Registered Charity no. 1191594

Wyche Free Church

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31st December 2024

WYATT & CO
Chartered accountants
125 Main Street
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Leeds
LS25 1AF

Wyche Free Church

Year Ended 31st December 2024

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Wyche Free Church

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Legal and Administrative Information

Reference
The charity is called “Wyche Free Church”. The church is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Registered Charity Number	1191594
Registered Office	Jubilee Drive Upper Colwall Malvern WR13 6DQ
Trustees serving at the point of accounts signing	Margareth Brodie Christine Clarke Peter Goodbury Valerie Goodbury Roger Norris Brenda Norris
Primary Bankers	The Co-operative Bank Santander UK plc

Wyche Free Church

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their annual report for Wyche Free Church for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of Wyche Free Church are set out in the charity's constitution and include the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrines held by the church, the support of Christian mission in the United Kingdom and overseas, and outreach to the needs of the local community.

Regular public worship continued each Sunday throughout the year. Services included preaching, the public reading of Scripture, intercessory prayer and sung praise and were principally led by visiting preachers, with occasional assistance from members of the congregation. The New King James Version of the Bible and the Christian Hymns hymnbook continued to be used in public worship. Preaching fees and travelling expenses were provided where appropriate.

Although Sunday worship remained the church's principal public activity, the weekly Tuesday prayer meeting also continued to be central to the life of the church. These meetings provided an opportunity to pray for the future vision and ministry of the church, for those who were sick or experiencing particular needs, and for the wider Christian mission work supported by the church.

The church continued to take a particular interest in Christian mission and humanitarian work in the United Kingdom and overseas. Prayer and financial support were provided for a number of organisations and individuals, including:

- Caring for Life, based in Leeds, supporting people in vulnerable and difficult circumstances;
- Christian mission and humanitarian work undertaken by a family in Nepal;
- a teacher supporting missionary children in Chad;
- the Good News Hospital and associated Christian work in Mandritsara, Madagascar; and
- the Slavic Gospel Association, supporting churches and Christian ministry in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The church continued to maintain and operate its premises for worship and other charitable activities. During 2024 this included improvements to the lighting in the schoolroom and roof maintenance, together with the normal costs of heating, lighting, insurance and administration.

As in previous years, the church continued to benefit from the HMRC Gift Aid scheme and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

Significant developments and future ministry

The year 2024 represented an important stage in the church's longer-term plans following its conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2020 and the sale of The Manse and Kingsdown flats in 2022. The purpose of the property sale had been to strengthen the church's long-term financial position and, in particular, to help provide the resources needed to support stable pastoral ministry.

During the year the church engaged Progressive Strategic Solutions to advise on the investment of the funds arising from the property sale. Investment options were considered by the trustees and members and, following this process, the church agreed to invest £328,000 through AJ Bell Investcentre. The intention was that investment returns, together with the church's regular giving, would help support the future work and pastoral ministry of the church.

In June 2024 the church members met with Revd. Wayne O'Leary and his wife Iris to explore the possibility of Wayne becoming the church's part-time pastor. The church had known Wayne for many years and he was in the process of bringing his work with the Slavic Gospel Association to a close.

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Trustees' Annual Report

Following further consideration, Wayne accepted the church's call in September 2024, with a planned commencement date of 1 February 2025.

The trustees consider that stable pastoral ministry is important to the future sustainability and growth of the church. The developments during 2024 therefore represented a significant and hopeful transition for the fellowship as it looked towards a new period of more consistent pastoral leadership from 2025.

The trustees also recognised the need to address delays which had arisen in the church's historic administrative and financial affairs and to bring its accounts and statutory reporting up to date. Plans were therefore made to obtain appropriate professional support and strengthen the church's administrative arrangements.

Structure, governance and management

Wyche Free Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is governed by its constitution and church handbook, reflecting its affiliation with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.

