

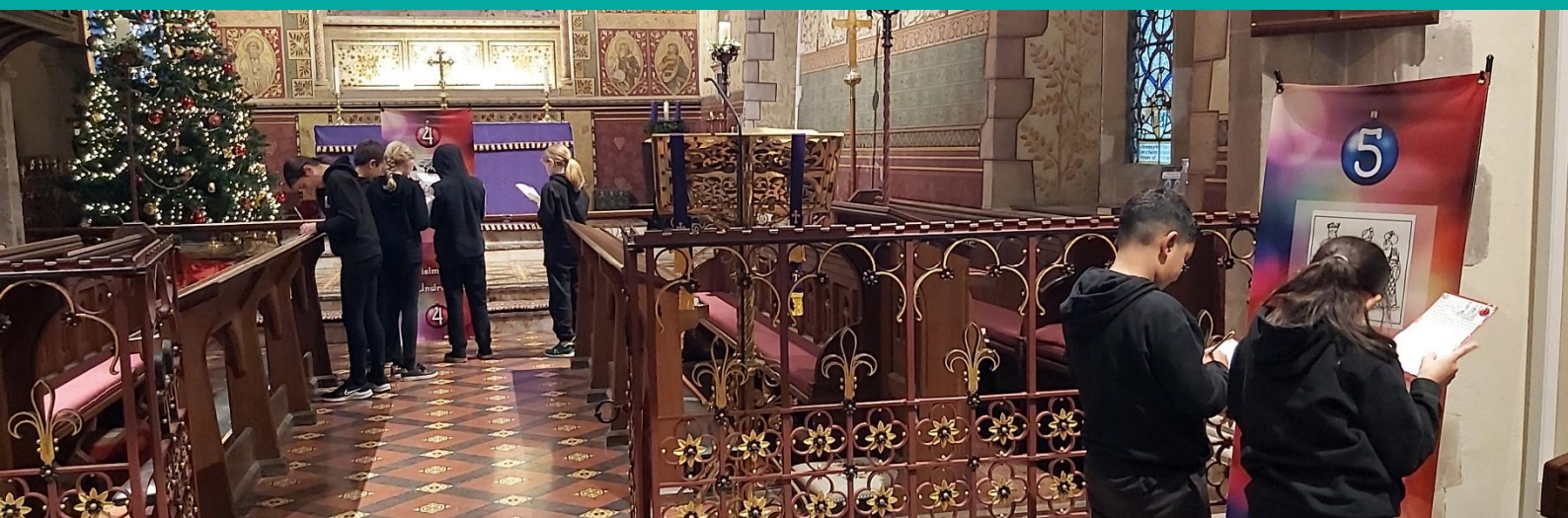


Wycombe
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Annual Report 2024



‘[The Team] ... was outstanding during the Year 9 assembly this morning.’
Pastoral Support Team



‘I just wanted to say thank you for the session you ran this afternoon for our Year 5s... They loved exploring the differences between how Christmas is shown every year compared to what is written in the Bible - the fact there was no donkey was a surprise! It was a lovely touch for them to have a decoration to take home as well and they proudly carried them, the pencil, and their books back to school.’

Year 5 & 6 Class Teachers



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Who We Are & How We Operate

Wycombe Youth for Christ is a charity established in accordance with a constitution adopted on 13th May 1997.

Charitable Objectives

- a) To promote the Christian faith and to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) in High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire) and its environs.
- b) To promote and encourage the Christian evangelisation of young people throughout the world and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) in High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire) and its environs.
- c) To promote and encourage positive Christian living.
- d) To relieve poverty and sickness thereby demonstrating the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Organisational details

The charity works with children and young people aged between 5-18 years old. There is a Director, paid Staff and a dedicated team of volunteers.

Governance

The Trustees meet on a regular basis with the Director to manage the work of the charity, with other meetings held on an ad hoc basis.

