funds	170,418	10,347	-17,441	3,510	10,751	177,585
	Designated Funds						
	<i>Trowbridge Fund</i>	311,775	0	0	9,108	0	320,883
	<i>Ilminster Fund</i>	26,266	1,388	0	577	0	28,231
	<i>Yeovil Fund</i>	372,732	2,681	0	7,562	0	382,975
	<i>Cirencester Fund</i>	0	151,660	-321	324	0	151,663
		£881,191	£166,076	(£17,762)	£21,081	£10,751	£1,061,337
	Endowment Funds						
	Cowl Street Fund	2,872	180	0	74	-180	2,946
	Crediton/Christchurch/Colyton Chapel Funds	6,073	259	0	109	-259	6,182
	B&FUA Investments						
	- Bath Fund	62,566	2,637	0	4,904	-2,637	67,470
	- Exeter Fund	134,831	5,684	0	10,568	-5,684	145,399
	Shepton Mallet Cowl Street Chapel Fund	9,684	270	0	219	-270	9,903
	Crediton Ministers Fund	61,837	1,721	0	1,397	-1,721	63,234
		£277,863	£10,751	£0	£17,271	(£10,751)	£295,134
	Total	£1,159,054	£176,827	(£17,762)	£38,352	£0	£1,356,471

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS**Trowbridge Fund**

Following the closure of the Chapel at Trowbridge, in September 2019 the Western Union was entrusted with the net proceeds of the sale of the bungalow in which the services and the congregational activities there had been held, on the understanding that this money was to be used primarily to support Unitarianism within Trowbridge and its surrounding area.

Ilminster Fund

Following closure of the Ilminster Trust in late 2019, the Western Union received some assets which were allocated to the Western Union on the understanding that they would be used primarily to support Unitarian chapels and churches in Somerset.

Yeovil Fund

In late September 2020, the Western Union was entrusted with the care of the funds resulting from the closure of the former Yeovil Trust and the sale of its property. The wishes of the former trustees at Yeovil are that this money should be used primarily to support Unitarianism within the County of Somerset, and thereafter within the District.

Cirencester Fund

Following a decision made in 2023 by the remaining trustees of the Cirencester Trust Fund to close this trust, the Western Union was entrusted with the financial assets. These were transferred to the Western Union in 2024 on the understanding that these would be used primarily to support Unitarianism within Gloucestershire and North Wiltshire, and thereafter within the Western Union District as a whole. In the case of the latter, this would be in accordance with the Cirencester Trust's former practice of favouring the use of these funds to further publicity and outreach within the district.

16 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year ended 31 December 2024.

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 251033

Accounts

**COUNCIL OF THE WESTERN UNION
OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2021

Charity No: 251033

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THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the Charity is the encouragement and support of its constituent congregations in the promotion of religion in spirit and in truth.

Achievements and Performance

The Council met on two occasions during 2021/2022 to conduct business, following the lifting of Covid restrictions. It also held its annual assembly at Plymouth in September 2021, when Sheila Evans was elected President.

The President, Edgar Mihas, represented the District at the General Assembly Meetings, which were conducted by Zoom because of Covid restrictions.

A Group to consider the future of the District has been convened and met for the first time, via Zoom, in February 2022. It is facilitated by Helen Mason, Director of Unitarian College Manchester.

A successful Retreat was held at Hillfield Priory in Dorset, in October 2021, and will be repeated in 2022.

Grants totalling £11,581 were made to cover net losses, due to Covid lockdown periods in 2020 and 2021, to two chapels which were unable to meet losses from their own reserves.

A one-off grant of £5,000 was made to Bridgwater Chapel from Ilminster Trust designated funds to enable them to have a building survey carried out.

