

# Annual Report of Community Bible Study International UK

for the year ended 31 August 2023

## Registered charity numbers:

Charity Commission: 1044255, Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: SC0037863

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# Trustees Report

## Structure and governance

- The charity is established by a trust deed and is governed by a board of trustees (listed below).
- The trustees are individuals appointed under the trust deed or subsequently by the board.

## Operating name:

Community Bible Study UK

## Contacts:

National office correspondence address: 6 Warren Lane, Witham St Hughs, Lincoln, LN6 9US.

Email: [info@cbsuk.org](mailto:info@cbsuk.org)

Other contact details are on the website at <https://uk.communitybiblestudy.org/>

## Governance and management

Day to day management is in the hands of the National Coordinator and the National Servants Team (NST) which comprises:

Simon Baker - National Coordinator

Virginia Aspinall - Midlands Regional Coordinator and National Study Library Supervisor

Jane Hutchinson - Midlands Regional Coordinator

Simon Baker - Northern and Southern Regional Coordinator

Dinah Ball - Regional Coordinators for North West England

Paul Scrivner - Regional Coordinators for North West England

Keith and Natasha Doughty - Regional Coordinators for Wales and the Bristol area

Ann Baker - Children and Youth Supervisor

Bonnie Fletcher - Pastoral lead

## Appointments and objectives

Trustee and National Coordinator appointments are reviewed for reappointment every three years. Trustees are recruited from within the CBS UK family and people recommended by them. They initially have discussions with the existing chair of trustees or National Coordinator before attending a trustee meeting as observer where they have chance to meet the other trustees and consideration can be made on both sides whether an appointment would be appropriate and useful.

All officers and staff during this period were unpaid volunteers.

Although the charity is independent, it is associated with Community Bible Study International and uses study material under licence.

The objects of the charity are the advancement of the Christian Religion and the advancement of education by:

- developing and publishing study and devotional material of a religious nature and in particular Bible study notes and commentaries and other teaching materials pertaining to the Bible on the pattern established by Community Bible Study International.
- establishing training classes for Bible study class leaders utilising the materials referred to above.
- establishing and promoting Bible study classes utilising the said materials and conducting such classes in co-ordination and co-operation with Christians of all denominations.

## Focus

The focus during this period has been the formation of a clear growth strategy (See, Join, Stay) and the extension of the work to new areas especially Birmingham. During the year the charity developed further the programme of online groups and study.

## Leadership

The Board of Trustees met formally twice during the year (12 November 2022 and 18th March 2023 online). There were communications by email and telephone between meetings.

The NST met every 2 months. The Trustees are very grateful to the NST for all the work they have done in continuing the work of the charity.

An Annual General Meeting was held online on 13 May 2023.

## Classes (now Groups)

There were 90 fully operative group with 1045 participants. The trend is towards smaller more easily managed and leg groups. CBS UK has English, Russian, Welsh, Spanish and Arabic speaking groups and some Farsi speakers.

Groups are established and run by local volunteers with training, resources and support from the national organisation. We are increasingly referring to classes as groups.

## Conference 2023

The year's conference was held face to face at the Hayes Conference Centre. Participant numbers were excellent for this event, there was a real sense of prayer and we were grateful to our speaker Dr Jógvan Zachariassen for the challenging talks.

## Europe

A grant based on 10% of the UK income is paid to support the wider European work in line with the Community Bible Study International licensing agreement.

## Ambassadors

The Ambassador connection draws people experienced in the work of CBS to particular regions or countries to start new work or to extend existing work.

We are privileged to have a team working with us in Scotland, Wales and in Northern Ireland. Our ambassadors were not able to travel during the pandemic but have stayed in touch with the ministry online.

Additionally, several people from the UK serve God through CBS in Europe in a parallel role.

## Training

All training this year was carried out successfully online and the curriculum adapted suitably. Additions were made to the training in respect of topics which can cause controversy (amber topics).

## Class Visitors

Class visiting has been patchy across the regions. Bonnie Fletcher has been appointed as pastoral care lead to make a review of our pastoral care arrangements and to see where we can improve our pastoral care. A model of regional leadership meetings on Zoom is under assessment.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is given to all leaders who have Adults with additional support needs or children in their groups either locally or online. Changes are implemented regularly updating the Policy Documents and manual and a system for obtaining DBS checks is in place, and a Safeguarding Coordinator is responsible for these actions. Notably we currently have no deputy Safeguarding coordinator.

## Study materials

Studies are now available in printed format, spiral bound, electronic format (pdf). New study material became available this year.

