

Ottery St Mary
United Reformed Church
Annual Reports
2016



Registered Charity no 1165093

Secretary's Report

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God

Romans 15 : 4 – 7

As we look back it is good to remind ourselves of all the gifts we have received throughout this past year. We may have gone through difficult times but we have much to give thanks for. Yes, there are things we could have done better, but we have hopefully learnt along the way and can see how God has worked in our lives. Let us be thankful that we have the freedom and privilege to worship God together Sunday by Sunday, coming together to hear God's word and to worship Him.

The beginning of the year saw the introduction of a new Housegroup, meeting fortnightly on Thursdays to study God's word. The Wednesday evening group has continued to study different themes and support one another and the congregation in prayer. The Wednesday morning group now meets for fellowship and prayer. We are grateful to those who lead the studies and those who host. There are also a number of Prayer Triplets meeting for regular prayer. If you are not already part of a group then you might like to consider joining one of these groups. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

As well as regular Sunday morning activities the young people now have a group meeting monthly on a Saturday evening. It is a great encouragement that they also take the opportunity to invite friends to join them. 4 of our young people made the move to secondary education at King's School and we were able to encourage them with the booklet "It's your move." Seedlings continues to provide outreach to the young families, meeting monthly on a Tuesday morning. It is a great blessing to see the young people play an active part in the morning services and thanks are due to the Youth team who encourage them in their walk with God. A weekend visit to Bernard's Acre saw a time of fellowship, walking and other activities for the younger families.

We managed to obtain copies of the publication about the Queen's faith which was produced to celebrate her 90th birthday. "The Servant Queen" was given as part of our Outreach and well received by the older generation. Men's Breakfast continued to meet, despite problems with venues, and had very interesting speakers talking from a Christian Perspective.

Churches Together have had a number of joint services throughout the year and the Foodbank has been much appreciated. A Youth pastor has finally been appointed and should soon be in post. Please pray that his presence in the town will be well received and a blessing to the young people of the town.

Discussions within the Church are ongoing with Mark Perkins as to how he can encourage us in sharing the Gospel with others. The Community Market gives us an

opportunity to reach out to our neighbours, while providing a welcome facility for buyers and sellers of unique produce.

The Church Fellowship was hugely disappointed by the passing of Resolution 7 allowing Churches to make their own decisions about same sex marriage. The membership here was unanimous in their decision not to allow same sex marriage or blessings in this Church. Ways of distancing ourselves from the URC are still in progress.

Yet again we have been blessed by the preaching of God's word and facilities are available, if you are unable to attend worship, to borrow a recording. It was with great joy that we celebrated the dedication of Anna Grace Roulson and we continue to uphold her and her family in prayer. Our mixture of Bible teaching and special themes such as Mothering Sunday continued in 2016. Before Easter we looked at chapters 3-7 of Matthew's Gospel. Next we dipped into the book of Psalms prior to a brief summer series to discover what the Bible teaches about some parts of the body: Hands, Eyes, Feet, Mouth and Heart. Then it was back to Isaiah for passages from chapters 40-55 up until Christmas! The regular All Age events have brought out the gifts of local leaders and visitors from further afield. Through their preaching programme we have once again supported young preachers in training at Belmont. They are greatly encouraged just as they encourage us in our walk with God. Thank you to Philip for keeping us well supplied with preachers.

Throughout the year we continued to support Mission both at home and abroad. ABIDE, a new project supporting refugees has been started locally supported by Churches Together. We were pleased to be able to support this initiative with donations from teas etc served on the evenings of the Tar Barrels and Carnival and our Christmas day offering. Tools with a Mission once more benefitted from our Harvest gifts and lunch and Kunhar Hospital benefitted from donations at the Food and Families Festival.

Once again we have supported one another through difficult times and have rejoiced with the addition of new family members. We were saddened by the passing to glory of Dorothy Coleman and Roger Benfield, both now at peace, and remember their friends and family in prayer as they grieve.

