The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

Administrative Information

The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, is a registered charity, number 1135083. The Church office is located within the Church. The contact details are: The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RZ; Tel. 01962 849559

The Trustees who served during 2025 were as follows:-

Minister: Revd Timothy Searle (Chair)

Others: Mr Stephen Barber
Revd Adrian Bulley
Dr John Lander
Mrs Jane Lawson
Dr Janet Messer
Mrs Johanna Pellatt
Mr Martin Ramsey

Structure, Governance and Management

The United Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in which the participating denominations are: The Methodist Church of Great Britain; and The United Reformed Church.

The United Church is an Unincorporated Association and governed by its Constitution, which was adopted on 9th December 2009, and amended on 19th February 2010 and 21st March 2010. The Constitution may be amended at either an Annual or Special Congregational Meeting. The Charity shall be administered and managed by a body of Trustees, consisting of:-

- Ex officio Trustees, being the minister of the LEP for the time being;
- 8 elected trustees elected at the Annual Church Meeting; and
- Not more than 2 co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees, until the next annual Church Meeting

Elected Trustees shall hold office from the end of the Annual Church Meeting at which they are elected until the end of the third such Meeting after their appointment and shall be eligible for re-election at that Meeting. There are currently no formal policies in place for the induction of Trustees.

The Church structure was changed in 2023 with the formation of Enabling Groups, and a Leadership Team that replaced the previous Church Council. The Leadership Team meets approximately every two to three months with a number of Enabling Groups covering day-to-day operations.

Grants to other charities and institutions are brought to a Church Meeting and agreed by that body.

Objectives and Activities: The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.
The purpose of the charity is to advance the Christian faith, primarily in the community of Winchester and surrounding areas, in accordance with its principles and practices. In achieving its purpose, it will engage in a range of activities either on its own or with others, including, but not restricted to:

- The celebration of public worship
- The teaching of the Christian faith
- Mission and Evangelism
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved

- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community including, but not restricted to, the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs, and
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas

This purpose was included in the Constitution that was approved by the Charity Commission.

The church seeks to ensure that its facilities and services are open and accessible to all, regardless of background. The trustees are satisfied that these activities demonstrate clear public benefit, both through the promotion of spiritual well-being and through tangible support for individuals and the local community.

Review of the activities and achievements

A worship service, open to the public, is normally held at 10.30 each Sunday. An additional service at 09.00 on Sunday mornings is held occasionally, along with a weekday service on Wednesdays. Live streaming of 10.30 services is in place so that communal worship is accessible to those who are housebound, working or otherwise unable to attend.

The membership of the Church on 31 December 2025 was 124. The change during the year was due to deaths and transfers, offset by the admission of new members.

As well as teaching the Christian faith, including mission and evangelism, significant public events and facilities are provided for the community during the year, examples being:-

(a) The coffee bar open Monday to Friday, providing cheap refreshments and a safe place of welcome
(b) An NHS operated baby clinic on Thursdays, accompanied by a church-provided play session for parents and babies
(c) Joint working with other churches in the area to provide a chaplaincy service to businesses in the Winchester City Centre
(d) "Meet and Greet" sessions every Saturday mornings for refugees, mostly from Ukraine and, occasionally, from Syria, Afghanistan and other countries. Hot drinks, other refreshments, and many social activities are provided for up to 50 people, mostly mothers with dependent children. The support is greatly appreciated.
(e) A variety of concerts and musical events as community outreach, particularly for young musicians.

Financial and other support for other charities in the UK and overseas continues; examples being:-

- The Winchester branch of MHA Communities provides support and friendship to old people living in their own homes across the Winchester district to help maintain independence, improve well-being, encourage inclusion and reduce isolation. The project includes coffee and chat, IT support, mindfulness sessions, art therapy and gentle exercise, all aimed at building confidence and encouraging attendees to reengage with their local community in a safe way, including regular exercise, singing and lunch groups as well as "at home" befriending visits. The church provides subsidised offices and activity space, as well as volunteers.
- Sending shoeboxes through Link to Hope for families and the elderly.
- Donations made to local charities with links to the church.
- Providing financial services to the "Winchester Churches Christmas Project" which donates Christmas presents chosen by individuals and families in need.
- Providing payroll services, contributing towards the costs of the Winchester City Chaplaincy, and holding funds on behalf of the chaplaincy.
- Provision of a concert grade piano for learners and musical groups
- Various charities and other organisations meet in the Church premises, some regularly and others on an ad hoc basis. The following are current regular users:-

Winchester Community Choir
Waynflete Singers
Winchester Music and Opera Society
Hampshire Music Service Youth Choirs and Wind Ensemble
NHS Southern Health Baby and Child Clinic
Winchester Learning Disability Service
Winchester Ukrainian Cultural Association

Financial Review

A Reserves Policy was approved by the December 2007 Church Meeting, reviewed in 2013 and again at the Meeting on 24th November 2019. A fundamental review of the Policy was undertaken and approved in 2023, setting out a general reserve of three months expenditure along with a building reserve for forecast expenditure outside normal maintenance. The reserve amounts are reviewed annually by the Church Meeting.

