

BRIDGE BUILDERS CHRISTIAN TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1088885

Details

Other names BRIDGE BUILDERS

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2001-10-12

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

Contact

Address Bridge Builders Christian Trust
United Reformed Church
Cutty's Lane
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 1UL

Phone 01438314314

Email admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk

Website <http://www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: (A) TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO IN HERTFORDSHIRE AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT AND TO FULFIL SUCH OTHER PURPOSES WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND ARE CONNECTED WITH THE CHARITABLE WORK OF THE TRUST. (B) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES BY SUCH MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES MAY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE IN THE SAID COUNTY AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT. (C) TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THOSE PERSONS IN NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES, PARTICULARLY CHILDREN THROUGH THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND EVENTS IN THE SAID COUNTY AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT.

Activities: Bridge Builders Christian Trust - connecting children with faith, hope and loveA team of paid staff and volunteers working in partnership with primary schools and churches in Stevenage and the surrounding

area to provide:Activities which encourage children to explore faith.Early prevention mentoring and pastoral support for vulnerable children.Resources to equip those who lead them.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** HERTFORDSHIRE OR SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£43,310	£37,540	-	-
2024-08-31	£40,853	£34,621	-	-
2023-08-31	£40,140	£44,313	-	-
2022-08-31	£37,754	£41,243	-	-
2021-08-31	£36,894	£38,544	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Brown		2023-09-20
Helen Clare Gale		2019-09-26
Jonathan Charles George Woodrow		2024-02-08
Margaret MacCarthy		2021-11-16
Peter Gordon		2020-05-19

BRIDGE BUILDERS CHRISTIAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1088885

Accounts



Annual Report



Tuesday volunteers preparing crowns for Christmas Journey.

2024-2025

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Many Thanks

10Giving, Broadwater Fair Trading, Bunyan Baptist Church, Christchurch Baldock, Churches Together In Stevenage, Grace Community Church, Hertfordshire County Council, Herts Police Choir, Hockerill Education Foundation, Holy Trinity, Longmeadow Evangelical Church, Royal British Legion, St. Hugh & St. John, St Ippolyts Church, St Martin's Knebworth, St. Mary's Graveley, St Mary's Junior School Ware, St. Mary's Shephall, St. Nicholas, St. Peter's Church Tewin, St Peter's Church Broadwater, Shalom Ministries, Sirius Digital Solutions, Stevenage Borough Council, Stevenage Family History Society, Trinity Church Knebworth, United Reformed Church, Verulam House Fund Trust, Welwyn Garden City Band and individual donors for your support.

Staff News

In September 2024 we welcomed Lynne Lee-Diep to the team as ExploRE Manager overseeing The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey. Lynne has previously been a Trustee for Bridge Builders and has been involved with The Christmas Journey at St Peters for many years.

Lynne joins the existing team in the office: Janice Hawketts, Catherine Beach, Amanda Bryant and Gemma Campbell.



In March we said goodbye to our Director Steph Knell. The team and Trustees presented Steph with a rose to thank her for all her work at Bridge Builders. She will be much missed by the team.

We wish Steph well for the future.

Recruitment for a new Director has commenced and we hope to have someone in place for autumn 2025.

Director's Report

It is with regret and sadness that I stepped down as Director of Bridge Builders this year. I have enjoyed working for Bridge Builders for the last eight and a half years, first as Administration Manager, then ExploRE Manager, and finally as Director. There have been many changes - staff turnover, moving offices, as well as working through the covid pandemic.

I am delighted that Bridge Builders has new members of staff who are carrying on the work of reaching primary school children in Stevenage with the good news about Jesus. We are currently going into 9 local primary schools doing assemblies or lessons, The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey are still well attended with over 1000 children attending each annually. We also have online Journeys for year 1 and year 6 which have been appreciated.

Thank you to those of you who pray, give financial support or help with the Journeys. I would encourage you to continue to pray for Bridge Builders, and offer what support you can, as they provide children in Stevenage many opportunities to hear about Jesus.

Steph Knell



Trustees' Report

It has been another year of change for Bridge Builders Christian Trust as Steph Knell stepped down from the role of Director at the end of April after 8 years working for Bridge Builders. We give thanks to God for Steph's faithful service over these years and for the many ways in which Bridge Builders has evolved and developed under her wise leadership. Perhaps most notable were the ways in which the work of Bridge Builders had to change during the covid-19 pandemic, and how the decisions made during that time have led to more children being able to engage with Bridge Builders' resources for many years to come.

As we move into this new school year, we seek God's guidance as we hope to appoint a new Director to lead Bridge Builders through this new season, knowing this will bring fresh opportunities.

We are once again grateful for the work of the whole Bridge Builders team this year. Cathy and Janice have taken on new team leader roles, which has enabled the whole team to continue during this interim period without a Director.



We have been encouraged by the increasing number of schools who have welcomed assemblies and asked for support with RE lessons. REach continues to work towards having a project for all primary school age groups, with the new year 3 Journey 'Our World' currently in the editing phase having been filmed earlier this year. And then, of course, The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey were both well attended in local churches and accessed from many other schools, with over 3000 children following these Journeys in total this year!

We continue to be thankful for the team of volunteers who make sure that all the resources for each of these projects are prepared. Without them, the work of Bridge Builders would just not be possible.

Thank you to all those who have supported Bridge Builders over the past year; for the generous donations of churches, individuals and grant funders, for the prayerful support of the work in the office, in churches and in local schools, and for office space which is a real blessing.

We look forward to seeing God at work through Bridge Builders in this new school year!

Andrew Brown

The Bridge Builders team would like to thank the Trustees for the many ways in which they have helped us this year; leading prayers at our staff meetings, dressing up for Christmas Journey, helping at the Easter Journey, delivering resources to schools and all the other errands you have run. We are very grateful for your guidance and support.

Finance

In the year to 31st August 2025 the Trust had income of £43,310 and expenditures of £37,540 leaving a surplus in the year of £5,770.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £22,456 & from local partnering churches, £10,742. Our REach Project was awarded a £3k grant from The Verulam House Fund Trust, £3k from the Hockerill Education Foundation and local councillors gave grants totalling £600 towards purchasing crafts for The Christmas Journey & The Easter Journey.

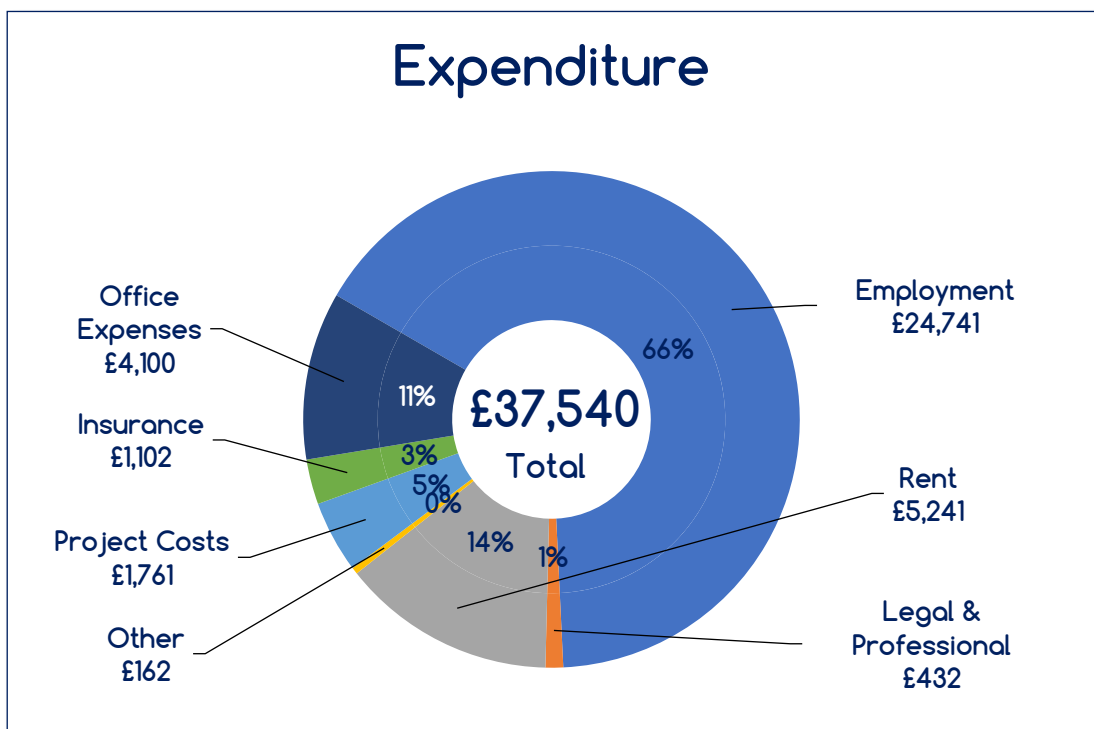
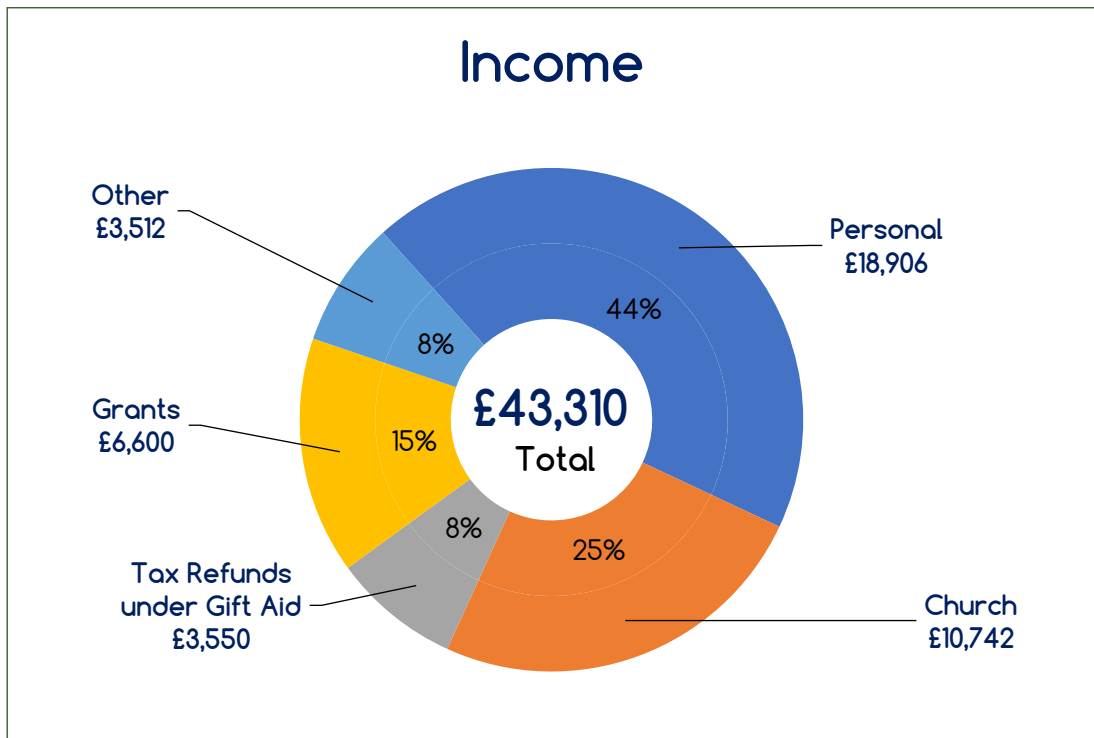
Local fundraising events contribute to the "Other Income" figure along with bank Interest, printing income (from printing we do for other non-profits), Christmas card sales, resource loan income & online fundraising income e.g. Easyfundraising.org.uk

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £24,741; Office Expenses, £4,100; Rent of Resource Centre and Garage, £5,241; Insurance £1,102 & HR consultancy £72.

Financially, this was a good year with a surplus of £5,770. The income from our faithful supporters has remained consistent and so too that from our partner churches. Our payroll costs were lower than expected as it did not include the Director's salary, which explains the reduced expenditure.

Accounts

Income and Expenditure (£) for the Year Ended 31 August 2025



Fundraising

Bridge Builders Christian Trust's work in primary schools in Stevenage and the surrounding area is completely free of charge to schools, and we want to keep it that way.

The fundraising process at Bridge Builders is rather like a fork with four tines! There are four approaches to our fundraising strategy:

- online donations and purchases via different fundraising platforms
- local fundraising events hosted by churches and other supporting groups
- applications to grant funders
- regular monthly giving by individuals and our partner churches.

Below you will see opportunities for online platforms, direct giving (regular or one off) and monthly giving. On the following pages you will find a report on local fundraising events for Bridge Builders in the last year, as well as some successful grant applications.

Shopping online, select Bridge Builders as your beneficiary and we will receive a donation for every £1 you spend



If you're a UK taxpayer completing a Gift Aid Declaration means your donation is worth 25% more.

giftaid

ONE-OFF
GIFT ★


Stewardship
Active generosity

 **STANDING
ORDER**

Grant Funding

We are grateful to have received funding from a number of grant funding bodies, including the Verulam House Fund Trust and The Hockerill Education Foundation. We provide reports about how we spend grants, and how projects are progressing. We give detailed data including the number of schools/children who attend, and how the project was resourced, delivered and monitored. We also provide feedback from the school staff, children, and ministers or church leaders who attended.

We were awarded 50 copies of The Jesus Storybook Bible from 10Giving this year. These were used as gifts for classes participating in The Easter Journey.

Some councillors granted us awards from their Locality Budget for The Christmas and The Easter Journeys. We are always grateful for the support of our local councillors.

Fundraising Events

We are very grateful to the many churches and individuals who host and attend local fundraising events for Bridge Builders. Throughout the year, there were a variety of events; a quiz evening (including fish & Chips), a Brass Band concert, a Police Choir concert and a Fairtrade coffee morning. We also sold Christmas cards in local churches.



Overall, £1,935 was raised for Bridge Builders!

If you would like to host a fundraising event on behalf of Bridge Builders please get in touch with us at admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk. We would love to hear from you!

ExploRE

ExploRE is the umbrella term we use for our work in schools. The three core projects making up ExploRE are:

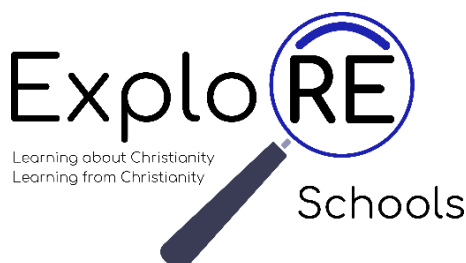
- Assemblies and Lessons
- The Christmas and Easter Journeys
- The REach Project

All of our work in schools is available to schools free of charge and is tied to the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education

Lessons

We received requests from two schools this year to help support RE lessons, to speak to children about Christian Christmas traditions, what Christians believe happens when we die and a lively year 2 workshop on how Christians believe we should look after the world and other people. The children particularly enjoyed playing musical statues and posing as different animals each time the music stopped!

Looking forward into the new academic year, I am praying for more contacts in other schools so that more children can hear of God's love for them.



ExploRE



Assemblies



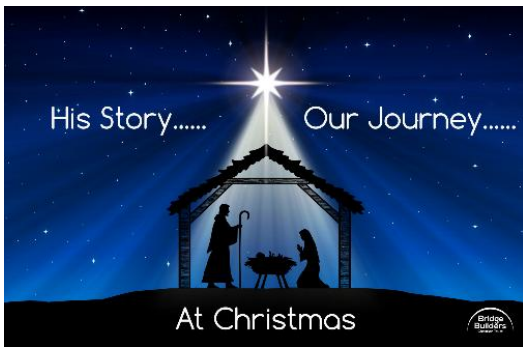
Bridge Builders offer schools one assembly per half term and help with RE lessons. I have enjoyed getting to know the various schools in Stevenage this year. The assemblies were met with enthusiasm from the children, one school giving a cheer that it was a Bridge Builders assembly rather than one lead by their Deputy Head. Hopefully, he wasn't too upset!

This year we have looked at subjects like worry, perseverance, friendship and our world. Each one has used a Bible story to show a Christian perspective on the subject. There is always a way the children can join in, like playing noughts and crosses, unpacking items to show what the story is about and most recently playing catch with eggs! (They were rubber, not that the children knew that to start with!)

"The children are really enjoying the assemblies and asked when their next Bridge Builders one is."

An Assistant Head Teacher

The Christmas Journey



22 schools participated.
1019 children went on
The Christmas Journey

The Christmas Journey is offered to Yr2 children, aged 6-7. They visit a church to explore the Christmas Story and to meet the shepherds in the fields, Anna and Simeon in the temple who are faithfully waiting for the messiah, the Wise Men who travel long distances, following a bright star. They even get to meet Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus!

Children are given a notebook in which they have an activity to complete after meeting each character in the Journey which helps them remember the story. They also decorate a crown to keep.

The visit concludes by meeting Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus and hearing their account of what took place.

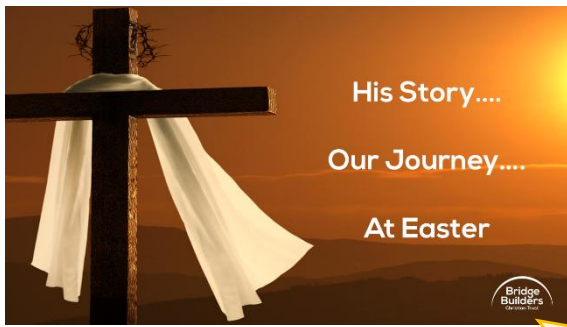


*"It was amazing for the children to personally experience the Christmas Story which helps bring our RE lessons to life!"
from a Yr2 teacher*

The Christmas Journey is also available online for schools who are unable to visit a hosting church. There are video clips where they can hear the characters sharing their version of events. We provide all the craft and resources which are required.

We are so thankful for the volunteers, and hosting churches, as well as local councillors who donated to fund the craft activities. We cover the cost of £8 per child who attends The Christmas Journey and rely on donations to be able to offer it year after year.

The Easter Journey

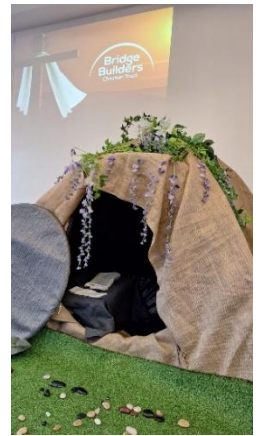


The Easter Journey is an interactive event aimed at Year 5 children aged 9-10.

24 schools booked. 15 visited a church and in total 1323 children had the opportunity to hear about Easter.

Broken into sections, children watched a video clip together explaining the events that took place and posing some questions for them to consider.

After watching each clip, children returned to their tables, where there was further discussion with a church volunteer as they completed a short activity.



Starting with the miracles of Jesus, the children heard about His teaching, the events of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday and His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to His death and resurrection. Children were asked questions for them to explore: "Why was Jesus a Saviour?" and "Why did He die?"

"It has tied together all our learning in the last few weeks and has allowed children to deepen their learning through the opportunity to chat to volunteers."

From a Yr5 teacher

From a child when asked which part of the journey they liked best...

"The bits where Jesus washed the disciple's feet because he saw himself as equal"

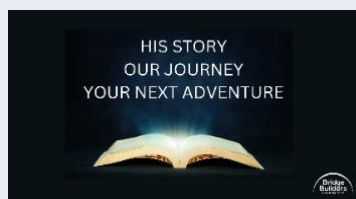
The REach Project



The REach Project offers online 'Journeys' to schools, with the aim that there will be one Journey available for each primary school year group. Each Journey is a 90-minute workshop based on a Christian theme with links to the Hertfordshire Agreed R.E. syllabus. Teachers are provided with film clips and the resources needed to complete craft or classroom activities linked to the topics in the video.

The Christmas (Y2) and Easter Journeys (Y5) are already available to schools in an online format. 543 children followed The Harvest Journey in September 2024. They heard the story of Joseph and the famine, about the feeding of the 5000, and were given time to reflect on where food comes from and God's provision for us. A Journey about the Life of Jesus (Y4) is to follow in 2026.

The Adventure Journey



... was launched in summer 2025. Six schools signed up for the Journey and 292 children have completed it. The Journey is aimed at year six children (age 10/11), focussing on Pentecost and Paul with the core message of trusting in God in times of change. It links to the theme of transition to secondary school.

The Our World Journey



... was filmed in May 2025. It is currently being edited and is likely to be piloted in Spring 2026. Children will learn about the story of creation, Noah, and then hear about Jesus and the wedding at Cana. Our thanks go to everyone who helped with the filming either in an on-screen role or behind the scenes with AV support.

Regarding The Harvest Journey, one teacher said, *"The children enjoyed being creative. The song really helped. Having a cartoon and the narrators separate really helped them"*

SEN and Journeys

There has been a large increase in the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs and this is reflected in our experience of children attending The Christmas and Easter Journeys. We have developed a number of adaptations to our Journeys to assist these children including:

- Adding subtitles to all of our videos
- Making large print versions of resources available
- Including information about how to assist children with additional needs at our training sessions for in-person Journeys
- Making additional sensory resources available at The Journeys
- Ensuring churches are aware of dietary issues that may occur at The Journeys including an awareness of allergies, diabetes and sensory needs.
- Including the opportunity for schools to inform us of additional needs at the booking stage.

The Christmas and Easter Journeys

We have developed adapted versions of The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey which are available to schools for students with disabilities and additional needs. These feature simplified storytelling and more hands-on resources such as puppets, goblets and palm leaves. We are grateful to Lonsdale School and to St Hugh and St John's Church for their help in developing these Journeys.



Supporters



Friends of Bridge Builders believe Bridge Builders Christian Trust has a significant role to play in Stevenage and the surrounding area and commit to supporting its ongoing work.

- Some Friends of Bridge Builders may choose to offer *practical skills* to support one off events such as cake baking, IT, carpentry, sewing or serving teas and coffees.
- *Prayer support* for all aspects of the Trust's work is vital. Regular updates will be circulated to those Friends who choose to receive them.