The Trustees are appointed on 3-year terms by members at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees must agree with the doctrinal statement issued by the national umbrella organisation, British Youth for Christ. The usual process followed in appointing Trustees is for the existing Trustees to approach a person whom they believe would bring to the trustee body useful skills and attributes. The Trustees will either co-opt them until they can be appointed by members at a General Meeting or propose them for appointment at a General Meeting.

There is no formal training for Trustees, other than giving them access to previous meeting minutes and policy documentation. As Trustees are prominent members of the local Christian community and have an established interest in Children's and Youth Work, they will be aware of the work undertaken by Wycombe Youth for Christ.

The Trustees believe that in order for the trustee body to operate effectively there should be no more than 6 Trustees. Currently there are 5 Trustees.

Public Interest

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit. They consider that the achievements for the past year clearly demonstrate that WYFC have fulfilled the requirement for providing a benefit to the public.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have felt the appropriate level of reserves to be at least 3 months' regular expenditure, which is currently in the region of £30,000. Our free reserves at the year-end were £71,471.



Review of 2023

Director's Report by Erica Holt

The last year has seen so much happen, that it can be difficult to recall it all. What I do know, is that God has been at the centre of all that we have done, as we have faithfully sought to follow His leading and calling.



Since our last AGM Report, there have been some changes within the team. Over the last decade, we have experienced a strong and stable team, that has had longevity in its ministry and relationships. We should never take this for granted; and it has a blessing from God that we have had this (which is not always the case in Youth and Children's ministry). However, we recognise that we are in a season of change; this has not come as a surprise, as God gave us words and pictures of change last year. Therefore, we believe that we will see Him at work and new growth in our ministry, during this season of change.

As the team changes, we have seen some ministry areas cease, and others begin. The decisions we have made have been based not just on our resources, but considering what God is doing and the opportunities He is bringing us.

However, many of our ministry areas have continued, and we have seen growth. We have been able to support three 'new' schools and broaden our support in others, in the last year; and have been delighted with the growth in our Christmas and Easter Workshops. We have also seen developments in our community work, as we have been adapting to the changing needs and openness of the young people we connect with.

I want to take the opportunity to thank each one who is, and has been, a part of the team – staff, volunteers and trustees; each one has been a part of impacting lives and sharing the love and hope of Jesus.

I would also like to thank each of you, our amazing friends and supporters, for the love and support that you give - your time, skills, encouragement, prayers and financial support. You are part of the team and ministry, and help to share the love of Jesus with thousands of children and young people.

Finally, I give my thanks and praise to God - He is worthy to be praised. He is our hope, joy, peace and love. He is our provider, sustainer, help, and encourager.

'Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.'

1 Chronicles 29:13 (NIV)



Lisa Dollery: Schools & Outreach Worker

This past year has been an exciting year of continued growth and new opportunities to build relationships. It has been wonderful to see God continuing to move and give us opportunities to share His love with young people.

I have continued mentoring in three Secondary Schools, and this continues to go extremely well, being appreciated by staff and students alike. One student said, *'It's so helpful meeting with you and you've helped me by letting school know when I've needed extra support'*. A member of staff shared, *'We appreciate what you do for our students, they are very lucky to have you come in and support them'*.

I have also seen our work grow in Princes Risborough School, as we are now leading regular assemblies to all year groups, as well as delivering PSHE sessions to the Sixth Form. In another school I am working alongside the School Chaplain, and we have co-led Retreat Days to different year groups. In the same school I am supporting the School Chaplain in running the weekly Christian Union and it is such a joy to see young people growing in their faith and relationship with God. I was recently privileged to be able to attend the baptism of a young man who attends this Christian Union.