Grants totalling £14,850, for 2022, were approved for pulpit supplies or ministry, as follows:

Bridgwater	£1,350
Taunton	£500
Cullompton	£2,750
Plymouth	£2,750
Bristol	£7,500
TOTAL	£14,850

Financial review

The trustees consider the level of funds held to be sufficient to ensure the continued operation of the Trust. At 31 December 2021, cash in current bank accounts and on deposit with the bank named on page 5 amounted to £152,592.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under number 251033. The charity operates under a constitution ratified in May 2000.

Risk Management

The trustees continuously monitor the risks to which the Trust may be exposed and are satisfied that sufficient controls are in place to deal with any matters that might arise as a result of thereof.

Public Benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Reference and Administrative Details

The Trustees of the Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches are the members of the Western Union Council. During the year to 31 December 2021 they were:

Sheila Evans*	President
Frances Pitt* (from 5 March 2022)	Vice President
Kay Millard*	Secretary
Bob Goddard*	Treasurer
Revd. Elizabeth Harley*	Religious Education and Youth Officer
Edgar Mihas*	Immediate Past President

And also, the following representatives (and named deputies in parentheses) appointed to Council by their congregations:

Bath	Kay Millard*	(Tim Powell)
Bridgwater	Patricia Fieldhouse	(Anne Fieldhouse)
Bridport	Roger Lake	(John Hinsley)
Bristol Frenchay	<i>Vacant</i>	
Bristol UMB	Susan Wildman	(Peter Wildman)
Cirencester	<i>Closed October 2021</i>	
Crewkerne	Gerald Witcher	
Cullompton	Linda McCarthy	
Plymouth	Suzanne Bolton	
Sidmouth	Robert Crick	
Taunton	Fran Pitt	(Jay Waite)
Torquay	<i>Worship Suspended</i>	
Trowbridge	Barbara Smith*	

NOTE: No Council Member may exercise more than one vote.

Honorary Members:

Eleanor Dixon
Arthur Brown
Kath Ryder

In addition, the following people by reason of their roles or functions were entitled to attend the meetings of the Western Union Council as non-voting members:

Revd. John Harley	Minister
Revd. Kate Whyman	Minister
Revd. Elizabeth Harley	Minister
Revd. Lindy Latham	Minister (retired)
Revd. Elizabeth Birtles	Minister (retired)
Revd. Maria Curtis	Minister (retired)
Revd. Michael Dadson	Minister (retired)
Eleanor Dixon	Lay Pastor (retired)
Mrs Fran Pitt	Lay Leader

*Those marked with an asterisk are currently members of the Executive Committee.

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity (continued)

Charity Name: The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Charity registration number: 251033

Registered Office: 26 Fountain Court
West End
Westbury
BA13 3JY

Principal Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd
PO Box 289
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

Independent Examiner: D C Cox FCA, Harwood, Lane & Co
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Units 1 - 4 Crossley Farm Business Centre
Swan Lane
Winterbourne
Bristol
BS36 1RH

Independent Examiner

D C Cox FCA of Harwood, Lane & Co was re-appointed as the Charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed his willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf.

Sheila Evans
President
Date:

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 7 - 13.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 the seeking of explanations from you as 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.

Independent examiner's statement

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Name of principal:

David Cox

Name of firm:

Harwood, Lane & Co Chartered Accountants

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCA (ICAEW)

Address:

Units 1 - 4
Crossley Farm Business Centre
Swan Lane
Winterbourne
BRISTOL BS36 1RH

Date:

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Endowment	2021 Total	2020 Total
INCOME						
Income from donations & legacies	2	1,149	0	0	1,149	1,248
Investment income	3	4,520	1,142	9,551	15,213	16,871
Separate material item of income	4	0	74,372	0	74,372	314,034
Other	5	1,735	0	0	1,735	282
Total Income		7,404	75,514	9,551	92,469	332,435
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on raising funds	6	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	30,301	0	0	30,301	16,800
Other	8	165	0	0	165	5,060
Total Expenditure		30,466	0	0	30,466	21,860
<u>Other Recognised Gains</u>						
Gain/(losses) on Investments						
Unrealised		7,511	19,390	36,443	63,344	1,009
Realised		0	0	0	0	-326
		7,511	19,390	36,443	63,344	683
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		-15,551	94,904	45,994	125,347	311,258
Gross transfers between funds		9,551	0	-9,551	0	0
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total Funds Brought Forward	13	187,242	664,124	294,377	1,145,743	834,485
Total Funds Carried Forward	13	£181,242	£759,028	£330,820	£1,271,090	£1,145,743

Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed in the two reported financial years.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
FIXED ASSETS			
Fixed Asset Investments	10	924,551	705,418
		924,551	705,418
CURRENT ASSETS			
Current Asset Investments		49,834	49,572
Cash Held in Investment Accounts		144,941	15,730
Cash at Bank and in Hand		152,592	381,180
		347,367	446,482
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	11	-828	-6,157
		-828	-6,157
Net current assets		346,539	440,325
Total Assets less Total Liabilities	12	£1,271,090	£1,145,743
Capital			
Unrestricted Income Funds	13	940,270	851,366
Endowment Income Funds	13	330,820	294,377
		£1,271,090	£1,145,743

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf.

Sheila Evans
President
Date:

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to that income, it is probably that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1.3 Expenditure recognition

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 the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

1.4 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

2	Income from donations and legacies				2021	2020
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Donations and gifts	10	0	0	10	4
	Gift Aid	11	0	0	11	0
	Legacies	0	0	0	0	12
	Grants	0	0	0	0	0
	Membership subscriptions	1,128	0	0	1,128	1,232
		£1,149	£0	£0	£1,149	£1,248

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3	Investment Income				2021	2020
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Interest Income	611	0	0	611	990
	Dividend Income	3,909	1,142	2,253	7,304	7,349
	B&FUA - Bath	0	0	2,313	2,313	2,704
	- Exeter	0	0	4,985	4,985	5,828
		£4,520	£1,142	£9,551	£15,213	£16,871
4	Separate material item of income				2021	2020
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Trowbridge Unitarians	0	0	0	0	0
	Ilminster Trust	0	0	0	0	0
	Yeovil Trust	0	74,372	0	74,372	314,034
		£0	£74,372	£0	£74,372	£314,034
5	Other				2021	2020
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Retreat Payments	1,685	0	0	1,685	0
	GA Booking Fee (refund)	0	0	0	0	272
	Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	10
	M Savory - WS Course (contra)	50	0	0	50	0
		£1,735	£0	£0	£1,735	£282
6	Expenditure on raising funds				2021	2020
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Donations	0	0	0	0	0
		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

7	Expenditure on charitable activities				2021	2020
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Grants - Taunton	500	0	0	500	500
	- Cullompton	2,750	0	0	2,750	2,750
	- Bristol Group	7,500	0	0	7,500	7,500
	- Plymouth	2,750	0	0	2,750	2,750
	- Bridgwater	1,375	0	0	1,375	1,375
	Covid Fund Grants	11,581	0	0	11,581	0
	Travelling expenses	329	0	0	329	61
	Premises hire	75	0	0	75	0
	Annual meeting	50	0	0	50	0
	GA booking fee & expenses	0	0	0	0	272
	WUCDO expenses	0	0	0	0	0
	Training meeting expenses	0	0	0	0	55
	Bursaries - Worship Study Course	420	0	0	420	0
	Independent examiner	828	0	0	828	816
	Honorariums	600	0	0	600	600
	Postage & stationery	118	0	0	118	121
	The Inquirer - Grant	0	0	0	0	0
	Society of St Francis (2020 Retreat)	1,425	0	0	1,425	0
		£30,301	£0	£0	£30,301	£16,800

8	Other				2021	2020
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Bank charges	115	0	0	115	60
	Annual meeting gifts	0	0	0	0	0
	M Savory - WS Course (contra)	50	0	0	50	0
	Bridgwater grant (Ilminster Fund)	0	0	0	0	5,000
		£165	£0	£0	£165	£5,060

9 Staff costs

The charity had no paid employees. Total expenses reimbursed to council members in the year was £217 (2020 - £237). Honorariums were paid to the secretary amounting to £300 (2020 - £300), and to the treasurer amounting to £300 (2020 - £300).

