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

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**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 2024

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### Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1971. It is registered as a charity (no. 503753). It was granted Trust Corporation status on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2024 (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

David Allen of Allen Mills Howard Limited, Chartered Accountants, Lewis House, 56 Manchester Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4PJ

### 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 2024

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### Report of the Directors/Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2024

The directors present their report, with the financial statements of the company, for the year ended 31st December 2024.

#### 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 2024

### 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](http://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 £21,105 (2023—outgoing resources £53,007). After the unrealised increase in the value of investment assets of £46,193, (2023 - increase £35,648), the value of the Fund increased by £25,088 (2023 – decrease £17,359) in the year.
- (b) The Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund assisted, to the extent of £29,037 (2023 - £21,000), in the provision of support for the stipends of five ministers. Grants and donations amounted to £33,265 (2023 - £44,286). Expenditure in the year exceeded income by £38,708 (2023 –excess of expenditure £20,416). After taking account of the unrealised gain on investment assets of £65,188 (2023 – gain £50,307) the Fund increased in value by £26,480 (2023 – increase £29,891) in the year.
- (c) The Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund provided grants of £10,000 (2023 - £14,000) to charities which assist and advise persons resident in deprived parts of the City. Income exceeded expenditure by £200 (2023 - excess of expenditure of £3,680). The unrealised gain in the value of investment assets amounted to £28,182 (2022 – gain £21,748) which resulted in an increased value of the Fund of £28,382 (2023 – increase £18,068).
- (d) The Leech Fund made grants of £558 in the year (2023 - £57). There was a net deficit of £329 (2023 - surplus of £205). There was an unrealised gain in the value of investment assets of £715 (2023 -gain £552), leading to a increase in the Fund of £386 (2023 - increase £757).
- (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 2024**

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**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, David Allen of Allen Mills Howard Limited, Chartered Accountants, will be proposed for appointment at the annual general meeting.

On behalf of the board,

October 2025

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

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Members  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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I report on the Financial Statements of the company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. 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.

David Allen FCA FCCA  
Allen Mills Howard Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
Lewis House  
56 Manchester Road  
Altrincham  
Cheshire, WA14 4PJ

Date:

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

**Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account)**

**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Note	General Fund	MUC Fund	MDMS Fund	Leech Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>							
Gain(Loss) on sale of shares		3,610	-	-	-	3,610	(8,768)
Interest received		90				90	79
Subscriptions from member churches		950	-	-	-	950	300
Investment Income	5	16,718	23,594	10,200	259	50,771	51,367
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>21,368</b>	<b>23,594</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>55,421</b>	<b>42,978</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>							
Grants and Stipends		-	62,302	10,000	588	72,890	79,343
Administration		42,473	-	-	-	42,473	40,533
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>42,473</b>	<b>62,302</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>115,363</b>	<b>119,876</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	6	<b>(21,105)</b>	<b>(38,708)</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>(329)</b>	<b>(59,942)</b>	<b>(76,898)</b>
<b>(Decrease)/Increase in value of Investment</b>		<b>46,193</b>	<b>65,188</b>	<b>28,182</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>140,278</b>	<b>108,255</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>25,088</b>	<b>26,480</b>	<b>28,382</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>80,336</b>	<b>31,357</b>
<b>Funds 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b>		<b>750,311</b>	<b>1,323,773</b>	<b>405,364</b>	<b>11,563</b>	<b>2,491,011</b>	<b>2,459,654</b>
<b>Funds 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</b>		<b>775,399</b>	<b>1,350,253</b>	<b>433,746</b>	<b>11,949</b>	<b>2,571,347</b>	<b>2,491,011</b>

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN  
CHURCHES INCORPORATED**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**at 31 December 2024**

	<u>Notes</u>	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Investments	2	2,522,148	2,428,261
Loans	3	18,780	19,980
		<u>2,540,928</u>	<u>2,448,241</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank		36,512	48,863
Less Liabilities falling due within one year	4	(6,093)	(6,093)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>30,419</u>	<u>42,770</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>2,571,347</u>	<u>2,491,011</u>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Fund		775,399	750,311
Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund		1,350,253	1,323,773
Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund		433,746	405,364
Leech Fund		11,949	11,563
		<u>2,571,347</u>	<u>2,491,011</u>

For the year ended 31st December 2024 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 October 2025 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 2024**

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**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.	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance	2,428,261	2,378,774
Add acquisitions in the year, at cost	-	-
Less sales receipts in year	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
	2,378,261	2,328,774
Add realised profit/ (loss) on Sales	<u>3,610</u>	<u>(8,768)</u>
	2,381,871	2,320,006
Add Increase in value of investment	<u>140,277</u>	<u>108,255</u>
Closing balance	<u>£2,522,148</u>	<u>£2,428,261</u>

