
**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2023

A company limited by guarantee

Company Number 1029607

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**

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MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES INCORPORATED

Legal and Administrative information

as at 31 December 2023

Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 3rd November 1971. It is registered as a charity (no. 503753). It was granted Trust Corporation status on 18th January 1973.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its Articles of Association.

Directors/Trustees

The following served as directors from 1 January 2022 (or from date of appointment) to the date of this report:

Geoffrey Levermore
Vince McCully
Laura Mary Dobson
Jeffrey Gould
Rev. Christopher Cody Coyne
Mark Pearce
Rev. Daniel Crosby

The directors are those members of the parallel unincorporated association who are also members of the company.

Registered Office

Cross Street Unitarian Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester, M2 1NL

Bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Solicitors

Weightmans LLP, Pall Mall Court, 61-67 King Street, Manchester, M2 4PD

Independent Examiner

Jeremy Bostock of Thompson Wright (Hale) Limited, Chartered Accountants, Spring Court, Spring Road, Hale, Cheshire WA14 2UQ

Investment Manager

Newton Investment Management Limited,
Mellon Financial Centre, 160 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4LA

MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES INCORPORATED

Report of the Directors/Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023

Report of the Directors/Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2023

The directors present their report, with the financial statements of the company, for the year ended 31st December 2023.

1. Structure and objects of the company and its constituent trusts.

The company, which is limited by guarantee, whose registered number under the Companies Acts is 1029607, administers and accounts as sole trustee for four charities:

General Fund. (Charity Commission number 503753).

Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund. (Charity Commission number 1032203)

Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund. (Charity Commission number 253233)

Leech Fund.

By virtue of its status as a Trust Corporation, it acts as sole trustee of seven churches in the Manchester District; of the Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire; it is custodian trustee for another church, and with other trustees is a trustee of two further churches.

2. Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees take into account the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and believe that the activities of the Trusts are in line with that guidance

3. Origin and objects of the funds

(a) The General Fund is derived from legacies, sale of Unitarian properties in the Manchester District and other funds which have been vested in it.

(b) The Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund was created by the amalgamation of seven existing charities, the assets arising on the closure of a church, a grant from the Trustees of Flagg Chapel and the consideration for the release of a covenant on land formerly belonging to Swinton Church

The clear income from both these funds is to be applied "towards the upkeep, repair and improvement of churches whose congregations are members of the Manchester District Association, and in and towards the maintenance of services and otherwise furthering the religious, educational and charitable work of the Association".

(c) The object of the Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund is "the diffusion of religious and other elevating influences, by Ministry among the poor in Manchester". In the 19th century the Society employed a missionary and set up schools. Nowadays grants are made to charities that operate in deprived parts of Greater Manchester.

(d) The Leech Fund was set up for the benefit of Ministers in the counties of Northumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire. In practice, it makes grants to ministers and students for the provision of books.

The company invests the financial assets of these Funds in stock exchange securities and deposits at interest.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES INCORPORATED

Report of the Directors/Trustees - continued

for the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Organisational and decision-making structure

The Executive Committee consists of the President, Treasurer, General Secretary and up to ten other members. Members other than the officers serve for three years. They are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Unincorporated Association and meet four times a year, to decide policy, receive reports, and authorise grants. All are unpaid.

The Company is associated with twelve Unitarian churches in the Manchester area which send delegates, two per church plus its minister, to meetings of the parallel Unincorporated Association which also meets four times a year. That body, to which the Executive Committee reports, discusses matters of general interest and aims to support the constituent churches in their religious and social activities. It publishes a quarterly magazine, The Unitarian, which is available as a pdf on their website, www.unitariansmda.org.uk

5. Association with related parties, charities etc.

The charity is associated with the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, which is the national body, in the United Kingdom, for Unitarians. It is not financially connected. The Association is also represented on Manchester Council of Christians and Jews, and the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for East Cheshire and Manchester.

6. Review of activities

- (a) The General Fund provided for the administration costs and independent examination of the Company. The Fund generated net outgoing resources of £53,007 (2022—outgoing resources £26,851). After the unrealised increase in the value of investment assets of £35,648, (2022 - decrease £61,095), the value of the Fund decreased by £17,359 (2022 – decrease £87,946) in the year.
- (b) The Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund assisted, to the extent of £21,000 (2022 - £24,000), in the provision of support for the stipends of four ministers. Grants and donations amounted to £44,286 (2022 - £30,304). Expenditure in the year exceeded income by £20,416 (2022 –excess of expenditure £33,420). After taking account of the unrealised gain on investment assets of £50,307 (2022 – loss £86,215) the Fund increased in value by £29,891 (2022 – decrease £119,635) in the year.
- (c) The Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund provided grants of £14,000 (2022 - £10,200) to charities which assist and advise persons resident in deprived parts of the City. Expenditure exceeded income by £3,680 (2022 - excess of expenditure of £1,171). The unrealised gain in the value of investment assets amounted to £21,748 (2022 – loss £37,273) which resulted in an increased value of the Fund of £18,068 (2022 – decrease £38,444).
- (d) The Leech Fund made grants of £57 in the year (2022 - £225). There was a net surplus of £205 (2022 - surplus of £4). There was an unrealised gain in the value of investment assets of £552 (2022 -loss £946), leading to a decrease in the Fund of £757 (2022 - decrease £942).
- (e) The Association does not undertake fund raising activities.

