

# BEDFORD AREA SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN SUPPORT TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1010412

## Details

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**Other names** B A S C S T

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Trust

**Registered** 1992-04-10

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 5 Chandos Road  
Amphill  
Bedford  
MK45 2LF

**Phone** 01525403328

**Email** [chair@impactbedford.org.uk](mailto:chair@impactbedford.org.uk)

**Website** [www.impactbedford.org.uk](http://www.impactbedford.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

**Activities:** Presenting the Christian Faith to children and young people in schools in north and central Bedfordshire. This is done by invitation from the schools, through assemblies/lessons - R.E. & PHSE/lunchtime and after school clubs/self-esteem sessions/mentoring and special projects such as: Creative Prayer, Live Nativity, Easter Experience, Godly Play, Prayer Spaces and Life Path.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BEDFORDSHIRE
- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£58,325	£57,353	-	-
2023-12-31	£64,834	£75,513	-	-
2022-12-31	£43,405	£70,840	-	-
2021-12-31	£52,510	£50,904	-	-
2020-12-31	£57,735	£58,710	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>JANE MARGARET SPENCER</b>	Chair	2016-11-17
Darren James Chubb		2023-01-30
Dr John Victor Stafford		1990-11-16
HEIDI ANNE FLETCHER		2017-08-01
JACQUELINE LOUISE VICKERS		2015-03-05
JANET MARY COX		2017-09-28
Tony Robert Daniels		2024-01-29

**BEDFORD AREA SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN SUPPORT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1010412

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# Accounts

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## Annual Report for Charity Commission 2024

### Structure, Governance and Management:

#### Membership of the Trust:

Trustees and year of appointment are as follows:

Miss Janet Cox	2017	
Mr Darren Chubb	2022	Appointed January 2023
Mr Tony Daniels	2024	Appointed January 2024
Miss Heidi Fletcher	2017	Vice Chair from 09/2018
Mrs Jane Spencer	2017	Chair from 01/2024
Dr. John Stafford	1990	Assistant Treasurer from 04/2020
Mrs Jacqueline Vickers	2015	Treasurer from 04/2020

#### Employees of the Trust:

Mrs Trish Horwood Primary Schools worker appointed 01/ 01/ 2017

Mrs Becky Guynn Primary Schools worker appointed 01/ 09/ 2019

#### Objectives and Activities: a return to face to face / in school activities.

**The stated aim of the Trust is:** The advancement of the Christian Religion among young people in the Bedford Area, particularly in schools, in conjunction with local churches and volunteers.

We achieve our vision by supporting schools in promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness, delivering a range of Christian activities for children and young people in consultation with teachers in school. We build positive and appropriate relationships with schools, whilst respecting diversity and differences across all faiths

Impact's two workers have worked in over 50 primary schools and school settings and academies on a regular basis throughout 2023-2024. The workers have also continued to offer online resources as schools have requested. Impact has linked with churches and church volunteers who support events and activities in their local school settings. Across Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire, Impact has also been widening its engagement with pre-school settings, holiday clubs and a local museum (at their request).

#### Achievements and Performance.

The charity has streamlined their working practices by reviewing our geographical reach, and by following up on requests for more regular engagement with schools and groups.

Having recognised that, due to the economic impact of Covid and of increased winter fuel costs, schools were finding it more difficult to find the funding to travel to our live events from further afield, we targeted and prioritised those schools who could walk to live events from their schools or travel at a lower transport cost. However, by retaining some places for those schools that could still afford the transport costs to events, we maintained a universal offer and then committed to take workshops linked to the live events into schools that could not afford transport costs.

Impact have led three live events;

St. John's Church, Bedford have hosted the Live Nativity and Easter Experience with 25 - 30 pupils, teachers and helpers from schools attending thrice daily performances allowing over 700 individuals to hear and see drama events about the Christmas and Easter stories, each with follow up Q and A sessions. In the Footsteps of Bunyan took place at the John Bunyan Museum, Bedford. This was the last opportunity to present this learning opportunity in the current format and a new opportunity to align this with the new RE workshops for schools is in the planning stages for 2025/2026.

Working in conjunction with Milton Keynes Bridgebuilders Trust a further live event celebrating the life of John Newton was held in Olney, Bedfordshire. This enabled around 900 to learn of his life, faith, and service.

In addition to the above activities, and over and above their day-to-day school activities, the workers have been involved in holiday clubs at the Museum and have begun links with pre-school settings in Bedford.

Trustees have continued to review the Impact Vision Plan, ensuring that it was being fulfilled, modifying and updating it on a regular basis to meet the requirements of the Workers' developing workload. They have identified an opportunity to develop RE workshops for schools in 2024-2025.

### **Core Activities and Materials:**

These continue to be valued by schools with assemblies or collective worship being offered every week and lunchtime sessions supporting children's self-esteem and relationships continue.

Prayer Spaces, creative prayer and school-based workshops have been very popular and the work in these areas has expanded during 2024. Workers continue to run Christian Unions, support lunchtime and after school clubs and support RE lessons. Website development has been aligned to ensure resources that we offered to schools online can still be accessed, and more resources have been added.

### **New Opportunities**

A link with the local museum to support the understanding of the life of John Bunyan led to a holiday event being led by Impact. This will be linked in the future to a RE workshop (see below).

In addition, a recognition that teachers value our creative approach to help children understand Christianity, has led to the planning of new workshops to support the understanding of Christianity required in the local RE curriculum for 2025/2026. These will include new RE workshops to support children's learning and the teacher's own subject knowledge. Creation, the Trinity, and A life of faith - the Life of Bunyan will be offered.

## **Communication**

### ***Church and Volunteer Communications***

Volunteers and supporters are informed about Impact's work via a termly emailed newsletter from Trustees and a monthly prayer and praise email is also issued from the workers. Workers and Trustees have led presentations to churches to explain the work of Impact. This includes communicating how churches can support financially, through prayer and by volunteering their time by helping at events.

Our volunteers and supporters are incredibly important to us and staying connected with them is essential. It is their prayers and financial support that has enabled Impact to continue presenting the Christian message in Bedfordshire schools for over 30 years. We now have over 100 volunteers and supporters on our mailing lists.

### ***School Communication.***

By reviewing our website and email communication, teachers and staff in all the schools receive annual and termly planners and regular email contact to ensure effective communication. Booking systems have been updated and this has proved popular with schools.

### **Training and Reviews.**

Workers have attended the Scripture Union conference, have completed relevant on-line training courses and are up to date on their Safeguarding training.

Each Worker has a Personal Trustee who leads their Annual Performance Reviews, and all Trustees meet to review these. We also ensure they have reflection / retreat days to support the Workers' wellbeing and spiritual lives. Monthly Team Meetings continue to review and prioritise work and help develop next steps. Two Trustees lead the meetings.

### **Safeguarding.**

The Trust is mindful of its responsibilities for the welfare of pupils in schools and Workers, Volunteers with one-to-one or group contact and Trustees are all DBS checked.