I have continued to go out with our wonderful volunteers for Detached Youth Work in Wycombe and Princes Risborough. In both locations, it's been incredible to see how God is giving us opportunities to get to know young people, share God's love, and pray for them. One young person whom we have prayed for shared, *'My life is so much better ... maybe God is on my side'*; another shared, *'I've recently started reading the Bible'*. This young person also asked how they should read The Bible; this led to a great conversation, where we were able to offer advice. In Wycombe, we sensed God was leading us to move to a different location; we are now partnering with Holy Trinity Church. As we are leading Detached Youth Work in Hazlemere, the church are running a Youth Café at the same time; this is a space for young people to play games and for the church Youth Workers to build relationships with them. We are seeing young people connecting with us through Detached Youth Work and then moving into the Café space. We are excited to see what God is going to do in their lives through this initiative.

In Princes Risborough I have been working with a team from local Churches to run a Youth Alpha Course. This has come to an end, and we are exploring new ways in which to engage with young people and build relationships with them.

It has been an extremely exciting year, and such a privilege to serve God amongst young people. He has worked in ways that has truly surprised me at times, and this encourages me to keep praying and believing in Him to do even more in the lives of young people.



Kam Salah: Schools & Outreach Worker

Wycombe YFC values relationship, and developing these with churches, schools, children and young people, and the wider community. One of the communities which I focus on is Marlow. I am currently involved in two community projects. The Doughnut Club and the Youth Hub.



The Marlow Youth Hub has a strong volunteer team made of 7 people, who are all passionately dedicated to serving young people. The Hub was launched at the beginning November 2023 and we are still growing and developing. The discussions we have had at the Hub are varied, and have covered sports, music, and discussions of faith and Jesus. One young person, who had been let down by friends, was feeling low, and their parent reminded them about the Youth Hub. The young person came and joined us, talked through how they felt; they left at peace and left with a smile on their face!

Young people have shared, *'I think it's overall a really nice social environment for young people to meet up and chat with each other, [and] meet new people from different schools', and 'I enjoy the group because it's a relaxed environment where we can share how we feel, it's a judgement free place where I feel comfortable in myself'.*

Alongside this, I have been involved in mentoring. Last spring, we were invited back into a school by a new staff member (who knew us from their previous school), being asked to mentor and deliver assemblies.

One young person I supported through mentoring, struggled with concentration, emotions, and friendships. I have had the privilege to witness the growth and development of this mentee. They have learnt how to identify their emotions, implement techniques to regulate their emotions, and grow in their self-awareness. They said they had *'... grown in confidence, can draw more confidently at home, learn better at school and can share my feelings ...'.* I believe God has worked with this young person as they have learnt what they like about themselves, what they want to do, and have hope for their future.





Joshua West: Schools & Outreach Worker

It has been nothing but an amazing adventure becoming a part of the Wycombe YFC team over the past months; getting to know the routines and areas that we are investing in has been an eye-opening experience to the foundation that Wycombe YFC has.

Under the leadership of Erica, I have been fully supported and walked through my duties and responsibilities, whilst also having hands on experience in schools, youth outreach groups, and Detached Youth Work. Alongside Lisa and Kam, I have been able to shadow the amazing work they are conducting in: Princes Risborough, Marlow, and High Wycombe.

It is always encouraging to be shadowing someone and see the impact God has used them to have in the areas they are working in. I cannot go five minutes without someone approaching my fellow Wycombe YFC members and offering grateful remarks for their investment into their lives or an inquiry as to when they will next be returning.

It has been an interesting experience not being attached to a single church. Yet I have grown to love the notion of setting out from our base in Wycombe to aid and support other Youth Workers and schools in their quest to spread the gospel. It is most encouraging as we get to see many different forms of progression and fruit springing up in multiple communities. Furthermore, every school that we enter the team are treated like long serving members of staff; and it is clear that relationships have been prioritised in order to establish a long-term investment.

My area of focus has been Princes Risborough, with tasks such as Detached Youth Work, assemblies, and café clubs. It has only been a few weeks and I have already developed a repour with the students and teachers that we are witnessing to.

To sum up, it has been an extraordinary time packed full of new experiences and challenges but being supported by God and an amazing team. I look fondly to the future where I will be taking more of a hands-on role in Princes Risborough, and am excited to see what new direction God moves in.