There are so many people involved in the smooth running of the Church and thanks are due to those who bring us God's word, the readers, those who lead us in prayer, the Elders, the Youth team, those who keep the grounds tidy, the buildings in good repair, and the heating on at the right times, the musicians, the technical team, the flower team, those who give a warm welcome at the door, those who serve the tea and coffee, access to the library, produce the publicity, the newsletter and thanks too to all of the fellowship for their faithfulness.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Lorna Mackie

YOUTH TEAM

Under 5's

The youngest children in our church – Benjamin, Gracie, Daniel and Anna have enjoyed being part of our Sunday morning group (crèche).

They have been learning about Jesus through Bible stories, role play, messy play, singing, games, craft and prayer. The leaders have been using the books "Beginning with the Bible" series – New and Old Testament, which we are currently working through.

We also reference a variety of Christian resources including books, CDs and the Internet. We use our own personal (faith) experiences and knowledge to help guide the children to learn more about God.

We have also had family and friends visit the church throughout the year with their children, who have also joined us on a Sunday morning.

We look forward to 2017 watching the children grow and develop in learning more about Jesus. We pray that they come to know him. We also pray for Gracie, Benjamin and Daniel who are due to start school this September and for Anna in the group. We thank God for friendships made between the children and parents and we pray for inspiration for the leaders this coming 2017 for new ideas that encourage the children in their walk with Christ.

Many blessings for 2017

Clare

5-8 year olds group

In this group, we normally have 3 or 4 children but numbers can fluctuate. This group seems to have gelled well together and are currently keen to learn and question their faith. It is exciting to see the level of interest and interaction. We have changed the style of notes we are using which has given more depth at times to study. We are looking at the possibility of encouraging the children to do daily devotions, then using the Sunday devotion as the study. As more research is required for this we will continue with the current notes until later in the year. I have found it a huge blessing and encouragement to work with this group. Please pray for wisdom to know the best way to nurture the seeds of faith we can see growing.

Ruth

11 +

The FiSH group for children aged 11+ meets weekly as part of Sunday school and monthly for food, fun and some gospel input on a Saturday evening in our house. We have been pleased to be joined at the evening session by young people from in and out of the church, and this term will be trying to answer their big questions about the Christian faith. Ongoing prayers for this work are appreciated.

Iain

Trip to Bernard's Acre

The children loved exploring the river and Dartmoor through walks. Much fun was had with board games. Iain's mini inputs were also valuable. Not to mention much yummy food with good company. Friendships were strengthened with both adults and children.

SEEDLINGS

The Seedlings team would like to say a big Thank you to the church members for allowing Seedlings to take place once a month each 3rd Tuesday morning 10am until 11:30am. Also, the team would like to thank everyone who has contributed financially and for their guidance and prayers throughout the year.

We have many things to thank God for this past year of 2016. The attendance is good and we have 22 children on our books. Friendships continue to grow between parents, carers and church helpers.

We have chosen different Biblical themes each month including Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day and some familiar children's Bible stories. The session starts with a welcome drink for the adults and free play for the children. This includes art and craft activities which are often messy! There is also a variation of writing activities, puzzles, books, large play equipment, playdough and push along toys. We try to cover some of the early year's curriculum aiding the children as they progress into pre-schoolers and beyond. We also make sure we have a baby area sectioned off with selection of safe toys and treasure baskets.

At snack time, we encourage self-help skills where the children are given a chance to chop fruit and pour their drinks.

We end the session with a music and movement time. This includes singing, playing instruments and waving scarves to music. We also play parachute games, incorporating a Biblical or moral story with props at the end. We finish with a Goodbye song.

We ask parents and carers for £1 per child to cover the cost of running this group.

The Seedlings Account for 2016:

Opening Balance:	£ 81.26
Monthly Collections:	£ 78.78
Total Balance for 2016:	£160.04

Thank you to everyone who has given their time to help with Seedlings promotions, setting up and packing away, making teas and coffees, preparing activities and washing up. Without our team Seedlings wouldn't run so smoothly. Also, thank you to everyone who donated snacks, toys and books.

