

THE BLESS NETWORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1105173

Details

Other names	BLESS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05156475
Registered	2004-07-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Rising Brook Baptist Church Centre
Burton Square
Stafford
ST17 9LT

Phone 01785785075

Email info@blessnet.eu

Website www.blessnet.eu

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THROUGHOUT EUROPE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ARTICLES OF FAITH SET OUT IN ARTICLE 34 OF ARTICLES.

Activities: The advancement of the Christian faith throughout Europe, using a range of programmes to mobilise Christian individuals & groups to engage in missional strategies in contemporary European culture.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THROUGHOUT EUROPE
- Croatia
- France
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Spain
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£46,113	£52,771	-	-
2023-09-30	£45,818	£54,769	-	-
2022-09-30	£47,834	£55,267	-	-
2021-09-30	£54,275	£35,357	-	-
2020-09-30	£37,865	£33,256	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MARTIN JAMES YOUNG	Chair	
CAROLINE LOUISE GWILLIAM		2015-09-18
CHRISTINE ELIZABETH KELLY		
Dr THOMAS DAVID GWILLIAM		
GERARD JAMES KELLY		
James Mark Saker		
SUSIE HARRINGTON		2015-09-18

THE BLESS NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1105173

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05156475 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1105173

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024
FOR
THE BLESS NETWORK

DE Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

THE BLESS NETWORK

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance Sheet	6 to 7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 12
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	13 to 14

THE BLESS NETWORK
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The objective of The Bless Network ('Bless'), is the advancement of the Christian faith throughout Europe in accordance with the articles of faith set out in the Company's articles of association. Bless uses a range of programmes to mobilise Christian individuals and groups to engage in relevant and missional strategies in contemporary European culture. Recognising the place of the local church at the heart of Christian mission, members of Bless based in France are supporting the planting of new churches.

Charity's Mission Statement

The Bless Network exists to explore and express the way of Jesus by activating the values of his Kingdom in the cultures of Europe.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Our local work in France continued strongly through the year. We are seeing growth in the local church community, with regular gatherings now established in Caen and Villedômer. The group meeting in Livarot requested, as from September 2024, to be released from engagement with our organisation so as to grow as an independent congregation. This was agreed and the group has been handed over fully to the leadership of Thierry and Melissa Eudeline. Our regular support of the refugee community in the city of Caen was placed on pause in July 2024, due to issues around both funding and strategy. We continue to search for ways to engage with individuals living and working on the Presqu'île de Caen, including the trafficked women based there.

We have continued to develop our "Seven Stories" training programme, offering both residential courses at Bethanie and off-site input into local churches, including a significant visit to Pasadena, USA.

The Blessival event was again well-attended and well-received.

The summer programs at Bethanie were led and managed by Ryan and Karen Hall with Jon and Anna White, and were both busy and fruitful. The Atelier weeks were particularly impactful, both on outside participants and on the local church, as was the now regular visit of Frontier Church from Pasadena, California. The trustees have invested significant time in 2023 in further developing the relationship with Ryan and Karen Hall in-line with Bless' stated aim of their taking-on the management of Bethanie.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Core running costs are continually kept under review and were 4% lower in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23 against 1% higher income; it is acknowledged that the trustees and volunteer team cover expenses incurred on behalf of Bless. None of the trustees or volunteers receive any remuneration.

The outstanding loan from Gerard & Chrissie Kelly of £73,039 was renegotiated to 1 October 2029. Part repayments may be made when cash is available. Another loan of £5,000 was also extended to March 2029.

As of 1 May 2025, The Bless Network took over the operational income, expenses, assets and liabilities of its French partner, Association Vivre pour les Autres (VPLA). This resulted in a small inter-charity balance of £852 in favour of the Bless Network, which it covered by making an equivalent grant to VPLA. Of the net loss for the year of £6,658, VPLA operations accounted for £2,242 (May to September 2024).

The charity's activities of providing food, clothes, French lessons and other support to refugees and migrants were suspended at the end of June 2024. This will not significantly change the financial results of The Bless Network (net income in the current year was a loss of £213).

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2024**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The policy on reserves is to maintain funds equivalent to keeping the charity (including VPLA in France) operational for 3 months before additional income is required from grants, donations or contributions from Bless programmes, i.e. approximately £7,500. Action is in hand to improve the reserves position by increasing the level of unrestricted income via donations and fund-raising, and by reducing the net operating costs of the charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

Bless, established as a charitable company in June 2004, is overseen by a board of trustees, who delegate operational tasks to a core team of volunteers. The core team, living mainly in community in France, include trustees Gerard and Chrissie Kelly, who lead this team and operate as the link between it and the trustees. Additionally there continues to be volunteer 'reps' operating in the UK and the Netherlands, as well as France, assisting in the development, in both working practices and values, of a Europe wide Bless network.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05156475 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1105173

Registered office

c/o Rising Brook Baptist Church
Burton Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST17 9LT

