

Ashby de la Zouch Youth for Christ (AYFC)  
Registered Charity Number 1058434

Report of the Trustees to Charity Commission for year 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 - 31st July 2023

The trustees are drawn from the local Christian community all have knowledge and expertise relevant to the work of the organisation; they make major decisions and carry out or enable practical projects. All must feel able to sign The Statement of Faith.

The officers, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are elected from within the trustee membership.

The trustees usually meet twice during each school term, meetings were held in Ashby Methodist Church which accommodates the AYFC office.

The 2021-2022 AGM was held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Ashby Methodist Church at 7.30pm

The trustees are supported in their work by a Council of Reference, members are drawn from several local churches, they meet to hear an update from the Centre Director and provide invaluable prayer support to the trustees and staff.

Youth for Christ in Ashby de la Zouch is a charity federated to similar charities bearing the same name, and sharing the same ethos and direction as the central charity British Youth for Christ. AYFC adopts all policies and reviews all governing documents in line with British Youth for Christ; we also adhere to all new government laws as they are introduced.

AYFC is compliant as far as possible with GDPR, AYFC appointed Rev Mike Firbank as Data Protection Officer in January 2019, there has been no change to this appointment.

Safeguarding is of major importance, all staff and trustees are D.B.S. checked, and AYFC is compliant with BYFC standards, staff and trustees receive regular Safeguarding training. Noreen Mewies and Ivan Hallam (trustees) have responsibility for overseeing this.

As the National Charity continues to evolve and develop AYFC continues follow their lead in developing our five key areas.

Increasing evangelism

Serving the needs of young people in the community

Developing a culture of prayer

Developing our ministry to minorities

Increasing financial sustainability

All of these key points are reconsidered at every trustee meeting as they form the basis for our Centre Directors Report, we as trustees believe that AYFC continues to make excellent progress in all of these areas.

The mission of AYFC is to take the good news relevantly to every young person in Ashby de la Zouch and surrounding area. In every club we run, or lesson we lead, we show the young people we work with Christ's love and provide them with every opportunity to question, explore and respond to the challenges of the Christian faith.

Our work is 4D

Demonstration - Sharing God's love through what we do

Declaration – Talking about God and his son Jesus.

Discipleship – Supporting those who want to become Christians

Decision – Inviting a response to the challenges of Christ.

AYFC Centre Director continues to oversee the work of a full time Senior Youth Leader and part-time Youth Leader.

The trustees consider they are very fortunate to have these enthusiastic and dedicated staff working for AYFC.

Staff run three weekly youth clubs, one of which is a football session on a local Astro turf pitch. All of our clubs attract young people aged 11 - 18 from across the local area, including those who are not in education, some of whom have often been permanently excluded from their school due to their misbehaviour.

We also offer small group and one to one mentoring sessions in both primary and secondary schools locally. This support is valuable to young people who are struggling with issues in their lives, often at home who may often need a listening ear, and someone with the time to listen to their needs.

AYFC is fortunate to have a highly qualified staff member keen to lead Outdoor Activities. The necessary insurance cover is in place with liability of up to £10,000,000.

This work is steadily increasing with more young people able to enjoy the experience, it also offers an opportunity for staff to talk to the young people on a one-to-one basis in a relaxed informal way, we plan for this to continue.

The Licence, renewable every two years, enables us to take individuals and small groups into the countryside to take part in challenging activities including climbing, paddleboarding kayaking and mountain biking.

These activities give young people the opportunity to explore and try new things while building confidence and friendships.

Mentoring of pupils continued in Ashby Church of England Primary School with selected pupils in Year 6, and Ashby and Ivanhoe Schools both of which now take pupils from Year 7 – 11. This work will continue to expand during 2023-2024.

The trustees continue to monitor the level of unrestricted funds in order to ensure that the bank balance does not fall below 3 – 6 months working capital, there has been no change to this policy, Funds have continued to decline over the year due to a small decrease in donations and worrying lack of successful grant applications.