The routine annual expenditure of unrestricted funds in 2025 was £160,891 plus capital expenditure of £15,596 and total unrestricted funds income was £177,299. In addition, costs relating to employment of Winchester City Chaplaincy were transferred to the church unrestricted fund. Income from the coffee bar, after deduction of costs, were transferred to unrestricted funds. A net surplus in unrestricted funds of £13671 was achieved compared with £17,767 the previous year. The unrestricted total funds amount as at 31st December 2025 was £200,454. The slight reduction was due to agreed capital expenditure. A programme of capital expenditure to maintain the building and fittings is scheduled for the next few years.

This Annual Report, and the financial accounts for the year to 31 December 2025, were approved at the Church Meeting on 12 July 2026 and signed on behalf of the Trustees.

Janet Messer (Treasurer) on behalf of United Church, Winchester Trustees Date…..

Signed on behalf of United Church, Winchester by

…… Date…..

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

United Church Winchester	1135083

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	1-Jan-25	To	31-Dec-25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Meet & Greet	Flower Fund	Restricted - Easter Offering	Restricted - Christmas Project (separate account)	Restricted - Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy (separate account)	Designated fund - Coffee Bar (separate account)	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts									
Donations	93,900	1,465	899	207	5,679	-	-	102,150	89,056
Organisation donations	3,000	-	-	-	-	11,650	-	14,650	-
Premises hire	43,886	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,886	47,857
Coffee bar fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,751	13,751	13,500
Events and sales fundraising	3,663	-	-	-	-	-		3,663	100
Grants and legacies	3,184	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,184	16,610
Interest and Gift Aid	28,073	-	-	-		-	-	28,073	28,382
Gift Aid - Christmas Project	1,056	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,056	-
Refunds	537	-	-	-	-	-	-	537	6,758
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	177,299	1,465	899	207	5,679	11,650	13,751	210,950	202,263
A2 Asset and investment sales.									
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	177,299	1,465	899	207	5,679	11,650	13,751	210,950	202,263
A3 Payments									
Ministry (Methodist and URC assessment)	77,775	-	-	-	-	-	-	77,775	77,188
Mission (chaplaincy and charities)	4,392	1,050	-	227	7,249	-	-	12,918	4,750
Worship	5,715	-	842	-	-	-	-	6,557	5,455
Pastoral	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Fellowship	129	-	-	-	-	-	-	129	422
Administration (including staff)	6,666	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,666	7,105
Communication	1,993	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,993	3,063
Technology	2,089	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,089	1,606
Finance charges	156	-	-	-	-	-	-	156	102
Staff tax	4,909	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,909	1,419
Staff pension	2,276	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,276	1,924
Premises (cleaning and staff)	22,982	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,982	23,977
Utilities	13,381	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,381	14,394
Maintenance	6,201	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,201	9,683
Insurance	9,446	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,446	8,795

Manse maintenance	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	114
Fundraising costs	2,051	-	-	-	-	-	2,142	4,193	-
Chaplaincy running costs	-	-	-	-	-	19,317	-	19,317	-
Miscellaneous	656	-	-	-	-	-	-	656	2,480
Sub total	160,891	1,050	842	227	7,249	19,317	2,142	191,718	162,477
A4 Asset and investment purchases									
Capital	15,596	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,596	22,019
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	15,596	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,596	22,019
Total payments	176,487	1,050	842	227	7,249	19,317	2,142	207,314	184,496
Net of receipts/(payments)	812	415	57	(20)	(1,570)	(7,667)	11,609	3,636	17,767
A5 Transfers between funds	12,387	-	-	-	1,056	(3,443)	(10,000)	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	187,255	799	507	20	4,099	26,596	1,513	220,789	172,481
Cash funds this year end	200,454	1,214	564	-	3,585	15,486	3,122	224,425	190,248

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Cash Funds	Unrestricted funds	Meet & Greet	Flowers	Easter Offering	Christmas Project	Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy	Coffee Bar	Total funds
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
current a/c	4,009	1,214	564	-	3,585	15,486	3,122	27,980
savings	13,538	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,538
Central Finance Board	182,907	-	-	-	-	-	-	182,907
Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)	200,454	1,214	564	-	3,585	15,486	3,122	224,425
	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Audiovisual equipment	unrestricted	-	-
grand piano	unrestricted	-	-
furniture and fittings	unrestricted	-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JANET MESSER	12/07/26
Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JOHN LANDER	12/7/26

Independent Examiner's Report on the Account

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of **The United Church, Winchester.**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The United Church (the Trust) for the year ended **31 December 2025**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Alexia Mawdsley

Relevant professional qualification / membership of professional bodies (if any): N/A

Address: 2 Pilgrims Gate, Winchester, SO22 6RQ

Date: 29 June 2026