If you would like more information, or would like to attend the monthly prayer meetings, please contact the Bridge Builders office. Either phone us on 01438 314314 or email us at admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk.

Volunteers



At Bridge Builders our volunteers are a huge part of our ministry. Their time and skills are a valuable resource, helping us with a wide range of tasks throughout the year.

Our host churches recruit a huge number of volunteers each year to help run The Christmas and Easter Journeys. Some volunteers dress up as characters from the nativity, others help with activities or serve refreshments.

All of our Journeys include numerous activities which need preparing and sorting into class sets for schools and churches. We have a group of volunteers who come to our office on a Tuesday morning to help. We also need volunteers to deliver resources to schools ready for use.

The REach project relies on volunteers, including people willing to appear in one off roles in one of the videos, or to assist with filming and video editing.

Contact our office to find out more. We would love for you to be involved in our ministry work, helping to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with children across Stevenage.



The Team

Staff Team

Mrs Stephanie Knell—Director (left March 2025)

Mrs Janice Hawketts—Finance and IT Manager

Mrs Cathy Beach – ExploRE Manager - REach

Mrs Amanda Bryant – Fundraiser

Mrs Lynne Lee-Diep – ExploRE Manager - Journeys

Mrs Gemma Campbell – ExploRE Manager - Assemblies

Trustees

Mr Peter Gordon

Mrs Penny Paton (Left Aug 2025)

Mrs Helen Gale

Rev Margaret MacCarthy

Mr Andy Brown

Mr Jon Woodrow

BRIDGE BUILDERS CHRISTIAN TRUST

www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk



admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk 01438 314314

United Reformed Church, Cuttys Lane, Stevenage, SG1 1UL

Charity no: 1088885

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
United Reformed Church
Cuttys Lane
Stevenage
Herts. SG1 1UL

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust dated 1 March 2001

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1088885

TRUSTEES

Mrs Helen Gale
Mrs Penelope Paton (resigned 31 August 2025)
Mr Peter Gordon
Margaret MacCarthy
Mr Andrew Brown
Mr Jon Woodrow

BANKERS

Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

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Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the charity

To advance the Christian faith

To advance education in accordance with Christian principles

To provide facilities in the interest of social welfare

The vision of the Trust is that all children will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, and to look forward with hope as they experience Christian love in action.

The mission is to reach out to primary school children, and introduce them to Christian faith and love through conducting Christian assemblies and teaching Christian religious education in schools in conjunction with local churches, and by organising themed visits to churches.

Government

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet formally six times each year to monitor the activities of the charity, to set policy and overall direction. There are currently six Trustees. New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees who seek committed Christians with broad experience representing a wide range of denominations.

Day to day operations are run by a part time Director supported by a number of part-time highly motivated professionals working in schools or supporting the activities from the central resource centre.

A look back at the year gone by

It's been another year of change for Bridge Builders.

Last year we reported that our Director, Steph Knell, stepped back from her paid role in February 2024. She continued as Director and led The Easter Journey in March of that year. Steph stepped down from the role of Director at the end of April 2025 after 8 years working for Bridge Builders. We give thanks to God for Steph's faithful service over these years and for the many ways in which Bridge Builders has evolved and developed under her wise leadership. Perhaps most notable was the ways in which the work of Bridge Builders had to change during the covid-19 pandemic, but how the decisions made during that time have led to more children being able to engage with Bridge Builders' resources for many years to come. The team and Trustees presented Steph with a rose to thank her for all her work for Bridge Builders. She will be much missed by the team, volunteers and Trustees. We wish Steph well for the future.

In September 2024 we welcomed Lynne Lee-Diep to the team as ExploRE Manager overseeing The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey. Lynne has previously been a Trustee for Bridge Builders, so is familiar with all our work and has been involved with The Christmas Journey for many years as a volunteer at her home church, St Peters in Stevenage.

As we move into this new school year, we seek God's guidance as we hope to appoint a new director to lead Bridge Builders through this new season, knowing this will bring fresh opportunities

We are once again grateful for the work of the whole Bridge Builders team this year. Cathy and Janice have taken on new team leader roles, which has enabled the whole team to continue during this interim period without a director.

We continue to be thankful for the team of volunteers who make sure that all the resources for each of these projects are prepared. Without them, the work of Bridge Builders would just not be possible.

Thank you to all those who have supported Bridge Builders over the past year; for the generous donations of churches, individuals and grant funders, for the prayerful support of the work in the office, in churches and in local schools, and for office space which is a real blessing.

We look forward to seeing God at work through Bridge Builders in the next school year!

Review of Activities

ExploRE is the umbrella term we use for our work in schools. The three core projects making up ExploRE are:

- > Assemblies and Lessons
- > The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey
- > The REach Project

All of our work in schools is tied to the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education and is available to schools free of charge.

Assemblies

Assemblies are a great way for us to spread the message of the Bible through fun, interactive stories and games and they allow us to have regular contact every half term with over 1500 children. Each assembly is only 15 minutes long but we always

- * Ask the children questions
- * Have children up front to help with anything from holding items for the story through to playing a game
- * Talk about Jesus

Bridge Builders offer schools one assembly per half term and Gemma has enjoyed getting to know the various schools in Stevenage this year. The assemblies seem to be met with enthusiasm from the children, one school giving a cheer when they discovered that it was a Bridge Builders assembly.

This year we have looked at subjects like worry, perseverance, friendship and our world. Each one has used a Bible story to show a Christian perspective on the subject. There is always a way the children can join in, like playing noughts and crosses, unpacking items to show what the story is about and most recently playing catch with eggs! (They were rubber, not that the children knew that to start with!)

Lessons

We have received requests from two schools this year to help support RE lessons, speaking to children about Christian Christmas traditions, what Christians believe happens when we die and a lively year 2 workshop on how Christians believe we should look after the world and other people. The children particularly enjoyed playing musical statues and posing as different animals each time the music stopped!

Looking forward into the new academic year, we are praying for more contacts in other schools so that more children can hear of God's love for them.

The Christmas Journey

The Christmas Journey is aimed at primary year 2 children, who are aged 6 to 7. We offer The Christmas Journey to schools as an in-person event hosted by our partner churches or as a series of video clips which can be accessed by schools online. The churches give the staff and pupils a warm welcome and there is always a lot of chatter as the excited children see the dedicated volunteers in their character dress and the wonderful setting. Those that choose to stay in school for the event still have a lot of fun as we package up and deliver all the craft supplies and teacher resources to them.

Whichever way the event is experienced, the children travel back in time to meet the characters involved in that first Christmas event. They meet the shepherds who tell them about the angels, the Wise Men who talk about the star, and Anna and Simeon who express their joy at meeting Jesus. Each child has a special Journey notebook in which they complete an activity after meeting each of the characters to remind them of what was said. They also get to decorate their very own crown. At the finale, they meet Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus before singing a lively song.

22 Schools, 1019 children took part in The Christmas Journey this academic year

We are once again so grateful to all the volunteers, the hosting churches, and also to the local councillors who donated to fund the craft activities without whom we would not be able to offer this amazing event free to schools.

The Easter Journey

The Easter Journey is aimed at primary year 5 children, who are aged 9 to 10. Like the Christmas Journey, schools were given the option to either attend the event hosted by a local partner church or to remain in the classroom and use online video clips together with craft materials and Teacher resources, all provided by Bridge Builders.

An amazing total of 1323 children participated in the Easter Journey this academic year; 24 schools booked to participate, of which 15 travelled to a church, the others opted to stay in the classroom and use the resources delivered to them.

As part of the Easter Journey the children heard about the teachings and miracles of Jesus and the events of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. They found out about Jesus's life, teaching and death, and heard about Jesus's resurrection appearances to his disciples. They were encouraged to think and ask questions, as well as consider and explore: 'Why was Jesus a Saviour?' and 'Why did He die?'

Broken into sections, children watched a video clip together explaining the events that took place. They have to be attentive because at points the video stops and questions are asked about what just happened or what they think might happen next!

After watching each clip, children returned to their tables, where there was further discussion with a church volunteer as they completed a short activity. This meant that the children would see the same volunteer each time which helped even the shyest of students to open up and discuss their thoughts. They each had a notebook as a reminder of their Easter Journey to take away with them.

REach project

The REach Project offers online 'Journeys' to schools, with the aim that there will be one Journey available for each primary school year group. Each Journey is a 90-minute workshop based on a Christian theme with links to the Hertfordshire Agreed R.E. syllabus. Teachers are provided with film clips and the resources needed to complete craft or classroom activities linked to the topics in the video.

The Harvest (Year 1), Christmas (Year 2), Easter Journeys (Year 5), The Adventure Journey (Year 6) are already available to schools in an online format. Our World Journey (Year 3) is in production the Journey about the Life of Jesus (Year 4) is to follow.

The Harvest Journey - For Year One children. 543 children followed The Harvest Journey in September 2024. They heard the story of Joseph and the famine, about the feeding of the 5000, how Christians give thanks to God and they were given time to reflect on where food comes from and God's provision for us. Like other online Journey events, all the required resources were delivered to the schools in a Bridge Builders' blue bag and links to the online videos were sent directly to the teacher by email.

The Adventure Journey - For primary Year Six children (age 10 to 11). Focussing on Pentecost and Paul with the core message of trusting in God in times of change. Linking to transition to secondary school.

The Adventure Journey was launched in summer 2025. Six schools signed up for the Journey and 292 children have completed it.

Our World Journey was filmed in May 2025. It is currently being edited and is likely to be piloted in Spring 2026. Children will learn about the story of creation, Noah and then hear about Jesus and the wedding at Cana. Our thanks go to everyone who helped with the filming either in an on-screen role or behind the scenes with AV support.

Financial Review

In the year to 31st August 2025 the Trust had income of £43,310 and expenditures of £37,540 leaving a surplus in the year of £5,770.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £22,456 & from local partnering churches, £10,742. Our REach Project was awarded a £3k grant from The Verulam House Fund Trust, £3k from the Hockerill Education Foundation and local councillors gave grants totalling £600 towards purchasing crafts for The Christmas Journey & The Easter Journey.

Local fundraising events contribute to the "Other Income" figure along with Bank Interest, printing income (from printing we do for other non-profits), Christmas card sales, resource loan income & online fundraising income e.g. Easyfundraising.org.uk

We are very grateful to the many churches and individuals who host and attend local fundraising events for Bridge Builders. Throughout the year, there were a variety of events; a quiz evening (including fish & Chips), a Brass Band concert, a Police Choir concert and a Fairtrade coffee morning. We also sold Christmas cards in local churches. All these events raised £1,935 for us so that we can continue to offer our events for free to schools.

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £24,741; Office Expenses, £4,100; Rent of Resource Centre and Garage, £5,241; Insurance £1,102 & HR consultancy £72.

Financially, this was a good year with a surplus of £5,770. The income from our faithful supporters has remained consistent and so too from our partner churches. Our payroll costs were lower than expected as it did not include the Director's salary, which explains the reduced expenditure.

Reserves Policy


The Trustees have decided that a reserve of cash and other current assets less current liabilities is held, sufficient to fund an orderly wind down of the activities of the Charity, should that ever become necessary. £10k has been identified as being the amount currently required for this and is shown as Designated Funds, a separate component of the reserves in these accounts. At the end of this accounting year FY24/25 unrestricted reserves stood at £18,007, Designated Funds at £10,000 and restricted £7,083 which is committed to the REach project.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the income & expenditure of the charity for the year.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Andrew Brown (Trustee*)



date

6/2/2026

* Role of Chair is vacant at time of signing

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bridge Builders Christian Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 on pages 8 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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



William Anderson
Address:
10 Berkeley
Letchworth Garden City
Herts SG6 2HA

date 6/2/2026

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2025 £	2024 £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		8,693	27,555	36,248	33,217
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		25	3,525	3,550	3,352
		<u>8,718</u>	<u>31,080</u>	<u>39,798</u>	<u>36,569</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received		-	379	379	255
Other		975	2,158	3,132	4,029
Total Income		<u>9,693</u>	<u>33,617</u>	<u>43,310</u>	<u>40,853</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	16,221	21,319	37,540	34,621
Total Expenditure		<u>16,221</u>	<u>21,319</u>	<u>37,540</u>	<u>34,621</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (6,529)	£ 12,298	£ 5,770	£ 6,231
Transfers between funds	4	£ 8,762	£ (8,762)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		<u>£ 2,234</u>	<u>£ 3,536</u>	<u>£ 5,770</u>	<u>£ 6,231</u>
Balances brought forward		£ 4,849	£ 24,471	£ 29,320	£ 23,089
Balances carried Forward		<u>£ 7,083</u>	<u>£ 28,007</u>	<u>£ 35,090</u>	<u>£ 29,320</u>

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances	2025	2024
	£	£
Held at Bank	33,828	27,971
Cash float	27	27
	<u>33,854</u>	<u>27,998</u>
2. Other Assets & Liabilities		
<i>Assets</i>		
Debtors	-	-
Other monetary assets	2,453	2,053
	<u>2,453</u>	<u>2,053</u>
<i>Liabilities</i>		
Creditors & Accruals	1,218	731
	<u>1,218</u>	<u>731</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by 

date 6/2/2026

Andrew Brown (Trustee*)

* Role of Chair is vacant at time of signing

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	10,346	14,396	24,741	19,524
Rent	5,241	-	5,241	5,434
Insurance	1,102	-	1,102	1,082
Office Expenses	3,966	134	4,100	5,694
Legal & Professional	72	-	72	72
Materials and Resources	221	1,270	1,492	1,862
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	370	421	791	953
	21,319	16,221	37,540	34,621

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

Employment costs relate to part-time employees, of which the charity had 5 up to 31 August 2025.

No amounts were paid or are payable to any trustee or to any person connected to any trustee.

4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 25 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	3,687	(12,449)	8,762	-
Reach Project	4,849	6,006	(3,772)	-	7,083
Total Restricted	4,849	9,693	(16,221)	8,762	7,083
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	24,471	33,617	(21,319)	(18,762)	18,007
Designated Funds*				10,000	10,000
Total Unrestricted	24,471	33,617	(21,319)	(8,762)	28,007
Total All Funds	29,320	43,310	(37,540)	-	35,090

*See Reserves Policy paragraph, page 6

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
United Reformed Church
Cuttys Lane
Stevenage
Herts. SG1 1UL

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust dated 1 March 2001

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1088885

TRUSTEES

Mrs Helen Gale
Mrs Penelope Paton (resigned 31 August 2025)
Mr Peter Gordon
Margaret MacCarthy
Mr Andrew Brown
Mr Jon Woodrow

BANKERS

Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

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Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Income & Expenditure Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 10	Notes to the Accounts

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the charity

To advance the Christian faith

To advance education in accordance with Christian principles

To provide facilities in the interest of social welfare

The vision of the Trust is that all children will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, and to look forward with hope as they experience Christian love in action.

The mission is to reach out to primary school children, and introduce them to Christian faith and love through conducting Christian assemblies and teaching Christian religious education in schools in conjunction with local churches, and by organising themed visits to churches.

Government

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet formally six times each year to monitor the activities of the charity, to set policy and overall direction. There are currently six Trustees. New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees who seek committed Christians with broad experience representing a wide range of denominations.

Day to day operations are run by a part time Director supported by a number of part-time highly motivated professionals working in schools or supporting the activities from the central resource centre.

A look back at the year gone by

It's been another year of change for Bridge Builders.

Last year we reported that our Director, Steph Knell, stepped back from her paid role in February 2024. She continued as Director and led The Easter Journey in March of that year. Steph stepped down from the role of Director at the end of April 2025 after 8 years working for Bridge Builders. We give thanks to God for Steph's faithful service over these years and for the many ways in which Bridge Builders has evolved and developed under her wise leadership. Perhaps most notable was the ways in which the work of Bridge Builders had to change during the covid-19 pandemic, but how the decisions made during that time have led to more children being able to engage with Bridge Builders' resources for many years to come. The team and Trustees presented Steph with a rose to thank her for all her work for Bridge Builders. She will be much missed by the team, volunteers and Trustees. We wish Steph well for the future.

In September 2024 we welcomed Lynne Lee-Diep to the team as ExploRE Manager overseeing The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey. Lynne has previously been a Trustee for Bridge Builders, so is familiar with all our work and has been involved with The Christmas Journey for many years as a volunteer at her home church, St Peters in Stevenage.

As we move into this new school year, we seek God's guidance as we hope to appoint a new director to lead Bridge Builders through this new season, knowing this will bring fresh opportunities

We are once again grateful for the work of the whole Bridge Builders team this year. Cathy and Janice have taken on new team leader roles, which has enabled the whole team to continue during this interim period without a director.

We continue to be thankful for the team of volunteers who make sure that all the resources for each of these projects are prepared. Without them, the work of Bridge Builders would just not be possible.

Thank you to all those who have supported Bridge Builders over the past year; for the generous donations of churches, individuals and grant funders, for the prayerful support of the work in the office, in churches and in local schools, and for office space which is a real blessing.

We look forward to seeing God at work through Bridge Builders in the next school year!

Review of Activities

ExploRE is the umbrella term we use for our work in schools. The three core projects making up ExploRE are:

- > Assemblies and Lessons
- > The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey
- > The REach Project

All of our work in schools is tied to the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education and is available to schools free of charge.

Assemblies

Assemblies are a great way for us to spread the message of the Bible through fun, interactive stories and games and they allow us to have regular contact every half term with over 1500 children. Each assembly is only 15 minutes long but we always

- * Ask the children questions
- * Have children up front to help with anything from holding items for the story through to playing a game
- * Talk about Jesus

Bridge Builders offer schools one assembly per half term and Gemma has enjoyed getting to know the various schools in Stevenage this year. The assemblies seem to be met with enthusiasm from the children, one school giving a cheer when they discovered that it was a Bridge Builders assembly.

This year we have looked at subjects like worry, perseverance, friendship and our world. Each one has used a Bible story to show a Christian perspective on the subject. There is always a way the children can join in, like playing noughts and crosses, unpacking items to show what the story is about and most recently playing catch with eggs! (They were rubber, not that the children knew that to start with!)

Lessons

We have received requests from two schools this year to help support RE lessons, speaking to children about Christian Christmas traditions, what Christians believe happens when we die and a lively year 2 workshop on how Christians believe we should look after the world and other people. The children particularly enjoyed playing musical statues and posing as different animals each time the music stopped!

Looking forward into the new academic year, we are praying for more contacts in other schools so that more children can hear of God's love for them.

The Christmas Journey

The Christmas Journey is aimed at primary year 2 children, who are aged 6 to 7. We offer The Christmas Journey to schools as an in-person event hosted by our partner churches or as a series of video clips which can be accessed by schools online. The churches give the staff and pupils a warm welcome and there is always a lot of chatter as the excited children see the dedicated volunteers in their character dress and the wonderful setting. Those that choose to stay in school for the event still have a lot of fun as we package up and deliver all the craft supplies and teacher resources to them.

Whichever way the event is experienced, the children travel back in time to meet the characters involved in that first Christmas event. They meet the shepherds who tell them about the angels, the Wise Men who talk about the star, and Anna and Simeon who express their joy at meeting Jesus. Each child has a special Journey notebook in which they complete an activity after meeting each of the characters to remind them of what was said. They also get to decorate their very own crown. At the finale, they meet Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus before singing a lively song.

22 Schools, 1019 children took part in The Christmas Journey this academic year

We are once again so grateful to all the volunteers, the hosting churches, and also to the local councillors who donated to fund the craft activities without whom we would not be able to offer this amazing event free to schools.

The Easter Journey

The Easter Journey is aimed at primary year 5 children, who are aged 9 to 10. Like the Christmas Journey, schools were given the option to either attend the event hosted by a local partner church or to remain in the classroom and use online video clips together with craft materials and Teacher resources, all provided by Bridge Builders.

An amazing total of 1323 children participated in the Easter Journey this academic year; 24 schools booked to participate, of which 15 travelled to a church, the others opted to stay in the classroom and use the resources delivered to them.

As part of the Easter Journey the children heard about the teachings and miracles of Jesus and the events of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. They found out about Jesus's life, teaching and death, and heard about Jesus's resurrection appearances to his disciples. They were encouraged to think and ask questions, as well as consider and explore: 'Why was Jesus a Saviour?' and 'Why did He die?'

Broken into sections, children watched a video clip together explaining the events that took place. They have to be attentive because at points the video stops and questions are asked about what just happened or what they think might happen next!

After watching each clip, children returned to their tables, where there was further discussion with a church volunteer as they completed a short activity. This meant that the children would see the same volunteer each time which helped even the shyest of students to open up and discuss their thoughts. They each had a notebook as a reminder of their Easter Journey to take away with them.

REach project

The REach Project offers online 'Journeys' to schools, with the aim that there will be one Journey available for each primary school year group. Each Journey is a 90-minute workshop based on a Christian theme with links to the Hertfordshire Agreed R.E. syllabus. Teachers are provided with film clips and the resources needed to complete craft or classroom activities linked to the topics in the video.

The Harvest (Year 1), Christmas (Year 2), Easter Journeys (Year 5), The Adventure Journey (Year 6) are already available to schools in an online format. Our World Journey (Year 3) is in production the Journey about the Life of Jesus (Year 4) is to follow.

The Harvest Journey - For Year One children. 543 children followed The Harvest Journey in September 2024. They heard the story of Joseph and the famine, about the feeding of the 5000, how Christians give thanks to God and they were given time to reflect on where food comes from and God's provision for us. Like other online Journey events, all the required resources were delivered to the schools in a Bridge Builders' blue bag and links to the online videos were sent directly to the teacher by email.

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The Adventure Journey was launched in summer 2025. Six schools signed up for the Journey and 292 children have completed it.

