

SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORKER PROJECT

PART OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN OSWESTRY DISTRICT AND IN
ASSOCIATION WITH CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ELLESMERE AND SCRIPTURE UNION

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORKER PROJECT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

BOARD MEMBERS	Mrs Gill Buckeridge	Chairman (resigned May 2024)
	Mrs Jenni Bevington	Secretary
	Mr Martin Digby	Vice Chair (Chair from May 2024)
	Rev Andrew Cranston	Safeguarding (Vice Chair from May 2024)
	Mrs Lydia Cranston	Line Manager
	Mr Alistair Nurden	Treasurer
	Mrs Leonora Green	(from May 2024)
	Mrs Stephanie Barclay	(from May 2024)

COMPANY SECRETARY	Mrs Jenni Bevington
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REGISTERED OFFICE	Oswestry Christian Bookshop Lower Brook Street Oswestry SY11 2HG
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COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER	3679389 England and Wales
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CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1076894
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BANKS	Lloyds TSB Bank plc	CAF Bank Ltd
	32 Church Street Oswestry Shropshire SY11 2SS.	25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Mr Mike Horner Pilgrims 12 Morda Close Oswestry SY11 2BA
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2. TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and accounts for the year.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Para 6 [Notes to the Financial Policies] and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

2.1 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHARITY

2.1.1 Governing Document

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 4th December 1998

2.1.2 Structure and Relationship

The Schools Christian Worker Project (SCWP, "The Project") is a company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. The Project was registered as a charity on 4th August 1999. The Project forms part of the work and witness of Churches Together in Oswestry District (CTOD) in association with Churches Together in Ellesmere (CTIE). The Project is an associate project of Scripture Union (SU).

2.1.3 Organisational Management

The administration and management of The Project is carried out by a board of trustees, all of whom are directors. The Board must have a minimum of six members. The two longest serving members of the Board are required to retire at the Annual General Meeting, but are eligible for re-election. The Board may, from time to time, co-opt members prior to an Annual General Meeting for specific tasks. Such members must be presented for election at the next occurring Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees meet at least four times a year and are responsible for the day to day management of The Project. Lydia Cranston has responsibility for the line management of The Project's employee, Jane Webber. The Trustees are responsible for the oversight of the work, maintaining prayer and pastoral support, managing aspects of the budget and fund-raising.

2.1.4 Recruitment and Training of Trustees

Trustees of the charity are appointed by a Trustees' meeting. Trustees, who must be committed to the objects of the charity, are recruited from supporting churches and organisations. A package of information on Trustee responsibility and relevant policies is provided. Support and training is available from Scripture Union. None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company.

2.1.5 Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the risks faced by the charity. The controls used include:

- Established organisational structure, lines of reporting and employee supervision
- Formal agendas for all Board activity
- Planning, budgeting and financial forecasting
- Vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

2.1.6 Reserves

The Trustees maintain reserves of at least £8,000 which would meet the current cost of employment for three months. The level of reserves is reviewed by the Board annually.

2. TRUSTEES' REPORT [Continued]

2.1.7. Remuneration Policy

The Trustees review remuneration annually in line with our pay policy adopted in October 2017. They take into account indices of inflation and national wage levels alongside conditions in comparable employment and any changes in the work done.

2.1.8. Financial Control

The Trustees fulfil their responsibilities regarding accounting requirements and financial control as follows. - Each year the Trustees go through the checklist provided by the Charity Commission to ensure that all controls are in place that are relevant to SCWP.

The Trustees ensure that proper external scrutiny of charities is carried out as follows. -

The appointed independent examiner confirms that he follows the checklist provided by the Charity Commission for proper scrutiny as relevant to SCWP.

2.2 OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

2.2.1 Charitable Objects

The charity's objects, as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are to advance the Christian faith among young people in full time education, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of Schools Christian Worker(s) to assist with religious activities in schools and other extra-curricular youth work activities in the local districts covered by the catchment areas of The Marches, Lakelands and St Martin's Schools and their feeder primary schools.

The second key activity is the maintenance of active interest in constituent churches to provide prayer, financial and practical support. This is done by the circulation of regular newsletters, prayer diaries and monthly prayer meetings and a developing presence on social media. There are also visits made to churches and other groups.

2.2.2 Aims, including public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission including that on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities established for the advancement of religion.

It is the aim of the charity to present the good news of Jesus Christ to as many local children, young people and students as possible. This is primarily achieved by using employed Schools Workers to visit local schools and colleges making contact in a wide variety of ways. These include participation in individual discussion with students and staff, lessons, school assemblies, extra-curricular activities and supporting Christian Unions.

Freedom of choice is at the heart of the Christian faith: no indoctrination is involved. Staff and pupils, regardless of their ethnic or religious background, are encouraged to consider the Christian faith and challenged to review their own values and beliefs. In this way over 5,000 children a year benefit in around 20 schools and colleges as well as staff, parents and church groups. No charge is made except for a few isolated activities such as a concert or a residential.