**3. Unsecured loans**

	Oldham
	£
Balance outstanding at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	19,980
Less repayments	<u>(1,200)</u>
Balance outstanding at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	<u>£18,780</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 2024**

<b>4. Liabilities falling due within one year.</b>	2024	2023
	£	£
General Creditors	3,213	3,213
Independent Examiner's fee	<u>2,880</u>	<u>2,880</u>
	<u>£6,093</u>	<u>£6,093</u>

**5. Investment Income**

	Income from Investments £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
General Fund	16,718	16,718	16,915
MUC Fund	23,594	23,594	23,870
MDMS Fund	10,200	10,200	10,320
Leech Fund	<u>259</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>262</u>
	<u>£50,771</u>	<u>£50,771</u>	<u>£51,367</u>

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	-	-
Management committee remuneration	-	-
Independent examiner's fee.	2,880	2,880

**7. Staff costs and numbers**

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2023 - 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	698,679	1,407,459	405,840	10,170	2,522,148
Loans	18,780	-	-	-	18,780
Cash at bank	64,033	(57,206)	27,906	1,779	36,512
Current liabilities	(6,093)	-	-	-	(6,093)
	<u>£775,399</u>	<u>£1,350,253</u>	<u>£433,746</u>	<u>£11,949</u>	<u>£2,571,347</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 2024**

**Portfolio Movements in the twelve months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

Stock	Quantity 31.12.24	Cost Value £	Market Value 31.12.23 £	Market Value 31.12.24 £	(Decrease)/ Increase in value £
Equities					
Sustainable Real Return Fund	284,112	310,320	344,167	356,760	12,593
Global Income Fund Newton	100,833	<u>150,000</u>	<u>298,649</u>	<u>312,624</u>	<u>13,975</u>
		<u>460,320</u>	<u>642,816</u>	<u>669,384</u>	<u>26,568</u>
Overseas					
Growth and Income Fund	712,769	560,233	1,179,489	1,263,525	84,036
SRI Fund for Charities	295,550	<u>287,237</u>	<u>559,565</u>	<u>589,239</u>	<u>29,674</u>
		<u>847,470</u>	<u>1,739,054</u>	<u>1,852,764</u>	<u>113,710</u>
Total Investments		<u>1,307,790</u>	<u>2,381,870</u>	<u>2,522,148</u>	<u>140,278</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 2024**

<b>Manchester Domestic Mission Grants</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Barlow Moor Community Assoc.	2,000	2,000
Oldham Unity Destitution	-	2,000
Contact	2,000	-
Tree of Life Centre Wythenshawe	2,000	2,000
Oldham UK Education and Faith Foundation	-	2,000
Coffee 4 Craig	2,000	2,000
Emmeline's Pantry	2,000	2,000
Time Out Group NW	-	<u>2,000</u>
	<b><u>10,000</u></b>	<b><u>14,000</u></b>
<b>Subscriptions from Member Churches</b>		
Brook Street	200	200
Chorlton	200	100
Dean Row	200	-
Dunham Road	100	-
Other	<u>250</u>	-
	<b><u>950</u></b>	<b><u>300</u></b>

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

**Stipend and Other Grants**

**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Stipend Grants</b>		
Knutsford	2,537	-
Monton	6,000	6,000
Macclesfield	-	-
Urmston	12,500	5,000
Chorlton	6,000	5,000
Oldham	2,000	5,000
	<b>29,037</b>	<b>21,000</b>
<b>Other Grants (incl Covid 19 Grants)</b>		
Monton (refund)	(5,500)	1,115
Ministers' Resilience Fund	10,000	-
Chorlton	9,672	6,000
Chorlton Transformers	-	7,096
Oldham	-	2,000
Knutsford	500	2,000
Urmston	6,000	2,000
Dunham Road	-	2,000
Norcliffe	-	3,825
Rivington	1,500	2,000
Dean Row	-	2,780
Hale	10,268	2,000
Cross Street Chapel	-	2,000
Cork	500	-
Brookfield Chapel	-	2,000
Knutsford Student Placement	-	4,000
Worship	325	-
Miscellaneous	-	570
Macclesfield	-	2,900
	<b>33,265</b>	<b>44,286</b>
<b>Total Congregational Fund Grants</b>	<b>62,302</b>	<b>65,286</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Leech Fund</b>		
Book grants	588	57
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total grants and donations</b>	<b>62,890</b>	<b>65,343</b>