In addition, Impact's safeguarding strategies and policies are regularly reviewed to ensure that the charity is fully up to date and fulfils current legislation. Volunteer update training is planned to supplement church training that they have already had.

### **Looking ahead.**

With an improved website, face to face involvement in schools, on-line and social media links, we have continued to develop what Impact can offer schools. The Strategic 5-year Vision Plan, begun in August 2020 is reviewed regularly and this has helped us retain our mission and objectives but develop our offer in an ever-changing school environment.

This includes a strategy for increasing our income as well as an increase in the number of Trustees. We intend to develop our financial giving section on our website including a legacy explanation and QR codes for giving to specific aspects of our work. We intend to have a clearer, sustainable grant application strategy. Our RE workshops and curriculum offer, alongside pre-school and school holiday events are outlined above,

Throughout the year, the workers have fulfilled the objectives of the charity very effectively and have presented Christianity to pupils in primary schools in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire enthusiastically, creatively and professionally.

### **Financial Review.**

Please see Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets attached.

**Independent Examination.**

The Examiner's Report is attached.

**Public Benefit.**

A considerable number of children and young people attending primary schools in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire attend, engage, enjoy and benefit from Impact's charitable work. These remain in line with Impact's stated aims and goals, and the guidelines of the Charity Commission.

Jane Spencer

Chair of Trustees 10th August 2025

**Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended**  
**31 December 2024**

<u><b>INCOME</b></u>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	
Gift Aid donations	19,051.63	15,633.00	
Reclaimed tax	4,113.75	3,610.75	
	<b>23,165.38</b>		<b>19,243.75</b>
<b>Regular donations:</b>			
Individuals	1,215.00	2,058.00	
Churches	12,955.35	18,707.61	
	<b>14,170.35</b>		<b>20,765.61</b>
<b>Occasional donations:</b>			
Individuals	3,475.00	9,100.00	
Churches	8,250.00	5,903.50	
Paypal	1,303.90		
	<b>13,028.90</b>		<b>15,003.50</b>
Just Giving/Easy Fundraising			741.85
Bank interest	1,360.04		836.26
income from events	900.52		720.00
miscellaneous			240.00
other income	105.00		
Amazon smile			18.41
Fundraising			103.10
Legacy	594.59		161.16
grants	5,000.00		7,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>58,324.78</b>		<b>64,833.64</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
Workers' salaries	<b>43,453.44</b>	61,534.71	
Superann.	<b>4,296.16</b>	5,909.28	
Employer's NI	<b>1,769.20</b>	1,877.96	
	<b>49,518.80</b>		<b>69,321.95</b>
Workers' expenses (Note 1)	5,889.12		4,582.01
Trust administration (Note 2)	1,944.88		1,609.47
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>57,352.80</b>		<b>75,513.43</b>
<b>surplus/deficit</b>	<b>971.98</b>		<b>(10,679.79)</b>

**Note 1**

**Workers' expenses**

Motor + travel	2,878.21	2,448.55	
Consumeables	740.04	376.79	
Materials	1,641.17	1,066.67	
Telephone	135.70	66.00	
Office heat/light allowance	494.00	494.00	
Training		130.00	
		<u>5,889.12</u>	<u>4,582.01</u>

**Note 2**

**Trust administration**

DBS	13.00	13.00	
Insurance	746.24	664.48	
costs of events	30.52		
gifts (Christmas worker gifts)	105.00	100.00	
Trustee expenses (zoom subscriptic	187.08	36.00	
Subscriptions		600.00	
miscellaneous			
Workers Hardware Software			
Capital equipment		15.99	
Website	830.00	180.00	
Bank charges	33.04	0.00	
	<u>1,944.88</u>	<u>1,609.47</u>	

**Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Balances at bank		
NatWest current A/C	2,271.53	5,736.98
Barclay Savings A/C	20,337.40	28,049.62
Nationwide 90 day	29,128.42	17,771.16
Paypal	792.39	-
Cash in hand	8.94	8.94
	<u><b>52,538.68</b></u>	<u><b>51,566.70</b></u>
BALANCE at year start	51,566.70	62,246.49
Surplus/(deficit) of income & expenditure account	971.98	(10,679.79)
	<u><b>52,538.68</b></u>	<u><b>51,566.70</b></u>



**BEDFORD AREA SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN SUPPORT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1010412

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# Accounts

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## Annual Report for Charity Commission 2023

### **- Structure, Governance and Management:**

**Membership of the Trust:** Trustees and year of appointment are as follows,

Miss Janet Cox	2017	
Mr John Creasey	2017	(Chair from September 2018) (retired 31/12/23)
Miss Heidi Fletcher	2017	(Vice Chair from September 2018)
Mrs Marie Mead	2012	(Secretary) (Retired July 2023)
Mrs Jane Spencer	2017	
Dr. John Stafford	1990	(Assistant Treasurer from April 2020)
Mrs Jacqueline Vickers	2015	(Treasurer from April 2020)
Mr Darren Chubb	2022	(Appointed January 2023)

### **Employees of the Trust:**

Mrs Hayley Bailey	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2022 (resigned 31/12/23)
Mrs Trish Horwood	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2017
Mrs Becky Guynn	primary schools worker	appointed 01/09/2019

### **- Objectives and Activities: a return to face to face / in school activities.**

**The stated aim of the Trust is:** *The advancement of the Christian Religion among young people in the Bedford Area, particularly in schools, in conjunction with local churches and volunteers.*

After a year of “nervous anticipation” throughout 2022, the beginning of 2023 saw Impact’s three Workers once again being invited into schools on a regular basis, as they had been prior to Covid. Whilst continuing to work electronically when required to do so, as mastered and used throughout the Covid years, a majority of schools welcomed them back with enthusiasm.

Once again, Impact’s aims and objectives, enabling children and young people to achieve their full spiritual, moral, social and cultural potential, were being achieved through personal contact with young people in more than 50 schools in Bedford Borough and Mid Bedfordshire.

### **- Achievements and Performance: evolving and developing the team spirit.**

With a third schools worker now firmly settled into role, and harnessing the team spirit that had evolved between the Workers during the Covid years, Impact was now able to present itself to schools as a “corporate body”, and not as three individual Workers. At the same time, whilst continuing to review and streamline their working practices, the Workers were able to accommodate more schools in their programme of work - not always easy but extremely encouraging and an answer to prayer.

Meanwhile, the Trustees continued to review the Impact Vision Plan, ensuring that it was being fulfilled, modifying and updating it on a regular basis to meet the requirements of the Workers’ developing workload.

Having presented a live production of the Barn Nativity at St. John’s Church, Bedford in December 2022 - only possible through the generosity of the members of St. John’s, the dedication of Impact volunteers, and the determination of the Workers - 2023 saw the enactment of not only the Barn Nativity but also the Easter Experience. Whilst both of these live productions were greatly appreciated by the teachers, pupils and parents who viewed them, the videos of each enactment made during Covid, were made available to schools that were unable to attend a live performance.