10 Investments

	2021
Historical Cost at 31.12.2021	£526,746
Market Value at 31.12.2021	£924,551

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

11	CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020				
	Bank Overdraft	0	5,341				
	Accruals	828	816				
		£828	£6,157				
12	Analysis of fund balances between the net assets						
		Unrestricted	Designated	Endowment	Total		
	Fixed Assets	119,584	474,147	330,820	924,551		
	Current Assets	62,487	284,880	0	347,367		
	Current Liabilities	-828	0	0	-828		
		£181,243	£759,027	£330,820	£1,271,090		
13	Movement in funds						
		Brought Forward	Income	Revenue Expenditure	Realised/ Unrealised Gains	Transfers	Carried Forward
	Unrestricted Funds						
	General Funds	187,242	7,404	-30,466	7,511	9,551	181,242
	Designated Funds						
	<i>Trowbridge Fund</i>	328,527	0	0	17,394	0	345,921
	<i>Ilminster Fund</i>	21,563	1,142	0	2,832	0	25,537
	<i>Yeovil Fund</i>	314,034	74,372	0	-836	0	387,570
		£851,366	£82,918	(£30,466)	£26,901	£9,551	£940,270
	Endowment Funds						
	Cowl Street Fund	2,747	148	0	367	-148	3,114
	Crediton/Christchurch/Colyton Chapel Funds	6,064	199	0	815	-199	6,879
	B&FUA Investments						
	- Bath Fund	69,937	2,313	0	8,258	-2,313	78,195
	- Exeter Fund	150,716	4,985	0	17,795	-4,985	168,511
	Shepton Mallet Cowl Street Chapel Fund	8,790	258	0	1,246	-258	10,036
	Crediton Ministers Fund	56,123	1,648	0	7,962	-1,648	64,085
		£294,377	£9,551	£0	£36,443	(£9,551)	£330,820
	Total	£1,145,743	£92,469	-£30,466	£63,344	£0	£1,271,090

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

14 DESIGNATED FUNDS**Trowbridge Fund**

Following the closure of the Chapel at Trowbridge, in September 2019 the Western Union was entrusted with the net proceeds of the sale of the bungalow in which the services and the congregational activities there had been held, on the understanding that this money was to be used primarily to support Unitarianism within Trowbridge and its surrounding area.

Ilminster Fund

Following closure of the Ilminster Trust in late 2019, the Western Union received some assets which were allocated to the Western Union on the understanding that they would be used primarily to support Unitarian chapels and churches in Somerset.

Yeovil Fund

In late September 2020, the Western Union was entrusted with the care of the funds resulting from the closure of the former Yeovil Trust and the sale of its property. The wishes of the former trustees at Yeovil are that this money should be used primarily to support Unitarianism within the County of Somerset, and thereafter within the District.

15 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year ended 31 December 2021.

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 251033

Accounts

**COUNCIL OF THE WESTERN UNION
OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2020

Charity No: 251033

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**CONTENTS**

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Notes to the Accounts	9 - 13

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees present their report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the Charity is the encouragement and support of its constituent congregations in the promotion of religion in spirit and in truth.

Achievements and Performance

The Western Union Council could not meet during the year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, Council gave powers to the Executive Committee to conduct all routine business, with the proviso that financial decisions would be referred to Council Members for approval, and that regular updates would be issued for information purposes.

Investments were reviewed with the majority of the portfolio placed in ethical investments. These included the sum of money received from the sale of the Trowbridge Meeting House, which is managed on behalf of the Trowbridge Fellowship by the Western Union.

