

CONTAGIOUS - Trustees Annual Report

Year Ending 31st December 2024

Charity Number: 1089954

Trustees

The following is correct as of 31st December 2024:

Trustee	Date	Status
Andrew Duff	21/05/2013	Appointed
Henry Playle	16/11/2016	Appointed
Madeline Russell	04/03/2019	Appointed
Roy Dobb	24/02/2020	Appointed
Maureen Dixon	03/11/2021	Appointed
Sue Inglis-Jones	16/02/2023	Appointed
Susan White	09/11/2023	Appointed

Specific responsibilities of Trustees

Chair of Trustees	Andrew Duff
Treasurer	Maureen Dixon
Employee Supervisor	Sue Inglis-Jones
Safeguarding Lead	Sue Inglis-Jones
Minutes Secretary	Madeline Russell
Fundraising	Andrew Duff

Activity leaders in addition to Trustees:

Jessica McArdle	Ignite Youth & Schools Worker/Project Leader
Sarah Hamer	Pioneers Schools and Community Worker (from 6 November)
Chris Friend	Ignite Chaplaincy at Duchess Community High School
Caroline Friend	Messy Church Alnwick representative

Partner organisation representatives:

Geoff Brown	Scripture Union representative
Robin Winder	Appleby Trust Trustee, Alnmouth

General overview

The work of the charity has continued to progress under the working title 'IGNITE'. The official charity-registered name remains 'Contagious'. 2024 has been an exciting year of development, completing our first year as a 'Growing Faith Learning Hub' supported by the Church of England's Growing Faith Foundation, and working in collaboration with church groups across Alnwick's Duchess High School catchment area. We appointed a second part-time Pioneer Schools and Community Worker in February, bringing our team to three, led by Jess McArdle's as full-time Ignite Project Leader. To support the expanded work, income streams and spending commitments we have implemented a new proprietary accounts management system.

Trustee Meetings

Six Trustee meetings were held in 2024: in January, March, May, July, September and November. Each meeting was quorate with a minimum of 3 Trustees present, plus our Ignite Project Leader.

Objectives and Vision

No change has been made to the charity's core aims, which are:

- Our belief that all young people should be encouraged to think about spiritual matters while recognising that they need the space to make their own choices as to what to believe.

- Our desire to raise the aspirations of young people and facilitate their healthy and full development.
- Our wish to help young people become active in the community and develop into mature and responsible citizens.

Activities provided under the banner of IGNITE

The designation of Ignite as one of 12 'learning hubs' supported by the Church of England's Growing Faith Foundation has been a significant investment into developing new ways of working with schools, churches and families. The first of two year programme of work was completed in September, guided by a Steering Group of local leaders. Jess McArdle has also continued to take part in the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders development programme.

Working with Schools has included regular Open the Book (Bible Society) story-telling involving volunteer teams, Year 6 'transitions' work offered to High School feeder primaries, RE curriculum support, Prayer Spaces in schools and other seasonal activities. A team of three experienced volunteers support the Duchess High School Pastoral Team to engage with young people facing personal challenges. School staff and Ignite chaplaincy team have also been trained in Restorative Practice in Schools and work started with some students to address behavioural issues in school.

'Rooted' youth groups involve around 30 young people, led by Jess McArdle and a session worker (via The Roost) and supported by a small team of volunteer leaders and helpers. Baby Basics is a new local social project (linked to a national charity) led young people from the Rooted groups. Work has started to set up and begin to prepare 'Moses baskets' of everyday essentials for delivery (via referral) to vulnerable new parents. Meanwhile Alnwick Messy Church has continued monthly during school term-time, led by a small group of volunteers, well attended with a number of families regularly taking part.

Finances

With the expansion of activities, employees and funding partners including the Growing Faith Foundation and the United Reformed Church, our turnover has increased significantly during this year. Whilst support from individual donors has declined slightly, our finances remain in good shape overall and our reserves remain healthy. The final year-end accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £4,052. This surplus is already designated for activities to be delivered in 2025. Work has started on preparing a fundraising strategy to enable us to plan sustainable activities into the future.