2023 was a year of consolidation and achievement for Impact, after the restrictive Covid years.

**- Core Activities and Materials: consolidation and development.**

With schools now principally functioning as “normal” the Workers were once again being asked to carry out all that they had done “pre Covid” - including assemblies at various times during the day, creative prayer sessions, prayer spaces and Godly-Play - as well as self esteem and relationship sessions. In addition, Workers were asked to help run Christian Unions, support lunchtime and after school clubs and take RE lessons, whilst at the same time refining their daily working programme and streamlining their appointments to reduce their travelling time between schools. 2023 proved to be a year of consolidation and development by our Workers, supported by the Trustees and volunteers, ensuring that the Christian message was being heard loudly and clearly in primary schools in Bedford Borough and Mid-Bedfordshire.

**- Special Projects and Seasonal Activities: a time to celebrate.**

Prior to March 2020, Impact Workers were involved in the following joint ventures – helped and supported by volunteers and in conjunction with Scripture Union, St.John’s Church Bedford and the John Bunyan Museum in Bedford:

**The Easter Experience**

**Life Path: John Bunyan in Elstow / John Newton in Olney.**

**In the Footsteps of Bunyan:**

**The Barn Nativity:**

As referenced above, in 2023, Workers and volunteers were once again able to present both the **Easter Experience** and the **Barn Nativity** at St. John’s Church Bedford. Between 25 - 30 pupils, teachers and helpers attended each of the 15 performances, a total of around 800 individuals.

In May 2023, **Life Path** took place on Elstow village green, when the theme for the activities centred around the life of John Bunyan, and his book “Pilgrim’s Progress”. Once again it was a wonderful three day event with around 800 children enthusiastically taking part.

Due to difficulties programming in schools with the museum’s availability, **In the Footsteps of Bunyan**, did not take place in 2023. However, good forward planning has ensured that this joint venture with the John Bunyan Museum staff will be taking place over 6 days in June 2024.

In addition to the above four activities, and over and above their day to day school activities, the Workers have been involved in holiday clubs as well as special Easter and Christmas activities.

**- Church and Volunteer Communications: an ongoing dilemma.**

In 2022, attempts were made to get existing and prospective volunteers to join Workers and Trustees for a thank you tea, something that had not been possible in the previous two years. Unfortunately, this proved unsuccessful. In 2023, similar attempts were made but again without success. Hopefully there will be greater success in 2024 as contact with volunteers is essential.

This being the case, throughout the year, volunteers and supporters are kept up to date with what Impact Workers are doing through the receipt of a once a term newsletter, plus a monthly e-mail that includes the Workers prayer and praise requests.

At the same time, the Workers continued to make regular contact with teachers and staff in all the schools they go into, ensuring that the material received from, and presented by Impact was relevant and appropriate, whilst helping them fulfil the requirements of the current RE syllabus .

As a small Christian charity, our volunteers and supporters are incredibly important to us and keeping in touch with them is essential. It is their prayers and financial support that has enabled Impact to continue presenting the Christian message in Bedfordshire schools for over 30 years.

**- Training and Reviews: appropriate and necessary – and beneficial**

Once again, throughout the year, the Workers have each carried out a variety of on-line training courses, monitoring their content to ensure that they are appropriate to their work in schools. Each Worker has also taken part in Trustee - led Annual Performance Reviews, plus reflection / retreat days. The latter are seen by the Trustees as essential to the Workers’ well being and they

are also encouraged to find time in their busy lives to “take time out”, to pray into their work and to pray for the schools they work with.

Regular Team Meetings continue to be held to help bond the Workers, and to build upon the team spirit that developed during the Covid years. This is an opportunity for all of them to review their work with not only each other, but also with the Trustees who lead the meetings.

The Trust is mindful of its responsibilities for the welfare of pupils in schools and Workers, volunteers and Trustees are all DBS checked. In addition, Impact’s safeguarding strategies and policies are regularly reviewed to ensure the charity is fully up to date and fulfils current legislation.

### **The Future: the same objective – presenting Christianity to pupils in primary schools**

With Covid restrictions no longer in place, Impact Trustees and Workers prepared themselves for a busy 2023. Encouraged by the “welcome back” from teachers, staff, Church leaders, volunteers and supporters, as well as pupils, the Workers fulfilled the objectives of the charity, that of “presenting Christianity to pupils in primary schools in Bedford Borough and Mid Bedfordshire”. Together with face to face involvement in schools, on-line social media platforms, including Facebook, have continued to be developed and are proving to be very helpful in spreading the word about what Impact can do, and is doing in schools.

The Strategic Vision Plan, begun in August 2020 to further prepare Impact for its mission and objectives in an ever changing school environment, continued to be developed and refined throughout the year. A full review of Impact’s future aims and goals, including an appraisal of our current and future finances, existing and future ways our Workers carry out their work, plus an assessment of our management needs, is ongoing. It includes a strategy for increasing our income as well as an increase in the number of Trustees, volunteers and supporters. 2023 has proved to be a busy year for all involved in Impact; it has also proved to be a year of consolidation. 2024 will I’m sure, be equally busy and equally productive under the leadership of a new chair person.

### **Financial Review**

Please see Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets attached.

### **Independent Examination:**

The Examiner’s Report is attached.

### **Public Benefit:**

Once again the trustees affirm their conviction that a considerable number of children and young people attending primary schools in Bedford Borough and Mid-Bedfordshire benefit greatly from the above activities, in line with both the aims and goals of the charity and the guidelines of the Charity Commission.

**John Creasey – 28.04.24**

# Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust

## Receipts Payments Accounts 2023

2022	<u>INCOME</u>	2023	
15,055.00	Gift Aid donations	15,633.00	
3,854.00	Reclaimed tax	3,610.75	
	<b>18,909.00</b>		<b>19,243.75</b>
	<b>Regular donations:</b>		
2,972.00	Individuals	2,058.00	
15,663.00	Churches	18,707.61	
	<b>18,635.00</b>		<b>20,765.61</b>
	<b>Occasional donations:</b>		
2,007.00	Individuals	9,100.00	
2,095.00	Churches	5,903.50	
	<b>4,102.00</b>		<b>15,003.50</b>
	HMRC Furlough Payment		
	5.00 Just Giving/Easy Fundraising		741.85
	189.24 Bank interest		836.26
	390.00 income from events		720.00
	175.00 miscellaneous		240.00
	1,000.00 other income		
	Amazon smile		18.41
	Fundraising		103.10
	Legacy		161.16
	grants		7,000.00
	<b>43,405.24 TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>64,833.64</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
57,538.87	Workers' salaries	61,534.71	
5,699.48	Superann.	5,909.28	
1,271.62	Employer's NI	1,877.96	
	<b>64,509.97</b>		<b>69,321.95</b>
	3,508.42 Workers' expenses (Note 1)		4,582.01
	2,822.43 Trust administration (Note 2)		1,609.47
	<b>70,840.82 TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>75,513.43</b>
	<b>-27,435.58 surplus/deficit</b>		<b>-10,679.79</b>