Future Goals & Developments

Goals for 2024

1. Continue with, and develop, our Schools and Community Ministries.
2. Support and equip children and young people in their exploration of, and faith in, Jesus Christ.
3. Support Churches in Schools, Children's & Youth Ministries.
4. Facilitate children and young people connecting with the Church.
5. Continue to increase our supporter base and our income.

This coming year, as we continue to do this through our various ministry areas, we will be continuing to be aware of God's leading and guiding. With the prophetic words and pictures, we have received, we want to be sensitive to Him, and His calling for us. However, we believe that the vision remains the same - to take the good news of Jesus to children and young people.

We will be continuing to develop relationships with all those that we work with and support – schools, communities, churches and children and young people. It is in relationship that we believe we will see God at work, and enable us to be effective in sharing His love, hope, joy and peace.

We will be continuing to pray for, and reflect on, our ministry growth; reviewing the opportunities that God is bring to us, and the resources we need in order to make this happen. We want to ensure that we grow with God's wisdom and discernment, so that it is resourced and sustained, and that we will see fruit and faith grow amongst children and young people.



Financial Review 2023

The accounts for 2023 are as shown on pages 12-13 in this report. Notes on page 13 provide additional information relating to various aspects of the accounts. In our role as Trustees, we continued to follow Gods leading, in agreeing with Erica the vision for Wycombe YFC. This vision was used to set the budget, and the plan was closely monitored against the outcomes as the year progressed.

At the end of 2023, Wycombe YFC expenditure exceeded income by £10,661. When setting the budget, it was expected that a much greater proportion of the £82,131 carried forward from 2022 would have been used by the end of the year. As in the previous year, staffing changes, together with delays in making new appointments has resulted in expenditure being less than planned. As a result, the funds carried forward to 2024 amount to £71,471.

Pages 10 and 11 contain a simplified statement showing income and expenditure over the years 2019 to 2023, with budgeted figures for 2024. These pages reflect the development of Wycombe YFC's financial position over time.

The 2024 budget figures again show that our planned expenditure is considerably higher than that found in previous years. This is directly linked to employment expenses. There have been changes to staffing, and again delays while Trustees took time to make new appointments. This has resulted in a current underspend of approximately £5,000 on the current staffing budget line at the end of March 2024.

During 2024, our known income compared to our planned expenditure, will significantly reduce our financial assets. We have again made provision for 'Special Donations' in the budget of £2,500 per month, in setting what is an aspirational target. Trustees are continuing to monitor and review the budget as the year progresses. With Erica, we are also prayerfully reflecting on where, and what, God is calling Wycombe YFC to deliver for the young people in our area. As shared with you last year, through Gods words in Haggai, we believe that God is calling us to closely and prayerfully reflect and listen to His direction for Wycombe YFC. We thank you for your support, particularly through prayer and speaking into the work with God given words and pictures. We also thank you again for your continuing financial support without which the needs of our young people could not be met.

Haggai 2:9 says, 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty.'