We finished 2016 with a trip to Pennywell Farm where the children took part in a nativity that was held in the barns with real animals. Afterwards the children visited Father Christmas and we all had refreshments in the café.

We look forward to another fruitful 2017 and pray for Seedlings.

Clare

HOUSEGROUPS

Wednesday Evening House Group

It is a joy to meet together in friendship, in comfort and a relaxed manner to study and learn about God with fellow, like minded Christians and I urge anyone who may be hesitating to take the step to try a House Group. There is plenty of opportunity in our Christian Family.

In the last year we have explored studies on -

Galatians, Good & Evil, Proverbs, The Kingdom of God and Worship.

This has included among others individual studies on -

Galatians - Good and bad news, The joys of growing up, A severe warning, Living by the Spirit.

Good & Evil - News Headlines, Dealing with Disaster, Disability and the goodness of God, The Enemy within, Feeling hope in a terrorised world.

The Kingdom of God - The Kingdom's coming. An offer you can't refuse, King of all, Living in the light of the King.

Worship - We have considered; Why we worship God; Whether our worship is a renewal of our covenant with God through Jesus; That we should take time to tell God everything we are grateful for; How worship increases our devotion to Jesus.

We continue into 2017 with Worship - to consider; What matters is our honesty toward God; To allow our whole lives to be worship; To keep our worship meaningful and alive.

We are a small group at present 9-12 people each session. We welcome all who wish to attend and are happy to accommodate those who cannot manage every session.

David Briden

Ottery Housegroup

The Ottery housegroup has been meeting for nearly a year now and has enjoyed studies on prayer and the lives of Jesus' disciples. Next we will be studying the Sermon on the Mount as we look to grow in faith and fellowship together.

Iain

Outreach Men's Breakfast 2016

Ten years ago we were meeting at the Gerbera restaurant, our hosts were Roberta and Husni. Were you there? This year we again were left homeless when Ron at the Lamb and Flag decided they would focus their energies on a Sidmouth pub. The Volunteer served us well twice but wanted a big price hike. So we are back in the London for the third time where there are good audiovisual facilities. Thankfully we know "the Lord will provide".

Last January we kicked off with a moving talk from free church prison chaplain Bill Hill and next Rev David Beazley came representing the Leprosy Mission. In May John Aidrie talked about God's guidance through his life as an Exeter quantity surveyor, working sometimes in the voluntary sector. The current phase on the programme has included Religion and Terrorism in France with Dr Paul Cooke and Interfaith Relations in the UK with Rev Dr John Hall. This January we have a Messianic Jewish speaker. We are grateful for these informative and challenging talks giving us perspectives far beyond the confines of East Devon!

We don't often breach the 20 figure attending but we are grateful for a younger element and some old friends reappearing. We thank God for memories of Roger Benfield's faithful work taking the cash and gratefully acknowledge George and Ivan's dependable help.

Philip

Foodbank

In 2016 we issued 120 food parcels which have provided 3159 meals for 351 people. This compares to 94 parcels providing 2520 meals for 280 people in 2015. We have also given £600.00 in Gas/Electricity subsidies and £940.00 in Greengrocery vouchers.

These figures are surprising as there was a considerable fall in the number of clients during the summer months and for several weeks there was no requirement for food at all.

We have decided, therefore, to continue with the shorter opening time of 1.30 - 2.30 each Friday afternoon for the foreseeable future. This is much better for our volunteers, who are content to work past 2.30 if there is a need, but who are not wasting their valuable time waiting around when demand is low.

Thanks to all our volunteers who turn up so consistently and without whose help we could not function.

A major blow this year was the closure of the collecting box at Sainburys. This was brought about by a change in policy from the Head Office who have decreed that

only registered charities will benefit from collections in store. We are currently exploring what other options may be available to us but in the short term we are completely dependent upon the collections made through the churches. We also need additional volunteers to check and empty the collection boxes in the churches.

We are grateful for all the food which is given so generously by the people of Ottery, West Hill and Feniton through their churches and the Harvest collections from many of the other village churches.