### Note 1

#### Workers' expenses

1,985.70	Motor + travel	2,448.55
407.24	Consumeables	376.79
147.83	Materials	1,066.67
24.65	Postage	0.00
72.00	Telephone	66.00
405.00	Office heat/light allowance	494.00
466.00	Training	130.00
	<b>3,508.42</b>	<b>4,582.01</b>

### Note 2

#### Trust administration

26.00	DBS	13.00
562.97	Insurance	664.48
30.00	costs of events	
135.00	gifts (Christmas worker gifts)	100.00
375.00	Trustee expenses (retreat)	36.00
1,000.00	Subscriptions	600.00
	miscellaneous	
693.46	Workers Hardware Software	
	Capital equipment	15.99
	Website	180.00
	<b>2,822.43</b>	<b>1,609.47</b>

## Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust Balance Sheet : 31 December 2023

2022		2023	
	Balances at bank		
18,281.53	NatWest current A/C	5,736.98	
16,621.41	Barclay Savings A/C	17,771.16	
27,334.61	Nationwide 90 day	28,049.62	
8.94	Cash in hand	8.94	
<b>62,246.49</b>		<b>51,566.70</b>	
89,682.07	BALANCE at year start	62,246.49	
-27,435.58	Surplus / deficit of income over expenditure	-10,679.79	
<b>62,246.49</b>	BALANCE at year end	<b>51,566.70</b>	0.00

## Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust  
(otherwise known as BASCST and Impact),  
Registered Charity No. 1010472  
on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act), and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees 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 the 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 examiner's 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 2011 Charities Act;
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed: Ann B Wilson Date: 17 March 24

Independent Examiner's Name: Ann Wilson

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACCA

Address: 1 Park Hill Ampthill  
MK45 2LW

**BEDFORD AREA SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN SUPPORT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1010412

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# Accounts

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## Annual Report for Charity Commission 2022

### **- Structure, Governance and Management:**

**Membership of the Trust:** Trustees and year of appointment are as follows,

Miss Janet Cox	2017	
Mr John Creasey	2017	(Chair from September 2018)
Miss Heidi Fletcher	2017	(Vice Chair from September 2018)
Mrs Marie Mead	2012	(Secretary)
Mrs Jane Spencer	2017	(Trustee for Safeguarding)
Dr. John Stafford	1990	(Assistant Treasurer from April 2020)
Mrs Jacqueline Vickers	2015	(Treasurer from April 2020)
Mr Darren Chubb	2022	(Appointed January 2023)

### **Employees of the Trust:**

Mrs Hayley Bailey	primary school worker	appointed 01/01/2022
Mrs Trish Horwood	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2017
Mrs Becky Guynn	primary schools worker	appointed 01/09/2019

### **- Objectives and Activities: methods may have changed but objectives haven't.**

**The stated aim of the Trust is:** *The advancement of the Christian Religion among young people in the Bedford Area, particularly in schools, in conjunction with local churches and volunteers.*

A year of "nervous anticipation" as schools began to concentrate on catching up after two years of covid restrictions. Workers were once again able to get into schools on a more regular basis, with limited access into some. This required them to continue working electronically, something they had successfully mastered and used throughout the previous two years.

Impact's aims and objectives, enabling children and young people to achieve their full spiritual, moral, social and cultural potential, were once again being carried out through personal contact within schools.

### **- Achievements and Performance: building on the successes of previous years.**

The achievements of 2022 were only possible through the team spirit that had evolved between the workers during the covid years and they began to increase the number of schools they entered, something that proved to be time consuming and not always easy. At the same time they began to streamline their ways of working, something that was necessary to ensure that additional schools could be accommodated in their programme of work.

Meanwhile, the Trustees ensured that the Impact Vision Plan was being fulfilled and, where appropriate, modified and updated to meet the requirements of the workers' developing workload. One of the greatest achievements of 2022 was the live production of the Barn Nativity in St. John's, Church Bedford, only possible through the generosity of the members of St. John's, the dedication of Impact volunteers, and the determination of the workers. Enacting this was an encouragement to all involved and greatly appreciated by teachers, pupils and parents alike. It also laid the foundations for enacting the "live" Easter Experience, due to be held at St. John's in March 2023. Throughout the year, information continued to be sent into schools and churches electronically and, as it in the previous two years, it was gratefully received by all recipients. Feedback from schools continued to be a great encouragement to both Trustees and workers alike.

### **- Core Activities and Materials: they remain the same – but presented differently.**

Although some home working was still necessary occasionally, and with contact with some schools proving to be difficult, the workers were again being asked to do assemblies, carry out creative prayer sessions, prayer spaces and Godly-Play - as well as self esteem and relationship sessions - help run Christian Unions, run voluntary lunchtime and after school clubs, and take RE lessons. At the same time they began to refine their daily working programme, enabling them to streamline their appointments and reduce their travelling time between schools.

It was yet another year of creative and innovative development by our workers, supported by the Trustees, that ensured the Christian message was still being heard in schools in Bedfordshire.

### **- Special Projects and Seasonal Activities: a time to celebrate.**

Leading up to the beginning of covid restrictions in March 2020 our workers would have been involved in the following activities – helped and supported by volunteers and in conjunction with Scripture Union and the John Bunyan Museum in Bedford. In 2022 the following activities were again possible:

#### **Easter Experience (Video only)**

**Life Path:**

**Footsteps of Bunyan:**

**Barn Nativity:**

As schools were still reluctant to attend a “live” **Easter Experience** in March 2022 our workers and volunteers produced a video version, similar to that produced for the Barn Nativity in 2020. It too was enthusiastically received and has been shown in many local schools and churches, as well as viewed by numerous individuals locally and around the world.

Workers and volunteers became involved in **Lifepath** in May 2022 in Olney, when the theme for the activities was John Newton’s hymn, Amazing Grace – due to celebrate its 250th year on 1st January 2023. It was a wonderful three day event with around 800 children taking part.

Lifepath 2023 will be in Elstow when the life of John Bunyan will be celebrated using his famous book “Pilgrim’s Progress” as the theme. Impact workers and volunteers will again be taking part.

**Footsteps of Bunyan**, was enacted on only one day in July 2022, with one school taking part.

Despite this, it was a great success, made possible through the joint effort of the workers and the staff and volunteers at the John Bunyan Museum in Bedford. A video was produced on the day for use by the school and the museum to promote the event.

In December the **Barn Nativity** was enacted live at St. John’s Church. In its new venue it involved a great deal of organising by the workers, support from members and staff at St John’s, as well as new and regular volunteers. Whilst pupil attendance was lower than in previous years for a variety of reasons, the enactment was enthusiastically reviewed by all who attended.

### **- Church and Volunteer Communications: an ongoing dilemma.**

In early 2022 attempts were made to get existing and prospective volunteers to join workers and Trustees for a thank you tea, something that had not been possible in the previous two years - unfortunately without success. Meanwhile, our workers continued to make regular contact with existing and new schools and Churches they were involved in, ensuring that the material they had been receiving from Impact was relevant and appropriate. Although the response was encouraging, it has yet to produce the increase in number of volunteers Impact needs to carry out its activities throughout the year.