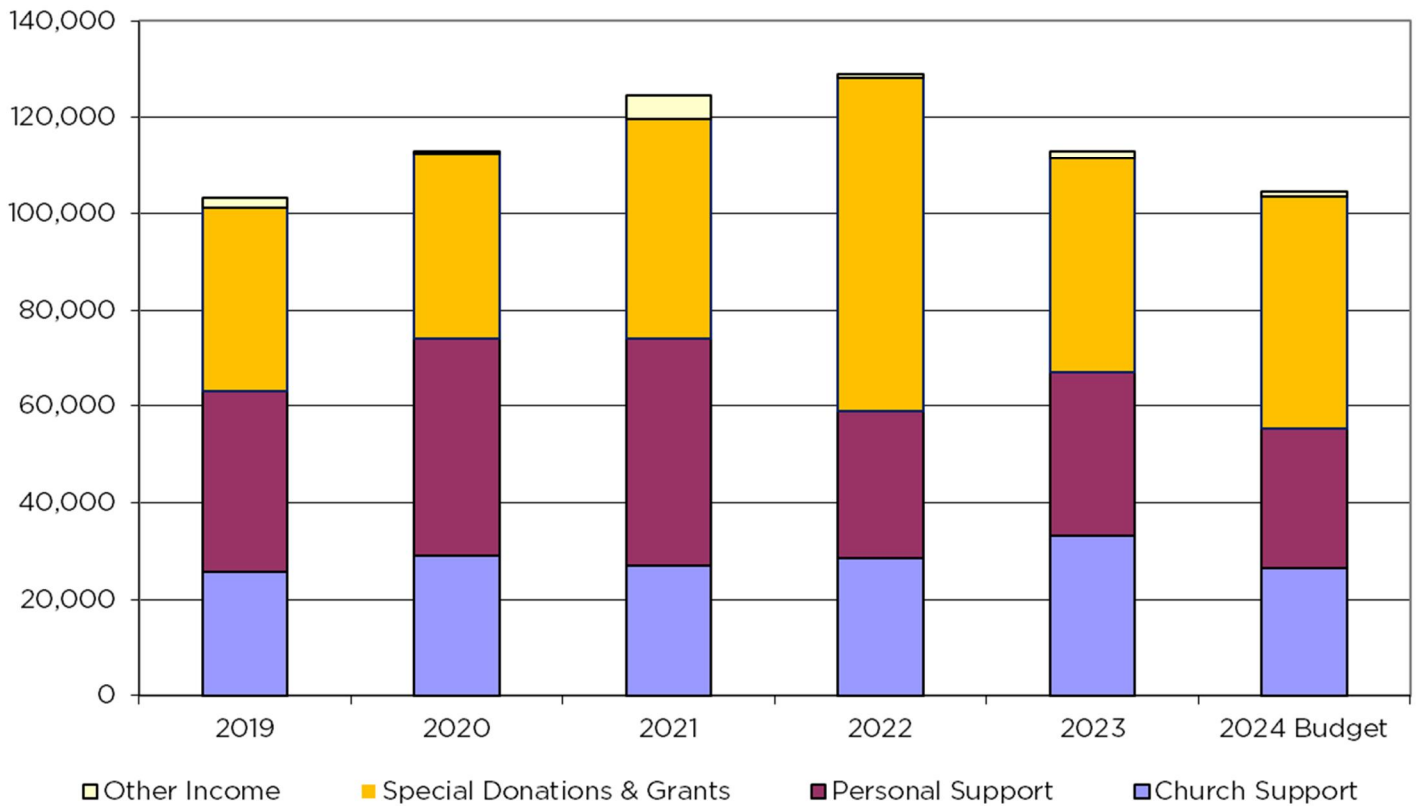
These are exciting and challenging times!!

Summary Financials (2019-2024)

