



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 ★



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



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

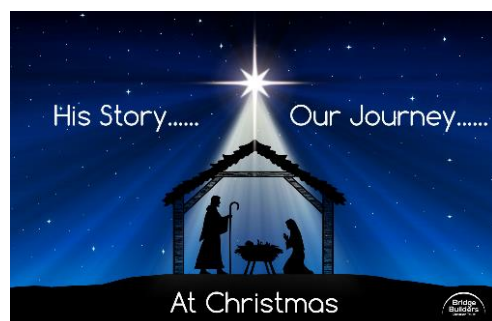
Please consider giving a monthly or one-off donation.

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



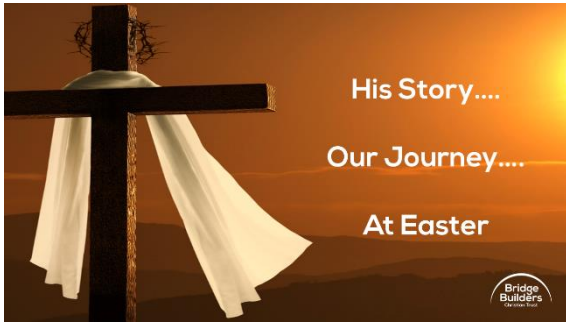
The Virtual Christmas Journey was a new venture for us, involving recording, editing and releasing YouTube clips to schools. We want to say a big thank you to the volunteers who took part, in quite trying circumstances. In particular, go and have a look at the narrators and shepherds on our YouTube channel, 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

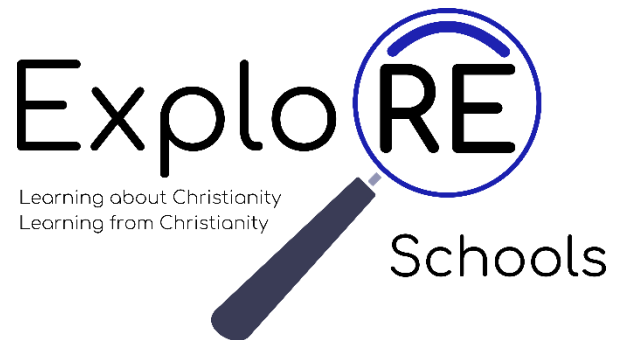
We decided before Christmas that it was unlikely The Easter Journey would be in person so decided to make that virtual. We planned to record in person, in January, and the schedule was set in early December. However, plans had to change again, due to lockdown, and rather than using those who had volunteered, 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.