In addition, and to ensure that our volunteers and supporters are kept fully aware of what our workers are doing, we have continued to send out our newsletter once a term, plus an e-mail update once a month – including our praise and prayer requests.

As a small Christian charity our volunteers and supporters are incredibly important to us and keeping in touch with them is essential. It is their prayers and financial support that has enabled Impact to continue presenting the Christian message in Bedfordshire schools for over 30 years.

### **- Training and Reviews: an encouraging year**

Throughout the year the workers have again each carried out a variety of on-line training courses, monitoring their content to ensure that they are appropriate to their work in schools.

Workers have also continued with the development of "Out of the Box", something they have found to be beneficial to their ways of presenting stories in schools.

Workers have each taken part in Trustee-led Annual Performance Reviews as well as reflection / retreat days. The latter are viewed by the Trustees as essential to the workers' well being and they are also encouraged to find time in their busy lives to "take time out" to pray into their work and to pray for the schools they work with.

Regular Team Meetings continue to be held to help bond the workers, and to build upon the team spirit that developed during the covid years. This is an opportunity for all of them to review their work with not only each other, but with the two Trustees who lead the meetings.

The Trust is mindful of its responsibilities for the welfare of pupils in schools and workers, volunteers and Trustees are all DBS checked. In addition, our safeguarding strategies and policies are regularly reviewed to ensure the charity is fully up to date, and fulfils current legislation.

### **The Future: the same objective – presenting Christianity to today's pupils in schools**

With covid restrictions having eased at the beginning of 2022, and with a new worker (Hayley) having joined the team in January, the charity prepared itself for a busy 12 months ahead.

The encouragement our workers received throughout the year from teachers, assistants, Church leaders, volunteers and supporters, as well as pupils, was gratefully received.

In addition to face to face involvement in schools, on-line social media platforms, including Facebook, have continued to be developed and are proving to be very helpful in spreading the word about what Impact can do, and is doing.

The Strategic Vision Plan, begun in August 2020 to further prepare Impact for its mission and objectives in an ever changing school environment, continued to be developed, and refined throughout the year. A full review of our future aims and goals, including an appraisal of our current and future finances, existing and future ways our workers carry out their work, plus an assessment of our management needs, is ongoing. It includes a strategy for increasing our income as well as an increase in the number of Trustees, volunteers and supporters we have at present.

### **Financial Review**

Please see Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets attached.

### **Independent Examination:**

The Examiner's Report is attached.

### **Public Benefit:**

The trustees affirm their conviction that considerable numbers of children and young people are benefiting from the above activities in line with the aims of the charity and guidelines of the Charity Commission.

**John Creasey – 28.04.23**

## Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust Receipts Payments Accounts 2022

2021	<u>INCOME</u>	2022
17,760.00	Gift Aid donations	15,055.00
4,152.75	Reclaimed tax	3,854.00
	<b>21,912.75</b>	<b>18,909.00</b>
	<b>Regular donations:</b>	
1,345.00	Individuals	2,972.00
19,198.25	Churches	15,663.00
	<b>20,543.25</b>	<b>18,635.00</b>
	<b>Occasional donations:</b>	
742.56	Individuals	2,007.00
1,575.00	Churches	2,095.00
	<b>2,317.56</b>	<b>4,102.00</b>
	5,992.93 HMRC Furlough Payment	
	1,500.28 Just Giving/Easy Fundraising	<b>5.00</b>
	183.62 Bank interest	<b>189.24</b>
	income from events	<b>390.00</b>
	60.00 miscellaneous	<b>175.00</b>
	other income	<b>1,000.00</b>
	<b>52,510.39 TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>43,405.24</b>
	<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	
41,600.65	Workers' salaries	57,538.87
4,056.36	Superann.	5,699.48
1,801.82	Employer's NI	1,271.62
	<b>47,458.83</b>	<b>64,509.97</b>
	1,959.91 Workers' expenses (Note 1)	<b>3,508.42</b>
	1,486.07 Trust administration (Note 2)	<b>2,822.43</b>
	<b>50,904.81 TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>70,840.82</b>
	<b>1,605.58 surplus/deficit</b>	<b>-27,435.58</b>
	<b>Note 1</b>	
	<b>Workers' expenses</b>	
500.64	Motor + travel	1,985.70
64.79	Consumeables	407.24
91.73	Materials	147.83
34.65	Postage	24.65
103.10	Telephone	72.00
495.00	Office heat/light allowance	405.00
670.00	Training	466.00
	<b>1,959.91</b>	<b>3,508.42</b>
	<b>Note 2</b>	
	<b>Trust administration</b>	
13.00	DBS	26.00
563.70	Insurance	562.97
	costs of events	30.00
70.00	gifts (Christmas worker gifts)	135.00
362.29	Trustee expenses (Zoom pyts)	375.00
	Subscriptions	1,000.00
	miscellaneous	
477.08	Workers Hardware Software	693.46
	<b>1,486.07</b>	<b>2,822.43</b>

**Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust**  
**Balance Sheet : 31 December 2022**

2021		2022	
	Balances at bank		
9,021.35	NatWest current A/C	18,281.53	
13,501.33	Barclay Savings A/C	6,621.41	
67,150.45	Nationwide 90 day	37,334.61	
8.94	Cash in hand	8.94	
<b>89,682.07</b>		<b>62,246.49</b>	
88,076.49	BALANCE at year start	89,682.07	
1,605.58	Surplus / deficit of income	-27,435.58	
	over expenditure		
<b>89,682.07</b>	BALANCE at year end	<b>62,246.49</b>	0.00

## Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust  
(otherwise known as BASCST and Impact),  
Registered Charity No. 1010472

on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act), and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees 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 the 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 examiner's 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 2011 Charities Act;
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed: Ann B Wilson

Date: 28/2/23

Independent Examiner's Name: ANN B. WILSON

Relevant professional qualification or body: F.C.C.A.

Address: THE OLD POLICE HOUSE, 1 PARK HILL,  
AMPTHILL, BEDS MK45 2LW

**BEDFORD AREA SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN SUPPORT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1010412

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# Accounts

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## Annual Report for Charity Commission 2021

### **Structure, Governance and Management:**

**Membership of the Trust:** Trustees and year of appointment are as follows,

Miss Janet Cox	2017	
Mr John Creasey	2017	(Chair from September 2018)
Miss Heidi Fletcher	2017	(Vice Chair from September 2018)
Mrs Marie Mead	2012	(Secretary)
Mrs Deborah Nicholls	2019	(Resigned May 2021)
Mrs Jane Spencer	2017	(Safeguarding Trustee)
Dr. John Stafford	1990	(Assistant Treasurer from April 2020)
Mrs Jacqueline Vickers	2015	(Treasurer from April 2020)

### **Employees of the Trust:**

Mrs Jo-Ann Gaunt	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2002 – retired 31/07/2021
Mrs Trish Horwood	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2017
Mrs Becky Guynn	primary schools worker	appointed 01/09/2019

### **Objectives and Activities: methods may have changed but objectives haven't.**

**The stated aim of the Trust is:** *The advancement of the Christian Religion among young people in the Bedford Area, particularly in schools, in conjunction with local churches and volunteers.*

Although another unusual year - dominated again by Covid 19 restrictions – a return to “near normality” was possible from the beginning of September 2021. For the first two terms of the year, Impact’s workers had limited access into schools and the majority of their work was carried out electronically, a way of working they had skilfully mastered in 2020.