Trustees

Mrs C E Kelly
G J Kelly
T D Gwilliam
M J Young - Board Chairman
Prof J M Saker
Mrs C L Gwilliam
Mrs S C Harrington

Company Secretary

T M Herriott

Independent Examiner

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

THE BLESS NETWORK

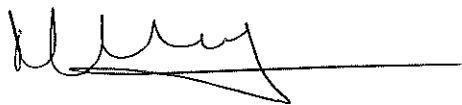
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank Plc
PO Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25th June 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Young', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

M J Young - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BLESS NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Bless Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30th September 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Russell Ball

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

25th June 2025

THE BLESS NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.24 Total funds £	30.9.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		20,810	-	20,810	10,146
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		4,215	-	4,215	9,461
Year2Bless		644	-	644	1,226
Bethanie		13,648	-	13,648	18,412
Management & administration		6,530	-	6,530	6,573
Bless Church (FR)		266	-	266	-
Total		<u>46,113</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,113</u>	<u>45,818</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		342	-	342	216
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		1,891	-	1,891	6,583
Year2Bless		160	-	160	649
Bethanie		13,181	-	13,181	20,230
Management & administration		24,458	-	24,458	25,251
SOS Caen		6,678	-	6,678	1,840
Bless Church (FR)		6,061	-	6,061	-
Total		<u>52,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,771</u>	<u>54,769</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(6,658)	-	(6,658)	(8,951)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		75,659	177,438	253,097	262,048
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>69,001</u></u>	<u><u>177,438</u></u>	<u><u>246,439</u></u>	<u><u>253,097</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET
30th September 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.24 Total funds £	30.9.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	195,535	177,438	372,973	373,700
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	5,383	-	5,383	122
Cash at bank		23,357	-	23,357	47,434
		<u>28,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,740</u>	<u>47,556</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(2,373)	-	(2,373)	(11,258)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>26,367</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,367</u>	<u>36,298</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		221,902	177,438	399,340	409,998
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	8	(152,901)	-	(152,901)	(156,901)
NET ASSETS		<u>69,001</u>	<u>177,438</u>	<u>246,439</u>	<u>253,097</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				69,001	75,659
Restricted funds				177,438	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>246,439</u>	<u>253,097</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

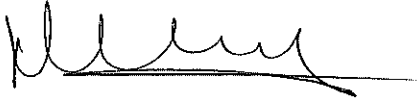
The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET - continued
30th September 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 25th June 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Young', with a horizontal line underneath.

M J Young - Trustee

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Motor vehicles	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	30.9.24	30.9.23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	727	969
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30th September 2024 nor for the year ended 30th September 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30th September 2024 nor for the year ended 30th September 2023.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	10,146	-	10,146
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	9,461	-	9,461
Year2Bless	1,226	-	1,226
Bethanie	18,412	-	18,412
Management & administration	6,573	-	6,573
Total	<u>45,818</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,818</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	216	-	216
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	6,583	-	6,583
Year2Bless	649	-	649
Bethanie	20,230	-	20,230
Management & administration	25,251	-	25,251
SOS Caen	1,840	-	1,840
Total	<u>54,769</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,769</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(8,951)	-	(8,951)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	84,610	177,438	262,048
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>75,659</u></u>	<u><u>177,438</u></u>	<u><u>253,097</u></u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st October 2023 and 30th September 2024	<u>370,792</u>	<u>9,118</u>	<u>904</u>	<u>380,814</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st October 2023	-	6,210	904	7,114
Charge for year	-	727	-	727
At 30th September 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>6,937</u>	<u>904</u>	<u>7,841</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30th September 2024	<u>370,792</u>	<u>2,181</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>372,973</u>
At 30th September 2023	<u>370,792</u>	<u>2,908</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>373,700</u>

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.24	30.9.23
	£	£
Other debtor	<u>5,383</u>	<u>122</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.24	30.9.23
	£	£
Other loans (see note 9)	-	5,000
Accrued expenses	2,373	6,258
	<u>2,373</u>	<u>11,258</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	30.9.24	30.9.23
	£	£
Other loans (see note 9)	<u>152,901</u>	<u>156,901</u>

9. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	30.9.24	30.9.23
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Other loans	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Other loans - 2-5 years	<u>152,901</u>	<u>156,901</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	75,659	(6,658)	69,001
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	177,438	-	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>253,097</u>	<u>(6,658)</u>	<u>246,439</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	46,113	(52,771)	(6,658)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>46,113</u>	<u>(52,771)</u>	<u>(6,658)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	84,610	(8,951)	75,659
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	177,438	-	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>262,048</u>	<u>(8,951)</u>	<u>253,097</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	45,818	(54,769)	(8,951)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>45,818</u>	<u>(54,769)</u>	<u>(8,951)</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	84,610	(15,609)	69,001
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	177,438	-	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS	262,048	(15,609)	246,439

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	91,931	(107,540)	(15,609)
TOTAL FUNDS	91,931	(107,540)	(15,609)

Unrestricted funds

These represent funds held to meet the reserves policy. Any surplus funds will be used to fulfil the charitable objectives. Details of both are provided in the Report of the Trustees.