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Andrew Brown (Trustee*)



date

6/2/2026

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Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

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William Anderson
Address:
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Letchworth Garden City
Herts SG6 2HA

date

6/2/2026

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2025 £	2024 £
Income					
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		8,693	27,555	36,248	33,217
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		<u>8,718</u>	<u>31,080</u>	<u>39,798</u>	<u>36,569</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received		-	379	379	255
Other		975	2,158	3,132	4,029
		<u>9,693</u>	<u>33,617</u>	<u>43,310</u>	<u>40,853</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	16,221	21,319	37,540	34,621
		<u>16,221</u>	<u>21,319</u>	<u>37,540</u>	<u>34,621</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (6,529)	£ 12,298	£ 5,770	£ 6,231
Transfers between funds	4	£ 8,762	£ (8,762)	£ -	£ -
		<u>£ 2,234</u>	<u>£ 3,536</u>	<u>£ 5,770</u>	<u>£ 6,231</u>
Net Movement in Funds		£ 2,234	£ 3,536	£ 5,770	£ 6,231
Balances brought forward		£ 4,849	£ 24,471	£ 29,320	£ 23,089
		<u>£ 7,083</u>	<u>£ 28,007</u>	<u>£ 35,090</u>	<u>£ 29,320</u>
Balances carried Forward		£ 7,083	£ 28,007	£ 35,090	£ 29,320

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances	2025	2024
	£	£
Held at Bank	33,828	27,971
Cash float	27	27
	<u>33,854</u>	<u>27,998</u>
2. Other Assets & Liabilities		
<i>Assets</i>		
Debtors	-	-
Other monetary assets	2,453	2,053
	<u>2,453</u>	<u>2,053</u>
<i>Liabilities</i>		
Creditors & Accruals	1,218	731
	<u>1,218</u>	<u>731</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by 

date 6/2/2026

Andrew Brown (Trustee*)

* Role of Chair is vacant at time of signing

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	10,346	14,396	24,741	19,524
Rent	5,241	-	5,241	5,434
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Office Expenses	3,966	134	4,100	5,694
Legal & Professional	72	-	72	72
Materials and Resources	221	1,270	1,492	1,862
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	370	421	791	953
	21,319	16,221	37,540	34,621

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

Employment costs relate to part-time employees, of which the charity had 5 up to 31 August 2025.

No amounts were paid or are payable to any trustee or to any person connected to any trustee.

4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 25 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	3,687	(12,449)	8,762	-
Reach Project	4,849	6,006	(3,772)	-	7,083
Total Restricted	4,849	9,693	(16,221)	8,762	7,083
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	24,471	33,617	(21,319)	(18,762)	18,007
Designated Funds*				10,000	10,000
Total Unrestricted	24,471	33,617	(21,319)	(8,762)	28,007
Total All Funds	29,320	43,310	(37,540)	-	35,090

*See Reserves Policy paragraph, page 6

BRIDGE BUILDERS CHRISTIAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1088885

Accounts



Annual Report



A nativity made by a student at Cambridge Regional College for our silent auction at Christmas in 2023.



2023-2024

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Many Thanks

Benefact Trust, Broadwater Fair Trading, Bunyan Baptist Church, Cambridge Regional College, Churches Together In Stevenage, Grace Community Church, Hertfordshire County Council, Herts Police Choir, Holy Trinity, Prudhoe PCC, Royal British Legion, St. Hugh & St. John, St Ippolyts Church, St Martin's Knebworth, St. Mary's Graveley, St. Mary's Shephall, St. Nicholas, St. Peter's Church Tewin, St Peter's Church Broadwater, Sirius Digital Solutions, Stevenage Borough Council, Stevenage Family History Society, Trinity Church Knebworth, United Reformed Church, Verulam House Trust, Welwyn Garden City Band and individual donors for your support.

Director's Report

We have enjoyed a more settled year at Bridge Builders. The new office is light, nice to work in, and in a great location. There have been a few ups and downs, as there always will be, but they have been navigated well!

In September 2023, we welcomed Angela Paterson to the team to lead our assembly provision. She worked hard and enjoyed engaging with the children. We were sad when she resigned in April 2024 but rejoice with her as she got a job in a local primary school. We have recruited two people, one to fill the gap that Angela left, and the other to run The Christmas and Easter Journeys. It was great to welcome Gemma Campbell in July as Assembly Manager, and she will also help with Journeys. Lynn Lee-Diep started in September 2024 as The Christmas and Easter Journey Manager and also helps with assemblies. We are so thankful to the Lord for providing for our needs.

The Christmas Journey was very successful, and we were also happy to provide various nativity costumes for local churches to use at Christmas. The Easter Journey saw over 1300 children access it – more than we have had before. The newer version of The Easter Journey, using the videos we recorded over lockdown, has been so successful that all churches will use it in 2025. It has a greater impact, and the children engage better.

We piloted the first Journey for the REach Project – The Harvest Journey for year 1. 210 children took part, from four different schools in the local area. It was well received, and we were pleased to receive positive feedback, as well as one or two things which could have gone better. Cathy has also written and recorded a Journey for year 6, focusing on the book of Acts, and thinking about change and transition as year 6 prepare for secondary school. One activity is to make a 'memory box', and one teacher wrote, 'The children loved the memory box idea and signed each other's boxes. They also had great ideas about what they could keep in the box.'

Our thanks as always to the many churches, church ministers and volunteers who have been involved with Bridge Builders this year. Our projects only run because of you! A special thanks to The Verulam House Fund Trust who continue to financially support the REach project, as well as to all of you who give towards our work. We are involved in mission – the majority of children have never been in a church, and will never go into a church, and although Christianity is taught in schools, we have an opportunity to make Jesus real for all the children in Stevenage and the surrounding villages.

Steph Knell

Director

Finance

In the year to 31st August 2024 the Trust had income of £40,853 and expenditures of £34,621 leaving a surplus in the year of £6,231.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £22,237 & from local partnering churches, £11,532. Our REach Project was awarded a £3k grant from The Verulam House Fund Trust of which £2k was split between two financial years; £2k is accounted for in this Financial Year. Local councillors gave grants totaling £800 towards purchasing crafts for The Christmas Journey & The Easter Journey.

Local fundraising events contribute to the “Other Income” figure along with bank interest, printing income (from printing we do for other non-profits), Christmas card sales, resource loan income & online fundraising income e.g. [Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

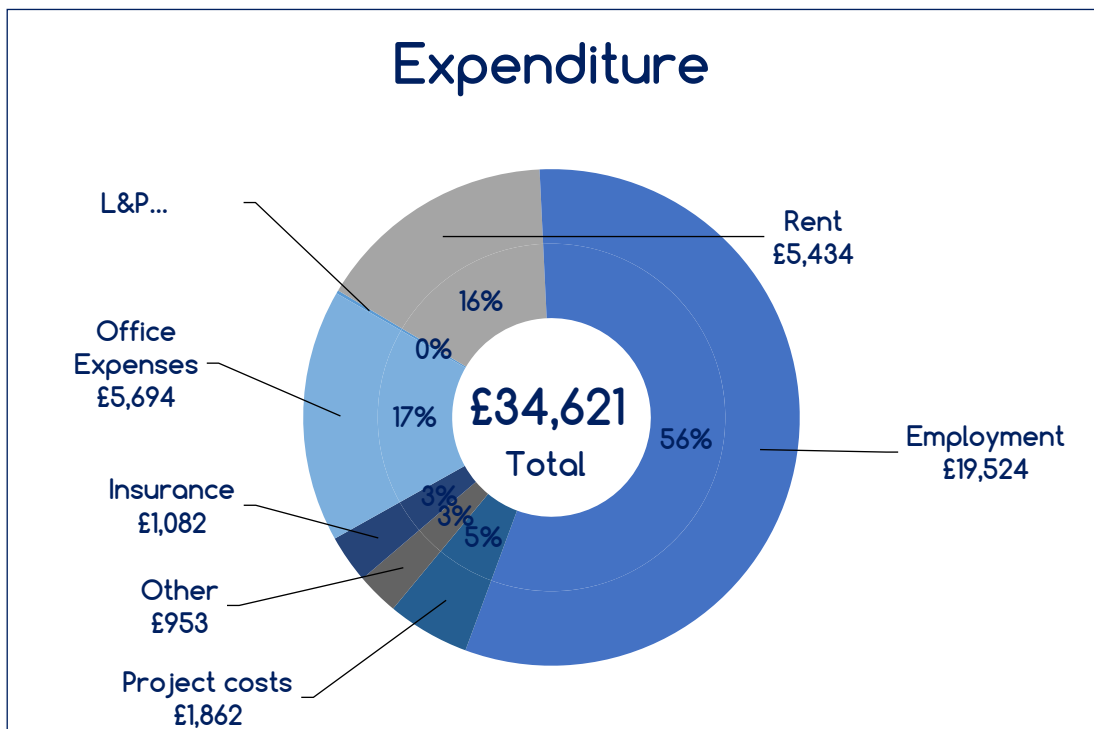
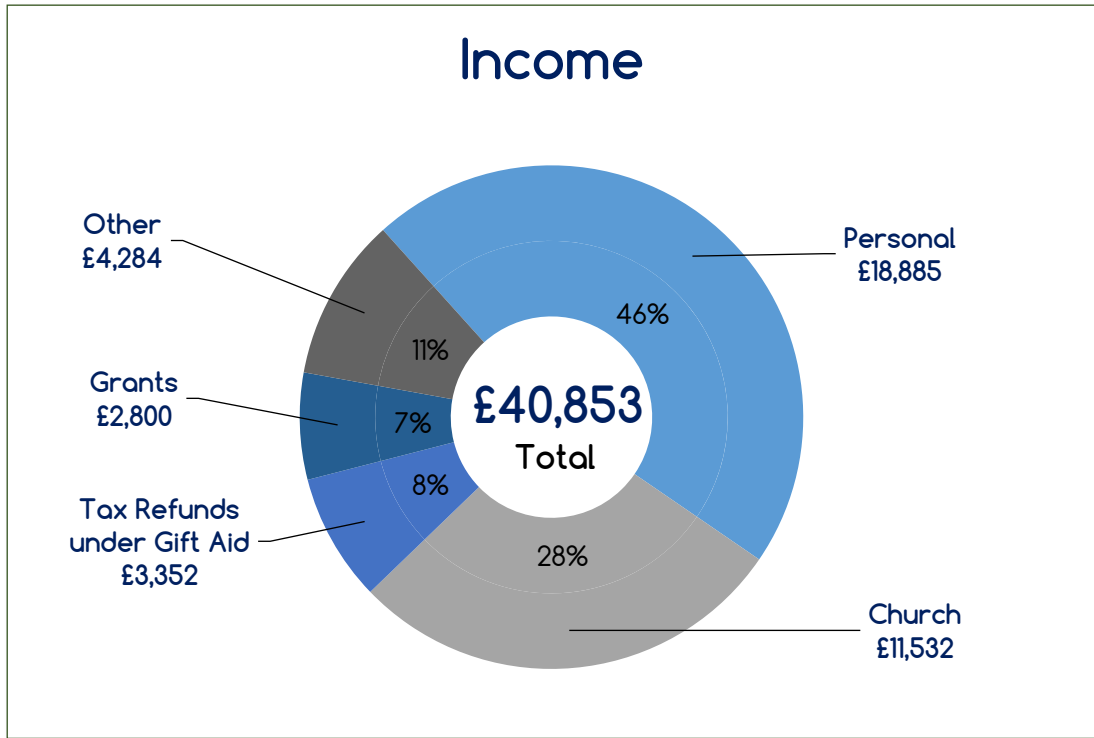
Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £19,524; Office Expenses, £5,694; Rent for the office, £5,434; Insurance £1,082 & HR consultancy £72.

Reporting a surplus for the year is encouraging, especially as this was mainly due to our income being above budget and our expenditure being on budget. Payroll costs are always our highest single expense, but this year the overall cost was almost £12k less than the previous year. There are two main reasons for this. The first is due to staff changes; the Director came off the payroll in Feb and another staff member resigned in April. The second reason is that in financial year 2022/23, three staff members agreed to take a cut in hours (two by over half) in order to produce the balance budget for FY23/24 which would also include taking on someone to do the Assemblies role for ten hours per week.

Trustees agreed to a partial reinstatement of hours for one staff member from April 2024 and for the recruitment of staff to lead the Journeys projects and Assemblies starting in the next financial & academic year.

Accounts

Income and Expenditure (£) for the Year Ended 31 August 2024



Fundraising

Bridge Builders Christian Trust's work in primary schools in Stevenage and surrounding area is completely free of charge, and we want to keep it that way.

The fundraising process at Bridge Builders is rather like a fork with four tines! There are four approaches to our fundraising strategy:

- online donations and purchases via different fundraising platforms
- local fundraising events hosted by churches and other supporting groups
- applications to grant funders
- regular monthly giving by individuals and our partner churches.

Below, you will see opportunities for online platforms, direct giving (regular or one off) and monthly giving. There is also a report on local fundraising events for Bridge Builders in the last year, as well as our successful grant applications.

ONE-OFF
GIFT ★

 **STANDING
ORDER**

Shopping online, select Bridge Builders as your beneficiary and we will receive a donation for every £1 you spend

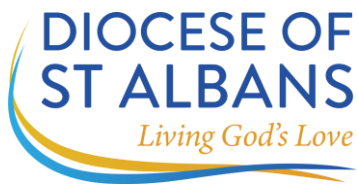
If you're a UK taxpayer completing a Gift Aid Declaration means your donation is worth 25% more.

 [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
feel good shopping


Stewardship
Active generosity

giftaid

Grant Funding



We were successful in our applications to the Verulam House Fund Trust who awarded us a grant of £3,000 and The Hockerill Foundation who also awarded us a grant of £3,000 towards our REach project in primary schools. As both of these awards are for the next academic year, they will not be shown in the accounts this year. Following a grant award, we are obliged to provide a report about how we spent the money, and how the project is progressing. We provide detailed data including the number of schools/children who attended a pilot or launch, and how the project was monitored, resourced and delivered. We also give feedback from the school staff, children, and ministers or church leaders who attended.

Local Fundraising



Welwyn Garden City Band Festive Concert at St Nicholas Church, Stevenage



Amanda receiving the hand-made Nativity for our Silent Auction.

We are so grateful for the many churches and individuals who host and attend local fundraising events for Bridge Builders. Throughout the year, there were a variety of events, including a quiz and cake evening, a range of concerts, a silent auction, a coffee morning, a tabletop sale, and we sold Christmas cards in local churches. Overall, £2327 was raised for Bridge Builders!

If you would like to host a fundraising event on behalf of Bridge Builders please get in touch admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk we would love to hear from you!

Chair's Report

Psalm 46:1 (NIV)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 46 is a reminder that in whatever troubles we face, God never deserts us. God provided a new office in July 2023. He blessed us with the appointment of a new Assemblies Manager as Angela came on board in September. There was uncertainty as to what would happen if the vacancy had not filled.

At times there has been anxiety and fear. Is the work of Bridge Builders going to be well received by the local schools? Is there a happy balance between income and expenditure? Is the office coping with the demand that is required? We give thanks to the Lord for his faithfulness and provision. His guidance and protection when the outlook seems bleak. He is the calm in our storm.

New trustees joined the board this year. Andy Brown, headteacher of a primary school, joined us September 2023 and has been invaluable as he brings knowledge from a school perspective. Jon Woodrow, pastor of Grace Community Church has also joined the trustee board. It's great having trustees from a range of churches within Stevenage. We are encouraged and look forward to sharing wisdom and knowledge as we lead Bridge Builders with God's guidance.

Thank you to the office team and the Tuesday volunteers who have worked hard all year to provide resources for the schools in response to the increased uptake of The Christmas and Easter Journeys. Assemblies also continued through the year, and thanks to church ministers who stepped in to deliver assemblies in the summer term when we didn't have an Assembly Manager - their tireless efforts have helped to bring the message of hope to children across Stevenage and beyond.

Summer term is a busy time in the school calendar and that was also the case in Bridge Builders too! Not only was there the need to fill managerial vacancies for Assemblies and The Journeys, the REach project was also expanding - The Adventure Journey was piloted. This online Journey is aimed at year 6 pupils.

It was exciting that the vacancy for a manager for Assemblies and Journeys was filled and 2 new members of staff joined the Bridge Builders office. I applied for one of the roles, and as I was appointed, I am stepping down as a trustee. My time as a trustee has ended and I thank my fellow trustees for their support, help and guidance. I am excited to be working in the Bridge Builders office and look forward to 'pushing up my shirt sleeves' and getting stuck in!

The work of Bridge Builders is only possible through the generosity of our donors, supporters, partner churches, councillors and grant funders. We also thank all those who support us in pray and by volunteering. May God continue to bless and provide for the work of Bridge Builders. If you are able to support Bridge Builders in any way, your help would be most welcome. God bless.

Lynne Lee-Diep

Acting Chair of Trustees

IT



Network Attached Storage (NAS)

Although this small black box that sits in the corner of our office does not look very exciting, it serves a very useful purpose. This Network Attached Storage (NAS) provides file storage for all our data and can be accessed both within the office and if required, remotely, when we need to work from home.

We are grateful to a supporter from one of the churches who spent time helping us source and install this solution along with the essential secure backups. Our previous server was needing to be replaced and the Virtual Private Network (VPN) hadn't been working for some while, so we couldn't efficiently work from home.

Bridge Builders continues to be really blessed by volunteers who give up their time to support us in so many ways and we are thankful to the supporter who made a donation to cover the cost of the NAS.

Our printer is usually working hard every day that we are in the office. We printed around 1200 booklets for The Christmas Journey, 1400 for The Easter Journey, 600 for The Harvest Journey and 500 for The Adventure Journey this year, as well as printing for other non-profit organizations. In total we printed over 50,000 pages which is why we need a good quality reliable printer, so we replaced our old one which was needing constant maintenance with this brilliant Toshiba leased from Sirius Digital

Solutions who are local here in Stevenage, provide excellent support to us by not only being there to help if we have a problem but also by delivering consumables to us by hand as we are only in the office two days a week during term time to take deliveries – Thank you Sirius!



Toshiba Printer with saddle stitch finisher unit



DELL Inspiron laptops

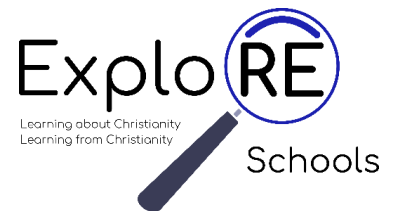
Two new laptops were bought using the remaining grant from Benefact Trust. These replace eight & ten year old devices. During the summer months all the laptops were updated to Windows 11 and setup the same for ease of use and support.

ExploRE

ExploRE is the umbrella term we use for our work in schools. The three core projects making up ExploRE are:

- Assemblies and Lessons
- The Christmas and The Easter Journeys
- The REach Project

All of our work in schools is tied to the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education and is available to schools free of charge.



Assemblies

Assemblies may quietly run along in the background of much of the work that Bridge Builders is most known for, but they are a vital part of our mission. Through regular contact with both staff and children in many primary schools throughout Stevenage and the local area, we are able to forge strong connections that help us to facilitate our other works such as The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey.

We offer regular half termly assemblies, each one being a different theme to fit with the themes and ideas that the children will already be exploring in their regular lessons, whilst also bringing the messages of the Bible to life.

It's always so exciting and encouraging to see the enthusiasm for our assemblies on the faces of the older children, as many begin to recognise us and look forward to what we're going to teach them - we've even had a few cheers in a recent assembly when they discovered it was a Bridge Builders assembly.

It was sad to say goodbye to Angela in April of this year as she had already built quite a rapport with the schools that she visited. We wish her well. During the final term of the year we were unable to continue the assemblies due to lack of staff but we are delighted that Gemma was able to start with us for the last two weeks of the summer term where she got off to a flying start by booking assemblies for the Autumn term and setting out the themes. Welcome to the team Gemma.

The REach Project



The REach project is an exciting opportunity to reach even more children throughout Stevenage and surrounding areas with the good news of the Gospel.

What is the REach Project?

The REach Project offers online 'Journeys' to schools, so that there is one Journey available for each primary school year group.

Each Journey is a 90-minute workshop based on a Christian theme with links to the Hertfordshire Agreed R.E. syllabus. Teachers are provided with video clips and the resources needed to complete craft or classroom activities linked to the topics in the video.

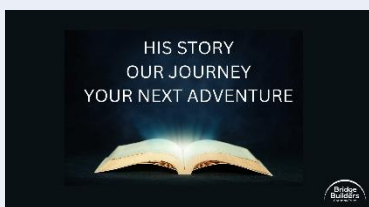
The Christmas and Easter Journeys (for years two and five/six) are already available to schools in an online format.

The Harvest Journey



... was piloted in Autumn 2023. Four primary schools were recruited to the pilot. 210 year one children (age 5/6) heard the story of Joseph and the famine, the feeding of the 5000 and about how Christians give thanks to God.

The Adventure Journey

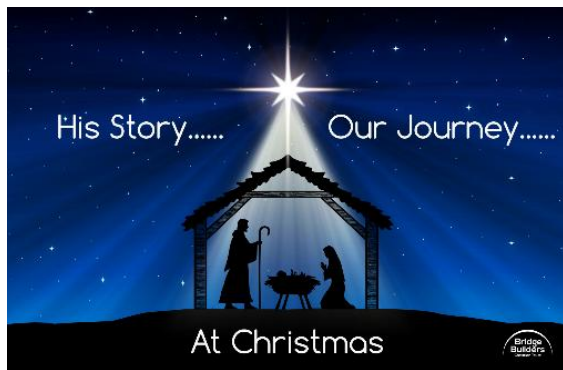


... was filmed and edited during 2023-24. It was piloted by three schools in the summer of 2024. It is aimed at year six children (age 10/11), focusing on Pentecost and Paul with the core message of trusting in God in times of change. It links to the theme of transition to secondary school. Feedback was very encouraging, and we will launch in full in Summer 2025.

Further Journeys

... are planned for school years three and four on the themes of "Our World" and "Life of Jesus".