Impact’s aims and objectives, enabling children and young people to achieve their full spiritual, moral, social and cultural potential, was again being carried out through personal contact within schools. Although still subject to certain Covid 19 restrictions, and in a majority of schools, from September 2021 onwards our workers were being welcomed back by both teachers and pupils alike, with a mixture of electronic and face to face contact being the format of working through the “new normal”.

### **Achievements and Performance: building on the successes of 2020.**

The achievements of 2021 were built upon the work that had been carried out so successfully in 2020. For the first two terms of the year, from January to July, when access into schools was still prohibited, information continued to be sent into schools and churches electronically. As in the previous nine months of 2020, it was gratefully received and appreciated by both pupils and teachers.

Written feedback as to the value of the material sent out electronically was a great encouragement to both trustees and workers alike. It encouraged us all to look for even more inventive and exciting ways to present our information in schools, whilst at the same time it assured us that our workers would be warmly welcomed back into schools once restrictions were eased – as they were in September 2021.

### **Core Activities and Materials: they remain the same – but are presented differently.**

Whilst still working from home for the first two terms of the year, our workers continued to make contact with all the schools in which they had previously taken assemblies, carried out creative prayer / prayer spaces / GodlyPlay as well as self esteem and relationship sessions; helped run Christian Unions, run voluntary lunchtime / after school clubs, and taken RE lessons. They continued to offer schools a programme of electronically presented material up until July and, where schools were willing to allow them to return, from the beginning of the Autumn term they offered them a mixture of electronic information and face to face presentations – some schools delaying worker entry until January 2022. The core material presented to pupils in schools had not changed, but the method of delivery had. Once again, our workers had creatively and innovatively developed ways of ensuring the Christian message could still be heard in schools, despite the ongoing restrictions.

### **Special Projects and Seasonal Activities: a difficult year**

In a “normal year” our workers would have been involved in the following activities – often with the help and support of volunteers and / or in conjunction with Scripture Union and the John Bunyan Museum in Bedford. With some Covid 19 restrictions still in place for most of 2021, the following activities were not possible – a great disappointment for all those usually involved.

#### **Life Path:**

#### **Easter Experience:**

#### **Barn Nativity:**

#### **Footsteps of Bunyan:**

With the Barn Nativity having been videoed in 2020 it was possible for schools and churches to re-use this if they wished to, it having been so enthusiastically received the previous year. There is now a conversation taking place about what other special projects and activities can be videoed – in case face to face activities are not possible on occasions in the future. Videoing the Easter Experience is being considered, as well as the Footsteps of Bunyan.

### **Church and Volunteer Communications: not the easiest year.**

As the year progressed it was evident that contact with our volunteers was something that had suffered because of Covid 19 restrictions. Attempts to get existing and prospective volunteers to join workers and Trustees for a thank you tea proved unsuccessful, and will now be held in 2022. Meanwhile, our schools' workers have continued to make regular contact with the Churches they are involved with, all of varying Christian denominations, ensuring that the material they have been receiving from Impact is relevant and appropriate. Once again the response from Churches has been encouraging – but has yet to produce an increase in the number of volunteers Impact activities need throughout the year.

In addition, and to ensure that our volunteers and supporters are kept fully aware of what our schools' workers are doing, we have continued to send out our newsletter once a term, plus an email up-date once a month – including our prayer requests.

As a small Christian charity our volunteers and supporters are very important to us and keeping in touch with them is essential. It is their prayers and financial support that has enabled Impact to continue presenting the Christian message in Bedfordshire schools for over 30 years.

### **Training and Reviews: encouraging**

Throughout the year, the schools' workers have again each carried out a variety of on-line training courses, having been encouraged to look for relevant courses and seminars that will be of benefit to their work in the future. At the same time, they have continued to record and score each seminar / course they have carried out, to determine which ones have been of value and which ones haven't. This it is hoped, will ensure that any future training will be appropriate to their work in schools.

Our workers have also been involved in the development of a new way of presenting stories to pupils in schools called “Out of the Box”, something they believe will be beneficial to their way of working in the future.

Through Zoom meetings workers have each taken part in trustee-led Annual Performance Reviews as well as reflection / retreat days.

As in previous years regular Team Meetings have been used to build a sense of 'team' and this has been essential during a further year of restrictions and disruptions.

The Trust is mindful of its responsibilities for the welfare of pupils, and workers, volunteers and Trustees are DBS checked. In addition, our safeguarding strategies and policies are regularly reviewed to ensure the charity is fully up to date with current legislation.

### **The Future: the same objective, but delivered in a different way**

With Covid 19 restrictions continuing for the first two terms of the year, with our relatively new worker Becky Guynn eager to get into schools, but not able to, and with the departure of our longest serving worker Jo-Ann Gaunt at the end of July, 2021 was quite an eventful year.

In addition, the Trustees also had to search for a new worker to replace Jo-Ann !!

As in 2021, the encouragement our workers received throughout the year from teachers, their assistants, Church leaders, volunteers and supporters, as well as pupils, was very much appreciated. Impact, was now being seen by many schools as a group of innovative workers, presenting the Christian message, as a team. Where previously a school would only meet one Impact worker, through the use of modern technology, schools were now meeting all three workers; if not face to face, then on the screen.

On-line social media platforms, including Facebook, have continued to be developed and proven to be very helpful in spreading the word about what Impact can do, is doing and will be doing in the future.

The Strategic Vision Plan, begun in August 2020 to further prepare Impact for its mission and objectives in the coming years, continues to be developed. Several meetings have been held throughout the year and Trustees and workers have jointly produced a draft strategic vision for the next 5 years. A full review of our future aims and goals, including an appraisal of our current and future finances, existing and future ways our workers carry out their work, plus an assessment of our management needs is ongoing. It includes a strategy for increasing our income as well as an increase in the number of trustees, volunteers and supporters we have at present.

2022 will hopefully see this Strategic Vision document finalised, approved and fully implemented.

### **Financial Review**

Please see Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets attached.

### **Independent Examination:**

The Examiner's Report is attached.

### **Public Benefit:**

The trustees affirm their conviction that considerable numbers of children and young people are benefiting from the above activities in line with the aims of the charity and guidelines of the Charity Commission.