We will continue to make sure the food is given to those in most need.

David Briden

Community Market

The Community Market takes place once a month (except January) at The Institute. Our stallholder numbers are running at about the same as last year at between 20 and 35 tables each month. There is a wide range of craft, food, plants, books and other stalls. Refreshments are produced by the WI.

Good publicity is important and Ali has again designed our leaflets and posters. 2500 leaflets were delivered to all the houses in central Ottery and another 800 were delivered to West Hill houses with the West Hill newsletter. One of the stall holders runs a Market Facebook page. John Toy puts up posters around Ottery each month.

Older folk in the town continue to be affected by the stopping of the Saturday bus around the town which has meant it is difficult for them to come to the market which is disappointing.

The stallholders are charged £5 for a large table and we had a surplus of £753.95 at the end of 2016. It was decided at Church Meeting that this would be divided between the Help Scheme and the O6 Project.

Judith is now the Deputy Organiser of the Market. Thank you to Judith and all the other people who help in any way – John Nash, Gary, Martin, Gill, Anne, Barbara Beamer, Ali, John Toy.

We aim to provide a service to both stallholders who have something to sell or publicise information to share and to customers who wish to shop locally or just have a cup of coffee. We pray that we can make good contacts with local people.

Penny Hounslow

Fabric

Church

Maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the Church continued during the year as and when necessary.

An Electrical Installation and Condition Report shows that the Installation is classed as “Unsatisfactory” and urgent work is required, in particular to bring the Church Sanctuary lighting and its wiring up to standard. Improvements in the lighting design will be investigated.

It is anticipated that repairs to the boundary wall will begin in Spring 2017. Unfortunately the front boundary wall in Jesu St suffered vehicle damage in November and repairs to this part of the wall is now in the hands of the insurers.

Quotations for the interior re-decoration of the Sanctuary and the external redecoration of the Church building have been received and are being considered.

Possible refurbishment options for the Church and Hall are also to be considered.

Manse

The property has continued to be let to the same tenants.

Maintenance and repairs are arranged as necessary.

George Moon

Library

A recent inventory lists 376 books in the library.

Thanks to Penny who contacted the executors, and Connie from whose estate they were donated, we now have more than 90 books which are new to the library.

The books are shelved in strict alphabetic order of author, except for a paperback series on the books of the Bible, which are in the centre shelf sorted into the order of the books of the Bible.

Each book in the library has an identity number inside the front cover, or as near to the front as possible.

There is a Record Book on the bottom shelf for completion when a book is taken out; please enter the number of the book in the record book and when you return the book tick it off as returned.

The library is a wonderful collection of Christian books available to all who attend the church, many of the books are not available to borrow elsewhere.

Please use the library to expand your knowledge, to increase your faith and to enjoy - not all the books are serious tomes!

David Briden

Recommendations for Home and Overseas Missionary Giving 2017

Financial support for Mission in 2017 from the general fund, should be increased a little to £3500 given the usefulness of money received overseas will be less because of the devaluation of the pound.

In addition it is recommended that mission spending should also be allocated an additional £1400, the second part of the mission allocation from the £50k bequest to the church from Alan Cooper. Thus, the basic mission giving in 2016 should total £4900.

In 2017

- This year the support for the Persecuted church and refugees will be through Release. .
- The O6 Project is expected to commence in February 2017. Currently there is £2959.78 unspent on the O6 from the three previous years.

Local Evangelism

However, we recommend the £2959.78 now found unspent on the O6 from 3 previous years can be used to increase the annual O6 support by approx £986 for each of the next 3 years

Thus mission spending from church funds would be

Ottery Christian Youth Pastor (O6)	£1986
Christian schools work (Mike Strange)	£350
Inspire	£50
TOTAL	£2386.00

The church should consider that, if synod still has funds available for supporting youth work initiatives, does the church want to apply for funds from this source? Previously we received £1500 per annum from this source.