## Financial

The trustees are pleased with the net income for the year, despite the pandemic. The charity's reserves policy is to maintain sufficient funds to continue to complete the current class studies if the income were to cease, to cover the advance costs of the annual conference and accrue for capital costs of irregular large projects (such as bulk folder purchasing done every few years). Additionally, the current NST members use their homes as offices. Should there be a need in the future for an office, reserves might be needed to help cover such costs. The trustees are satisfied that reserves are sufficient to cover these needs.

## Special projects

We received a grant that enabled us to supply tablet devices to people, especially the isolated, to join groups studying the Bible. There remains a surplus and the trustees have not yet decided how to channel this.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hudson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Paul" and the last name "Hudson" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Hudson  
29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## The Trustees of Community Bible Study International UK

The following served as trustees during the year and are appointed solely by the Board:

Richard Alvarez

Alison Bagg (Chair)

Dr Simon Baker (National Coordinator)

Stuart Crossley

Paul Hudson (Treasurer)

Michelle Smith

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY INTERNATIONAL UK**  
Charity Commission number 1044255,  
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator number SC0037863

*I report on the accounts of the Association for the Year Ended to 31st AUGUST 2023, attached.*

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND 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 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:-*

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act*
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and*
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention*

**BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

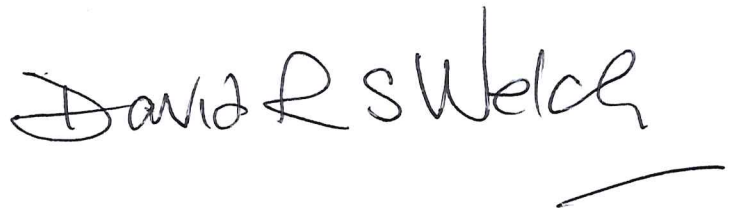
*My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from 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 Charities Act and*
  - 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.*

**DAVID R S WELCH FCA, DChA.**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**  
3 ALVINGTON GROVE, HAZEL GROVE,  
STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE, SK7 5LS



**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



# Community Bible Study International UK

Charity Commission number 1044255, Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator number SC0037863

## Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 August 2023 (receipts and payments basis)

	Unrestricted and Total Funds 2023		Unrestricted and Total Funds 2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Donations		6,271.23		5,600.98
Conference		20,150.58		-
Class Registration & Offerings		16,470.60		17,113.87
Gift Aid		-		3,557.48
Interest Received		479.33		39.25
Study materials		5.00		50.00
CBS Europe - share of costs		-		113.40
Sundry income - bank compensation		350.00		-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>43,726.74</b>		<b>26,474.98</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Decrease in money with classes	2,224.83		4,715.25	
Advertising & promotion	9,197.45		6,055.13	
Independent examination	400.00		-	
Donation: CBS Western Europe	2,627.23		4,443.40	
Conference	23,744.72		7,566.87	
Evangelical Alliance	85.00		125.00	
Insurance	453.43		503.82	
CCPAS costs	245.50		181.25	
Office Costs / Administration	1,686.82		760.03	
Materials / Study booklets / class costs	59.00		12.98	
Meetings: NST	260.45		976.65	
Sundry	299.74		177.00	
Training	1,014.00		-	
National Coordinator travel	500.00		-	
Youth and Children CBSI	-		-	
Website and software	1,540.42		1,358.69	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>44,338.59</b>		<b>26,876.07</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>-611.85</b>		<b>-401.09</b>
Net funds last year end		38,526.60		38,927.69
<b>Net funds this year end</b>		<b>£37,914.75</b>		<b>£38,526.60</b>

# Community Bible Study International UK

Charity Commission number 1044255, Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator number SC0037863

## Balance Sheet at 31 August 2023

(receipts and payments basis)

	Unrestricted and Total Funds 2023		Unrestricted and Total Funds 2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>				
Current Account	15,516.71		17,016.77	
CCLA Deposit Account	15,107.54		14,628.21	
Cash with classes	<u>6,648.41</u>		<u>8,873.24</u>	
Total Cash Funds		<u>£37,272.66</u>		<u>£40,518.22</u>
<b>Debtors</b>				
CBS Europe	79.31		0.00	
Donations for translations paid over in advance	<u>562.78</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
		<u>£642.09</u>		<u>£0.00</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Donations received for translations not yet paid over	<u>0.00</u>		<u>1,991.62</u>	
		<u>£0.00</u>		<u>£1,991.62</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>£37,914.75</u>		<u>£38,526.60</u>