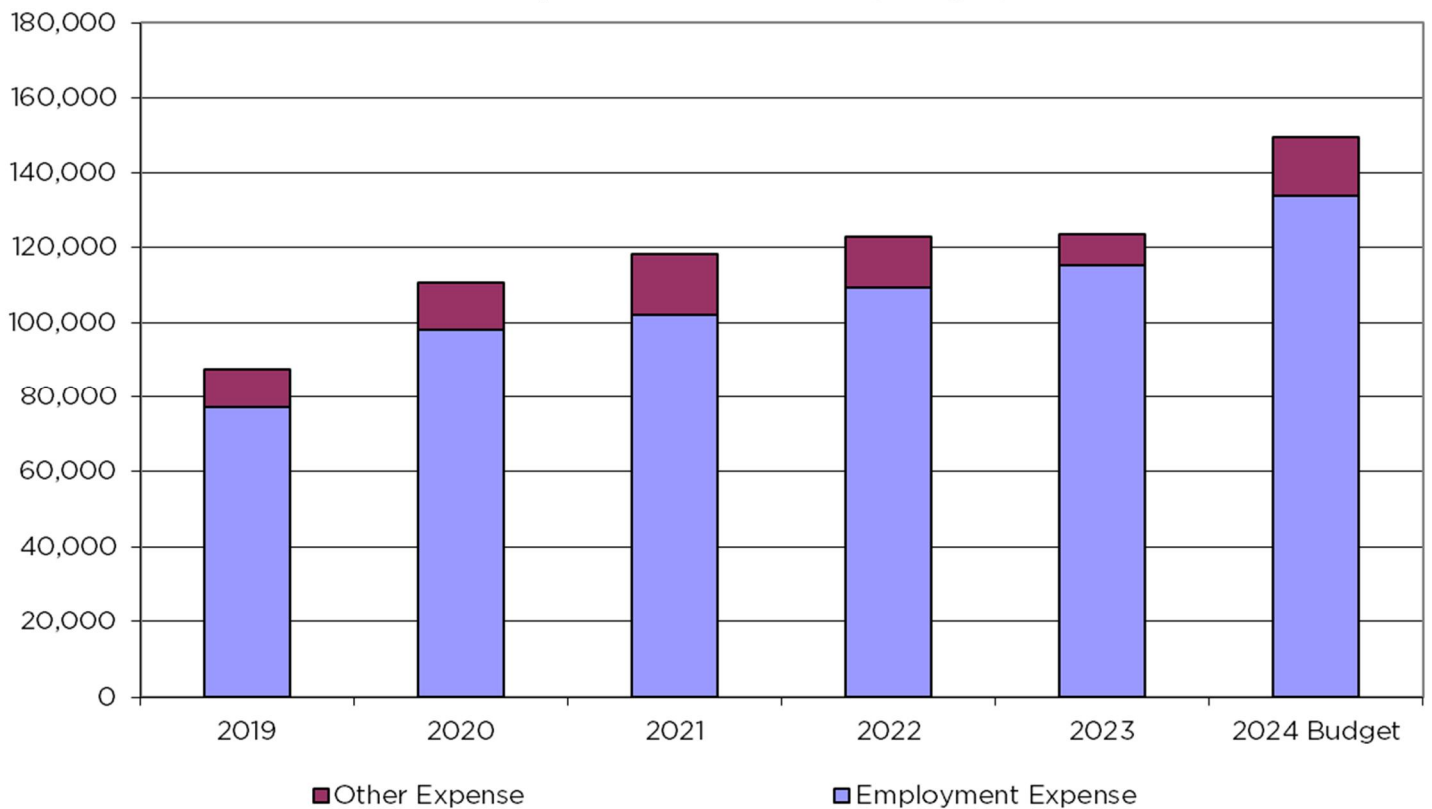
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Budget
Church Support						
Regular	18,076	19,006	18,956	19,366	21,026	21,396
One-off	7,657	9,960	8181	9137	12,214	5,040
Total	25,733	28,966	27,137	28,503	33,240	26,436
Personal Support						
Regular	19,934	20,370	21675	22395	22405	22,276
One-off	11,948	16,881	17630	2979	5464	2,150
Tax Reclaim	5,523	8,052	7755	5132	6065	4,513
Total	37,405	45,303	47,060	30,506	33,934	28,939
Special / Other Donations	489		10,214	568	26	30,000
Training Scheme (Bursary)						
Church Salary Share	13,461	14,265	11379	1000		0
Grants	24,000	24,000	24000	67750	44300	18,200
Total Donations	101,088	112,534	119,790	128,327	111,500	103,575
Other Income	2,159	591	4,807	573	1,452	860
Total Income	103,247	113,125	124,597	128,900	112,952	104,435
Employment Expense	77,208	98,164	102033	109378	115116	133,788
Other Expense	10,196	12,400	16297	13625	8497	15,720
Total Expense	87,404	110,564	118,330	123,003	123,613	149,508
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	15,843	2,561	6,267	5,897	(10,661)	(45,073)
Bank and Cash	68,794	70,901	78,139	82,131	71,471	12,824