Summary of Overseas Mission activities supported

Ethiopia EKC Self-help Project	Committed for another 3 years before revision
Release	Persecuted Christians/ refugees
Thai Pocket Testament League	Evangelism/ Teaching/ Poor relief
Kunhar Christian Hospital, Pakistan	Support building of new infrastructure
El Shaddai Children's Home, Chennai	Running costs of orphanage
Cleverleys, Uganda, Revelation Life	Slum relief, teaching, poor support

Proposed Overseas support for 2017

TEAR FUND – Ethiopia Self-help Project	£675
Release	£675
Thai Pocket Testament League	£550
Kunhar Christian Hospital, Pakistan	£400
El Shaddai Children's Home, Chennai	£450
Cleverleys, Uganda, Revelation Life	£575
Bread for the World , Nepal	£200
TOTAL	£3500

Designated collections for ABIDE

Maintain links through the newsletter with:

Bible Society, Fair Trade, FEBA, CARE FOR THE FAMILY,

Tim Beard, Anne Brinton, John Nash, Judith Webber

17/01/17

Ottery St Mary

URC Charity

Registered Charity Number: 1165093

Financial Report

2016

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORM CHURCH

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2016, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of URC and the 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 145 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 Commissions 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 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 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 examiners 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 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

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.

Signed:.....
M A Griffiths FCCA (Director)

Lentells Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered
Auditors
50 Fore Street
Seaton
Devon, EX12 2AD

Date22/3/17.....

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2016

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2005 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Administrative information

The Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the South West Synod of the Church.

Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is situated at Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. The correspondence address is 47 Raleigh Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1TG.

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. Those who served from 16th February 2016 to the date this report was approved are:

Mr G Beamer	Elder
Mrs A Brinton	Elder
Mrs L Mackie	Elder and Secretary
Dr J Nash	Elder

The church treasurer was Mrs Barbara Beamer.

The Church building and the manse at 27 Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1EL are vested in The Trustees, The United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) Incorporated as trustees and held for the benefit of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

Structure, governance and management

The activities of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church are overseen by the Elders' Meeting of the Church in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, in accordance with the normal practice of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, and the care and maintenance of Church premises and the manse. The Church Meeting (of all members wishing to attend) gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are the Minister in pastoral charge and up to nine members of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church nominated and elected by the members of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in Church

Meeting. To be eligible for election, members must have been a member of the church for no less than 12 months. Elders serve for three years, retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. There is no limit to the number of consecutive periods of service. There was no Minister in pastoral charge during 2016.

The Elders' Meeting met twelve times during the year. The Elders' Meeting is assisted in the administration of the Church and its property by committees established for Mission, Youth Work, Premises, Finance and Worship. The Church Meeting met monthly, apart from March and August.

Objectives and activities

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building. The object of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

The Church's vision is to be a spiritually strong, loving, bible-based family church where

- as individuals we take a personal daily walk with God and
- we work together to reach out and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ both locally and beyond in a bold, enthusiastic and effective manner

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the Church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and performance

Following last year's quinquennial inspection a decision was taken to proceed with repairs to the boundary wall. During the year, listed building consent for the works was obtained from Synod, and work is due to commence after Easter. Decoration and refurbishment of the interior of the church and hall will follow, including new lighting. Treatment of woodworm in the pews has been undertaken.

The manse continues to provide a steady stream of income. It is planned to decorate the exterior of the manse in 2017.

The Wednesday morning housegroup and Wednesday evening housegroup have continued to meet weekly. The fortnightly Thursday evening housegroup has

provided a further opportunity for Bible study and prayer. Men's breakfast has offered opportunities for fellowship and outreach. A group of members attended Keswick in Devon. Monthly prayer meetings have taken place seeking the Lord's help and guidance for the future of the church.

Sunday morning meetings provide opportunities for worship and teaching. At the same time, children of all ages from toddlers to teenagers attend their own separate groups. It has been a blessing to see the continued involvement of a number of young families on Sundays.

In May, a magic show with an evangelistic message, attracted many young families and raised funds for Kunhar Christian Hospital.