The Christmas Journey



The Christmas Journey is an interactive event for children in primary school year two. They travel back in time to meet the shepherds, wise men, Anna and Simeon, as well as Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.

Each child has a special Journey notebook in which they complete an activity after meeting each of the characters to remind them of what was said. They also get to decorate their very own crown. At the finale, they meet Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus before singing a lively song.

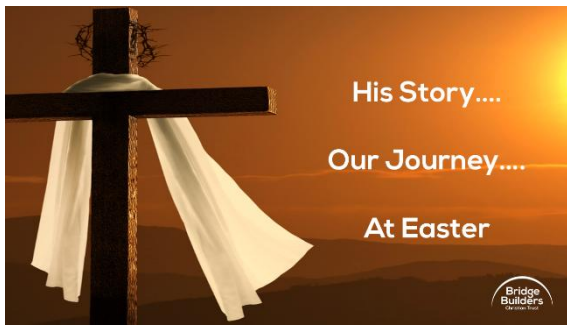
Schools have the option of attending a hosting church or accessing The Christmas Journey online, and we provide all the craft and resources which are required.

*21 schools booked meaning 956 children experienced
The Christmas Journey*

We are so thankful for the volunteers and hosting churches, as well as local councillors who donated to fund the craft activities. We cover the cost of £8 per child who attends The Christmas Journey, so rely on donations to be able to offer it year after year.

One teacher commented : 'All the adults were fabulous with all the children - thank you so much for letting us partake in this fabulous morning.;

The Easter Journey



The Easter Journey is an interactive event for children in primary school years five or six.

29 schools signed up to take part in the event, so 1,307 children participated in the Easter Journey. This is MORE than we have ever had before!

The children hear about the teachings and miracles of Jesus and the events of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. They find out about Jesus's life, teachings and death, and hear about his resurrection appearances to the disciples. The children are encouraged to think and ask questions, as well as consider and explore: 'Why was Jesus a Saviour?' and 'Why did He die?' They are each given a notebook as a reminder of the Journey to take back school.

The majority of churches used our online videos rather than having four areas with narrators and it was very well received again. We found that the children engaged better with the video clips, and enjoyed going back to the same tables, with the same volunteers. This led to deeper conversations, with the children asking better questions.

One teacher said, 'The activities kept the children engaged and the time for each was perfect for their attention span.'

A child was overheard saying, 'I don't want to leave. I'm having too much fun!!'



If you wish to have a peek at our Journeys please visit our Bridge Builders YouTube channel.

Supporters



Friends of Bridge Builders ...

... believe Bridge Builders Christian Trust has a significant role to play in Stevenage and the surrounding area and commit to supporting its ongoing work.

- Some Friends of Bridge Builders may choose to offer *practical skills* to support one off events such as cake baking, IT, carpentry, sewing or serving teas and coffees.
- *Prayer support* for all aspects of the Trust's work is vital. Regular updates will be circulated to those Friends who choose to receive them.



If you would like more information, or would like to attend the monthly prayer meetings, please contact the Bridge Builders office. Either phone us on 01438 314314 or email us at admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk.

Volunteers



At Bridge Builders our volunteers are a huge part of our ministry. Their time and skills are a valuable resource, helping us with a wide range of tasks throughout the year.

In particular, the Christmas and Easter Journeys have a lot of craft which needs preparing and counting into 30s to go into schools and churches. We have a group of volunteers who come to our office on Tuesday mornings to help.

The REach project also needs volunteers, including people willing to appear in one off roles in the videos, to regular weekly volunteering preparing craft materials and other resources for The Journeys.

Contact our office to find out more. We would love for you to be involved in our ministry work, helping to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with children across Stevenage.



The Team

Staff Team

Mrs Stephanie Knell - Director

Mrs Janice Hawketts - Finance and IT Manager

Mrs Cathy Beach - ExploRE Manager (REach)

Mrs Amanda Bryant - Communications Officer and Fundraiser

Miss Angela Paterson - ExploRE Manager (left April 2024)

Mrs Gemma Campbell - ExploRE Manager (started July 2024)

Trustees

Mrs Lynne Lee-Diep (Acting Chair)

Mr Peter Gordon

Mrs Penny Paton

Mrs Helen Gale

Rev Margaret MacCarthy

Mr Andrew Brown (started September 2023)

Jon Woodrow (started March 2024)



www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk



01438 314314

admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk

The United Reformed Church, Cuttys Lane, Stevenage, SG1 1UL

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
United Reformed Church
Cuttys Lane
Stevenage
Herts. SG1 1UL

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust dated 1 March 2001

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1088885

TRUSTEES

Mrs Hock Lynn Lee-Diep (Acting chair)
Mrs Helen Gale
Mrs Penelope Paton
Mr Peter Gordon
Margaret MacCarthy
Mr Andrew Brown (joined September 2023)
Mr Jon Woodrow (joined February 2024)

BANKERS

Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

INDEX

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Pages 2-6	Trustees' Report
Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Income & Expenditure Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 10	Notes to the Accounts

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the charity

To advance the Christian faith

To advance education in accordance with Christian principles

To provide facilities in the interest of social welfare

The vision of the Trust is that all children will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, and to look forward with hope as they experience Christian love in action.

The mission is to reach out to primary school children, and introduce them to Christian faith and love through conducting Christian assemblies and teaching Christian religious education in schools in conjunction with local churches, and by organising themed visits to churches.

Government

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet formally six times each year to monitor the activities of the charity, to set policy and overall direction. There are currently seven Trustees. New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees who seek committed Christians with broad experience representing a wide range of denominations.

Day to day operations are run by a part time Director supported by a number of part-time highly motivated professionals working in schools or supporting the activities from the central resource centre.

Review of Activities

We have enjoyed a more settled year at Bridge Builders this year. Our new office is light, warm and in a great location with parking for staff, volunteers and visitors. Our partnership with the URC, our landlords, is working very well to the benefit of both parties.

In September 2023 we welcomed Angela Paterson to the team as Assembly Manager but also helping with The Journeys projects. She was a great asset to the team, quickly learning to write and deliver assemblies in schools; she enjoyed engaging with the children and telling them about Jesus. So we were sad when she resigned in March 2024, but rejoiced with her as she went on to take up a role within a local primary school.

In February 2024 we welcomed Amanda (Fundraiser and Communications officer) back into the office; she had been living in Chatteris and was working remotely for us but in January moved back to live in Stevenage. It has been great having her in-person rather than on the phone or meeting on Zoom.

Also in February 2024 Steph stepped back from her paid role in the office, but continued as Director and still led the Easter Journey in March 2024. With only 3 paid members of staff at this point the future again looked uncertain. We looked to God for the answer and prayed for guidance. Trustees agreed to the funding for a 16hr a week post which would be Assemblies and Taking a lead on one of the Journeys. God was gracious to us and we had two candidates apply who were both capable of doing the job. This potential dilemma was easily resolved when both candidates were more than happy to have 8hrs each and essentially job share.

Gemma Campbell was able to start more or less straight away in July. Her role is to lead and develop the assemblies provision and assist with the Journeys. With only two weeks remaining of term she managed to agree dates to do assemblies in schools in the first half term, contact schools that don't usually have assemblies and work out the theme for her first assembly!

Lynn Lee-diep will start in September as ExploRE Manager - Journeys. Her role will be to lead the Easter and Christmas Journeys and help Gemma with delivering assemblies.

New Trustees came on board this year; Andy Brown, headteacher of a primary school joined in September 2023 and Jon Woodrow, pastor of Grace Community Church in Stevenage joined in February 2024. It is good to have trustees from a variety of churches from in and around Stevenage and we look forward to working with them and sharing of wisdom and knowledge as we seek to lead Bridge Builders with God's guidance

The Christmas Journey

We offer The Christmas Journey to schools as an in-person event hosted by our partner churches or as a series of video clips which can be accessed by schools online. The churches give the staff and pupils a warm welcome and there is always a lot of chatter as the excited children see the dedicated volunteers in their character dress and the wonderful setting. Those that choose to stay in school for the event still have a lot of fun as we package up and deliver all the craft supplies and teacher resources to them.

Whichever way the event is experienced, the children travel back in time to meet the characters involved in that first Christmas event. They meet the shepherds who tell them about the angels, the Wise Men who talk about the star, and Anna and Simeon who express their joy at meeting Jesus. Each child has a special Journey notebook in which they complete an activity after meeting each of the characters to remind them of what was said. They also get to decorate their very own crown. At the finale, they meet Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus before singing a lively song.

956 children took part in The Christmas Journey this academic year

We are once again so grateful to all the volunteers, the hosting churches, and also to the local councillors who donated to fund the craft activities without whom we would not be able to offer this amazing event.

The Easter Journey

Like the Christmas Journey, schools were given the option to either attend the event hosted by a local partner church or to remain in the classroom and use online video clips together with craft materials and Teacher resources, all provided by Bridge Builders.

An amazing total of 1307 children participated in the Easter Journey this academic year; more than we have ever had before. As part of the Easter Journey the children heard about the teachings and miracles of Jesus and the events of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. They found out about Jesus's life, teaching and death, and heard about Jesus's resurrection appearances to his disciples. They were encouraged to think and ask questions, as well as consider and explore: 'Why was Jesus a Saviour?' and 'Why did He die?'

Most of the churches this year opted to use the new presentation of The Easter Journey which uses the videos that we recorded over lockdown. So instead of having separate 'stations' set up across the church and the children moving from one area to the next in small groups to hear from the characters the whole class watched each clip together and then the children would go to their group to discuss what they had heard with a volunteer. This meant that the children would see the same volunteer each time which helped even the shyest of students to open up and discuss their thoughts. They each had a notebook as a reminder of their Easter Journey to take away with them.

The feedback on this new presentation from schools has been so positive added to fact that they see the events of Holy week in chronological order this way, all churches will be using it in 2025.

REach project

Bridge Builders Christian Trust offers two in-person Journeys to primary schools in Stevenage; the Christmas Journey for year two children and the Easter Journey for year five children. During Covid these Journeys were filmed and offered online to schools. This online format was very popular, and the REach Project aims to extend this offer so that there is one Journey available for each primary school year group.

Each Journey is a 90 minute workshop based on a Christian theme with links to the Hertfordshire Agreed R.E. syllabus. Teachers are provided with video clips and the resources needed to complete craft or classroom activities linked to the topics in the video.

The Harvest Journey - For Year One children. Children hear the story of Joseph and the famine, the feeding of the 5000 and about how Christians give thanks to God.

This was piloted in three schools in Autumn 2023. Feedback was very positive and we are preparing for a full launch in Autumn 2024. . Like the previous online Journey events, all the required resources were delivered to the schools in a Bridge Builders' blue bag and links to the online videos were sent directly to the teacher by email.

The Adventure Journey - For Year Six children. Focussing on Pentecost and Paul with the core message of trusting in God in times of change. Linking to transition to secondary school. The Adventure Journey was filmed and edited during autumn 2023 and early 2024 and was piloted in three schools in Summer 2024. Feedback again was very encouraging, and we will launch in full in Summer 2025.

Further Journeys on the theme of "Our World" and "Life of Jesus" are planned for school years three and four.

Assemblies

Assemblies are a great way for us to spread the message of the Bible through fun, interactive stories and games and they allow us to have regular contact every half term with over 1500 children. Each assembly is only 15 minutes long but we always

- * Ask the children questions
- * Have children up front to help with anything from holding items for the story through to playing a game
- * Talk about Jesus

Assemblies may quietly run along in the background of much of the work that Bridge Builders is most known for, but they are a vital part of our mission. Through regular contact with both staff and children in many primary schools throughout Stevenage, and beyond, we are able to forge strong connections that help us to facilitate our other works such as the Christmas and Easter Journeys.

We offer regular half termly assemblies, each one being on a different theme to fit with the themes and ideas that the children will already be exploring in their regular lessons, whilst also bringing the messages of the Bible to life.

It's always so exciting and encouraging to see the enthusiasm for our assemblies on the faces of the children, as many begin to recognise us, and look forward to what we're going to teach them, we've even had a few cheers in a recent assembly when they discovered it was a Bridge Builders assembly.

Financial Review

In the year to 31st August 2024 the Trust had income of £40,853 and expenditures of £34,621 leaving a surplus in the year of £6,231.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £22,237 & from local partnering churches, £11,532. Our REach Project was awarded a £2k grant from The Verulam Trust and local councillors gave grants totalling £800 towards purchasing crafts for Christmas Journey & Easter Journey.

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £19,524; Office Expenses, £5,694; Rent of Resource Centre, £5,434; Insurance £1,082 & HR consultancy £72.

Although this is an encouraging result with the increase in income over budget providing the surplus, the almost on budget expense figure hides the real story.

The changes in the staff payroll has had a significant affect; The Director coming off payroll in Feb and a staff member leaving in April. Also, in financial year 2022/23 three staff members agreed to take a cut in hours (2 by over half) in order to produce the balance budget for FY23/24 which included taking on someone to do the Assemblies role for 10 hours per week. Partial reinstatement of hours for one staff member was agreed by trustees from April 2024.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have decided that a reserve of cash and other current assets less current liabilities is held, sufficient to fund an orderly wind down of the activities of the Charity, should that ever become necessary. £10k has been identified as being the amount currently required for this and will be shown as Designated Funds, a separate component of the reserves, starting in the next financial year FY24/25. At the end of this accounting year FY23/24 unrestricted reserves stood at £24,471 and restricted £4,849 which is committed to the REach project.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the income & expenditure of the charity for the year.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.



Peter Gordon (Trustee*)

12 FEB 2025

date

* Role of Chair is vacant at time of signing

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bridge Builders Christian Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 on pages 8 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



12th February 2025

William Anderson

date

Address:

6 The Green

Park Lane

Old Knebworth

Herts. SG3 6QN

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2024 £	2023 £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		3,906	29,312	33,217	32,498
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		38	3,314	3,352	3,106
		<u>3,943</u>	<u>32,626</u>	<u>36,569</u>	<u>35,604</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received		-	255	255	63
Other		1,354	2,675	4,029	4,473
Total Income		<u>5,297</u>	<u>35,555</u>	<u>40,853</u>	<u>40,140</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	18,495	16,126	34,621	44,313
Total Expenditure		<u>18,495</u>	<u>16,126</u>	<u>34,621</u>	<u>44,313</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (13,197)	£ 19,429	£ 6,231	£ (4,174)
Transfers between funds	4	£ 8,964	£ (8,964)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		<u>£ (4,233)</u>	<u>£ 10,464</u>	<u>£ 6,231</u>	<u>£ (4,174)</u>
Balances brought forward		£ 9,082	£ 14,007	£ 23,089	£ 27,263
Balances carried Forward		<u>£ 4,849</u>	<u>£ 24,471</u>	<u>£ 29,320</u>	<u>£ 23,089</u>

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances

	2024	2023
	£	£
Held at Bank	27,971	23,563
Cash float	27	8
	<u>27,998</u>	<u>23,570</u>

2. Other Assets & Liabilities

Assets

Debtors	-	8
Other monetary assets	2,053	2,334
	<u>2,053</u>	<u>2,342</u>

Liabilities

Creditors & Accruals	731	2,824
	<u>731</u>	<u>2,824</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf



by

date

12 FEB 2025

Peter Gordon (Trustee*)

* Role of Chair is vacant at time of signing

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	4,874	14,650	19,524	31,432
Rent	5,434	-	5,434	4,994
Insurance	1,082	-	1,082	1,244
Office Expenses	4,244	1,450	5,694	4,069
Legal & Professional	72	-	72	455
Materials and Resources	-	1,862	1,862	1,108
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	420	533	953	1,011
	16,126	18,495	34,621	44,313

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

Employment costs relate to part-time employees, of which the charity had 5 up to 1 February 2024, 4 up to 12 April, 3 up to 9 July and at 31 August 2024 there were 4 part-time employees.

£200 was paid to Peter Gordon (Trustee) in respect of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. No amounts were paid or are payable to any other trustee or to any person connected to any trustee.

4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 24 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	3,056	(12,021)	8,964	-
IT Project	1,220	-	(1,220)	-	-
Reach Project	7,862	2,241	(5,254)	-	4,849
Total Restricted	9,082	5,297	(18,495)	8,964	4,849
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	14,007	35,555	(16,126)	(8,964)	24,471
Total All Funds	23,089	40,853	(34,621)	-	29,320

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
United Reformed Church
Cuttys Lane
Stevenage
Herts. SG1 1UL

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust dated 1 March 2001

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1088885

TRUSTEES

Mrs Hock Lynn Lee-Diep (Acting chair)
Mrs Helen Gale
Mrs Penelope Paton
Mr Peter Gordon
Margaret MacCarthy
Mr Andrew Brown (joined September 2023)
Mr Jon Woodrow (joined February 2024)

BANKERS

Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

INDEX

Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2-6	Trustees' Report
Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Income & Expenditure Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 10	Notes to the Accounts

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the charity

To advance the Christian faith

To advance education in accordance with Christian principles

To provide facilities in the interest of social welfare

The vision of the Trust is that all children will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, and to look forward with hope as they experience Christian love in action.

The mission is to reach out to primary school children, and introduce them to Christian faith and love through conducting Christian assemblies and teaching Christian religious education in schools in conjunction with local churches, and by organising themed visits to churches.

Government

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet formally six times each year to monitor the activities of the charity, to set policy and overall direction. There are currently seven Trustees. New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees who seek committed Christians with broad experience representing a wide range of denominations.

Day to day operations are run by a part time Director supported by a number of part-time highly motivated professionals working in schools or supporting the activities from the central resource centre.

Review of Activities

We have enjoyed a more settled year at Bridge Builders this year. Our new office is light, warm and in a great location with parking for staff, volunteers and visitors. Our partnership with the URC, our landlords, is working very well to the benefit of both parties.

In September 2023 we welcomed Angela Paterson to the team as Assembly Manager but also helping with The Journeys projects. She was a great asset to the team, quickly learning to write and deliver assemblies in schools; she enjoyed engaging with the children and telling them about Jesus. So we were sad when she resigned in March 2024, but rejoiced with her as she went on to take up a role within a local primary school.

In February 2024 we welcomed Amanda (Fundraiser and Communications officer) back into the office; she had been living in Chatteris and was working remotely for us but in January moved back to live in Stevenage. It has been great having her in-person rather than on the phone or meeting on Zoom.

Also in February 2024 Steph stepped back from her paid role in the office, but continued as Director and still led the Easter Journey in March 2024. With only 3 paid members of staff at this point the future again looked uncertain. We looked to God for the answer and prayed for guidance. Trustees agreed to the funding for a 16hr a week post which would be Assemblies and Taking a lead on one of the Journeys. God was gracious to us and we had two candidates apply who were both capable of doing the job. This potential dilemma was easily resolved when both candidates were more than happy to have 8hrs each and essentially job share.

Gemma Campbell was able to start more or less straight away in July. Her role is to lead and develop the assemblies provision and assist with the Journeys. With only two weeks remaining of term she managed to agree dates to do assemblies in schools in the first half term, contact schools that don't usually have assemblies and work out the theme for her first assembly!

Lynn Lee-diep will start in September as ExploRE Manager - Journeys. Her role will be to lead the Easter and Christmas Journeys and help Gemma with delivering assemblies.

New Trustees came on board this year; Andy Brown, headteacher of a primary school joined in September 2023 and Jon Woodrow, pastor of Grace Community Church in Stevenage joined in February 2024. It is good to have trustees from a variety of churches from in and around Stevenage and we look forward to working with them and sharing of wisdom and knowledge as we seek to lead Bridge Builders with God's guidance

The Christmas Journey

We offer The Christmas Journey to schools as an in-person event hosted by our partner churches or as a series of video clips which can be accessed by schools online. The churches give the staff and pupils a warm welcome and there is always a lot of chatter as the excited children see the dedicated volunteers in their character dress and the wonderful setting. Those that choose to stay in school for the event still have a lot of fun as we package up and deliver all the craft supplies and teacher resources to them.

Whichever way the event is experienced, the children travel back in time to meet the characters involved in that first Christmas event. They meet the shepherds who tell them about the angels, the Wise Men who talk about the star, and Anna and Simeon who express their joy at meeting Jesus. Each child has a special Journey notebook in which they complete an activity after meeting each of the characters to remind them of what was said. They also get to decorate their very own crown. At the finale, they meet Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus before singing a lively song.

956 children took part in The Christmas Journey this academic year

We are once again so grateful to all the volunteers, the hosting churches, and also to the local councillors who donated to fund the craft activities without whom we would not be able to offer this amazing event.

The Easter Journey

Like the Christmas Journey, schools were given the option to either attend the event hosted by a local partner church or to remain in the classroom and use online video clips together with craft materials and Teacher resources, all provided by Bridge Builders.

An amazing total of 1307 children participated in the Easter Journey this academic year; more than we have ever had before. As part of the Easter Journey the children heard about the teachings and miracles of Jesus and the events of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. They found out about Jesus's life, teaching and death, and heard about Jesus's resurrection appearances to his disciples. They were encouraged to think and ask questions, as well as consider and explore: 'Why was Jesus a Saviour?' and 'Why did He die?'

Most of the churches this year opted to use the new presentation of The Easter Journey which uses the videos that we recorded over lockdown. So instead of having separate 'stations' set up across the church and the children moving from one area to the next in small groups to hear from the characters the whole class watched each clip together and then the children would go to their group to discuss what they had heard with a volunteer. This meant that the children would see the same volunteer each time which helped even the shyest of students to open up and discuss their thoughts. They each had a notebook as a reminder of their Easter Journey to take away with them.

The feedback on this new presentation from schools has been so positive added to fact that they see the events of Holy week in chronological order this way, all churches will be using it in 2025.

REach project

Bridge Builders Christian Trust offers two in-person Journeys to primary schools in Stevenage; the Christmas Journey for year two children and the Easter Journey for year five children. During Covid these Journeys were filmed and offered online to schools. This online format was very popular, and the REach Project aims to extend this offer so that there is one Journey available for each primary school year group.