**John Creasey - 26.08.2022**

## BASCST - Receipts Payments Account 2021

2020	<u>INCOME</u>	2021
19,242.00	Gift Aid donations	17,760.00
5,166.50	Reclaimed tax	4,152.75
<b>24,408.50</b>		<b>21,912.75</b>
	<b>Regular donations:</b>	
2,680.00	Individuals	1,345.00
20,249.03	Churches	19,198.25
<b>22,929.03</b>		<b>20,543.25</b>
	<b>Occasional donations:</b>	
1,180.00	Individuals	742.56
625.14	Churches	1,575.00
<b>1,805.14</b>		<b>2,317.56</b>
3,383.96	HMRC Furlough Payment	<b>5,992.93</b>
2,545.79	Just Giving/Easy Fundraising	<b>1,500.28</b>
757.59	Bank interest	<b>183.62</b>
510.00	income from events	
380.00	miscellaneous	<b>60.00</b>
1,015.00	other income	
<b>57,735.01</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>52,510.39</b>
<hr/> <b>EXPENDITURE</b> <hr/>		
48,407.21	Workers' salaries	41,600.65
4,624.41	Superann.	4,056.36
563.27	Employer's NI	1,801.82
<b>53,594.89</b>		<b>47,458.83</b>
2,830.64	Workers' expenses (Note 1)	<b>1,959.91</b>
2,284.82	Trust administration (Note 2)	<b>1,486.07</b>
<b>58,710.35</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>50,904.81</b>
<b>-975.34</b>	<b>surplus/deficit</b>	<b>1,605.58</b>
	<b>Note 1</b>	0.00
	<b>Workers' expenses</b>	
1,821.37	Motor + travel	500.64
37.27	Consumeables	64.79
320.58	Materials	91.73
19.60	Postage	34.65
216.62	Telephone	103.10
380.20	Office heat/light allowance	495.00
35.00	Training	670.00
<b>2,830.64</b>	<b>Note 2</b>	<b>1,959.91</b>
	<b>Trust administration</b>	
13.00	DBS	13.00
563.70	Insurance	563.70
184.00	costs of events	
28.00	gifts (Christmas worker gifts)	70.00
475.06	Trustee expenses (Zoom pyts)	362.29
1,021.07	Subscriptions	
-0.01	miscellaneous	
	Workers Hardware Software	477.08
<b>2,284.82</b>		<b>1,486.07</b>

## BASCST - Balance Sheet 2021

	2020		2021
		Balances at bank	
	9,334.39	NatWest current A/C	9,021.35
	11,765.04	Barclay Savings A/C	13,501.33
	66,968.12	Nationwide 90 day	67,150.45
	8.94	Cash in hand	8.94
	<b>88,076.49</b>		<b>89,682.07</b>
	89,051.83	BALANCE at year start	88,076.49
-	975.34	Surplus / deficit of income over expenditure	1,605.58
	<b>88,076.49</b>	BALANCE at year end	<b>89,682.07</b>

## Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust  
(otherwise known as BASCST and Impact),  
Registered Charity No. 1010472

on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act), and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees 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 the 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 examiner's 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 2011 Charities Act;
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Christopher Winter-Goodwin

Date: 25/02/22

Independent Examiner's Name: CHRISTOPHER WINTER-GOODWIN

Relevant professional qualification or body: BEC NATIONAL CERTIFICATE

Address: 32 MK45 4NG

**BEDFORD AREA SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN SUPPORT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1010412

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# Accounts

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## Annual Report for Charity Commission 2020

### **Structure, Governance and Management:**

**Membership of the Trust:** Trustees and year of appointment are as follows,

Miss Janet Cox	2017	
Mr John Creasey	2017	(Chair from September 2018)
Miss Heidi Fletcher	2017	(Vice Chair from September 2018)
Mrs Marie Mead	2012	(Secretary)
Mrs Deborah Nicholls	2019	(Appointed in March)
Mrs Jane Spencer	2017	
Dr. John Stafford	1990	(Assistant Treasurer from April 2020)
Mrs Jacqueline Vickers	2015	(Treasurer from April 2020)

### **Employees of the Trust:**

Mrs Jo-Ann Gaunt	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2002
Mrs Trish Horwood	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2017
Mrs Becky Guynn	primary schools worker	appointed 01/09/2019

### **Objectives and Activities: a Covid 19 year**

**The stated aim of the Trust is:** *The advancement of the Christian Religion among young people in the Bedford Area, particularly in schools, in conjunction with local churches and volunteers.*

In a normal year, throughout each term, our schools' workers would have been in different schools, working with pupils and staff to help broaden their awareness and knowledge of the Christian faith. However, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020, when the country went into Covid 19 lock-down, this all came to an abrupt halt; school attendance stopped and access into schools for our three workers was prohibited.

As a Christian organisation, our desire to empower children and young people to achieve their full spiritual, moral, social and cultural appeared impossible.

For 30 years our workers had taken the Gospel message into schools unhindered.

- How would they now be able to deliver Impact's range of activities to children and young people if there was nobody in school?

- How would they be able to continue building positive and appropriate relationships with schools whilst respecting diversity and differences across all faiths if they were closed?

### **Achievements and Performance: a remarkable year of appreciation!**

Whilst the traditional work of Impact was greatly appreciated by pupils and staff in both community and independent schools throughout the first three months of 2020, through speedy adaptation and skilful use of modern technology, schools and churches alike were even more appreciative of the materials they were provided with by our three schools workers throughout the remaining 9 months of the year.

On requesting and receiving written feedback as to the value of the material sent out electronically to both schools and churches, trustees and workers have been encouraged to receive overwhelming support from teachers and staff – assuring us that, when their school doors re-open to visitors, our schools workers will be warmly invited back in.

### **Core Activities and Materials: they haven't changed**

Working from home from the beginning of April 2020, our schools workers made contact with all the schools they had previously gone into - the majority of them having benefited from Impact workers taking assemblies, helping to run Christian Unions, voluntary lunchtime / after school clubs, as well as taking RE lessons – and offered them a programme of material that would be provided electronically. The schools that had invited in volunteer teams to deliver “*Open the Book* bible storytelling assemblies” – a Bible Society resource often set up by schools workers but run independently of Impact – were equally pleased to receive Bible stories electronically, acted out by volunteers under Covid restrictions. The core material previously presented in schools by our Impact workers hadn't changed, but the method of delivery had – drastically.

### **Special Projects: unfortunately cancelled**

In a “normal year” the following activities would have been carried out by our schools' workers – often with the help and support of our volunteers and / or in conjunction with Scripture Union – but all had to “put on hold” due to Covid restrictions.

**Creative Prayer:**

**Godly Play:**

**Prayer Spaces:**

**Self Esteem and Relationship sessions:**

**Life Path:**

**Footsteps of Bunyan:**

### **Seasonal Activities: disappointments and a success!!!**

In 2020, and for the same reason as that for Special Projects, Covid restrictions, all but one of our Seasonal Activities were cancelled.