During 2024 the church continued to have one elder and six charity trustees, all of whom were active members of the church. Peter Goodbury continued to serve as elder, secretary and treasurer. The trustees remained responsible for the overall governance and management of the charity, with day-to-day financial administration undertaken by the treasurer and major expenditure considered and agreed by the trustees.

The church maintained arrangements relating to safeguarding and risk management, supported by its safeguarding policy. The trustees also recognised the benefit of sharing administrative responsibilities more widely and hoped that, as the congregation developed, additional support from prospective deacons and other volunteers would become possible.

Volunteers

The church is dependent upon the voluntary contribution of its members and regular attendees. Volunteers assist with worship, administration, practical activities and the operation and maintenance of the church premises. The trustees are grateful for the time, commitment and support freely given by those involved in the life and work of the church.

Financial review

Total receipts for the year were £19,579 compared with £23,896 in 2023. Receipts comprised £15,755 of donations and Gift Aid, £300 of other receipts and refunds, and £3,524 of investment income.

Payments on the church's charitable activities were £13,502 compared with £14,332 in 2023 and principally related to missionary and charitable giving, the operation and maintenance of the church premises, and ministry, worship and administration. The church's normal annual receipts continued to be sufficient to meet its ordinary charitable and running costs during the year.

In addition, £328,000 was transferred during December 2024 to establish the church's investment portfolio. As this is treated as the purchase of an investment asset in receipts and payments accounts, total cash payments for the year were £341,502 and the charity recorded net cash payments of £321,923. This substantial movement does not represent an equivalent reduction in the charity's overall resources, but principally reflects the conversion of cash reserves into investments.

Cash funds reduced from £358,956 at 1 January 2024 to £37,033 at 31 December 2024. In addition, the accounts disclose the investment portfolio acquired during the year at £328,000.

During the year the Mission Support Fund received £2,311 of restricted donations, which were applied to the relevant missionary and charitable purposes during the year. There were therefore no restricted funds remaining at 31 December 2024.

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Trustees' Annual Report

Reserves and future plans

The charity's substantial financial resources principally reflect the proceeds arising from the sale of the flats in 2022 rather than the church's normal annual level of income. During 2024 a significant part of those cash resources was invested through AJ Bell Investcentre in accordance with the church's longer-term plans.

The trustees intend that these resources should continue to be applied in furtherance of the church's charitable purposes and, in particular, help provide the financial capacity to support the church's part-time pastor and wider ministry over the longer term.

The trustees continue to keep the charity's financial resources, investment arrangements and future plans under review. Taking account of the cash and investment resources held by the charity, the trustees consider that the charity has sufficient resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future.

This annual report was approved by the charity trustees on:

and signed on their behalf by: rogerpnorris:24

Trustee Roger P Norris

05/10/2026

Wyche Free Church

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	**Total Funds**	2023 Total Funds
		£	£	**£**	£
Receipts					
Donations and legacies		13,444	2,311	**15,755**	20,899
Other		300	-	**300**	202
Investment income		3,524	-	**3,524**	2,795
Total Receipts	**2**	17,268	2,311	**19,579**	23,896
Payments					
Payments on charitable activities	**3**	11,191	2,311	**13,502**	14,332
Purchase of investments		328,000	-	**328,000**	-
Total Payments		339,191	2,311	**341,502**	14,332
Net Receipts / (Payments)		(321,923)	-	**(321,923)**	9,564
Net Movement in Funds (Cash)					
Total funds (cash) brought forward	**8**	358,956	-	**358,956**	349,392
Transfers	**8**	-	-	**-**	-
Total Funds (Cash) Carried Forward	**8**	**37,033**	**-**	**37,033**	358,956
Represented by					
General (Unrestricted)		37,033	-	**37,033**	358,956
Designated funds		-	-	**-**	-
Restricted funds		-	-	**-**	-
		37,033	**-**	**37,033**	358,956

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Year Ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As the accounts are prepared on a cash basis and thus there is no formal Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position. Instead a statement of assets and liabilities is outlined, giving an indication of the charity's assets at the year end.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investment portfolio	328,000	-
	328,000	-
Current Assets		
Gift aid debtor	2,734	1,182
Cash at bank and petty cash	37,033	358,956
	39,767	360,138

The 2021 accounts disclosed the church building at £683,845 and Kingsdown & The Manse at £270,649.