Each Journey is a 90 minute workshop based on a Christian theme with links to the Hertfordshire Agreed R.E. syllabus. Teachers are provided with video clips and the resources needed to complete craft or classroom activities linked to the topics in the video.

The Harvest Journey - For Year One children. Children hear the story of Joseph and the famine, the feeding of the 5000 and about how Christians give thanks to God.

This was piloted in three schools in Autumn 2023. Feedback was very positive and we are preparing for a full launch in Autumn 2024. . Like the previous online Journey events, all the required resources were delivered to the schools in a Bridge Builders' blue bag and links to the online videos were sent directly to the teacher by email.

The Adventure Journey - For Year Six children. Focussing on Pentecost and Paul with the core message of trusting in God in times of change. Linking to transition to secondary school. The Adventure Journey was filmed and edited during autumn 2023 and early 2024 and was piloted in three schools in Summer 2024. Feedback again was very encouraging, and we will launch in full in Summer 2025.

Further Journeys on the theme of "Our World" and "Life of Jesus" are planned for school years three and four.

Assemblies

Assemblies are a great way for us to spread the message of the Bible through fun, interactive stories and games and they allow us to have regular contact every half term with over 1500 children. Each assembly is only 15 minutes long but we always

- * Ask the children questions
- * Have children up front to help with anything from holding items for the story through to playing a game
- * Talk about Jesus

Assemblies may quietly run along in the background of much of the work that Bridge Builders is most known for, but they are a vital part of our mission. Through regular contact with both staff and children in many primary schools throughout Stevenage, and beyond, we are able to forge strong connections that help us to facilitate our other works such as the Christmas and Easter Journeys.

We offer regular half termly assemblies, each one being on a different theme to fit with the themes and ideas that the children will already be exploring in their regular lessons, whilst also bringing the messages of the Bible to life.

It's always so exciting and encouraging to see the enthusiasm for our assemblies on the faces of the children, as many begin to recognise us, and look forward to what we're going to teach them, we've even had a few cheers in a recent assembly when they discovered it was a Bridge Builders assembly.

Financial Review

In the year to 31st August 2024 the Trust had income of £40,853 and expenditures of £34,621 leaving a surplus in the year of £6,231.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £22,237 & from local partnering churches, £11,532. Our REach Project was awarded a £2k grant from The Verulam Trust and local councillors gave grants totalling £800 towards purchasing crafts for Christmas Journey & Easter Journey.

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £19,524; Office Expenses, £5,694; Rent of Resource Centre, £5,434; Insurance £1,082 & HR consultancy £72.

Although this is an encouraging result with the increase in income over budget providing the surplus, the almost on budget expense figure hides the real story.

The changes in the staff payroll has had a significant affect; The Director coming off payroll in Feb and a staff member leaving in April. Also, in financial year 2022/23 three staff members agreed to take a cut in hours (2 by over half) in order to produce the balance budget for FY23/24 which included taking on someone to do the Assemblies role for 10 hours per week. Partial reinstatement of hours for one staff member was agreed by trustees from April 2024.

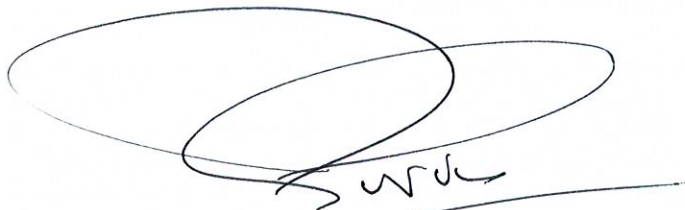
Reserves Policy

The Trustees have decided that a reserve of cash and other current assets less current liabilities is held, sufficient to fund an orderly wind down of the activities of the Charity, should that ever become necessary. £10k has been identified as being the amount currently required for this and will be shown as Designated Funds, a separate component of the reserves, starting in the next financial year FY24/25. At the end of this accounting year FY23/24 unrestricted reserves stood at £24,471 and restricted £4,849 which is committed to the REach project.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the income & expenditure of the charity for the year.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.



Peter Gordon (Trustee*)

12 FEB 2025

date

* Role of Chair is vacant at time of signing

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bridge Builders Christian Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 on pages 8 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



12th February 2025

William Anderson

date

Address:

6 The Green

Park Lane

Old Knebworth

Herts. SG3 6QN

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2024 £	2023 £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		3,906	29,312	33,217	32,498
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		38	3,314	3,352	3,106
		<u>3,943</u>	<u>32,626</u>	<u>36,569</u>	<u>35,604</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received		-	255	255	63
Other		1,354	2,675	4,029	4,473
Total Income		<u>5,297</u>	<u>35,555</u>	<u>40,853</u>	<u>40,140</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	18,495	16,126	34,621	44,313
Total Expenditure		<u>18,495</u>	<u>16,126</u>	<u>34,621</u>	<u>44,313</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (13,197)	£ 19,429	£ 6,231	£ (4,174)
Transfers between funds	4	£ 8,964	£ (8,964)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		<u>£ (4,233)</u>	<u>£ 10,464</u>	<u>£ 6,231</u>	<u>£ (4,174)</u>
Balances brought forward		£ 9,082	£ 14,007	£ 23,089	£ 27,263
Balances carried Forward		<u>£ 4,849</u>	<u>£ 24,471</u>	<u>£ 29,320</u>	<u>£ 23,089</u>

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances

	2024	2023
	£	£
Held at Bank	27,971	23,563
Cash float	27	8
	<u>27,998</u>	<u>23,570</u>

2. Other Assets & Liabilities

Assets

Debtors	-	8
Other monetary assets	2,053	2,334
	<u>2,053</u>	<u>2,342</u>

Liabilities

Creditors & Accruals	731	2,824
	<u>731</u>	<u>2,824</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf



by

date

12 FEB 2025

Peter Gordon (Trustee*)

* Role of Chair is vacant at time of signing

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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Legal & Professional	72	-	72	455
Materials and Resources	-	1,862	1,862	1,108
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	420	533	953	1,011
	16,126	18,495	34,621	44,313

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

Employment costs relate to part-time employees, of which the charity had 5 up to 1 February 2024, 4 up to 12 April, 3 up to 9 July and at 31 August 2024 there were 4 part-time employees.

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4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 24 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	3,056	(12,021)	8,964	-
IT Project	1,220	-	(1,220)	-	-
Reach Project	7,862	2,241	(5,254)	-	4,849
Total Restricted	9,082	5,297	(18,495)	8,964	4,849
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	14,007	35,555	(16,126)	(8,964)	24,471
Total All Funds	23,089	40,853	(34,621)	-	29,320

BRIDGE BUILDERS CHRISTIAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1088885

Accounts



Annual Report



2022-2023

Director's Report

The last academic year has been really encouraging. It was more 'normal' than the previous three years as there was no pandemic to contend with. The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey happened as normal, although schools were given the option of accessing the online videos to watch at school or to visit a church. Assemblies continued, and more schools have asked for in-person assemblies as they have relaxed restrictions imposed during Covid.

We completed The Harvest Journey for year 1; our first purely online Journey. Cathy and Natalie wrote the journey, filmed, edited it and produced a teacher's resource booklet and a children's notebook. They worked hard to find age-appropriate activities and crafts which could be tailored according to each child's needs. Positively, one school which we have little contact with, emailed us in August 2023 to ask whether we had a harvest resource for year 1. In September, the journey was piloted in three schools to which we received good feedback.

Although the year was 'normal', with our usual work, we also had to find a new office space and wrestle with depleting finances. The office at St Paul's church provided us with a lot of storage, and after visiting a few different office spaces we realised that we had to 'downsize' (see 'Moving Offices' page). It was hard work, and the three of us based in Stevenage worked extra hours to get the move done, but I'm delighted to say it went smoothly and we have settled in well to The United Reformed Church. Many thanks to those who helped us move physically, as well as those who helped in the run up to the move. In the midst of the move we also sadly said 'goodbye' to Natalie who stopped working for Bridge Builders in June 2023. We pray that her marriage and move to Norfolk bring much joy!

Our grateful thanks go to those who responded to our appeal in February 2023. The trustees did a wonderful job going to many local churches, and the gifts that were given at that point have made a huge difference, so thank you for all your support!

Steph Knell

Director

Moving offices....

This sounds simple but it involved....

Sorting and disposing of accumulated resources collected for over 20 years.

Selling multiple items, including furniture, on eBay and Facebook Marketplace

Re-organising The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey resource boxes to be stored in the garages

Many trips to charity shops by volunteers, staff and trustees

Organising a table top sale and running it over 2 days.

And doing our usual work ---
all in 2 days a week!

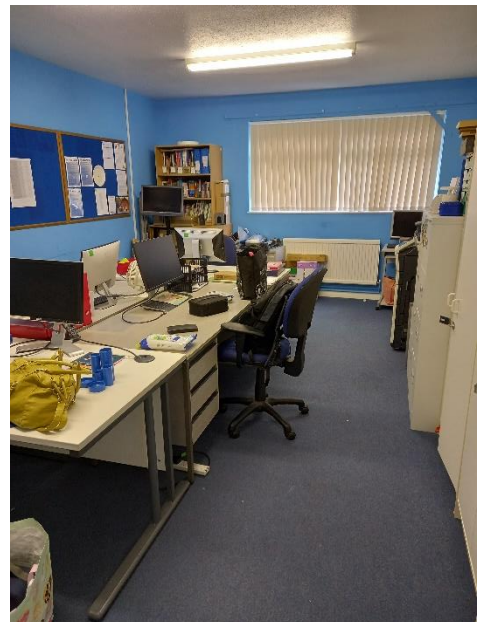
BUT.... The hard work paid off. When we moved to our new offices, the furniture fitted in and we unpacked it all in 2 days. One big answer to prayer was that the printer immediately connected to both the internet and to our computers. Phew!

THANK YOU so much to everyone who helped!

The Old Office on moving day including a manoeuvre to get the stationery cupboard down the stairs!



The New Office at The United Reformed Church



THE REach PROJECT

The Reach project is an exciting opportunity to reach even more children throughout Stevenage and surrounding areas with the good news of the Gospel.

Building on the success of the Christmas and Easter online Journeys, The Reach project aims to produce an online interactive Journey for each and every year group throughout primary school, reaching upwards of 10,000 children **EACH** year!

The format for the journeys will be three short video clips explaining a Bible based concept followed by three activities to enhance the children's understanding and to encourage them to think about the issues raised. All the content is tied into the Hertfordshire R.E. curriculum.



This year we have focused on producing The Harvest Journey for year one children, to be piloted in schools early in the Autumn 2023 term.

Also, this year The Journey for year six children based on the book of Acts and relating to secondary school transition is nearly complete. This will be piloted in the summer term 2024.

Coming up....

A creation themed Journey for year three children, and life of Jesus Journey for year four children.



TARGET - £21,000



PRAYER



DONATE

Fundraising

We rely on donations to keep our work going. We cover the £8 cost for each child who attends one of our journeys. There are many different ways in which you can support us:

ONE-OFF
GIFT ★

 **STANDING
ORDER**

Shopping online, select Bridge Builders as your beneficiary and we will receive a donation for every £1 you spend

If you're a UK taxpayer completing a Gift Aid Declaration means your donation is worth 25% more.



giftaid



Assemblies

Assemblies are a great way for us to spread the message of the Bible through fun, interactive stories and games and they allow us to have regular contact every half term with over 1500 children. Each assembly is only 15 minutes long but we always

- Ask the children questions
- Have children up front to help with anything from holding items for the story through to playing a game
- Talk about Jesus

Our assemblies are designed to not only give the children information about the Bible, but also to inspire them to take the message of the assembly out into their everyday lives.

We want to plant a seed in the hearts and minds of the children that we speak to about the true nature of God, and also encourage them to live out the values that we're discussing in each assembly, such as kindness, change, perseverance, and so much more.

We want our assemblies to have a lasting impact, and for the children to remember them for years to come, which is why we make our assemblies as fun and interactive as possible. We always receive a very warm reception from the children as they remember previous assemblies, and the fun that was had.

In September 2023 Angela joined the Bridge Builders team as ExploRE Manager with a main focus on assemblies. This will allow us to spend more time and attention on assemblies and means we can reach out to schools that we had contact with pre-covid, but who have yet to invite us back, as well as those who haven't had a Bridge Builders assembly for many years.

Please pray that our reaching out will be successful, and that we're able to make contact with more schools and children on a regular basis.



In the Christmas assembly in 2022 the children particularly enjoyed putting together a nativity scene as we told the story of Brother Froilan who carved the figures of the Nativity scene. A beautiful ceramic Nativity set was donated to us just as we needed it for this assembly.



Friends of Bridge Builders

believe Bridge Builders Christian Trust has a significant role to play in Stevenage and the surrounding area and commit to supporting its ongoing work.

- Some Friends of Bridge Builders may choose to offer *practical skills* to support one off events such as cake baking, IT, carpentry, sewing or serving teas and coffees.
- *Prayer support* for all aspects of the Trust's work is vital. Regular updates will be circulated to those Friends who choose to receive them.



If you would like more information, or would like to attend the monthly prayer meetings, please contact the Bridge Builders office. Either phone us on 01438 314314 or email us at admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk.

Volunteer



At Bridge Builders our volunteers are a huge part of our ministry. The time and skills of our volunteers are a valuable resource, helping us with a wide range of tasks throughout the year.

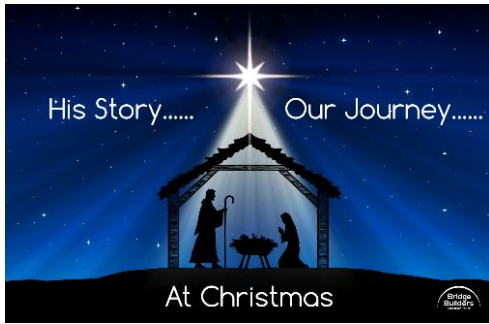
In particular, the REach project needs a number of volunteers, including one off roles such as appearing in one of the videos, to regular weekly volunteering preparing craft materials and other resources for The Journeys.

Contact our office to find out more about our volunteering opportunities. We would love for you to be involved in our ministry work, helping to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with children across Stevenage.

Many Thanks

Broadwater Fair Trading, Bunyan Baptist Church, Churches Together In Stevenage, Grace Community Church, Hertfordshire County Council, Holy Trinity, Prudhoe PCC, Royal British Legion, St. Hugh & St. John, St Ippolyts, St Martin's Knebworth, St. Mary's Graveley, St. Mary's Shephall, St. Nicholas, St. Peter's Church Tewin, St Peter's Church Broadwater, Sirius Digital Solutions, Stevenage Borough Council, Stevenage Churches Inter-denominational Missionary Project, Stevenage Family History Society, Trinity Church Knebworth, United Reformed Church, Verulam Trust and individual donors for your generous support, .

The Christmas Journey



The Christmas Journey is an interactive event for children in primary school year two.

During the COVID pandemic we produced The Christmas Journey as a series of video clips which could be accessed by schools online. In 2022 we offered the schools a choice; to visit a local church hosting this amazing event or the option to use the videos in school (with all craft supplies delivered beforehand).

964 children took part in The Christmas Journey

Either way, the children travel back in time to meet the characters involved in that first Christmas event. They meet the shepherds who tell them about the angels, the Wise Men who talk about the star, and Anna and Simeon who express their joy at meeting Jesus. Each child has a special Journey notebook in which they complete an activity after meeting each of the characters to remind them of what was said. They also get to decorate their very own crown. At the finale, they meet Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus before singing a lively song.

We are so grateful to all the volunteers, the hosting churches, and also to the local councillors who donated to fund the craft activities.

One teacher commented : 'All stations are just the right balance of listening/learning activity to keep children's focus. I look forward to this trip every year!'

The Easter Journey



The Easter Journey is an interactive event for children in primary school years five or six.

Like the Christmas Journey, schools were given the option to either attend the event hosted by a local church or to remain in the classroom and use online video clips together with craft materials Bridge Builders provided.

903 children participated in the Easter Journey...

... and they heard about the teachings and miracles of Jesus and the events of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. They found out about Jesus's life, teaching and death, and heard about Jesus's resurrection appearances to his disciples. They were encouraged to think and ask questions, as well as consider and explore: 'Why was Jesus a Saviour?' and 'Why did He die?'

A Catholic teacher said that a highlight was 'To see all of our children engaged in all aspects of all the activities,' and he reflected that the way it was done 'allowed wider, relaxed conversation about the main themes.'

We were very encouraged by feedback from teachers (see quote above) when some churches took up the option to use our online videos rather than having four areas with narrators in each area. The whole class watched each clip before splitting into groups to discuss with a volunteer what they had heard. They each had a notebook as a reminder of the Journey to take back school.



If you wish to have a peek at our Journeys please visit our Bridge Builders YouTube channel.

Psalm 107:29

He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

I, like many, have enjoyed being part of The Christmas Journey which delivers the Christmas story to 6-7 year olds. My first experience was one of wonder at how marvellously organised it was. The efforts gone in to creating environments where the characters from the Christmas story would retell their tale to the eager, wide-eyed children.

Bridge Builders is more than the Christmas or Easter Journey, but it may be what most people think of when you mention "Bridge Builders." Through relationships forged with schools and local church ministers, Bridge Builders are invited to hold assemblies twice a term at primary schools across Stevenage. This allows us to reach out and speak with many primary aged children. This work is immeasurably valuable in spreading God's word.

This past year, Bridge Builders, like Jesus' disciples, faced many storms yet held on to faith, and kept their eyes on the Lord. One of the changes is that Anthony, our Chair of trustees, stepped down as a trustee. We are very grateful to Anthony for his work over the years especially steering the ship through the pandemic. I have stepped into the role of Acting Chair and, with the support of Steph as Director and my fellow trustees, we strive to ensure Bridge Builders' work is a constant presence in schools across Stevenage and neighbouring villages. We can only do this through the dedication of the volunteers who do so much work behind the scenes with preparing craft, packing boxes and more. For that, we as trustees are grateful. The staff who work laboriously in the office do an amazing job to whom we too, are so very grateful for their toil.

There have been staffing changes and location changes bringing much extra work for the volunteers and office team. We give thanks to St Paul's Methodist for the use of their office space for many years and now look forward to many productive years at the new office location of the United Reformed Church.

We have much to be thankful for and we also have hope for the future. The team have been hard at work on a new virtual Harvest Journey, aimed at 5-6 year olds, which was delivered in September 2023 to a select number of schools as a pilot. The team are hard at work on another journey as part of the REach program.

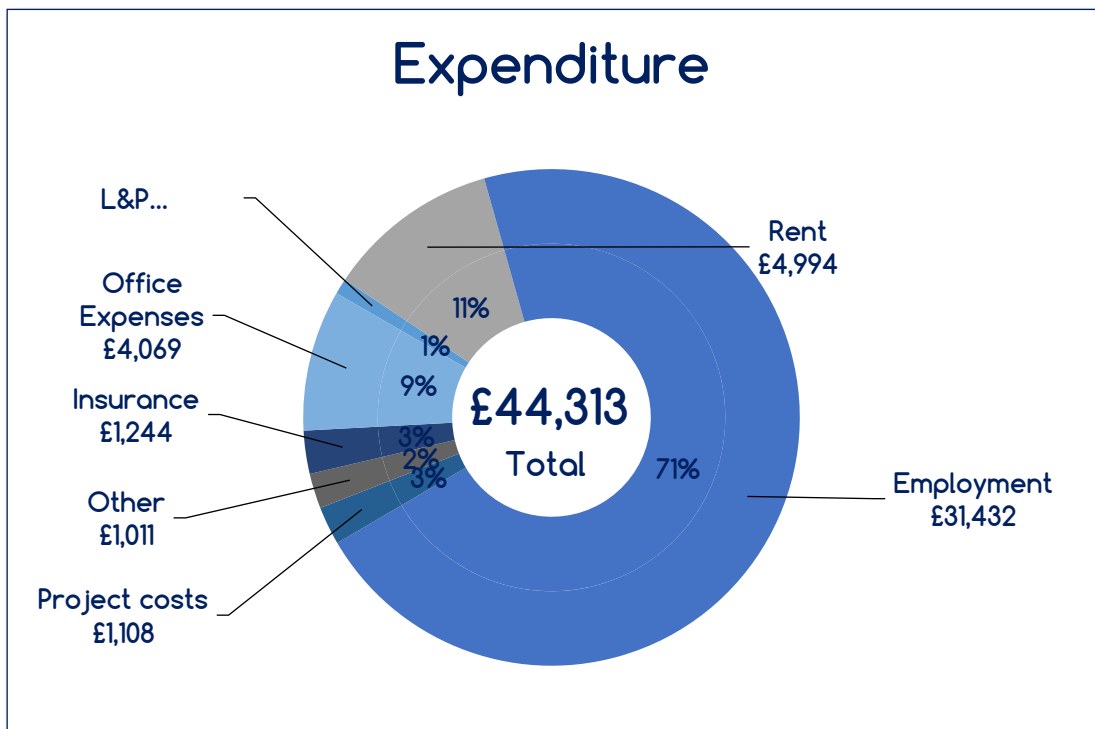
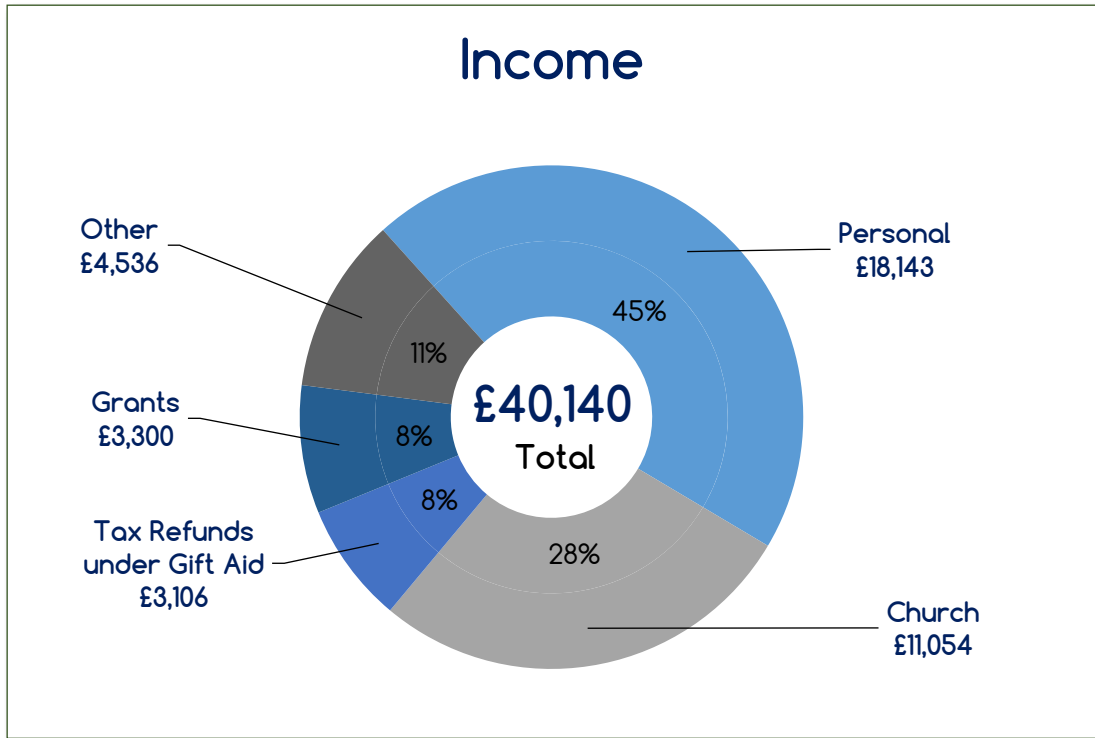
We are ever grateful for the support from local churches, schools, patrons, individual donors, Friends of Bridge Builders... for all their encouragement, prayerful support and to all who play a part within Bridge Builders. We hope you too are encouraged by the work of Bridge Builders and will look to support them generously in whichever way you can. God bless.