**Easter Experience** and **Christmas Activity Days** were each put on hold – but **Barn Nativity** wasn't.

Barn Nativity is a storytelling enactment of the biblical account of the birth of Jesus. It is set in a large local garden, where adult volunteers take the key roles and the children walk from scene to scene. Nearly 500 children, staff and adult helpers from local lower schools would usually experience this dramatised version of the First Christmas in the first week of December. In previous years there have been 17 “presentations” in the week, including two floodlit ones held on Friday evening, and the response from all who have attended has been exceptionally positive.

Whilst the speed with which “lock-down” was introduced in March 2020 precluded Impact from preparing an electronic presentation of the Easter Experience, reduced Covid restrictions later in the year allowed the workers and a team of volunteers to video the Barn Nativity and to issue it to schools and churches in advance of Christmas 2020. And what a success it was!!!

Schools and churches were thrilled to receive a copy and it was viewed by thousands of local children and adults, as well as many others world wide.

With Barn Nativity having been such a successful video presentation, there is now the question of how to proceed with Seasonal Activities in the coming years.

### **Church and Volunteer Communications: necessary even more than before**

As mentioned above, over the whole of 2020, the schools' workers have been in regular contact with the churches they are involved with, all of varying Christian denominations, with a view to ensuring that the material they have produced and issued is relevant and appropriate. This has involved them in a considerable number of “Zoom” meetings with youth workers, church leaders and volunteers.

In addition, and to ensure that our volunteers and supporters are kept fully aware of what our schools' workers are doing, we have continued to send out our newsletter once a term, plus an email up-date once a month – including our prayer requests.

As a small Christian charity our volunteers and supporters are very important to us and keeping in touch with them is essential. It is their prayers and financial support that have enabled us to continue our work in schools for nearly 30 years.

### **Training and Reviews: more than ever before**

During the year, the schools' workers have each carried out a variety of on-line training courses. They have been encouraged to look for relevant courses and seminars that will be of benefit to their work in the future, post pandemic. At the same time they have been asked to record and score each seminar / course they have carried out, to determine which ones have been of value and which ones haven't. This it is hoped, will ensure that any future training will be appropriate to their work.

Although not able to be carried out in the same way as in previous years, they have each taken part in trustee-led Annual Performance Reviews and reflection / retreat days are held each term.

Regular Team Meetings, each led by a trustee, have continued to be very useful in building a sense of 'team' and this has been essential during a year of restrictions and disruptions.

The trust is mindful of its responsibilities for the welfare of pupils, and all workers, volunteers and Trustees are DBS checked. In addition, our safeguarding strategies and policies are regularly reviewed to ensure the charity is fully up to date with current legislation. To ensure the importance of safeguarding is fully understood and appreciated by both Trustees and workers, in 2020 we have also carried out an in depth review of our existing policy, resulting in the creation of a new policy plus additional training for Trustees and workers where appropriate.

### **The Future: the same objective, but delivered in a different way**

With the appointment of another full time lower schools Christian worker in September 2019, and with one of our other workers reducing her working week from 5 to 2 days, 2020 was always set to be a very interesting year - becoming even more interesting with the introduction of lock-down in late March 2020. Encouraged as we have been by the enthusiastic response and support received throughout the year from teachers, their helpers, clergy from varying denominations, volunteers and supporters, and in particular pupils, Impact workers have used available technology to meet the needs of the schools they would normally go into. They have been willing to adapt and to learn new ways of presentation; they have been inventive and adventurous in the way they have carried out their work, achieving the same objective, but in a different way.

To further aid this way of working a new Social Media Policy was developed, allowing the charity to venture into new ways of contacting individuals, whilst promoting the work of Impact through on-line social media platforms, including Facebook. This has proven to be very successful and it is hoped it will be developed further in the coming year.

To further prepare Impact for its mission and objectives in the future, in August 2020 the Trustees and workers began to look at developing a strategic vision for Impact for the next 5 years. This will be continued throughout 2021 and will include a full review of our future aims and goals, including an appraisal of our current and future finances, existing and future ways our workers carry out their work, plus an assessment of our management needs, including how we can increase the number of trustees, volunteers and supporters we have at present.

2021 will, yet again be an exciting time for all those involved with Impact.

### **Financial Review**

Please see Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets attached.

### **Independent Examination:**

The Examiner's Report is attached.

### **Public Benefit:**

The trustees affirm their conviction that considerable numbers of children and young people are benefiting from the above activities in line with the aims of the charity and guidelines of the Charity Commission.

**John Creasey - 24.09.2021**

## BASCST - Receipts Payments Account 2020

2019	<u>INCOME</u>	2020
21,541.00	Gift Aid donations	19,242.00
5,241.00	Reclaimed tax	5,166.50
<b>26,782.00</b>		<b>24,408.50</b>
	<b>Regular donations:</b>	
2,134.00	Individuals	2,680.00
20,688.35	Churches	20,249.03
<b>22,822.35</b>		<b>22,929.03</b>
	<b>Occasional donations:</b>	
1,940.00	Individuals	1,180.00
400.00	Churches	625.14
<b>2,340.00</b>		<b>1,805.14</b>
	HMRC Furlough Payment	3,383.96
	Just Giving	2,545.79
792.77	792.77 Bank interest	757.59
	1,020.00 income from events	510.00
	-0.55 miscellaneous	380.00
	0.00 other income	1,015.00
<b>53,756.57 TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>57,735.01</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
56,231.80	Workers' salaries	48,407.21
5,277.34	Superann.	4,624.41
555.97	Employer's NI	563.27
<b>62,065.11</b>		<b>53,594.89</b>
	<b>96.36</b> Embedded expenses	
	<b>6,468.06</b> Workers' expenses (Note 1)	2,830.64
	<b>1,738.76</b> Trust administration (Note 2)	2,284.82
<b>70,368.29 TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>58,710.35</b>
<b>-16,611.72 surplus/deficit</b>		<b>-975.34</b>

<b>Note 1</b>		
<b>Workers' expenses</b>		
4,302.88	Motor + travel	1,821.37
75.46	Consumeables	37.27
1,089.06	Materials	320.58
6.39	Postage	19.60
314.50	Telephone	216.62
450.00	Office heat/light allowance	380.20
229.77	Training	35.00
<b>6,468.06</b>		<b>2,830.64</b>
<b>Note 2</b>		
<b>Trust administration</b>		
456.00	DBS	13.00
564.85	Insurance	563.70
331.96	costs of events	184.00
74.95	gifts	28.00
123.00	Trustee expenses*	475.06
158.00	Subscriptions	1,021.07
30.00	miscellaneous	-0.01
<b>1,738.76</b>		<b>2,284.82</b>

## Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust  
(otherwise known as BASCST and Impact),  
Registered Charity No. 1010472

on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act), and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees 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 the 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 examiner's 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 2011 Charities Act;
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed: Ann B Wilson

Date: 7/3/2020

Independent Examiner's Name: Ann Wilson

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCCA Membership No. 0790187

Address: 1 Park Hill, Ampthill, Bedfordshire MK45 2LW