Council approved the establishment of a 'Covid Fund' to assist those congregations which were placed in financial difficulty because of loss of revenue due to closure (balanced against cost savings) if those losses could not be covered from the congregation's own reserves. The first 'Covid Grants' would be awarded in 2021.

The following maintenance grants to congregations for pulpit supplies or ministry for 2020 were approved:

Bridgwater	£1,375
Taunton	£400
Cullompton	£2,750
Plymouth	£2,750
Bristol	£7,500
TOTAL	£14,775

Council approved the same sums for these congregations for 2021.

Financial review

The trustees consider the level of funds held to be sufficient to ensure the continued operation of the Trust. At 31 December 2020, cash in current bank accounts and on deposit with the bank named on page 5 amounted to £375,839.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under number 251033. The charity operates under a constitution ratified in May 2000.

Risk Management

The trustees continuously monitor the risks to which the Trust may be exposed and are satisfied that sufficient controls are in place to deal with any matters that might arise as a result of thereof.

Public Benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Reference and Administrative Details

The Trustees of the Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches are the members of the Western Union Council. During the year to 31 December 2020 they were:

Edgar Mihas*	President
Sheila Evans*	Vice President
Kay Millard*	Secretary
Bob Goddard*	Treasurer
Elizabeth Harley*	Religious Education and Youth Officer

And also, the following representatives (and named deputies in parentheses) appointed to Council by their congregations:

Bath	Kay Millard*	(Tim Powell)
Bridgwater	Patricia Fieldhouse	(Bernice Lashbrook*)
Bridport	Roger Lake	(Angelica Kennard)
Bristol Frenchay	Deana Stone-Pearce	
Bristol UMB	Susan Wildman	
Cirencester	Helen Parsons	(Kath Ryder*)
Crewkerne	Gerald Witcher	
Cullompton	Linda McCarthy	
Plymouth	Sheila Evans	
Sidmouth	Robert Crick	
Taunton	Jay Waite	
Torquay	Edgar Mihas	(Robert Wood)
Trowbridge	Barbara Smith	

NOTE: No Council Member may exercise more than one vote.

Honorary Members:

Eleanor Dixon
 Frank Butler
 Arthur Brown
 Kath Ryder
 Bernard Omar (since deceased)

In addition, the following people by reason of their roles or functions were entitled to attend the meetings of the Western Union Council as non-voting members:

Revd. John Harley	Minister
Revd. Lindy Latham	Minister (retired)
Revd. Elizabeth Birtles	Minister (retired)
Revd. Linda Phillips	Minister (Pastoral Oversight)
Revd. Kate Whyman	Minister
Revd. Michael Dadson	Minister
Dr. Roger Booth	Lay Pastor (retired)
Eleanor Dixon	Lay Pastor (retired)
Frances Pitt	Lay Leader

*Those marked with an asterisk are currently members of the Executive Committee.

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity (continued)

Charity Name: The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Charity registration number: 251033

Registered Office: 26 Fountain Court
West End
Westbury
BA13 3JY

Principal Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd
PO Box 289
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

Independent Examiner: D C Cox FCA, Harwood, Lane & Co
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Units 1 - 4 Crossley Farm Business Centre
Swan Lane
Winterbourne
Bristol
BS36 1RH

Independent Examiner

D C Cox FCA of Harwood, Lane & Co was re-appointed as the Charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed his willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf.

Edgar Mihas
President
Date:

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 7 - 14.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 the seeking of explanations from you as 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.