Lynne Lee-Diep

Acting Chair of Trustees

Accounts

Income and Expenditure (£) for the Year Ended 31 August 2023



The Team

Staff Team

Mrs Stephanie Knell—Director

Mrs Janice Hawketts—Finance and IT Manager

Mrs Natalie Birch (nee James)—ExploRE Manager (left June 2023)

Mrs Cathy Beach – ExploRE Manager

Mrs Amanda Bryant—Communications Officer and Administrator

Miss Angela Paterson – ExploRE Manager (started September 2023)

Trustees

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair) (resigned December 2022)

Mrs Lynne Lee-Diep (acting Chair from January 2023)

Mr Peter Gordon

Mrs Penny Paton

Mrs Helen Gale

Rev Margaret MacCarthy

Mr Andrew Brown (started September 2023)



www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk



01438 314314

admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk

The United Reformed Church, Cuttys Lane, Stevenage, SG1 1UL

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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Cuttys Lane
Stevenage
Herts. SG1 1UL

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust dated 1 March 2001

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Mr Peter Gordon
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Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

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Further Journeys are planned; For year 6 a Journey based on the book of Acts and relating to secondary school transition which will be piloted in the summer term 2024, A creation themed Journey for year 3 and the life of Jesus for year 4.

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We want our assemblies to have a lasting impact, and for the children to remember them for years to come, which is why we make our assemblies as fun and interactive as possible. We always receive a very warm reception from the children as they remember previous assemblies, and the fun that was had.

In September 2023 Angela joined the Bridge Builders team as ExploRE Manager with a main focus on assemblies. This will allow us to spend more time and attention on assemblies and means we can reach out to schools that we had contact with pre-covid, but who have yet to invite us back, as well as those who haven't had a Bridge Builders assembly for many years.

Please pray that our reaching out will be successful, and that we're able to make contact with more schools and children on a regular basis.

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In the year to 31st August 2023 the Trust had income of £40,140 and expenditures of £44,313 leaving a deficit in the year of £4,174.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £21,249 & from local partnering churches, £11,054. Our REach Project was awarded a £2,500 grant from The Verulam Trust and local councillors gave grants totalling £800 towards purchasing crafts for Christmas Journey.

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £31,432; Rent of Resource Centre, £4,994; Insurance £1,244, HR consultancy £360 & professional services £95.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have decided that a reserve of cash and other current assets less current liabilities is held, sufficient to fund an orderly wind down of the activities of the Charity, should that ever become necessary. At the end of the accounting year unrestricted reserves stood at £14,007 and restricted £9,082. Of the restricted reserves £1,220 is committed to the completion of an IT related project part funded by a grant from Allchurches Trust and the remainder £7,862 is committed to the REach project.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the income & expenditure of the charity for the year.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Mrs Hock Lynn Lee-Diep
Acting Chair of Trustees

date



23/01/2024.

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bridge Builders Christian Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 on pages 7 to 9 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



William Anderson

Address:

6 The Green

Park Lane

Old Knebworth

Herts. SG3 6QN

date 23rd JANUARY 2024

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2023 £	2022 £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		4,235	28,263	32,498	31,634
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		36	3,070	3,106	3,086
		<u>4,271</u>	<u>31,333</u>	<u>35,604</u>	<u>34,720</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received		-	63	63	2
Other		775	3,698	4,473	3,031
Total Income		<u>5,046</u>	<u>35,093</u>	<u>40,140</u>	<u>37,753</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	33,103	11,210	44,313	41,245
Total Expenditure		<u>33,103</u>	<u>11,210</u>	<u>44,313</u>	<u>41,245</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (28,057)	£ 23,883	£ (4,174)	£ (3,492)
Transfers between funds	4	£ 24,776	£ (24,776)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		<u>£ (3,281)</u>	<u>£ (893)</u>	<u>£ (4,174)</u>	<u>£ (3,492)</u>
Balances brought forward		£ 12,363	£ 14,900	£ 27,263	£ 30,755
Balances carried Forward		<u>£ 9,082</u>	<u>£ 14,007</u>	<u>£ 23,089</u>	<u>£ 27,263</u>

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances	2023	2022
	£	£
Held at Bank	23,563	27,019
Cash float	8	21
	<u>23,570</u>	<u>27,040</u>
2. Other Assets & Liabilities		
<i>Assets</i>		
Debtors	8	-
Other monetary assets	2,334	2,550
	<u>2,342</u>	<u>2,550</u>
<i>Liabilities</i>		
Creditors & Accruals	2,824	2,328
	<u>2,824</u>	<u>2,328</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by 
Mrs Hock Lynn Lee-Diep (Acting chair)

date 23/01/2024.

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	-	31,432	31,432	25,895
Rent	4,994	-	4,994	5,327
Insurance	1,244	-	1,244	1,252
Office Expenses	3,953	116	4,069	5,251
Legal & Professional	455	-	455	875
Materials and Resources	4	1,104	1,108	1,902
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	560	451	1,011	742
	11,210	33,103	44,313	41,245

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

Employment costs relate to part-time employees, of which the charity had 5 up to 30 June 2023; at 31 August 2023 there were 4 part-time employees.

£175 was paid to Helen Gale (Trustee) and £42.90 paid to Penelope Paton (Trustee) in respect of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. No amounts were paid or are payable to any other trustee or to any person connected to any trustee.

4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 23 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	2,233	(27,009)	24,776	-
IT Project	1,220	-	-	-	1,220
Reach Project	11,143	2,814	(6,094)	-	7,862
Total Restricted	12,363	5,046	(33,103)	24,776	9,082
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	14,900	35,093	(11,210)	(24,776)	14,007
Total All Funds	27,263	40,140	(44,313)	-	23,089

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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United Reformed Church
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Herts. SG1 1UL

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Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

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date 23rd JANUARY 2024

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2023 £	2022 £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		4,235	28,263	32,498	31,634
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		36	3,070	3,106	3,086
		<u>4,271</u>	<u>31,333</u>	<u>35,604</u>	<u>34,720</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received		-	63	63	2
Other		775	3,698	4,473	3,031
Total Income		<u>5,046</u>	<u>35,093</u>	<u>40,140</u>	<u>37,753</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	33,103	11,210	44,313	41,245
Total Expenditure		<u>33,103</u>	<u>11,210</u>	<u>44,313</u>	<u>41,245</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (28,057)	£ 23,883	£ (4,174)	£ (3,492)
Transfers between funds	4	£ 24,776	£ (24,776)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		<u>£ (3,281)</u>	<u>£ (893)</u>	<u>£ (4,174)</u>	<u>£ (3,492)</u>
Balances brought forward		£ 12,363	£ 14,900	£ 27,263	£ 30,755
Balances carried Forward		<u>£ 9,082</u>	<u>£ 14,007</u>	<u>£ 23,089</u>	<u>£ 27,263</u>

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
For the Year Ended 31st August 2023
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances	2023	2022
	£	£
Held at Bank	23,563	27,019
Cash float	8	21
	23,570	27,040
2. Other Assets & Liabilities		
<i>Assets</i>		
Debtors	8	-
Other monetary assets	2,334	2,550
	2,342	2,550
<i>Liabilities</i>		
Creditors & Accruals	2,824	2,328
	2,824	2,328

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by 
Mrs Hock Lynn Lee-Diep (Acting chair)

date 23/01/2024.

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
For the Year Ended 31st August 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	-	31,432	31,432	25,895
Rent	4,994	-	4,994	5,327
Insurance	1,244	-	1,244	1,252
Office Expenses	3,953	116	4,069	5,251
Legal & Professional	455	-	455	875
Materials and Resources	4	1,104	1,108	1,902
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	560	451	1,011	742
	11,210	33,103	44,313	41,245

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

Employment costs relate to part-time employees, of which the charity had 5 up to 30 June 2023; at 31 August 2023 there were 4 part-time employees.

£175 was paid to Helen Gale (Trustee) and £42.90 paid to Penelope Paton (Trustee) in respect of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. No amounts were paid or are payable to any other trustee or to any person connected to any trustee.

4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 23 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	2,233	(27,009)	24,776	-
IT Project	1,220	-	-	-	1,220
Reach Project	11,143	2,814	(6,094)	-	7,862
Total Restricted	12,363	5,046	(33,103)	24,776	9,082
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	14,900	35,093	(11,210)	(24,776)	14,007
Total All Funds	27,263	40,140	(44,313)	-	23,089

BRIDGE BUILDERS CHRISTIAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1088885

Accounts



Annual Report



Recording The Harvest Journey



2021-2022

A Time for Everything

A classic funeral reading (read in St Giles Cathedral at Queen Elizabeth's lying-in state), Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us all of the need to change, that change is inevitable, in the secure knowledge that the love of God is constant and salvation is open to us all through his Son. Sometimes it is good to change even when we are not forced to do so....at the top of the hill when the going is easier, rather than at the bottom when the ground is boggy and difficult.

Bridge Builders is in a reasonably good state, following the pandemic; schools still want to hear what we have to say and we have an excellent team of staff and volunteers who have successfully produced new material for use on YouTube. We also face challenges. Although the Trust's finances are stable the wider economic climate will be challenging for all concerned, especially the churches and volunteers on whom we depend.

During the year we have welcomed two new Trustees, Lynne Lee-Diep and Revd. Margaret McCarthy, which broadens the range of Christians represented by the Trustees. Sadly, Judy Brown resigned and has moved to Devon with her husband Revd. Dave Brown, who is now Rector of Newton Abbott. Dave and Judy made a lasting contribution to Bridge Builders, not only through their prayerful support but Dave wrote the Christmas Journey script and both Dave and Judy stepped up to write and record a new carol for the Christmas Journey in 2020, when for copyright reasons we could not use the original choice in the YouTube video.

We have also said farewell to Bishop Michael as a Patron as he moves to be Bishop of Bath and Wells. As the parent of young children, as well as Bishop of Hertford, he has been an encouraging supporter of the Trust's work.

Looking ahead, we already know that we will have to find a new building from which to work (St Paul's has closed and our lease will cease in July 2023), so our ways of working may have to change again. We would also like to recruit two or three new Trustees to continue to guide the work of the Trust in to the future.

Change is inevitable, but the need for our work is ever present, each year a new group of children is waiting to hear about the unending love of God and salvation of his Son.

Once again, on behalf of all of the trustees I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of the staff, volunteers and supporters who made 2021-22 a successful and innovative year.

Anthony Taylor
Chair of Trustees



Summary of our work

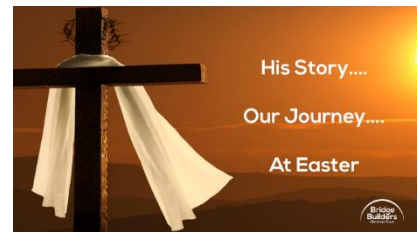
Christmas Journey 2021

3 churches
22 schools
1057 children
407 in person + 650 online



Easter Journey 2022

All online
26 schools
1091 children



Assemblies 2021 - 22

7 Schools
1800 children
Assemblies on Joy (Christmas assembly),
Peace, Patience, Kindness, Hope and
Easter



Fundraising

We rely on donations to keep our work going. We cover the £8 cost for each child who attends one of our journeys. There are many different ways in which you can support us:

ONE-OFF
GIFT ★

 **STANDING
ORDER**

Shopping online, select Bridge Builders as your beneficiary and we will receive a donation for every £1 you spend

If you're a UK taxpayer completing a Gift Aid Declaration means your donation is worth 25% more.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

giftaid

 **The Giving
Machine™**

 **easyfundraising.org.uk**
feel good shopping


Stewardship
Active generosity

Director's Report

The year 2021-2022 has been bookended by uncertainty, with uncertainty in September 2021 – Would any schools book in-person assemblies? Would The Christmas or Easter Journey happen in-person, and if so how would they work with Covid restrictions? We also wondered if we would manage to appoint someone to work on our new project. While we had answers to all those questions, the uncertainty remained as it became apparent that we would not be able to remain in our current offices past July 2023. We were given one year to find a new space to work in.

Despite all that, I am delighted to say that Bridge Builders has navigated the year extremely well, supported by our donors, and the churches that we work with. In-person assemblies re-started in three or four schools, and that number gradually increased. The Christmas Journey went ahead, with about half the schools booking The Virtual Christmas Journey, and the rest opting to visit local churches. The churches and volunteers coped well with the various Covid restrictions, including face masks/shields, distancing from the children and cleaning everything between sessions. Thank you to them for all their hard work.

The Bridge Builder's diary tends to work months ahead as we look to the next project, so we were already discussing Easter before we got to Christmas. The Omicron variant was making its presence felt so we made the difficult decision, before Christmas, to only run an online Easter Journey. A few schools had pulled out of the in-person Christmas Journey, and it was impossible to know the impact of Omicron over the early months of 2022. That was a hard decision for us and for the churches.

In March we had the joy of welcoming Cathy Beach to the team! She has been a fabulous addition as she and Natalie work together on the REach project, with Cathy focusing on the writing and Natalie on the video editing. The Harvest Journey, for year 1, has already been filmed and is currently being edited. It should be ready for harvest 2023, and in the meantime do look out for short clips of it on our Facebook page. Many thanks to both the SMB Trust and The Verulam Trust who have given grants for the REach project. It is encouraging to find that we are doing something new and innovative!

Finally, we really appreciate your prayers, and please do pray for us as we start clearing out some of the office, and pray that the Lord will lead us to the right space in Stevenage, which will meet our needs in the coming years.

Steph Knell
Director



Volunteer

At Bridge Builders our volunteers are a huge part of our ministry. The time and skills of our volunteers are a valuable resource, helping us with a wide range of tasks throughout the year.

In particular, the REach project needs a number of volunteers, including one off roles such as appearing in one of the videos, to regular weekly volunteering preparing craft materials and other resources for the journeys.

Contact our office to find out more about our volunteering opportunities. We would love for you to be involved in our ministry work, helping to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the children across Stevenage.



Introducing Cathy



I started work at Bridge Builders in March 2022. So far most of my time has been spent planning and writing the Harvest Journey for the REach project. I have also found time to help with some assemblies and other tasks around the office – there is always something to do!

<p>I have a  BD(hons) Theology MA(Applied Theology) and PGDip (Information and Library Studies)</p>	<p>I am the mother of two children (age 6 & 12)</p>	<p>I attend St  Ippolyts Church and Christchurch in Hitchin</p>
<p>I am the chairperson for the North Herts branch of Sands (the national Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity)</p>	<p>I enjoy reading, walking and music (of any genre) </p>	<p>I love archery and shoot a recurve bow </p>

Many Thanks

Allchurches Trust, Broadwater Fair Trading, Bunyan Baptist Church, Churches Together In Stevenage, Hertfordshire County Council, Holy Trinity, Knebworth Golf Seniors, St. Andrews Church Hertford, St. Hugh & St. John, St Ippolyts, St Martin's Knebworth, St. Mary's Graveley, St. Mary's Shephall, St. Nicholas, St Paul's Methodist, St. Peter's, Sirius Digital Solutions, SMB Trust, Stevenage Borough Council, Stevenage Family History Society, Trinity Church Knebworth, United Reformed Church, Veralum Trust and individual donors for your generous support. .

It aims to provide one recorded “Journey” for each year of Primary school, introducing children to some of the different beliefs and messages of Christianity through a series of video clips and associated activities. All the journeys are linked to the Hertfordshire R.E. Curriculum. The Christmas and Easter Journey, which have been successful in-person events are now available in virtual form.

We are nearing completion of the Harvest Journey which is aimed at Year One children. In autumn 2023 Primary Schools in Stevenage will be invited to sign up to the Harvest Journey and we hope to reach children from as many diverse backgrounds as possible.

Estimated 44+ hours spent writing and editing the script	Approximately 10 hours sourcing costumes and props	4 hours ironing the green screen	4 hours setting up for recording
13 volunteers helping with recording	10 hours resourcing activities...so far	12 hours preparing accompanying booklets...so far	FILM NOW BEING EDITED

The Harvest Journey



The Harvest Journey is about feast and famine in the Bible, including stories of Joseph, Ruth and Naomi, Elijah and the widow of Zarephath and the feeding of the 5000. The children learn about the significance of harvest and being thankful to God for his provision.

THE REach



PROJECT



TARGET

We need your help to raise **£21,000** to support this three year project.



PRAYER

Please do pray for the work of Bridge Builders as well as for our local schools and children.



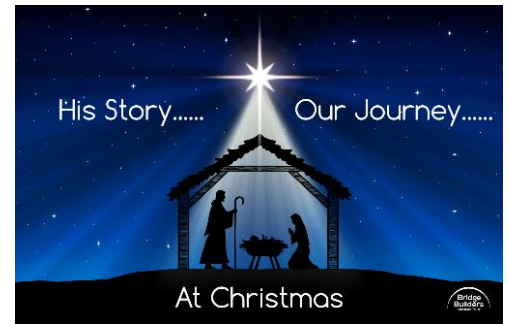
DONATE

Please consider giving a monthly or one-off donation.

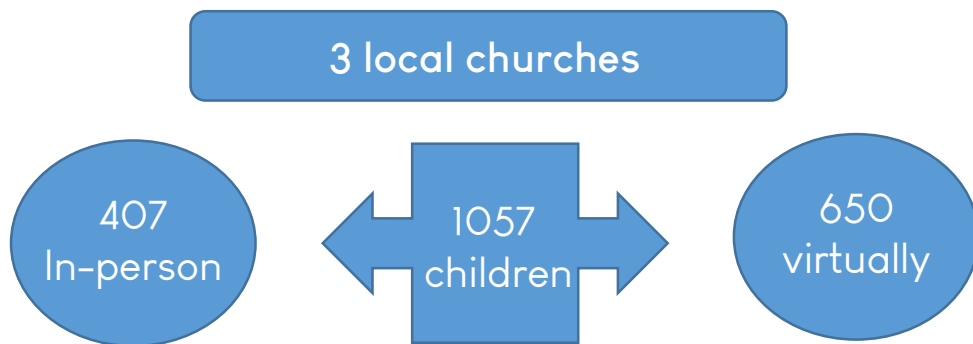
The REach project is an exciting opportunity to reach even more children, with the good news of Jesus, throughout Stevenage and surrounding areas.

Building on the success of the online Journeys, The REach project aims to produce an online interactive journey for each and every year group throughout primary school, reaching upwards of 10,000 children **EACH** year!

The Christmas Journey in 2021



Following the successful virtual pilot in 2020, in 2021 The Christmas Journey ran as a hybrid project for the first time; in-person in churches and online. Staff have told us how much they appreciate being able to choose which event format to attend.

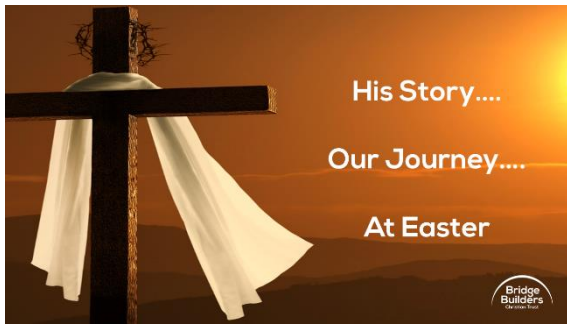


A local special needs school took part virtually, and we ensured that the schools who chose to deliver via the online option had the craft resources necessary. The resources were kindly funded by some of our local councillors from their Locality Budget purses.

Many thanks to all volunteers who helped with this popular and free event for local primary schools.

I just wanted to wanted to extend our thanks to everyone involved in the Virtual Christmas Journey. We have always enjoyed attending the event as a year group as the children have always got so much from it. We were so pleased that you were so creative and were able to deliver this in a different way this year. The children absolutely loved it! They were engaged with it throughout and the activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you for providing all the resources too!

"Our year 2 teacher has asked me to send you all a massive thank you. The Christmas Journey was brilliant, the children loved it and were very engaged."



The Easter Journey in 2022

Just as the Omicron variant of Covid was rearing its head at the end of 2021, we made the decision to deliver The Easter Journey 2022 only as an online event, but that didn't stop schools booking. An amazing 1080 children from Stevenage and the surrounding areas experienced the interactive event.