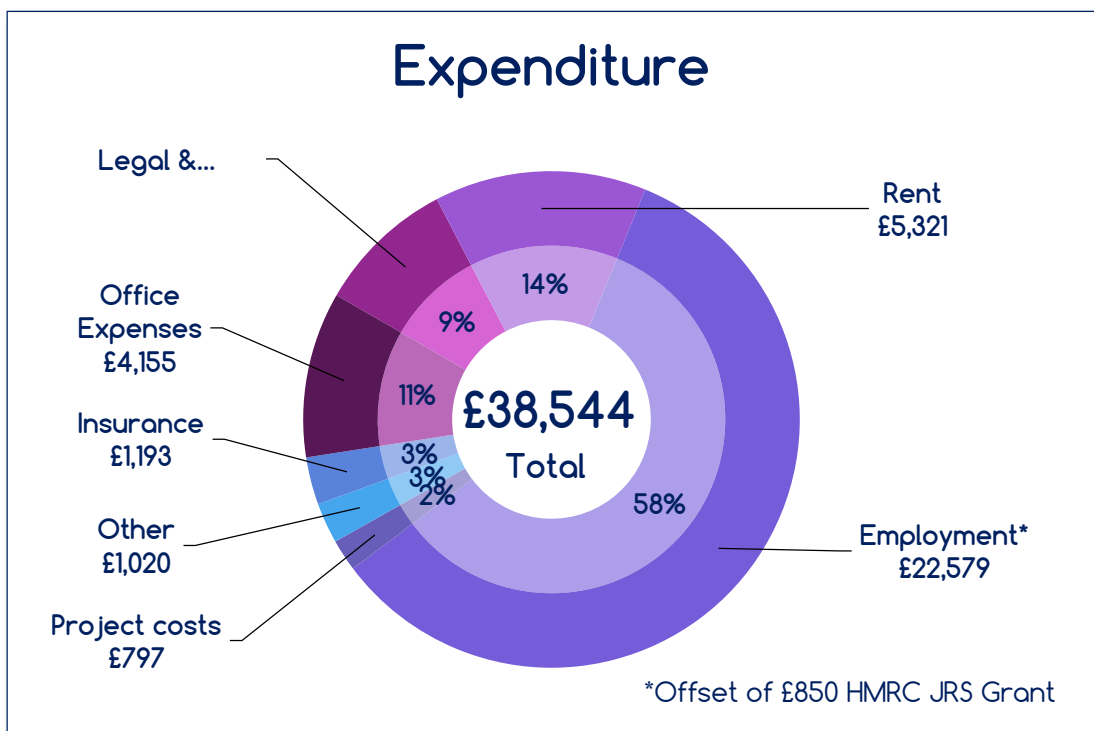
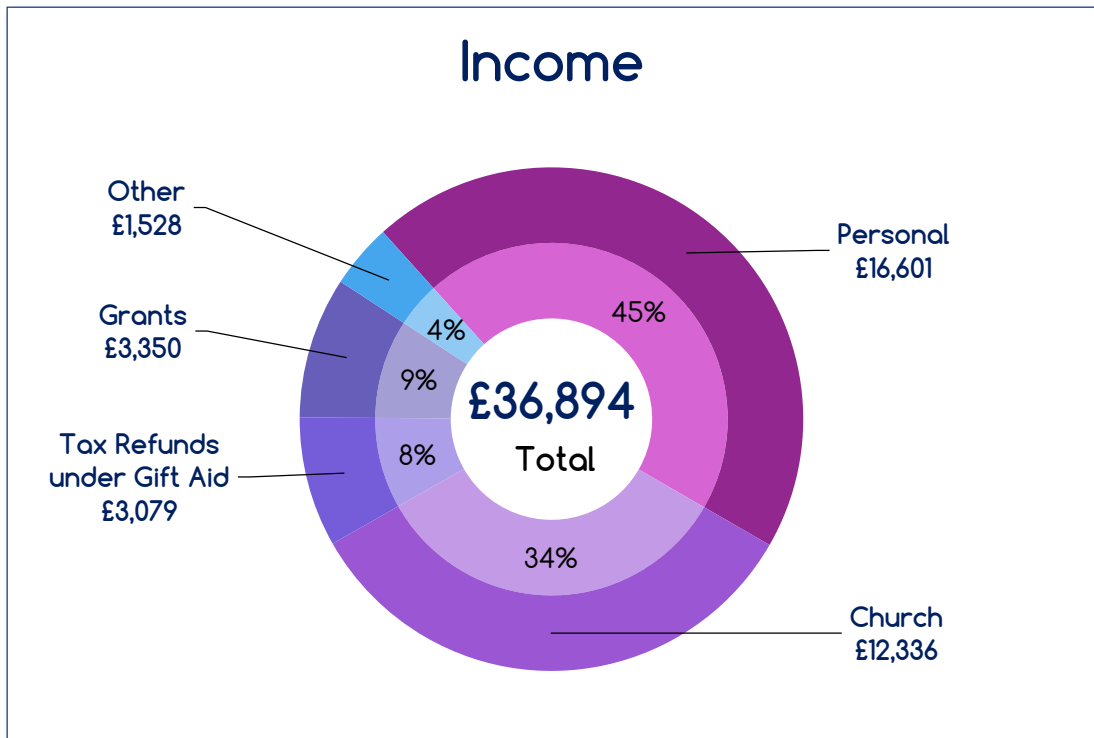
Prayer Meetings & Fundraising Events

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

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 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 keystone. 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 recording 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.

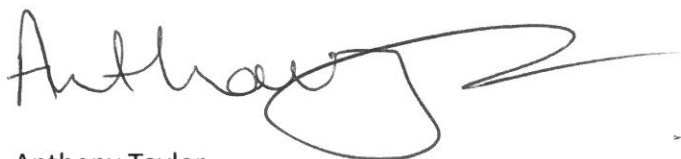
Reserves Policy

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 £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

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2021 £	2020 £
Income					
<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
		<u>26,852</u>	<u>11,691</u>	<u>38,544</u>	<u>38,714</u>
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

Assets

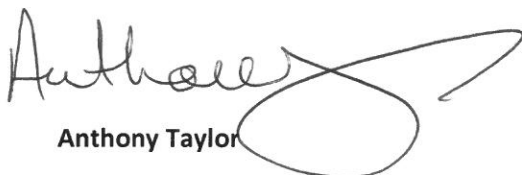
Debtors	1,531	1,926
Other monetary assets	-	188
	<u>1,531</u>	<u>2,114</u>

Liabilities

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