Seedlings toddler group continued to meet each month throughout the year, and a group went to Pennywell Farm just before Christmas and took part in the Nativity in the barn. FISH also provided opportunities for 11 year olds upwards to meet together for fun, food and some Christian teaching.

Mission remains close to our hearts and the Mission Group have kept us up to date with regular articles in the Newsletter and talks in our Morning Worship. We agreed to support Abide, a community project raising funds to sponsor a refugee family from Syria.

During the year, Mark Perkins of Outreach UK has given some evangelism training and also assisted with our annual outreach on Tar Barrel night.

The church has continued to manage the Ottery St Mary Community Market. This has produced a surplus of over £700 again this year. The community market has given valuable opportunities for outreach, and publication of events.

We have continued our involvement with Churches Together in Ottery. Members of the church have continued to assist in the Ottery Food Bank, which is housed in the church hall. Ecumenical events organised included the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Good Friday walk of witness and joint services. The young people decorated a tree for the Parish Church's Christmas Tree Festival.

During the year the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church voted to allow individual churches within the denomination to make their own decisions regarding conducting same sex marriages. Following this, two members of the church resigned their membership, and others reduced their level of giving to avoid providing support to the United Reformed Church. A decision to distance ourselves from the United Reformed Church was taken at Church Meeting, and also to change our payments to the Ministry and Mission Fund to a level where we pay only for services we receive and want. A decision concerning how much this will be has yet to be taken.

A number of different organisations use the church facilities, including Brownies, Table Tennis club, Ottery Warblers, New Ottregians, the La La Choir and Ottery Choral Society.

We thank the Lord for his provision for us, both financially and spiritually. We put our trust in Him as we seek to know His will and to serve Him in Ottery St Mary.

Financial Review

The church's finances continue to improve. There has been an increase in cash donations, but there has been a fall in weekly envelopes and monthly standing orders, perhaps reflecting the membership's lack of willingness to financially support the United Reformed Church. For the fourth year running our general income has exceeded our expenditure, which is encouraging.

Designated Funds: The church has set aside £250.00 from the rental income it receives each month to be used towards repairs and maintenance at the manse. At 31 December the balance held (including interest) was £3,986.96.

The church meeting agreed to designate £3,400 to mission. In addition, an annual payment of £100 is given to the National Churches Trust.

The church meeting agreed the surplus of £753.95 produced by the Community Market should be divided equally between the o6 Project (for a community youth pastor) and the Ottery Help Scheme.

Restricted Funds: Restricted donations of £4,867.66 were received and are detailed in the Financial Statements.

Unrestricted Funds: After taking into account designated and restricted funds, there remains a balance of £43,134.34 in general funds (as compared with £33,959.75 in 2015). Ideally, the Elders' Meeting would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months regular expenditure (approximately £12,000) on unrestricted funds as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. The balance of £43,134.34 at 31 December represents more than this, but is likely to be needed as further refurbishments to the church and hall, and repairs to the boundary wall are planned.

The annual financial report has been prepared on the basis of a Receipts and Payments Account together with relevant notes and will be subject to an Independent Examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Declaration

Approved at a meeting of the church members on _____ and
signed on their behalf by _____

Mrs Lorna Mackie
(Secretary)

**OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016**

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2016 Total £	2015 Total £
RECEIPTS					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>					
Cash donations	5,150.10			5,150.10	4,850.47
Weekly envelopes (inc payments direct to bank)	17,262.40	3,500.00	100.00	20,862.40	24,430.28
Tax refund					9,081.53
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
Missionary & related objects			1,568.47	1,568.47	1,124.20
Pulpit Supply Relief					55.00
Legacies					50,000.00
Community Market Building Fund		1,428.00		1,428.00	1,478.20
Grants			2,349.21	2,349.21	45,919.39
Donations			244.75	244.75	253.89
Sundry income	910.00		600.00	1,510.00	4,906.72
<i>Income from investments</i>					
Investment income	715.81	1.45	5.23	722.49	703.02
Use of hall	2,019.00			2,019.00	1,871.00
Rental income from manse	7,032.00	3,000.00		10,032.00	6,688.00
Total receipts	<u>33,089.31</u>	<u>7,929.45</u>	<u>4,867.66</u>	<u>45,886.42</u>	<u>151,361.70</u>
PAYMENTS					
<i>Church activities</i>					
Ministry & mission	10,740.00			10,740.00	11,640.00
Missionary & related objects		4,467.56	1,508.47	5,976.03	4,984.79
Ottery manse expenses	337.40	470.60		808.00	19,360.67
Community Market		674.05		674.05	760.64
Church running costs	8,298.34			8,298.34	9,983.22
Building work			9,812.47	9,812.47	36,882.12
Worship/activity	3,094.02		591.80	3,685.82	2,216.41
<i>Church management</i>					
Administration/ sundries	1,444.96		19.28	1,464.24	2,104.12
Total payments	<u>23,914.72</u>	<u>5,612.21</u>	<u>11,932.02</u>	<u>41,458.95</u>	<u>87,931.97</u>
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	9,174.59	2,317.24	(7,064.36)	4,427.47	63,429.73
Bank current and deposit accounts					
at 01.01.2016	33,959.75	54,926.10	13,061.14	101,946.99	38,517.26
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31.12.2016	<u>43,134.34</u>	<u>57,243.34</u>	<u>5,996.78</u>	<u>106,374.46</u>	<u>101,946.99</u>

**OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Note	General Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2016 £	Totals 2015 £
ASSETS	2						
Investments	3						
2022 M & G Charibond			2,607.37			2,607.37	2,467.45
360 M & G Charifund			5,527.51			5,527.51	5,161.93
2829.77 COIF Ethical Inv Fd			5,926.10			5,926.10	5,380.81
Total Investments		<u>-</u>	<u>14,060.98</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,060.98</u>	<u>13,010.19</u>
Current Assets	4						
Barclays current account		7,150.27				7,150.27	2,414.69
Business premium account	10			3,831.42		3,831.42	1,576.31
CafCash account	9,10	35,984.07		53,411.92	6,010.83	95,406.82	2,124.19
CafCash Gold account	4						99,206.07
Synod deposit account	5				5.23	5.23	11.09
Cash float							5.07
Total		<u>43,134.34</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,243.34</u>	<u>6,016.06</u>	<u>106,393.74</u>	<u>105,337.42</u>
LESS							
Current Liabilities							
Synod loan account	5				19.28	19.28	3,390.43
Current Balance		<u>43,134.34</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,243.34</u>	<u>5,996.78</u>	<u>106,374.46</u>	<u>101,946.99</u>

**OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

1. Accounting Policies

General

The accounts are prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis and in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

Receipts and Payments

Receipts are the total amount received by the church in offerings and donations. Expenditure is accounted for when it is paid.

Fund accounting

Separate records are kept for funds which have been designated and funds with restricted use. The church's general fund may be used by the church at its discretion to further its stated charitable objectives.

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- ~ Land and buildings ~ the church building and manse
- ~ Furnishings, fixtures and fittings and office equipment

3. Investments held by Provincial Synod on our behalf:

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2016, and are "permanent". The income only can be used for "general purposes".

4. Bank Accounts

There are two bank accounts with Barclays Bank ~ a current account and a Business Premium Account. The Business Premium Account is being used to set aside part of the rental income for future repairs and maintenance at the Manse. There were also two accounts with CafCash, run by the Charities Aid Foundation. Following the introduction of bank charges and reduction in rates of interest, the CAF savings account has been closed and the CAF current account will be closed as soon as all cheques have been cleared.

All cash received is initially paid into the Barclays current account, with a transfer being made each month of £250 to the Business Premium Account.