Trustees are taking the matter very seriously reviewing the financial situation meeting by meeting, we are acutely aware this cannot continue and are working on a robust strategic plan to see AYFC through the coming year and beyond.

AYFC was fortunate to receive a legacy from a very loyal supporter which secured our work during 2022 -2023.

Although we have sufficient funds for 2023 -2024 trustees will continue to communicate with supporters, look for grant raising opportunities and fundraise to ensure our future.

Assessment and mitigation of risk is undertaken and regularly reported to the Trustees.

The trustees are paying due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit as we seek to meet our charitable objectives.

Prepared by Noreen Mewies  
Chair of AYFC Trustees  
September 2023

# ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Registered Charity Number 1058434

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023.

### Summary of Receipts and Payments

RECEIPTS	Note	2023	2022
Regular Giving	1	£28,967	£29,685
Other Donations	2	£15,126	£2,785
Other Income	3	£21,683	£6,731
Agency Donations	4	£440	£180
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£66,216</b>	<b>£39,381</b>

PAYMENTS	Note	2023	2022
Staffing	5	£45,300	£43,529
Operating Costs	6	£15,582	£7,849
Agency Donations	4	£760	£0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£61,642</b>	<b>£51,378</b>

<b>Net Income/Expenditure in Year</b>	<b>£4,574</b>	<b>-£11,997</b>
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### Cash in Bank Accounts

Cash at bank and in hand at 01-Aug	2023	2022
Lloyds current account	£1,969	£1,517
Lloyds charity account	£28,261	£40,710
<b>Account totals</b>	<b>£30,230</b>	<b>£42,227</b>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31-Jul	2023	2022
Lloyds current account	£2,303	£1,969
Lloyds charity account	£32,501	£28,261
<b>Account totals</b>	<b>£34,805</b>	<b>£30,230</b>
<b>Net Account Movement in Year</b>	<b>£4,574</b>	<b>-£11,997</b>

### Commentary

- AYFC holds funds more than the reserves policy. While continuing to explore opportunities to spend on new initiatives, especially short-term ones that can be financed by current funds, there is continued concern that our regular income from donors continues to be significantly lower than our expenditure, 74% of which is the cost of staffing. With this in mind, the AYFC team and trustees continue to look to control expenditure to ensure the ongoing survival of AYFC. However, we continue to rely on God's provision, including grants and other extra income.
- Regular giving reduced again in 2023 by 2.5% (on top of 1.5% in 2022). Individual donations continued to hold relatively stable, reducing by 0.6%, compared to a 6% decrease in support from local churches. Regular giving remains insufficient to match regular spending.

- While our net income exceeded income by about £4,500, an extra £3227 was received in gift aid in FY2023 for donations made in FY2022. In addition, we have been blessed by a sizable bequest which ensured that we were able to continue our work throughout FY2023 while we continue to look for more ways to balance income and expenditure.

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Ashby Youth for Christ (Charity No. 1058434) for the financial year ended 31 July 2023**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner** The AYFC Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and 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 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 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.

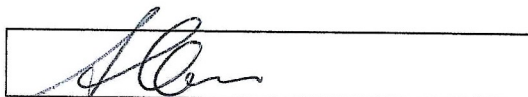
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

10/4/2024

Name:

STEPHEN CHOU

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:**

ACMA RETIRED.

Address:

24 WILLETON GARDENS  
ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH LE65 2DF



## Income Notes

### 1. Regular Giving

Category	2023	2022
Regular Donations	£19,519	£19,631
Donations from local Churches	£9,448	£10,054
	£28,967	£29,685

### 2. Other Donations

Category	2023	2022
One Off Gifts	£15,126	£2,785
	£15,126	£2,785

Other donations from individuals, including those applicable for Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS), and those from organisations where Gift Aid claim is not applicable.