Independent examiner's statement

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Name of principal:

David Cox

Name of firm:

Harwood, Lane & Co Chartered Accountants

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCA (ICAEW)

Address:

Units 1 - 4
Crossley Farm Business Centre
Swan Lane
Winterbourne
BRISTOL BS36 1RH

Date:

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Endowment	2020 Total	2019 Total
INCOME						
Income from donations & legacies	2	1,248	0	0	1,248	1,292
Investment income	3	4,877	1,033	10,961	16,871	17,758
Separate material item of income	4	0	314,034	0	314,034	321,104
Other	5	282	0	0	282	327
Total Income		6,407	315,067	10,961	332,435	340,481
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on raising funds	6	0	0	0	0	150
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	16,800	0	0	16,800	20,475
Other	8	60	5,000	0	5,060	3,084
Total Expenditure		16,860	5,000	0	21,860	23,709
Other Recognised Gains						
Gain/(losses) on Investments						
Unrealised		-6,054	10,338	-3,275	1,009	56,024
Realised		0	0	-326	-326	0
		-6,054	10,338	-3,601	683	56,024
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		-16,507	320,405	7,360	311,258	372,796
Gross transfers between funds		10,960	1	-10,961	0	0
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total Funds Brought Forward	13	192,789	343,718	297,978	834,485	461,689
Total Funds Carried Forward	13	£187,242	£664,124	£294,377	£1,145,743	£834,485

Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed in the two reported financial years.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
FIXED ASSETS			
Fixed Asset Investments	10	705,418	440,465
		705,418	440,465
CURRENT ASSETS			
Current Asset Investments		49,572	49,161
Cash Held in Investment Accounts		15,730	0
Cash at Bank and in Hand		381,180	345,935
		446,482	395,096
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	11	-6,157	-1,076
		440,325	394,020
Net current assets		440,325	394,020
Total Assets less Total Liabilities	12	£1,145,743	£834,485
Capital			
Unrestricted Income Funds	13	851,366	536,507
Endowment Income Funds	13	294,377	297,978
		£1,145,743	£834,485

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf.

Edgar Mihas
President
Date:

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Income recognition

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

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Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1.3 Expenditure recognition

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 the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

1.4 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

2 Income from donations and legacies

				2020	2019
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
Donations and gifts	4	0	0	4	40
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	34
Legacies	12	0	0	12	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	50
Membership subscriptions	1,232	0	0	1,232	1,168
	£1,248	£0	£0	£1,248	£1,292

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3	Investment Income				2020	2019
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Interest Income	990	0	0	990	1,135
	Dividend Income	3,887	1,033	2,429	7,349	7,510
	B&FUA - Bath	0	0	2,704	2,704	2,888
	- Exeter	0	0	5,828	5,828	6,225
		£4,877	£1,033	£10,961	£16,871	£17,758
4	Separate material item of income				2020	2019
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Trowbridge Unitarians	0	0	0	0	316,745
	Ilminster Trust	0	0	0	0	4,359
	Yeovil Trust	0	314,034	0	314,034	0
		£0	£314,034	£0	£314,034	£321,104
5	Other				2020	2019
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	President's Honorarium (refund)	0	0	0	0	300
	GA Booking Fee (refund)	272	0	0	272	0
	Miscellaneous	10	0	0	10	15
	Coins cashed to account (contra)	0	0	0	0	12
		£282	£0	£0	£282	£327
6	Expenditure on raising funds				2020	2019
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Donations	0	0	0	0	150
		£0	£0	£0	£0	£150

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

7	Expenditure on charitable activities				2020	2019
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Grants - Taunton	500	0	0	500	400
	- Cullompton	2,750	0	0	2,750	2,500
	- Bristol Group	7,500	0	0	7,500	7,500
	- Plymouth	2,750	0	0	2,750	2,500
	- Bridgwater	1,375	0	0	1,375	1,000
	Travelling expenses	61	0	0	61	1,150
	Premises hire	0	0	0	0	170
	Annual meeting	0	0	0	0	519
	GA booking fee & expenses	272	0	0	272	347
	WUCDO expenses	0	0	0	0	120
	Training meeting expenses	55	0	0	55	0
	Development officer fees & expenses	0	0	0	0	2,133
	Independent examiner	816	0	0	816	804
	Honorariums	600	0	0	600	900
	Postage & stationery	121	0	0	121	132
	The Inquirer - Grant	0	0	0	0	100
	Society of St Francis (2020 Retreat)	0	0	0	0	200
		£16,800	£0	£0	£16,800	£20,475