Wyche Free Church

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis, recognising transactions when receipts and payments take place through the bank account or

Assessment of Going Concern
Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the term of specific appeal, often known as a ‘special offering’ in the church.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Incoming Resources
All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources and the money has been paid.

Resources Expended
Expenditure is recognised on a cash basis when payments have been made through the bank account or by petty cash.

Governance Costs
Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Pensions
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Operating Leases
Rental charges payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

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Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Donations and Legacies			
Donations	12,262	2,311	**14,573**
Gift aid	1,182	-	**1,182**
	13,444	2,311	**15,755**
Capital receipts			
Building sale	-	-	**-**
	-	-	**-**
Other receipts / refunds			
Refunds	300	-	**300**
Rents from flats	-	-	**-**
	300	-	**300**
Investment Income			
Interest	3,524	-	**3,524**
	3,524	-	**3,524**
Total Income	**17,268**	**2,311**	**19,579**

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Notes to the Financial Statements

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**
Donations and Legacies			
Donations	11,569	3,311	**14,880**
Gift aid	6,019	-	**6,019**
	17,588	3,311	**20,899**
Capital receipts			
Building sale	-	-	**-**
	-	-	**-**
Other receipts / refunds			
Refunds	202	-	**202**
Rents from flats	-	-	**-**
	202	-	**202**
Investment Income			
Interest	2,795	-	**2,795**
	2,795	-	**2,795**
Total Income	**20,585**	**3,311**	**23,896**

3 Payments on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Missionary and charitable giving	913	2,311	**3,224**
Premises, property and running costs	4,296	-	**4,296**
Ministry, worship and administration	5,982	-	**5,982**
	11,191	2,311	**13,502**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**
Missionary and charitable giving	130	3,311	**3,441**
Premises, property and running costs	6,983	-	**6,983**
Ministry, worship and administration	3,908	-	**3,908**
	11,021	3,311	**14,332**

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Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Volunteers

The church benefits greatly from the voluntary contributions of time and money by its formal members and regular attendees. Please refer to the trustees' report for further detail about volunteer contributions in the organisation.

5 Staff Costs

No staff costs were incurred during the year. The charity had no employees and no wages, salaries, employer National Insurance or pension contributions were paid.

6 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustee received any remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity during the year.

During the year, three trustees were reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses totalling £1,418 (2023: one trustee, £179). These costs related to expenditure incurred on behalf of the charity in connection with the day-to-day operation, ministry and running costs of the church. No trustee expenses remained outstanding at the year end.

7 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions which took place during the year (2023: £0)

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Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	**31 Dec 2024**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted Funds					
General	358,956	17,268	(339,191)	-	**37,033**
	358,956	**17,268**	**(339,191)**	**-**	**37,033**
Total Unrestricted	**358,956**	**17,268**	**(339,191)**	**-**	**37,033**
Restricted Funds					
Mission Support Fund	-	2,311	(2,311)	-	-
Total Restricted	**-**	**2,311**	**(2,311)**	**-**	**-**
Total Funds	**358,956**	**19,579**	**(341,502)**	**-**	**37,033**

	1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	**31 Dec 2023**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted Funds					
General	349,392	20,585	(11,021)	-	**358,956**
Total Unrestricted	**349,392**	**20,585**	**(11,021)**	**-**	**358,956**
Restricted Funds					
Mission Support Fund	-	3,311	(3,311)	-	-
Total Restricted	**-**	**3,311**	**(3,311)**	**-**	**-**
Total Funds	**349,392**	**23,896**	**(14,332)**	**-**	**358,956**

Fund description

Mission Support Fund	Restricted donations received for specified mission organisations and overseas mission work, principally Caring for Life and Slavic Gospel Association. The funds are applied only for the particular mission purposes specified by donors.