2.3 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2.3.1 In February 2024, Gill Buckeridge announced that she would be stepping down from the board of trustees. The trustees are incredibly grateful for all that she has contributed to the project in 23 years as a board member, the last 13 being as chair. Martin Digby took over as Chair, and Andrew Cranston as Vice Chair.

**SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORKER PROJECT
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2. TRUSTEES' REPORT [Continued]

Having highlighted the need to recruit new board members, several potential trustees worked alongside the team for 12 months. Leonora Green and Stephanie Barclay were both formally appointed at the AGM in May 2024.

Jane Webber, the current SCWP worker, asked to reduce her workload to a 0.8 working week to give her more time with her family. This was agreed by the trustees and came into effect in September 2024. The board has given direction regarding priorities to maximise the effectiveness of her reduced availability.

A new initiative to seek financial assistance from supporters for specific events being offered to schools each term has made a promising start.

The work of the project has continued to be welcomed by the local schools, and the board are particularly encouraged by the introduction of a new Christian Union, and the support it has received by the students.

SU has continued to provide support, fellowship and excellent resources and CTOD continues to offer prayer and oversight to SCWP.

We continued to review our policies and practices to ensure legal compliance and the best possible practice.

2.4 FUTURE PLANS 2024

2.4.1 To support Jane in responding to the large range of invitations.

2.4.2 We will continue to work to develop our supporter base as widely across the region and the age groups as possible.

We will continue to review our processes on an ongoing basis.

2.5 CONCLUSION

2.5.1 Volunteers and supporters

The Trustees very much appreciate the continuing encouragement, financial and prayer support of individuals and church groups throughout our area. This generous giving is the funding which gives the security to employ staff. We particularly acknowledge wise oversight from CTOD, Scripture Union, Rev Paul Darlington our Chaplain and the services of Mr Mike Horner our Independent Examiner.

Approved by the Board and signed on their behalf:

Signed: M Digby
Martin Digby SCWP Chair

10.2.25
Date:

3. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

3.1 Respective Responsibilities of Members and Examiner

As the Charity's members you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 145(1) of the Charities Act 2011 does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

3.2 Basis of report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner. 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 members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all that evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

3.3 Independent Examiner's Report

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention 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 Act;
- and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M Horner

22.1.25

Signed -

Date -

Mike Horner Independent Examiner

**SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORKER PROJECT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

4. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		2024		2023
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
General donations	23,500		21,344	
General Gift Aid	3,051		3,403	
Interest Receivable	18		12	
Tax refund/mat pay	2,817		5,309	
		29,388		30,068
RESOURCES USED				
Workers Salary, PAYE, INC, Pension	22,782		20,461	
Postage & stationary	333		152	
Telephone	120		40	
Motor and travel expenses	841		273	
Other worker expenses	1,092		503	
Grants Given	350		350	
Administration and projects expenses	968		987	
		26,487		22,769
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>2,901</u>		<u>7,299</u>
 Balance of Funds Brought Forward	 94,067		 86,768	
Balance of Funds Carried Forward		<u>96,968</u>		<u>94,067</u>

SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORKER PROJECT
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5. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

			2024	2023
	Notes	£	£	£
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			0	0
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	6.2	2,961		4,919
Investments	6.4	80,000		80,000
Cash at Bank		<u>14,007</u>		<u>9,148</u>
		96,968		94,067
Creditors	6.3	0		0
ACCRUALS amounts falling due within one year		0		0
NET CURRENT ASSETS			96,968	94,067
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			96,968	94,067
ACCRUALS amounts falling due in more than one year			0	0
			96,968	94,067
CAPITAL AND RESERVES				
Retained surplus carried forward			96,968	94,067

6. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6.1 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Basis of Accounting These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Cash Flow The accounts do not include a cash flow statement because the company, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirements to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 "Cash Flow Statements".

Operating Income mainly comprises pledged and other donations from individuals, churches and other organisations.

Depreciation Assets are written off in three equal instalments over their expected useful life.

6.2 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid Donations	2,961	3,403
SMP due from HMRC	0	1,516
	2,961	4,919

6.3 CREDITORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
PAYE	0	0
Pension costs	0	0

6.4 INVESTMENT FUNDS

During 2021 the Trustees invested funds to give a better return than bank interest. These investments are to be seen as long term, and the money has been invested in ethical funds. £40,000 was invested through Beaumont Wealth, an Oswestry based firm; and £40,000 through St James’s Place Wealth Management, a national company. The two companies had different fee structures but offered a very similar rate of return after 7 years. As at 31st December 2024 the funds stood at £77,667 (31st Dec 2023 valuation was £73,918)

Approved by The Board and signed on their behalf -

Signed: Martin Digby SCWP Chair

Date:

SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORKER PROJECT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and no notice has been deposited under section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records that comply with sections 386 and 387 of Companies Act 2006
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the company as at 31 December 2024 and of its surplus or deficit for the year then ending.

The above is in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2006, so far as applicable to the company.