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**

Report of the Trustees - continued

for the year ended 31 December 2023

7. Statement concerning major risks

The main risk to the assets of the charity derives from the uncertain world economic situation and any adverse effect this could have on the capital value of its investments and of the income derived from them.

8. Grant-making policy

The General Fund makes grants for building improvements, surveys of its constituent churches and support of special initiatives regarding the finance of ministry.

The Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund makes grants in aid of the stipends of ministers and for the repair and maintenance of church buildings. Donations are made, mainly to national Unitarian bodies. Grants are considered by the executive committee on their merits, and within the income of the Fund, taking one year with another.

Grants from the Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund are recommended by the council committee. Its members actively monitor and visit the charities to which the grants are made. Grants from this Fund are intended to improve the lot of the poorer and more disadvantaged residents of Greater Manchester.

The Leech Fund makes grants to students or ministers for the purchase of books.

9. Directors' responsibility for financial statements

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding of the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

10. Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Jeremy Bostock of Thompson Wright (Hale) Limited, Chartered Accountants, will be proposed for reappointment at the annual general meeting.

On behalf of the board,

March 2024

**Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Incorporated**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Members
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report on the Financial Statements of the company for the year ended 31st December 2023. The statements include the financial activities of the following funds:

General Fund	Charity Number 0503753
Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund	Charity Number 1032203
Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund	Charity Number 0253233

Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 seeking 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement.

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 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.

Jeremy Bostock BA(Hons) BFP FCA
Thompson Wright (Hale) Limited
Chartered Accountants
Spring Court
Spring Road
Hale
Cheshire

Date:

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**

Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	General Fund	MUC Fund	MDMS Fund	Leech Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources							
(Loss) on sale of shares		(8,768)	-	-	-	(8,768)	(4,833)
Interest received		79				79	55
Subscriptions from member churches		300	-	-	-	300	300
Investment Income	5	16,915	23,870	10,320	262	51,367	44,941
Total Incoming Resources		8,526	23,870	10,320	262	42,978	40,463
Resources Expended							
Grants		-	44,286	14,000	57	58,343	64,729
Administration		61,533	-	-	-	61,533	37,172
Total Resources Expended		61,533	44,286	14,000	57	119,876	101,901
Net Incoming Resources	6	(53,007)	(20,416)	(3,680)	205	(76,898)	(61,438)
(Decrease)/Increase in value of Investment		35,648	50,307	21,748	552	108,255	(185,529)
Net Movement in Funds		(17,359)	29,891	18,068	757	31,357	(246,967)
Funds 1st January 2023		767,670	1,293,882	387,296	10,806	2,459,654	2,706,621
Funds 31st December 2023		750,311	1,323,773	405,364	11,563	2,491,011	2,459,654

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets - Investment Land		-	-
Investments	2	2,428,261	2,378,774
Loans	3	19,980	30,300
		<u>2,448,241</u>	<u>2,409,074</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank		48,863	56,976
Less Liabilities falling due within one year	4	(6,093)	(6,396)
Net current assets		<u>42,770</u>	<u>50,580</u>
Total net assets		<u>2,491,011</u>	<u>2,459,654</u>
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund		750,311	767,670
Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund		1,323,773	1,293,882
Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund		405,364	387,296
Leech Fund		11,563	10,806
		<u>2,491,011</u>	<u>2,459,654</u>

For the year ended 31st December 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to (1) accounting records and (2) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of and its profit and loss for the financial year and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to small companies' regime.

These accounts were approved by the Directors on March 2024 and were signed on their behalf by:

– Director
– Director

MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES INCORPORATED

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

(a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed asset investments at market value, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", the Companies Act 2006 and follow the recommendations in Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2016.

(b) Listed investments are included in the balance sheet at their middle market value at the accounting date.

(c) Grants and donations receivable and payable are accounted for when received or paid by the charity.

(d) Dividends and interest on securities and bank deposits are brought into account when received by the charity or its investment manager.