Summary Financials (2019-2024)

WYFC Income 2019 - 2024 (Budget)



WYFC Expenses 2019 - 2024 (Budget)



Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2023

Receipts and Payments for the Year

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total Funds		Total Funds	
		2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022
Receipts	Note								
Gifts and Donations									
Church Support	1	33,240		0		33,240		28,503	
Personal Support	2	27,869		0		27,869		25,374	
Special Donations & Grants	3	44,326		0		44,326		68,318	
Tax Reclaim	4	6,065		0		6,065		5,132	
Total		111,500		0		111,500		127,327	
Income from Activities									
Lighthouse		500		0		500		0	
Working with Churches		405		0		405		1,091	
Other		419		0		419		42	
Total		1,324		0		1,324		1,133	
Miscellaneous Income		128		0		128		441	
Total Receipts		112,952		0		112,952		128,901	
Payments	Note								
Staff Costs									
Salaries and NI Costs	5	111,590		0		111,590		106,492	
Recruitment Expenses		296		0		296		382	
Staff Training		638		0		638		230	
Total		112,524		0		112,524		107,104	
Activity Costs									
School Ministry		1,345		0		1,345		1,390	
Community Ministry		266		0		266		1,377	
General Resources		60		0		60		0	
Travel		2,259		0		2,259		2,038	
Conference Expenses		0		0		0		0	
Working with Churches		97		0		97		44	
Missions		0		0		0		0	
Miscellaneous		493		0		493		1,224	
Total		4,520		0		4,520		6,073	
Office Costs									
Communications		1060		0		1,060		1,096	
Office Equipment		2008		0		2,008		1,954	
Insurance	6	994		0		994		714	
Stationery		112		0		112		339	
Other Expenses		789		0		789		632	
Total		4,963		0		4,963		4,735	
Premises									
Rent		0		0		0		0	
Utilities		890		0		890		1,072	
Maintenance		716		0		716		3,808	
Insurance		0		0		0		211	
Total		1,606		0		1,606		5,091	
Other Expenses									
Executive Approved	7			0		0		0	
Total		0		0		0		0	
Total Payments		123,613		0		123,613		123,003	
Net of Receipts Less Payments		(10,661)		0		(10,661)		5,898	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total Funds		Total Funds	
		2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022
Cash funds									
Cash in Bank	8	73,345		0		73,345		83,740	
Petty Cash		25		0		25		25	
Total			<u>73,370</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>73,370</u>		<u>83,765</u>
Other Assets									
Sundry Debtors		0		0		0		0	
Liabilities									
Inland Revenue & Others	9	1,899		0		1,899		1,634	
Net Current Assets			<u>71,471</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>71,471</u>		<u>82,131</u>
Total Assets			<u>71,471</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>71,471</u>		<u>82,131</u>
Funds brought forward			82,132		0		82,132		76,234
Adjustment to Opening Balance					0		0		0
Surplus/(deficit) for year			(10,661)		0		(10,661)		5,898
Funds Carried Forward			<u>71,471</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>71,471</u>		<u>82,132</u>

Notes:

- Any Church Income given as a gift towards training or activities provided by Wycombe Youth of Christ is shown separately under income from activities.
- All regular and one-off gifts from individual supporters; any Gift Aid reclaimed is shown as Tax Reclaim.
- This is made up of donations received from grants allocated to general funds.
- Tax Reclaim is the Gift Aid received during the year on general fund donations. Gift Aid is claimed in the month following that in which the donations were received.
- This is the cost of salaries, employers National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions for Erica Holt, Darren Phillips, Rebecca Hawes, Lisa Dollery and Kam Salah.
- Our insurances are covered in a combined policy, covering Public and Employee Liability, Trustee indemnity, and building insurance.
- Executive approved expenses cover one-off items which are not budgeted and therefore require specific approval by the Trustees.
- These funds are held in a Barclays current account.
- This is the total of Tax and National Insurance for December 2023, which was due and paid in January 2024.