Once again we worked hard to ensure that the school staff had all the information required to facilitate the Journey online – they each received a Teacher's Pack featuring links to the video clips, information supporting the questions asked in the clips, templates for the crafts and more.

"Thank you for sending the Easter pack. We thoroughly enjoyed it! We really enjoyed the booklets and loved how interactive they were. I personally, loved that every resource we needed was sent so that we were organised."

"Online has continued to work well and we are grateful for the effort which went into producing the materials; this has allowed flexibility in how we deliver as well as accommodating anyone who was unwell / needed to access online at home. We like the fact it is delivered before Easter as this fits in with our curriculum offer for RE."



If you wish to have a peek at our Journeys please visit our Bridge Builders YouTube channel.



Prayer Meetings & Fundraising Events

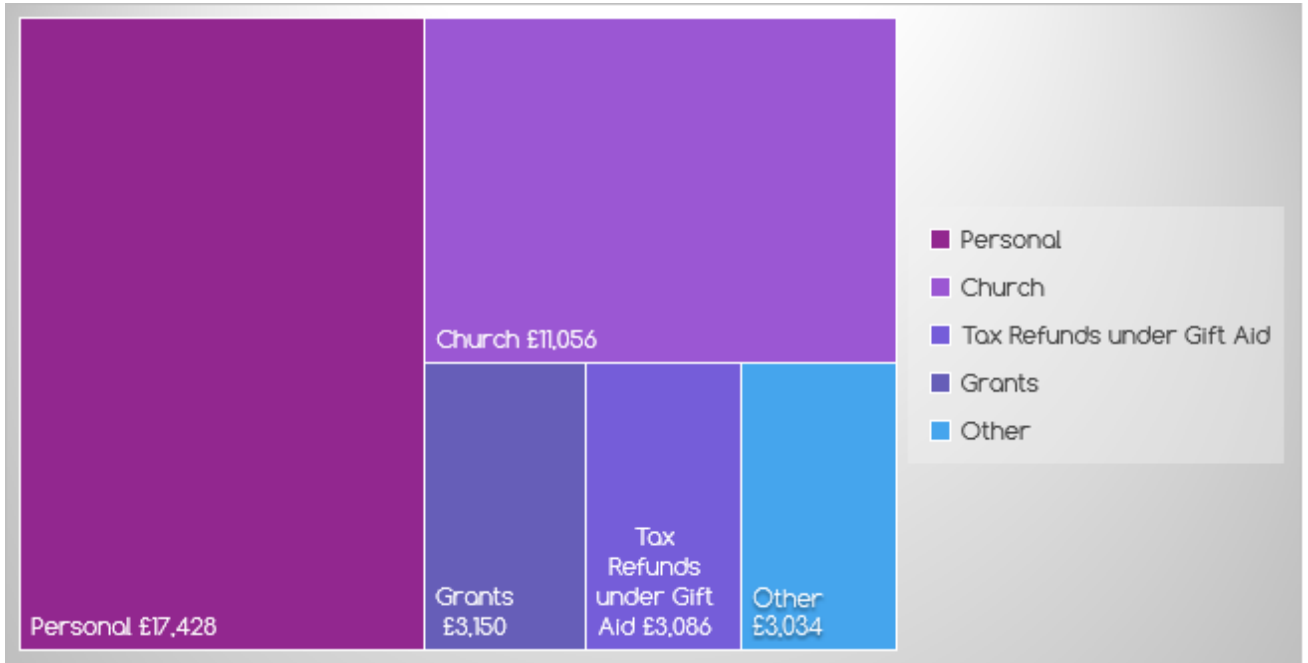
The friends of Bridge Builders meet regularly to support, fundraise and to pray for the work of Bridge Builders.



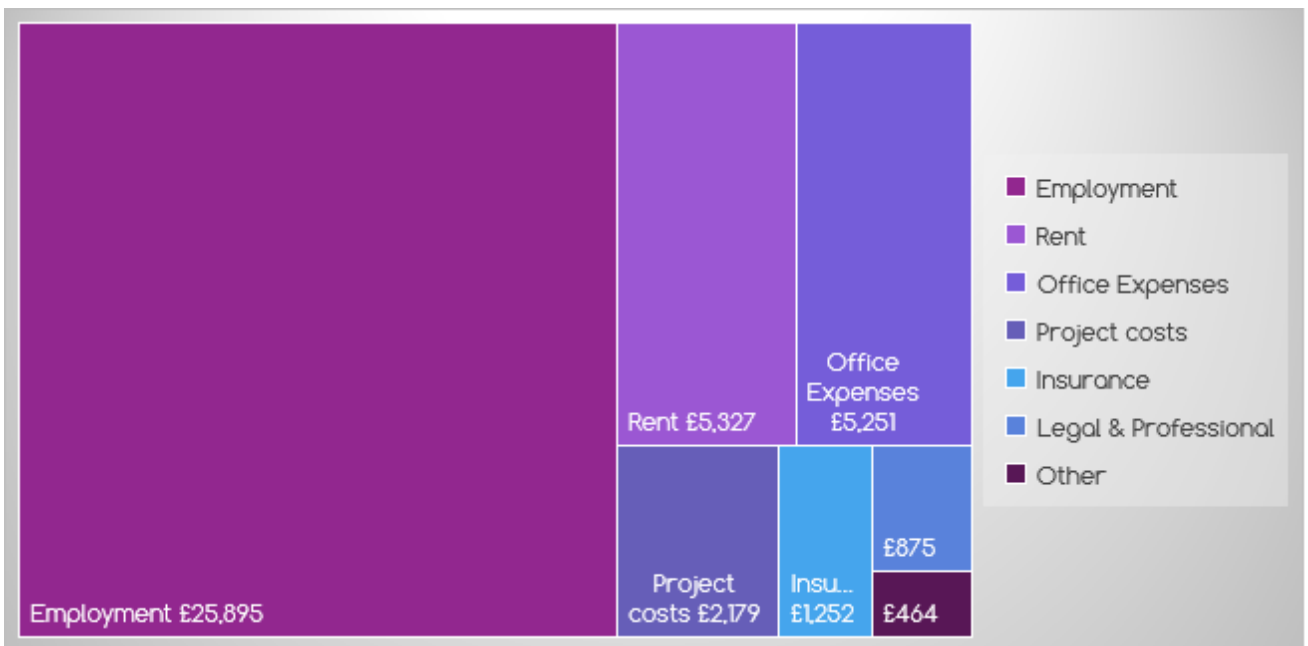
Accounts

Income and Expenditure (£) for the Year Ended 31 August 2022

Income



Expenditure



The Team

Staff Team

Mrs Stephanie Knell—Director

Mrs Janice Hawketts—Finance and IT Manager

Miss Natalie James—ExploRE Manager

Mrs Cathy Beach – ExploRE Manager (started employment 1 March 2022)

Mrs Amanda Bryant—Communications Officer and Administrator

Trustees

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)

Mr Peter Gordon

Mrs Penny Paton

Mrs Helen Gale

Mrs Judy Brown (resigned June 2022)

Mrs Lynne Lee-Diep (appointed September 2021)

Revd. Margaret McCarthy (appointed November 2021)



www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk



01438 314314

admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk

St Paul's Methodist Church, Turpins Rise, Stevenage, SG2 8QR

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
St Paul's Methodist Church
Turpins Rise
Stevenage
Herts. SG2 8QR

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust dated 1 March 2001

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 10888

TRUSTEES

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)
Mrs Helen Gale
Mrs Penelope Paton
Mrs Judith Brown (Resigned July 2022)
Mr Peter Gordon
Mrs Hock Lynn Lee-Diep (Appointed 28th Sept 2021)
Margaret MacCarthy (Appointed 16 Nov 2021)

BANKERS

Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

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Page 5	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 6	Income & Expenditure Account
Page 7	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 8	Notes to the Accounts

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the charity

To advance the Christian faith

To advance education in accordance with Christian principles

To provide facilities in the interest of social welfare

The vision of the Trust is that all children will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, and to look forward with hope as they experience Christian love in action.

The mission is to reach out to primary school children, and introduce them to Christian faith and love through conducting Christian assemblies and teaching Christian religious education in schools in conjunction with local churches, and by organising themed visits to churches.

Government

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet formally six times each year to monitor the activities of the charity, to set policy and overall direction.

There are currently six Trustees. New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees who seek committed Christians with broad experience representing a wide range of denominations.

Day to day operations are run by a part time Director supported by a number of part-time highly motivated professionals working in schools or supporting the activities from the central resource centre.

Review of Activities

The year 2021-2022 has been bookended by uncertainty; at the beginning of year - Would any schools book in-person assemblies? Would The Christmas or Easter Journey happen in-person, and if so how would they work with Covid restrictions? Would we manage to appoint someone to work on our new REach project? and at the end of the year we have the uncertainty of having to find new offices as we are unable to remain where we are past July 2023.

Despite all that, Bridge Builders has navigated the year extremely well, supported by our donors, and the churches that we work with. In-person assemblies re-started in six schools, once every half term, reaching 1380 children. The topic for the year was the fruit of the Spirit, so we covered Love, Joy, Peace, Patience and Kindness and there was also one on Easter.

For the first time The Christmas Journey ran as hybrid project, and 22 schools signed up in total; 407 children attended the in-person event at a local church and 650 children heard the message of Christmas in school having been supplied with all craft and teacher resources required. The churches and volunteers coped well with the various Covid restrictions, including face masks/shields, distancing from the children and cleaning everything between sessions. Thank you to them for all their hard work.

Due to the Omicron variant of Covid, the Easter Journey remained online in 2022, with an amazing 1080 children experiencing this interactive event. Feedback from school staff showed how much they appreciated the work of BB staff and volunteers in putting together and delivering a complete package "I personally loved that every resource we needed was sent so that we were organised"

In March we welcomed Cathy Beach to the team. She is working with another member of staff on the REach project which aims to provide one recorded "Journey" for each year of Primary school, introducing children to some of the different beliefs and messages of Christianity through a series of videos and associated activities. All the journeys are linked to the Hertfordshire R.E. Curriculum. The Harvest Journey for children in Year One (ages 5-6yrs), has been written and filmed, and is now being edited. The full package of videos, crafts and teacher information will all be ready to celebrate Harvest 2023. Many thanks to both the SMB Trust and The Verulam Trust who have given grants for the REach project.

Financial Review

In the year to 31st August 2022 the Trust had income of £37,753 and expenditures of £41,245 leaving a deficit in the year of £3,492.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £20,514 & from local partnering churches, £11,056. Two Grants totalling £2500 were awarded for the REach project and local councillors gave grants totalling £650 towards purchasing crafts for Christmas Journey.

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £25,895; Rent of Resource Centre, £5,327; Insurance £1,252 and HR consultancy £875.

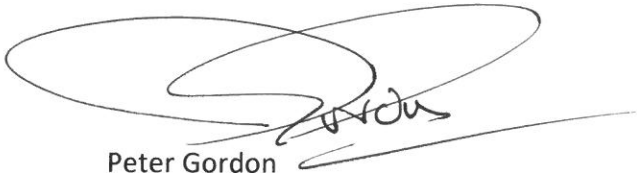
Reserves Policy

The Trustees have decided that a reserve of cash and other current assets less current liabilities is held, sufficient to fund an orderly wind down of the activities of the Charity, should that ever become necessary. At the end of the accounting year unrestricted reserves stood at £14,900 and restricted £12,363. Of the restricted reserves £1,220 is committed to the completion of an IT related project part funded by a grant from Allchurches Trust and the remainder £11,143 is committed to the new REach project.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the income & expenditure of the charity for the year.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.



Peter Gordon
Trustee

date

8th December 2022

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bridge Builders Christian Trust

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



William Anderson

Address:

6 The Green

Park Lane

Old Knebworth

Herts. SG3 6QN

date

8th December 2022

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2022 £	2021 £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		4,468	27,166	31,634	32,287
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		225	2,861	3,086	3,079
		<u>4,693</u>	<u>30,027</u>	<u>34,720</u>	<u>35,365</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received		-	2	2	15
Other		1,181	1,850	3,031	1,513
Total Income		<u>5,874</u>	<u>31,879</u>	<u>37,753</u>	<u>36,893</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	30,373	10,872	41,245	38,544
Total Expenditure		<u>30,373</u>	<u>10,872</u>	<u>41,245</u>	<u>38,544</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (24,499)	£ 21,007	£ (3,492)	£ (1,651)
Transfers between funds	4	£ 24,517	£ (24,517)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		<u>£ 18</u>	<u>£ (3,510)</u>	<u>£ (3,492)</u>	<u>£ (1,651)</u>
Balances brought forward		£ 12,345	£ 18,410	£ 30,755	£ 32,405
Balances carried Forward		<u>£ 12,363</u>	<u>£ 14,900</u>	<u>£ 27,263</u>	<u>£ 30,755</u>

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
For the Year Ended 31st August 2022
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances

	2022	2021
	£	£
Held at Bank	27,019	30,004
Cash float	21	13
	27,040	30,017

2. Other Assets & Liabilities


Assets

Debtors	-	1,531
Other monetary assets	2,550	-
	2,550	1,531

Liabilities

Creditors & Accruals	2,328	794
	2,328	794

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by 
Peter Gordon
Trustee

date 8th December 2022

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	-	25,895	25,895	23,429
HMRC JRS Grant	-	-	-	(850)
Rent	5,327	-	5,327	5,321
Insurance	1,252	-	1,252	1,193
Office Expenses	2,985	2,267	5,251	4,155
Legal & Professional	875	-	875	3,479
Materials and Resources	-	1,902	1,902	797
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	432	309	742	1,020
	10,872	30,373	41,245	38,544

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

The charity had 4 part time employees up to 01 March 2022 and at 31 August 2022 there were 5 part time employees, to whom the employment costs above refer.

£164.40 paid to Helen Gale (Trustee) in respect of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. No amounts were paid or are payable to any other trustee or to any person connected to them.

4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 22 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	2,111	(26,628)	24,517	-
IT Project	1,220	-	-	-	1,220
Reach Project	11,125	3,763	(3,745)	-	11,143
Total Restricted	12,345	5,874	(30,373)	24,517	12,363
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	18,410	31,879	(10,872)	(24,517)	14,900
Total All Funds	30,755	37,753	(41,245)	-	27,263

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

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CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 10888

TRUSTEES

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)
Mrs Helen Gale
Mrs Penelope Paton
Mrs Judith Brown (Resigned July 2022)
Mr Peter Gordon
Mrs Hock Lynn Lee-Diep (Appointed 28th Sept 2021)
Margaret MacCarthy (Appointed 16 Nov 2021)

BANKERS

Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

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Page 5	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 6	Income & Expenditure Account
Page 7	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 8	Notes to the Accounts

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the charity

To advance the Christian faith

To advance education in accordance with Christian principles

To provide facilities in the interest of social welfare

The vision of the Trust is that all children will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, and to look forward with hope as they experience Christian love in action.

The mission is to reach out to primary school children, and introduce them to Christian faith and love through conducting Christian assemblies and teaching Christian religious education in schools in conjunction with local churches, and by organising themed visits to churches.

Government

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet formally six times each year to monitor the activities of the charity, to set policy and overall direction.

There are currently six Trustees. New Trustees are appointed by the Trustees who seek committed Christians with broad experience representing a wide range of denominations.

Day to day operations are run by a part time Director supported by a number of part-time highly motivated professionals working in schools or supporting the activities from the central resource centre.

Review of Activities

The year 2021-2022 has been bookended by uncertainty; at the beginning of year - Would any schools book in-person assemblies? Would The Christmas or Easter Journey happen in-person, and if so how would they work with Covid restrictions? Would we manage to appoint someone to work on our new REach project? and at the end of the year we have the uncertainty of having to find new offices as we are unable to remain where we are past July 2023.

Despite all that, Bridge Builders has navigated the year extremely well, supported by our donors, and the churches that we work with. In-person assemblies re-started in six schools, once every half term, reaching 1380 children. The topic for the year was the fruit of the Spirit, so we covered Love, Joy, Peace, Patience and Kindness and there was also one on Easter.

For the first time The Christmas Journey ran as hybrid project, and 22 schools signed up in total; 407 children attended the in-person event at a local church and 650 children heard the message of Christmas in school having been supplied with all craft and teacher resources required. The churches and volunteers coped well with the various Covid restrictions, including face masks/shields, distancing from the children and cleaning everything between sessions. Thank you to them for all their hard work.

Due to the Omicron variant of Covid, the Easter Journey remained online in 2022, with an amazing 1080 children experiencing this interactive event. Feedback from school staff showed how much they appreciated the work of BB staff and volunteers in putting together and delivering a complete package "I personally loved that every resource we needed was sent so that we were organised"

In March we welcomed Cathy Beach to the team. She is working with another member of staff on the REach project which aims to provide one recorded "Journey" for each year of Primary school, introducing children to some of the different beliefs and messages of Christianity through a series of videos and associated activities. All the journeys are linked to the Hertfordshire R.E. Curriculum. The Harvest Journey for children in Year One (ages 5-6yrs), has been written and filmed, and is now being edited. The full package of videos, crafts and teacher information will all be ready to celebrate Harvest 2023. Many thanks to both the SMB Trust and The Verulam Trust who have given grants for the REach project.

Financial Review

In the year to 31st August 2022 the Trust had income of £37,753 and expenditures of £41,245 leaving a deficit in the year of £3,492.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £20,514 & from local partnering churches, £11,056. Two Grants totalling £2500 were awarded for the REach project and local councillors gave grants totalling £650 towards purchasing crafts for Christmas Journey.

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £25,895; Rent of Resource Centre, £5,327; Insurance £1,252 and HR consultancy £875.

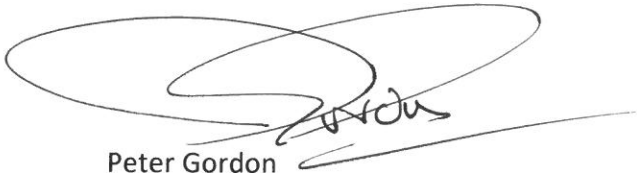
Reserves Policy

The Trustees have decided that a reserve of cash and other current assets less current liabilities is held, sufficient to fund an orderly wind down of the activities of the Charity, should that ever become necessary. At the end of the accounting year unrestricted reserves stood at £14,900 and restricted £12,363. Of the restricted reserves £1,220 is committed to the completion of an IT related project part funded by a grant from Allchurches Trust and the remainder £11,143 is committed to the new REach project.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the income & expenditure of the charity for the year.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.



Peter Gordon
Trustee

date

8th December 2022

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bridge Builders Christian Trust

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



William Anderson

Address:

6 The Green

Park Lane

Old Knebworth

Herts. SG3 6QN

date

8th December 2022

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2022 £	2021 £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		4,468	27,166	31,634	32,287
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		225	2,861	3,086	3,079
		<hr/> 4,693	<hr/> 30,027	<hr/> 34,720	<hr/> 35,365
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received		-	2	2	15
Other		1,181	1,850	3,031	1,513
Total Income		<hr/> 5,874	<hr/> 31,879	<hr/> 37,753	<hr/> 36,893
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	30,373	10,872	41,245	38,544
Total Expenditure		<hr/> 30,373	<hr/> 10,872	<hr/> 41,245	<hr/> 38,544
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (24,499)	£ 21,007	£ (3,492)	£ (1,651)
Transfers between funds	4	£ 24,517	£ (24,517)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		<hr/> £ 18	<hr/> £ (3,510)	<hr/> £ (3,492)	<hr/> £ (1,651)
Balances brought forward		£ 12,345	£ 18,410	£ 30,755	£ 32,405
Balances carried Forward		<hr/> £ 12,363	<hr/> £ 14,900	<hr/> £ 27,263	<hr/> £ 30,755

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
For the Year Ended 31st August 2022
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances

	2022	2021
	£	£
Held at Bank	27,019	30,004
Cash float	21	13
	27,040	30,017

2. Other Assets & Liabilities

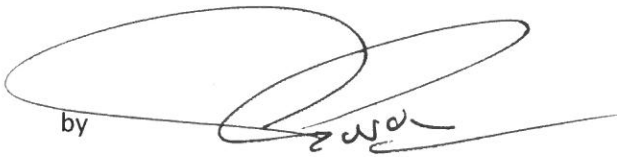
Assets

Debtors	-	1,531
Other monetary assets	2,550	-
	2,550	1,531

Liabilities

Creditors & Accruals	2,328	794
	2,328	794

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by 

Peter Gordon
Trustee

date 8th December 2022

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	-	25,895	25,895	23,429
HMRC JRS Grant	-	-	-	(850)
Rent	5,327	-	5,327	5,321
Insurance	1,252	-	1,252	1,193
Office Expenses	2,985	2,267	5,251	4,155
Legal & Professional	875	-	875	3,479
Materials and Resources	-	1,902	1,902	797
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	432	309	742	1,020
	10,872	30,373	41,245	38,544

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

The charity had 4 part time employees up to 01 March 2022 and at 31 August 2022 there were 5 part time employees, to whom the employment costs above refer.

£164.40 paid to Helen Gale (Trustee) in respect of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. No amounts were paid or are payable to any other trustee or to any person connected to them.

4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 22 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	2,111	(26,628)	24,517	-
IT Project	1,220	-	-	-	1,220
Reach Project	11,125	3,763	(3,745)	-	11,143
Total Restricted	12,345	5,874	(30,373)	24,517	12,363
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	18,410	31,879	(10,872)	(24,517)	14,900
Total All Funds	30,755	37,753	(41,245)	-	27,263

BRIDGE BUILDERS CHRISTIAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1088885

Accounts



Annual Report



2020-2021

Many Thanks

Allchurches Trust, Broadwater Fair Trading, Bunyan Baptist Church, Churches Together In Stevenage, Hertfordshire County Council, Holy Trinity, Great Ashby Community Church, Longmeadow Evangelical Church, North Hertfordshire Methodist Circuit, Ravenstone PCC, St. Andrews Church Hertford, St. Hugh & St. John, St Martin's Knebworth, St. Mary's Graveley, St. Mary's Shephall, St. Nicholas, St. Peter's, Sirius Digital Solutions, Stevenage Borough Council, United Reformed Church, Trinity Church Knebworth, and individual donors for your generous support, .