Volunteers

We have been fortunate in retaining many of our existing volunteers and recruiting some new ones, currently 50 in total. They are mainly involved in Open the Book and other school activities, and in support of the Rooted groups. All volunteers working with young people or vulnerable adults are DBS checked (as appropriate) with a requirement that they register for the update service so allowing the charity to carry out 6 monthly checks on the volunteers.

Safeguarding and Risk Management

Our safeguarding policy and procedures were updated in 2024. Our Safeguarding Recruiter ensures that all volunteers complete the current appointment process and checks. We continue to maintain and apply policies on risk assessment, anti-bullying and data privacy (including GDPR compliance). We maintain comprehensive insurance cover for all activities, with risks reviewed annually.

The future

With the Growing Faith programme continuing, and local collaboration agreements up for review in the light of experience, we expect to require further change and development of activities and how these are best delivered and funded over the next couple of years.

Trustees will continue to meet at least four times per year. Priorities for the year ahead are to:

- Continue to develop the work amongst young people within the wider Alnwick High School catchment area as part of the Growing Faith Learning Hub and in collaboration with key local church partners and organisations.
- Continue to build relationships with local church leaders, community organisations, teachers and students in local primary schools and the Duchess High School.
- Review our policies, procedures, risk assessment and management structure to ensure that we provide effective support to our employees, activity leaders and volunteers, and that we have the capacity and skills to respond to new opportunities.
- Recruit and train new trustees and volunteers and an appeal for new supporters and prayer partners.
- Plan and carry out fundraising to augment our finances and enable us to deliver activities on a sustainable basis.

Signed:



Andrew Duff
Chair of Trustees
5th June 2025



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

To

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Group monthly donations	6,906	-	-	6,906	3,340
Group one-off donations	-	-	-	-	24,575
Individual monthly donations	12,733	-	-	12,733	8,684
Individual one-off donations	-	-	-	-	1,124
HMRC Gift Aid Reclaim	-	-	-	-	2,062
Other monies received banked	12,500	-	-	12,500	-
Programme revenue	55,558	-	-	55,558	-
Interest on deposit account	460	-	-	460	8
Mighty Oaks Fund - grants and donations	-	-	-	-	527
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	88,157	-	-	88,157	40,320
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	88,157	-	-	88,157	40,320
A3 Payments					
Staff salaries	53,158	-	-	53,158	15,949
PAYE to HMRC	8,266	-	-	8,266	1,319
Pension contributions (NEST)	8,058	-	-	8,058	2,194
Insurance, admin and overheads	3,676	-	-	3,676	9,240
Training and safeguarding costs	702	-	-	702	1,286
Staff expenses	818	-	-	818	2,329
Youth cells	9,427	-	-	9,427	2,752
Messy Church	-	-	-	-	117
Events, youth and community activities	-	-	-	-	141
Mighty Oaks running costs	-	-	-	-	811
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	84,105	-	-	84,105	36,139
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	84,105	-	-	84,105	36,139
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,052	-	-	4,052	4,181
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	43,755	-	-	43,755	39,574
Cash funds this year end	47,807	-	-	47,807	43,755

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash	25	-	-
	Lloyds	31,783	-	-
	Deposit Account	16,000	-	-
	Total cash funds	47,807	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

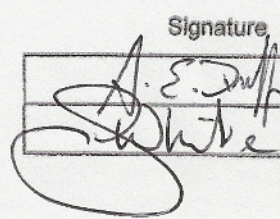
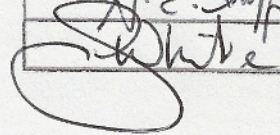
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ANDREW DUFF	05/06/25
	SUSAN WHITE	5/06/25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Contagious (Ignite) Charity, Alnwick

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1089954

Set out on pages

1 - 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date: 23rd April 2025

Name:

Jean Barr

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

n/a

Address:

37 Springfield Park

Alnwick

Northumberland NE66 2NH

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners)

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.