5. Building Fund

During the year, the South West Synod of the United Reformed Church have managed the final stages of the Building Project ~ paying bills and claiming relief from VAT from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. We have received 10% grants amounting to £865.42 from Synod. Money held by Synod has been placed on deposit, and used to pay bills. When necessary a loan account has been opened to cover any temporary shortfall in funds. A final payment was made to Synod to bring matters to a conclusion but, as

interest due and payable was not included in the calculation of the balance owed, a small balance still remains. Payments made and received by Synod are as follows, and have been incorporated into the church accounts:

Receipts	£	£
	2016	2015
Balance b/f	-3,379.34	-364.70
From church	9,684.29	-
10% Grant	865.42	5,867.30
LPOW Grants	1,483.79	27,989.09
Deposit interest	5.23	11.09
	<u>8,659.39</u>	<u>33,502.78</u>
 Payments		
Corbell Construction	6,495.15	26,070.43
Stenning		975.00
Benjamin	2,159.02	7,605.38
Wilkins Safety		974.40
Andrew Waring		1,200.00
Loan interest	19.27	56.91
	<u>8,673.44</u>	<u>36,882.12</u>
Balance c/f	<u><u>-14.05</u></u>	<u><u>-3,379.34</u></u>

6. Community Market

Receipts	£	£	£	£
	2016	2016	2015	2015
Table fees		1,428.00		1,478.20
Less				
Payments				
Hire of hall	336.00		348.00	
Publicity	257.00		293.00	
Photocopying/printing	59.95		106.50	
Sundries	21.10	674.05	13.14	760.64
Net profit		<u><u>753.95</u></u>		<u><u>717.56</u></u>

7. Tax Refund

No Gift Aid tax refund has been claimed this year.

8. Missionary and Related Objectives

	B/fwd £	Rec'd £	Church £	Total £	Paid £	C/fwd £
Abide		365.91		365.91	186.86	179.05
Amani			50.00	50.00	50.00	-
Christian Schools work			450.00	450.00	450.00	-
Cystic Fibrosis Trust			50.00	50.00	50.00	-
Devon Wildlife Trust			50.00	50.00	50.00	-
El Shadai			400.00	400.00	400.00	-
Food Bank		32.00		32.00	32.00	-
Get Lucy Home			50.00	50.00	50.00	-
Inspire Magazine			50.00	50.00	-	50.00
Kunhar Christian Hospital		275.06	400.00	675.06	675.06	-
National Churches Trust			100.00	100.00	100.00	-
Open Doors			600.00	600.00	600.00	-
O6 Project	1,967.63		1,000.00	2,967.63	7.85	2,959.78
Ottery Help Scheme			517.56	517.56	517.56	-
Revelation Life		100.00	500.00	600.00	600.00	-
St Petrock's	141.20			141.20	141.20	-
TEAR Fund	20.00		600.00	620.00	620.00	-
Thai Testament		50.00	500.00	550.00	500.00	50.00
Toilet Twinning		86.15		86.15	86.15	-
Tools with a Mission		359.35		359.35	359.35	-
UMN		300.00	200.00	500.00	500.00	-
	2,128.83	1,568.47	5,517.56	9,214.86	5,976.03	3,059.78

The payments shown as "Church" were agreed at the 2016 Church AGM and at subsequent church meetings.

9. Restricted Funds

Mission Fund	£ 1,038.83
Church Building Fund	£ 3,132.45
Kitchen upgrade	£ 1,600.00
Youth	£ 239.55
Building fund	(£ 14.05)

10. Designated Funds

Manse Repair Fund	£ 3,986.96
Church Building Fund	£ 971.00
Church redecoration & maintenance	£45,631.43
Mission Fund	£ 5,900.00
Community Market:	
o6 Project	£ 376.98
Ottery Help Scheme	£ 376.97

11. Notes

Insurance Cover

Sum insured:-	Church (buildings)	£1,535,908
	(contents)	£ 59,194
	Manse (building)	£ 229,960
	Manse (contents)	£ 17,627

Ministry & Mission

The 2016 Assessment was calculated at £10,736 to cover Direct Ministry £7,506 and Costs £3,230. The total was "rounded" to £10,740 to give a monthly payment of £895.

The 2017 Assessment has been calculated at £11,124 to give a monthly payment of £927. Discussions are taking place concerning our future contributions to the Fund.

For a more detailed explanation of Ministry and Mission payments, please see the Treasurer.