



ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2017

Reference and administration details

Address High Street, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1BN

Charity Registered No. 1130767

Minister Reverend Dr R L Mearkle (inducted 2nd September 2017)

Elders (Trustees) who have served between 1 January 2017 to the date of this report:

Mrs J Gibbs (Church Secretary)

Mr M Colsell

Mrs V Corrigan

Miss E Donaldson

Mrs H Westcott

Mrs J Jones

Mrs M Appleton

Mrs M Chambers

Structure, governance and management

The church is a member church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain which was established by the United Reformed Church Acts. The church has its own constitution which is approved by the Church Meeting. The Trustees consider the Church Meeting to be the decision-making body of the local church.

The church was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission on 27 July 2009.

Elders are nominated to serve as Trustees, subject to their being elected by receiving at least 75% of the votes cast at a Church Meeting. An Elder must have been a church member for 2 years before they are eligible for nomination.

The Induction of Reverend Dr R L Mearkle took place on 2nd September 2017.

The church is situated in the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church. The Synod meets twice each year and the church is represented by the Minister and a Trustee. During the vacancy the church was represented by a Trustee and a church Member. The church is involved in a number of local ecumenical activities.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to consider the major risks to which the church may be exposed and take the necessary measures to identify those risks and reduce them to an acceptable level.

Objectives and activities

The principal objective of the church 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 Trustees consider that the most appropriate way to meet this objective is to provide acts of worship and promote Christian teaching which is in accordance with the traditions of the United Reformed Church. The Trustees also recognise the importance of working closely with other churches in St Neots to develop ecumenical relationships with other Christian groups.

The full accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 are set out on pages 4 to 9 of this report. The report of the Independent Examiner is set out on page 3.

A Minister in post is paid a salary by the United Reformed Church. None of the other Trustees receive payment for their services to the church and the Trustees acknowledge the contribution from many people who are part of the life of the church.

Achievements and performance

Acts of public worship take place each Sunday morning. Holy Communion is normally celebrated on the third Sunday in each month. Other acts of worship and teaching take place throughout the year. The church is actively involved in Churches Together in St Neots including the Fair Trade and Christian Centre, Christian Performing Arts, ACTIOS (Assisting Christian Teaching in Our Schools), St Neots Christian Aid Committee and is an integral part of St Neots Foodbank.

Many church members are heavily involved in other local voluntary organisations.

The church will make space available to local groups, free of charge, for fundraising purposes three times per year. The Church Meeting will approve each of these activities. This represents a donation of about £110 for each such event.

Church Membership has increased from 44 to 49 during 2017, and the average number attending Sunday worship was 47 (2016 50). The congregation works hard to make the church a welcoming place for the people of St Neots. This is an important contribution to public benefit.

The policy on reserves

Responsible financial stewardship calls for the Trustees to provide funds to enable the church to meet its liabilities as they fall due and to set aside a reasonable amount to cover costs that cannot be predicted. The Trustees consider that the equivalent of six months' normal expenditure is an appropriate amount. In the event of the church having reserves that were greatly in excess of its needs, the Trustees would recommend that the church should make donations to support the activities of organisations whose activities were in sympathy with the objectives of the church.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Revd Dr R L Mearkle
Chair of the Trustees

27 March 2018