This includes a large donation in the form of a bequest from the estate of David Watson – a great supporter and active volunteer with AYFC over many years. He will be greatly missed.

### 3. Other Income

Category	2023	2022
Gift Aid Reclaimed <sup>(1)</sup>	£6,868	£1,451
Grants & Charities <sup>(2)</sup>	£1,260	£745
Event Contributions <sup>(3)</sup>	£1,059	£157
Fundraising <sup>(4)</sup>	£2,846	£1,536
Adventurous Income <sup>(5)</sup>	£395	£1,260
Government Employment Relief <sup>(6)</sup>	£0	£1,582
Paddleboarding Equipment <sup>(7)</sup>	£9,256	£0
	£6,731	£17,683

<sup>(1)</sup> Gift aid was up when comparing FY2023 to FY2022. However, this was due a total of £3227 received from HMRC in September 2022 relating to Gift Aid on donations made in FY2022. The accounting system which AYFC now uses includes a mechanism to speed up the claiming of Gift Aid, meaning that gift aid is now claimed more regularly, meaning that only the only gift aid due at the end of FY2023 was from donations made in July.

<sup>(2)</sup> Three grants were gratefully received from local organisations in FY2023. Many thanks to Ashby Educational Foundation, Ashby Rotary Club and Ashby Lions for their continued support. In addition to this, a large grant for Paddleboard equipment was received, as discussed in point 7.

<sup>(3)</sup> Event Contributions are funds received by individuals towards support for individual events. These were severely restricted at the start of FY2023.

<sup>(4)</sup> The team and a number of supporters took part in some great fundraising events in FY2023.

<sup>(5)</sup> Adventurous Income were contributions by third parties making use of the outdoor activities provided by AYFC.

<sup>(6)</sup> Government Employment Relief ("Furlough Payments") for some of FY2023, when the AYFC staff were not able to undertake their normal activities. The trustees agreed to top-up these payments so that the staff continued to receive full salaries at this time.

<sup>(7)</sup> A large grant for the purchase of Paddleboarding Equipment was received in FY2023. The equipment has been used over the year on a number of occasions, and should be a great resource over the years.

#### 4. Agency Donations

Category	2023	2022
Agency Donations Received	£440	£180
Agency Payments Made	£760	£0

Donations made by a giver to be passed on to help the work in of other organisations, such as Moldova YFC that has been supported by AYFC staff and others over the years. In FY2022 and FY2021 no payments were made – hence the increase in YF2023.

### Expenditure Notes

#### 5. Staffing

Category	2023	2022
Staff Expenses	£476	£150
Staffing Costs <sup>(1) (2)</sup>	£43,655	£43,098
Staff Training & Conferences	£1,169	£281
	£45,300	£43,529

<sup>(1)</sup> Staffing costs are wages & pensions for Helen Davis, Vernon Bayliss, Katie Johnson.

<sup>(2)</sup> Staffing Costs were offset by £1,582 furlough payments in FY2022, paid by HMRC – shown as income in this report.

#### 6. Operating Costs

Category	2023	2022
Office & Admin <sup>(1)</sup>	£320	£1,778
Activity and Event Expenses	£2,270	£1,763
Insurance <sup>(2)</sup>	£2,503	£1,340
Resources/Equipment	£141	£202
Donation to YFC National	£1,200	£2,750
Fundraising Costs	£67	£16
Paddleboard Equipment	£9,081	£0
	£15,582	£7,849

<sup>(1)</sup> Office costs include Phone, Internet and Web Site Charges, Stationery, Printing & Postage and License fees. The provision of a phone landline was seen as superfluous this year, and so was discontinued.

<sup>(2)</sup> Insurance fee consists Combined Commercial Insurance only and Outdoor Activities Insurance.

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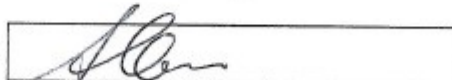
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**Date:**

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STEPHAN CHAVES

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