Wycombe Youth For Christ

Account Examination Report

Wycombe Youth for Christ
Charity number 1063771

Independent Examination

To the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the above act, following the procedures laid down by the Charity Commission in their general directions under section 145(5)(b) of that act, stating whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the following statement.

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 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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: 

Date: 30th April 2024

Mr Paul Brown

Reference & Administration Details

Trustees:

Alan Molyneux	(Chairman)	(Reappointed 7 th Jun 2022)
Peter Brooks	(Data Protection Officer; Treasurer)	(Reappointed 27 th Sep 2021)
John Golledge		(Reappointed 7 th Jun 2022)
Steve Whitmore		(Reappointed 13 th June 2023)
Sharon Hollamby		(Appointed 13 th June 2023)

Staff:

Erica Holt	(Director; appointed 1 st September 2003)
Colin Hingston	(Volunteer Financial Administrator; appointed 1 st September 2015)
Darren Phillips	(Schools & Outreach Worker; resigned 31 st July 2023)
Rebecca Hawes	(Children's & Youth Worker; resigned 31 st December 2023)
Lisa Dollery	(Schools & Outreach Worker; resigned 31 st May 2024)
Johua West	(Schools & Outreach Worker; resigned 14 th June 2024)
Kam Salah	(Schools & Outreach Worker; resigned 17 th July 2024)

Charity Offices:

Address:	Kingfisher House, 109a West Wycombe Road High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3AB
Telephone:	01494 522777
Email:	office@wycombeyfc.org.uk
Website:	www.wycombeyfc.org.uk
Social Media:	@WycombeYFC
Registered charity number:	1063771

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc, PO Box 41, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 2BG

Independent Examiner:

Mr Paul Brown

British Youth For Christ Charter:

Wycombe Youth for Christ has a Charter Certificate, given by British Youth for Christ on November 2023, which is renewed annually.

Financial Support

We are a self-funding charity and are reliant on the generous and sacrificial donations from individuals and churches who support us financially. In order to make the most of our growing ministry opportunities, we need to increase our income and are seeking 100 people to give £20 per month.

We would be blessed and delighted if you would be willing and able to support us financially, and be a part of enabling children and young people to hear the Good News of Jesus.

If you wish to support us financially, and you would like 100% of your gift to be received by us, this can be done by bank transfer or cheque. Our bank details are:

Account Name: Wycombe Youth For Christ

Bank: Barclays Bank

Account Number: 20992097

Sort Code: 20-40-71

Postal address:

Wycombe Youth For Christ, 109a West Wycombe Road

High Wycombe HP12 3AB

We do recognise that you may wish to donate online. If so, you can donate online via CAF, although a small proportion of your donation will go towards the cost of this service. You can give online by clicking on the link below which will take you to the Wycombe YFC donation page with CAF, where you can donate via Debit or Credit Card, PayPal or through a CAF account. You can do this by visiting www.wycombeyfc.org.uk/online-giving.



If you support us with a financial gift, and you pay UK Income Tax, we are able to obtain a tax refund from the Inland Revenue. This refund would increase the value of your gift by 25%. This refund comes at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Gift Aid and Standing Order Forms can be found on our website at www.wycombeyfc.org.uk/get-involved, or by contacting Colin Hingston (Financial Administrator) on 01494 522777 or opffice@wycombeyfc.org.uk.



‘Thank you again for today, [for the Easter Eggs-plained Workshop]; it was really excellent.’
Church Vicar





'My life is so much better these days; I'm actually smiling a lot more, and feel happier.'
Young person at Detached Youth Work





Address: Kingfisher House, 109a West Wycombe Road,
High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 3AB

Telephone: 01494 522777

Email: office@wycombeyfc.org.uk

Website: www.wycombeyfc.org.uk

Social Media: @WycombeYFC

Charity Number: 1063771