Surviving the challenge of a global pandemic!

The last year has been a challenging time for us all – for some it has been a time of loss and great sadness. Thankfully, Bridge Builders, through the grace of God, has survived. Even though it is a tiny charity, through the skills and hard work of the staff and volunteers, blessed by your prayerful support, we have found new ways to help local schools educate children about our faith in Christ.

In April this year we, the Trustees, had the pleasure of appointing Steph Knell to become Director of the Trust's work. Steph had been acting Director since June 2020 and had done an excellent job under very difficult circumstances, so it was a very easy decision for us to promote her to Director, to continue to lead the Trust's work.

Finding resources to do our work is a continuing challenge. As a Christian charity it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain grants from national or secular grant giving bodies. We are therefore even more thankful for the local support of county and borough councillors, churches and more than 40 individuals who make regular donations, who see and appreciate our work first hand.

Please continue to pray for the work of Bridge Builders. Although the pandemic is drawing to end, (or maybe just entering a new phase!), we are operating at a time of great uncertainty and stress. If you feel able to do so, please also support us with a regular/monthly donation, however small. The challenge continues year on year; each year a fresh group of children are waiting to hear and be educated about Christmas, Easter and our wider faith as Christians.

The Trustees and I would like to thank all of our supporters for their continued and generous support for the work of Bridge Builders through prayer, volunteering and financial gifts.

Anthony Taylor
Chair of Trustees

Fundraising

We rely on donations to keep our work going. We cover the £8 cost for each child who attends one of our journeys. There are many different ways in which you can support us:

ONE-OFF
GIFT ★

 **STANDING
ORDER**

Shopping online, select Bridge Builders as your beneficiary and we will receive a donation for every £1 you spend

If you're a UK taxpayer completing a Gift Aid Declaration means your donation is worth 25% more.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

giftaid

 **The Giving
Machine™**

 **easyfundraising.org.uk**
feel good shopping


Stewardship
Active generosity

Director's Report

The last academic year has been a challenge, as I'm sure many of you have found. At Bridge Builders there have been stressful times as we have spent hours trying to learn how to record, edit and release the Journeys. There have been joyful times as we have seen a greater take up of The Christmas Journey, or as the Lord has provided what we needed. There have been mind-bending times as we have made decisions about what the Journeys will look like in six months' time – will we be able to do them in person or not?

But it gives me great joy and a sense of encouragement to look back and say that Bridge Builders has responded well to the challenges. We have had to change what we do and how we do it. We have had to find different ways of letting local churches and supporters know what our needs are. We have had to learn a variety of new skills. The team has worked well and effectively, and has met the challenges head on.

1,200 children 'attended' The Virtual Christmas Journey, which was more than usual, and we worked hard preparing the craft for that – we missed our volunteers who could not come into the office. The half termly, online assemblies have been well received by a variety of schools, covering topics such as trust, change, friendship, and love as well as Christmas and Easter. We have also tried recording a lesson and putting that online.

The last year has given us time to pause, think and pray about what we are doing, and how we can be more effective. To that end, some of you will know that we are currently raising money for a new position at Bridge Builders. The online Journeys have worked so well that we want to create one for every year group in primary school. We have realised that there is a possibility of reaching 10,000 primary school children in Stevenage and the surrounding areas if we create a Journey for every year group. We are extremely excited about this possibility and would ask you to pray with us, and for us, as we recruit for the project.

The observant among you will have noticed a new logo. Amazing Creative have been working on a new website, and they very kindly designed a new logo for us as well. In case you missed it, have another look at the front cover. Natalie has also adapted the logos for The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey, to keep them in line with our 'new look', and also make them more user friendly for the online world we now live in.

It has been 20 years since Bridge Builders became a charity and we are very aware that we would not be here without all of you, so thank you so much for your ongoing support and prayer. We look forward to the coming years, and seeing all that the Lord will do.

Steph Knell
Director



THE REach



PROJECT



TARGET

We need your help to raise **£21,000** to support this three year project.



PRAYER

Please do pray for the work of Bridge Builders as well as for our local schools and children.



DONATE

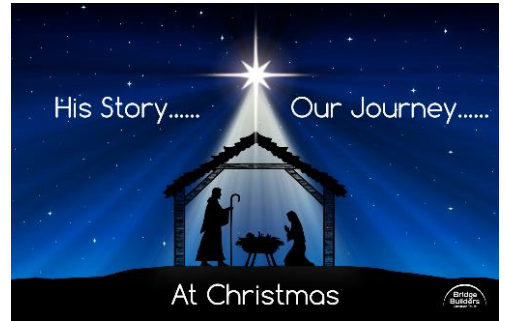
Please consider giving a monthly or one-off donation.

The REach project is an exciting opportunity to reach even more children, with the good news of Jesus, throughout Stevenage and surrounding areas.

Building on the success of the online Journeys, The REach project aims to produce an online interactive journey for each and every year group throughout primary school, reaching upwards of 10,000 children **EACH** year!

All Change in a Covid Pandemic

The Christmas Journey in 2020



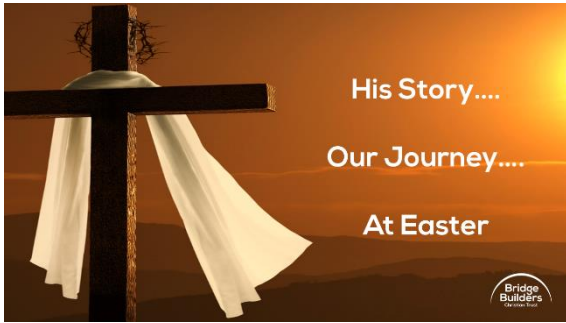
The Virtual Christmas Journey was a new venture for us, involving recording, editing and releasing YouTube clips to schools. We want to say a big thank you to the volunteers who took part, in quite trying circumstances. In particular, go and have a look at the narrators and shepherds on our YouTube channel, who were recorded individually on a green screen, and then 'stitched' together, due to adhering to the 2 metre rule!

6 hours setting up and setting down the equipment	2 days spent delivering the craft to the schools	13 volunteers helped with the recording
4.5 hours spent ironing a green screen	90+ hours spent video editing The Virtual Christmas Journey	1200 children attended from 21 schools

"I just wanted to send you an email to say a huge 'thank you' for the fantastic virtual Christmas Journey, which we completed with our Year 2 classes yesterday."

"We were extremely impressed with the high quality of the videos and the acting was brilliant! The children were so engaged and learnt so much. They loved the activities too, they were pitched at exactly the right level and kept them busy for most of the day. The instructions were clear, and everything was so well organised. I really cannot thank you enough for making it such a wonderful day for both children and staff."

All Change in a Covid Pandemic



The Easter Journey in 2021

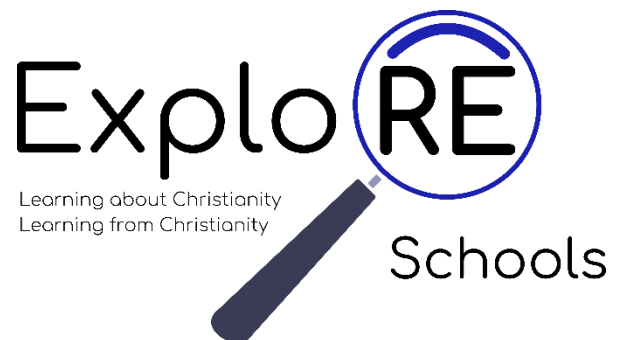
We decided before Christmas that it was unlikely The Easter Journey would be in person so decided to make that virtual. We planned to record in person, in January, and the schedule was set in early December. However, plans had to change again, due to lockdown, and rather than using those who had volunteered, we had to use mainly local clergy who we knew had the right equipment. They sent their recordings into the office to be edited. Thanks to all those who were happy to help!



If you wish to have a peek at our Journeys please visit our Bridge Builders YouTube channel.

We have also spent hours writing, recording and editing assemblies for local schools. There has been good feedback from a couple of schools.

“I had planned to contact you with regards assemblies as we would like to continue accessing these. Many thanks for providing them, and I can honestly say the children really do like and appreciate them.....we would still be interested in any other assemblies that you provide.”
From a local teacher.



In addition, we have finally managed to record a year 6 lesson on ‘Overcoming evil and promoting good’. One or two schools have used that over the summer term. Please pray for us as we work on getting more lessons recorded.



Volunteer

At Bridge Builders our volunteers are a huge part of our ministry. The time and skills of our volunteers are a valuable resource, helping us with a wide range of tasks throughout the year.

Visit our website to find out more about our volunteering opportunities. We would love for you to be involved in our ministry work, helping to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the children across Stevenage.





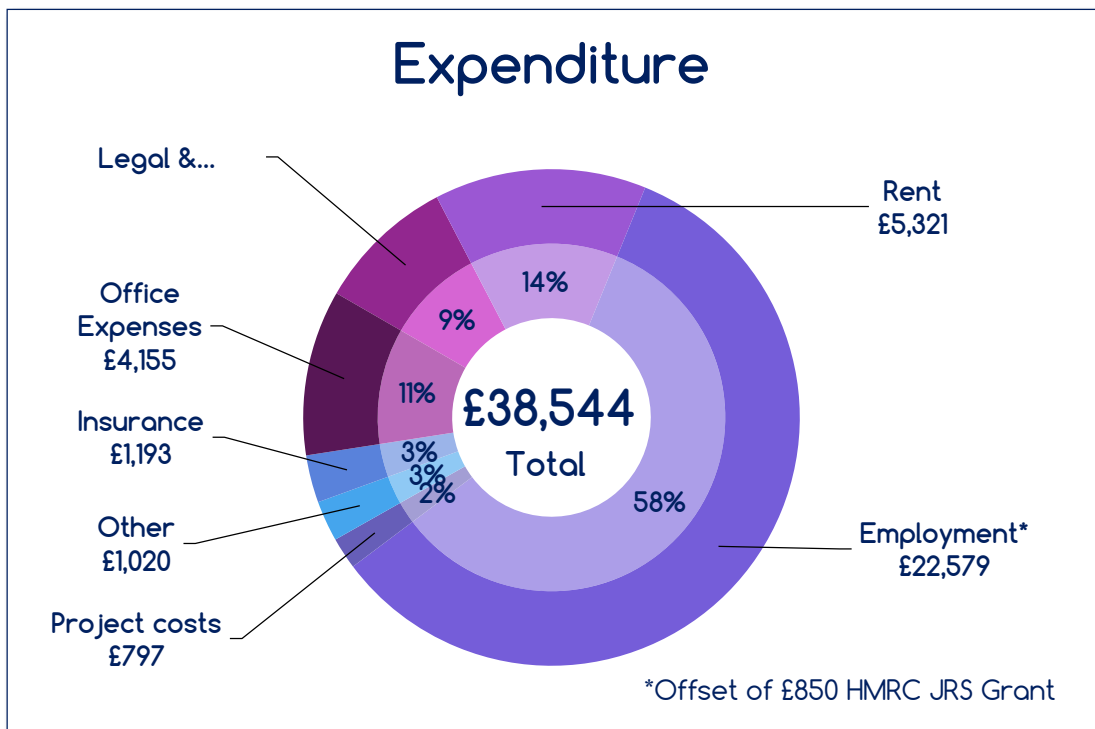
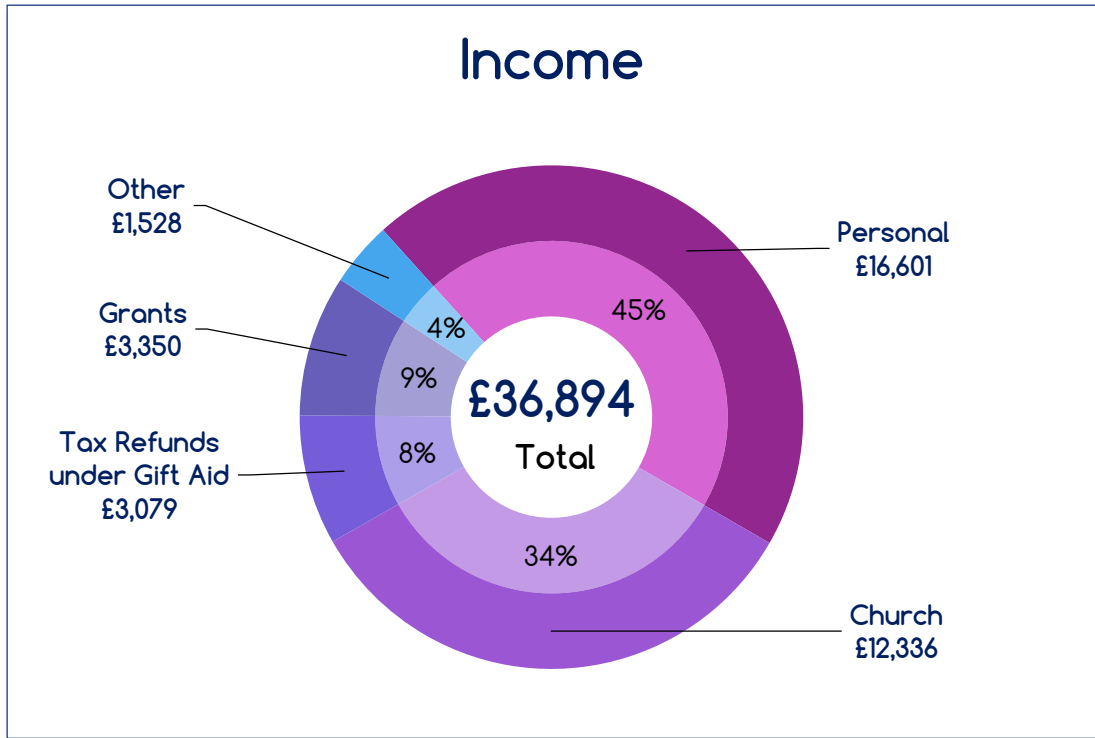
Prayer Meetings & Fundraising Events

The friends of Bridge Builders meet regularly to support, fundraise and to pray for the work of Bridge Builders.



Accounts

Income and Expenditure (£) for the Year Ended 31 August 2021



The Team

Staff Team

Mrs Stephanie Knell—Acting Director until May 2021/ Director from June 2021

Mrs Janice Hawketts—Finance and IT Manager

Miss Natalie James—Schools Worker

Mrs Karen Ashton—Administrator (resigned May 2021)

Mrs Amanda Bryant—Communications Officer and Administrator

Trustees

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)

Mr Peter Gordon

Revd. Steven Cooper (resigned December 2020)

Mrs Penny Paton

Mrs Helen Gale

Mrs Judy Brown



www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk



01438 314314

admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk

St Paul's Methodist Church, Turpins Rise, Stevenage, SG2 8QR

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2021

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
St Paul's Methodist Church
Turpins Rise
Stevenage
Herts. SG2 8QR

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust dated 1 March 2001

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 10888:

TRUSTEES

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)
Rev. Steven Cooper (Resigned Dec 2020)
Mrs Helen Gale
Mrs Penelope Paton
Mrs Judith Brown
Mr Peter Gordon

BANKERS

Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

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Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2021

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There are currently five Trustees. New trustees are appointed by the Trustees who seek committed Christians with broad experience representing a wide range of denominations.

Day to day operations are run by a part time Director supported by a number of part-time highly motivated professionals working in schools or supporting the activities from the central resource centre.

Review of Activities

In our 20th year as a Charity, Bridge Builders has responded well to the challenges of the restrictions imposed due to the COVID19 pandemic. We have had to change what we do and how we do it. We have had to find different ways of letting local churches and supporters know what our needs are and learn a variety of new skills. The team has worked well and effectively, and has met the challenges head on.

1200 children 'attended' The Virtual Christmas Journey, and 900 children 'attended' The Virtual Easter Journey. We worked hard preparing the craft which was delivered to the schools. For that we missed our volunteers who could not come into the office. The half termly, online assemblies have been well received by a variety of schools, covering topics such as trust, change, friendship, and love as well as Christmas and Easter. We have also recorded a lesson and put that online.

We are currently fundraising for an exiting new project, to include recruiting an additional member of staff and supplying resources. Following the success of moving The Easter Journey & The Christmas Journey online during Covid, we have launched our REach project, which aims to support primary school teachers with the Christian element of the RE curriculum. Using our experience, Bridge Builders will be writing, recording, editing and resourcing five virtual 'Journeys' which schools can use at any point of the year to help students engage with Christianity, at their keystage. We will be resourcing the Journeys with a craft to give a practical, hands-on element for schools. Having an online interactive Journey for each and every year group throughout primary school, will mean we will be reaching upwards of 10,000 children EACH year with the good news of Jesus, throughout Stevenage and surrounding areas.

Financial Review

In the year to 31st August 2021 the Trust had income of £36,893 and expenditures of £38,533 leaving a deficit in the year of £1,640.

The income is derived mainly from personal giving including associated Gift Aid £19,795 & from local partnering churches, £12,336. A Grant of £2k was received for Lessons, £950 was received to buy recoding equipment and local councillors gave grants totalling £400 towards purchasing crafts for Christmas Journey.

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £22,579 offset by the HMRC JRS Grant £850 when some staff were furloughed due to the Covid19 pandemic; Rent of Resource Centre, £5,321; Insurance £1,193 and HR consultancy £1,204.

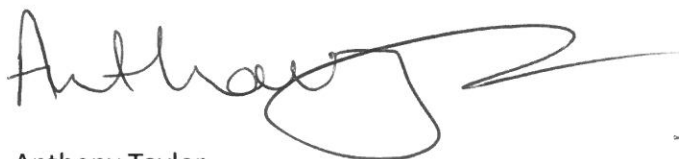
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The Trustees have decided that a reserve of cash and other current assets less current liabilities is held, sufficient to fund an orderly wind down of the activities of the Charity, should that ever become necessary. At the end of the accounting year unrestricted reserves stood at £18,420 and restricted £12,345. Of the restricted reserves £1,220 is committed to the completion of an IT related project part funded by a grant from Allchurches Trust and the remainder £11,125 is committed to the new REach project. The trustees agreed that £10k of the unrestricted reserves should be designated to the REach project.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the income & expenditure of the charity for the year.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.



Anthony Taylor
Chair of Trustees

21 April 2022
date

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bridge Builders Christian Trust for the year ended 31 August 2021 on pages 5 to 7 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



William Anderson

Address:

6 The Green
Park Lane
Old Knebworth
Herts. SG3 6QN

21 April 2022
date

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2021

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2021 £	2020 £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		3,340	28,947	32,287	28,944
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		113	2,966	3,079	3,143
		<u>3,453</u>	<u>31,913</u>	<u>35,365</u>	<u>32,086</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received			15	15	53
Other		1,100	413	1,513	2,777
Total Income		<u>4,552</u>	<u>32,341</u>	<u>36,893</u>	<u>34,915</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	26,852	11,691	38,544	38,714
Total Expenditure		<u>26,852</u>	<u>11,691</u>	<u>38,544</u>	<u>38,714</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (22,300)	£ 20,649	£ (1,651)	£ (3,799)
Transfers between funds	4	£ 31,150	£ (31,150)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		<u>£ 8,850</u>	<u>£ (10,500)</u>	<u>£ (1,651)</u>	<u>£ (3,799)</u>
Balances brought forward		£ 3,495	£ 28,910	£ 32,405	£ 36,204
Balances carried Forward		<u>£ 12,345</u>	<u>£ 18,410</u>	<u>£ 30,755</u>	<u>£ 32,405</u>

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

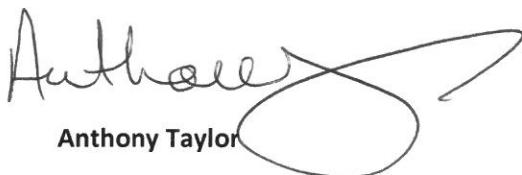
For the Year Ended 31st August 2021

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances	2021	2020
	£	£
Held at Bank	30,004	30,334
Cash float	13	24
	<u>30,017</u>	<u>30,358</u>
2. Other Assets & Liabilities		
<i>Assets</i>		
Debtors	1,531	1,926
Other monetary assets	-	188
	<u>1,531</u>	<u>2,114</u>
<i>Liabilities</i>		
Creditors & Accruals	794	66
	<u>794</u>	<u>66</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by


Anthony Taylor

date 21 April 2022.

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2021

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNT

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	-	23,429	23,429	29,961
HMRC JRS Grant		(850)	(850)	(4,658)
Rent	5,321	-	5,321	5,290
Insurance	1,193	-	1,193	1,163
Office Expenses	2,999	1,156	4,155	2,981
Legal & Professional	1,204	2,275	3,479	1,314
Materials and Resources	-	797	797	2,217
Independent examination	-	-	-	-
Other costs	975	45	1,020	446
	11,691	26,852	38,544	38,714

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

The charity had 5 part time employees up to 04 May 2021 and at 31 August 2021 there were 4 part time employees, to whom the employment costs above refer.

HMRC Job Retention Scheme (JRS) was introduced in March 2020 in response to the Covid19 pandemic

£170 paid to Judith Brown (Trustee) in respect of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. No amounts were paid or are payable to any other trustee or to any person connected to them.

4. Movement of Funds	Balance at 31st Aug 20	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31st Aug 21
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE	-	3,428	(24,577)	21,150	-
IT Project	3,495	-	(2,275)	-	1,220
Reach Project	-	1,125	-	10,000	11,125
Total Restricted	3,495	4,552	(26,852)	31,150	12,345
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	28,910	32,341	(11,691)	(31,150)	18,410
Total All Funds	32,405	36,893	(38,544)	-	30,755