2. Investments

(a) Quoted investments.	2023 £	2022 £
Opening balance	2,378,774	2,619,137
Add acquisitions in the year, at cost	-	-
Less sales receipts in year	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
	2,328,774	2,569,137
Add realised profit/ (loss) on Sales	<u>(8,768)</u>	<u>(4,833)</u>
	2,320,006	2,564,304
Add Increase in value of investment	<u>108,255</u>	<u>(185,530)</u>
Closing balance	<u>£2,428,261</u>	<u>£2,378,774</u>

3. Unsecured loans

	Oldham £	Cross Street Chapel £
Balance outstanding at 1 st January 2023	21,300	9,000
<u>New loan</u>	-	10,000
<u>Add interest</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	21,300	19,000
<u>Less repayments</u>	<u>(1,320)</u>	<u>(19,000)</u>
Balance outstanding at 31 st December 2023	<u>£19,980</u>	£-

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements (Continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Liabilities falling due within one year.

	2022 £	2022 £
General Creditors	3,213	3,213
Independent Examiner's fee	<u>2,880</u>	<u>2,785</u>
	<u>£6,093</u>	<u>£6,396</u>

5. Investment Income

	Income from Investments £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
General Fund	16,915	16,915	14,799
MUC Fund	23,870	23,870	20,884
MDMS Fund	10,320	10,320	9,029
Leech Fund	<u>262</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>229</u>
	<u>£51,367</u>	<u>£51,367</u>	<u>£44,941</u>

6. Net Incoming Resources for the year are stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	-	-
Management committee remuneration	-	-
Independent examiner's fee.	2,880	2,785

7. Staff costs and numbers

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2022 - 1).

8. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

9. Analysis of net assets between funds:

	General Fund £	MUC Fund £	MDMS Fund £	Leech Fund £	Total Funds £
Debtors	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	667,762	1,363,829	386,978	9,692	2,428,261
Loans	19,980	-	-	-	19,980
Cash at bank	68,662	(40,056)	18,386	1,871	48,863
Current liabilities	(6,093)	-	-	-	(6,093)
	<u>£750,311</u>	<u>£1,323,773</u>	<u>£405,364</u>	<u>£11,563</u>	<u>£2,491,011</u>

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**

Notes forming part of the financial statements (Continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Portfolio Movements in the twelve months to 31st December 2023

Stock	Quantity 31.12.23	Cost Value £	Market Value 31.12.22 £	Market Value 31.12.23 £	(Decrease)/ Increase in value £
Equities					
Sustainable Real Return Fund	325,275	356,710	383,807	390,557	6,750
Global Income Fund Newton	100,833	<u>150,000</u>	<u>294,545</u>	<u>298,649</u>	<u>4,104</u>
		<u>506,710</u>	<u>678,352</u>	<u>689,206</u>	<u>10,854</u>
Overseas					
Growth and Income Fund	712,769	560,233	1,113,772	1,179,489	65,717
SRI Fund for Charities	295,550	<u>287,237</u>	<u>527,882</u>	<u>559,566</u>	<u>31,684</u>
		<u>847,470</u>	<u>1,641,654</u>	<u>1,739,055</u>	<u>97,401</u>
Total Investments		<u>1,354,180</u>	<u>2,320,006</u>	<u>2,428,261</u>	<u>108,255</u>

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**

Manchester Domestic Mission Grants and Subscriptions from member churches

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Manchester Domestic Mission Grants	2023	2022
	£	£
Barlow Moor Community Assoc.	2,000	1,700
Oldham Unity Destitution	2,000	1,700
River Manchester	-	1,700
Tree of Life Centre Wythenshawe	2,000	1,700
Oldham UK Education and Faith Foundation	2,000	1,700
Coffee 4 Craig	2,000	1,700
Emmeline's Pantry	2,000	-
Time Out Group NW	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>14,000</u>	<u>10,200</u>
Subscriptions from Member Churches		
Brook Street	200	200
Chorlton	100	100
Knutsford	-	-
Oldham	-	-
	<u>300</u>	<u>320</u>

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**

Stipend and Other Grants

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stipend Grants		
Knutsford	-	1,500
Monton	6,000	6,000
Macclesfield	-	1,500
Urmston	5,000	5,000
Chorlton	5,000	5,000
Oldham	5,000	5,000
	21,000	24,000
Other Grants (incl Covid 19 Grants)		
Monton	1,115	1,500
Unitarian College	-	1,250
Chorlton	6,000	8,352
Chorlton Transformers	7,096	-
Oldham	2,000	1,500
Knutsford	2,000	1,500
Urmston	2,000	2,280
Dunham Road	2,000	1,500
Norcliffe	3,825	1,500
Rivington	2,000	1,500
Dean Row	2,780	1,500
Hale	2,000	1,500
Cross Street Chapel	2,000	-
Hale Quinquennial	-	1,326
Brookfield Chapel	2,000	-
Knutsford Student Placement	4,000	-
Structural survey	-	2,066
Miscellaneous	570	530
Macclesfield	2,900	2,500
	44,286	30,304
Total Congregational Fund Grants	65,286	54,304
Donations	-	-
Leech Fund		
Book grant	57	225
	-	-
Total grants and donations	65,343	54,529