8	Other				2020	2019
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Bank charges	60	0	0	60	60
	Coins cashed to account (contra)	0	0	0	0	12
	Annual meeting gifts	0	0	0	0	12
	Trowbridge Fellowship (seed fund)	0	0	0	0	3,000
	Bridgwater grant (Ilminster Fund)	0	5,000	0	5,000	0
		£60	£5,000	£0	£5,060	£3,084

9 Staff costs

The charity had no paid employees. Total expenses reimbursed to council members in the year was £237 (2019 - £1,132). Honorariums were paid to the secretary amounting to £300 (2019 - £300), to the treasurer amounting to £300 (2019 - £300), and to the Religious Education Coordinator amounting to £0 (2019 - £300).

10 Investments

	2020
Historical Cost at 31.12.2020	£370,957
Market Value at 31.12.2020	£705,418

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11	CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	2020				2019	
	Bank Overdraft	5,341				272	
	Accruals	816				804	
		£6,157				£1,076	
12	Analysis of fund balances between the net assets						
		Unrestricted	Designated	Endowment	Total		
	Fixed Assets	110,818	300,223	294,377	705,418		
	Current Assets	82,581	363,901	0	446,482		
	Current Liabilities	-6,157	0	0	-6,157		
		£187,242	£664,124	£294,377	£1,145,743		
13	Movement in funds						
		Brought Forward	Income	Revenue Expenditure	Realised/ Unrealised Gains	Transfers	Carried Forward
	Unrestricted Funds						
	General Funds	192,789	6,407	-16,860	-6,054	10,960	187,242
	Designated Funds						
	<i>Trowbridge Fund</i>	313,745	0	0	14,782	0	328,527
	<i>Ilminster Fund</i>	29,973	1,033	-5,000	-4,444	1	21,563
	<i>Yeovil Fund</i>	0	314,034	0	0	0	314,034
		£536,507	£321,474	(£21,860)	£4,284	£10,961	£851,366
	Endowment Funds						
	Cowl Street Fund	2,625	340	0	122	-340	2,747
	Crediton/Christchurch/ Colyton Chapel Funds	6,965	220	0	-901	-220	6,064
	B&FUA Investments						
	- Bath Fund	72,068	2,704	0	-2,131	-2,704	69,937
	- Exeter Fund	155,309	5,828	0	-4,593	-5,828	150,716
	Shepton Mallet Cowl Street Chapel Fund	8,261	253	0	529	-253	8,790
	Crediton Ministers Fund	52,750	1,616	0	3,373	-1,616	56,123
		£297,978	£10,961	£0	(£3,601)	(£10,961)	£294,377
	Total	£834,485	£332,435	-£21,860	£683	£0	£1,145,743

THE WESTERN UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

14 DESIGNATED FUNDS**Trowbridge Fund**

Following the closure of the Chapel at Trowbridge, in September 2019 the Western Union was entrusted with the net proceeds of the sale of the bungalow in which the services and the congregational activities there had been held, on the understanding that this money was to be used primarily to support Unitarianism within Trowbridge and its surrounding area.

Ilminster Fund

Following closure of the Ilminster Trust in late 2019, the Western Union received some assets which were allocated to the Western Union on the understanding that they would be used primarily to support Unitarian chapels and churches in Somerset.

Yeovil Fund

In late September 2020, the Western Union was entrusted with the care of the funds resulting from the closure of the former Yeovil Trust and the sale of its property. The wishes of the former trustees at Yeovil are that this money should be used primarily to support Unitarianism within the County of Somerset, and thereafter within the District.

15 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year ended 31 December 2020.