Restricted funds

These relate to the funds donated towards the purchase of the property "Bethanie" at Heurtevent, France.

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30th September 2024.

THE BLESS NETWORK

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

	30.9.24	30.9.23
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	3,671	1,571
Donations - general	5,649	7,716
Donations - Bethanie	410	426
Church (France)	4,615	-
SOS Caen	6,465	433
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,810	10,146
 Charitable activities		
Go2Bless	4,215	9,461
Year/Time2Bless	644	1,226
Bethanie facilities	13,648	18,412
Management fees	6,530	6,573
Church (France)	266	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,303	35,672
 Total incoming resources	 46,113	 45,818
 EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Publicity and promotion	69	-
Platform fees	273	216
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	342	216
 Charitable activities		
Rent, rates and water	836	-
Insurance	3,545	2,916
Repairs and maintenance	86	326
Motor and travel expenses	8,857	6,462
Gifts passed to third parties	3,671	1,571
Mission costs - Bethanie	13,181	20,233
Mission costs - Go2Bless	1,891	6,583
Mission costs - Year/Time2Bless	160	530
Mission costs - SOS Caen	6,678	1,840
Mission costs - Church France	5,041	-
Church manager	1,020	8,079
Grants to VPLA France	1,538	-
Sundry expenses	4,441	2,654
Accountancy and legal costs	703	2,390
Carried forward	51,648	53,584

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

	30.9.24	30.9.23
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	51,648	53,584
Bank charges	54	-
Depreciation of vehicle	727	969
	<u>52,429</u>	<u>54,553</u>
Total resources expended	<u>52,771</u>	<u>54,769</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(6,658)</u>	<u>(8,951)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1105173

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05156475 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1105173

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023
FOR
THE BLESS NETWORK

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

THE BLESS NETWORK

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance Sheet	6 to 7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 13
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	14

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2023**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The objective of The Bless Network ('Bless'), is the advancement of the Christian faith throughout Europe in accordance with the articles of faith set out in the Company's articles of association. Bless uses a range of programmes to mobilise Christian individuals and groups to engage in relevant and missional strategies in contemporary European culture. Recognising the place of the local church at the heart of Christian mission, members of Bless based in France are supporting the planting of new churches.

Charity's Mission Statement

The Bless Network exists to explore and express the way of Jesus by activating the values of his Kingdom in the cultures of Europe.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Our local work in France, both in the planting of a bilingual / international church in Caen and our regular support of the refugee community in the city, continued strongly through the year. In particular, we are seeing growth in the local church community, with regular gatherings now established in Caen, Villedômer and Livarot. We were again able to supply vital supplies and support to refugees through the winter of 2022/23. We have continued to develop our "Seven Stories" training programme, offering both residential courses at Bethanie and off-site input into local churches, including Nashville, USA.

The Blesstival event was again well-attended and well-received. Our theme of the "Jesus Revolution" struck a deep chord with those present and the event culminated in seven baptisms.

The summer programs at Bethanie were led and managed by Ryan and Karen Hall with Jon and Anna White, and was both busy and fruitful. The Atelier weeks were particularly impactful, both on outside participants and on the local church, as was the now regular visit of Frontier Church from Pasadena, California.

The trustees have invested significant time in 2023 in further developing the relationship with Ryan and Karen Hall in-line with Bless' stated aim of their taking-on the management of Bethanie. For their part, Ryan and Karen made a loan of US\$ 95,000 to Bless in January 2023 through their US charity, Wayfinder Trust, based in Nashville, with a view to their raising further funds to buy Bethanie based on negotiations with the trustees during the year.

Ryan and Karen have been involved in summer programmes at Bethanie for several summers, and are developing a vision for the premises which is both complementary to, and a continuation of the objectives and purposes of the Bless Network.

The implementation of the decision of the UK to leave the European Union continues to significantly impact the charity's activities. UK interns and potential team members are now subject to visa restrictions and this has led to a slowing-down of UK applications for our intern programme, and to difficulties in recruiting long-term volunteers. The trustees are exploring creative ways to overcome these difficulties - not least through the mobilisation of France-based volunteers through the activities of our local churches. We are aware that this will change the relationship of UK nationals to the charity's work in France.

The centre of Bless activities is now Caen and so the trustees, having already decided that moving a building base for ministry from Bethanie to Caen is necessary, have taken advice from estate agent. This has been that in order to sell Bethanie, sewage treatment needs replacing, the old barns needs removing or renovating and the existing barn roof needs replacing. These works have been agreed by trustees. Nevertheless, Ryan and Karen Hall wish to continue the current charitable work of Bethanie as a retreat, prayer and spiritual discipleship centre. This means that selling it to them releases finance to purchase property for ministry in Caen whilst at the same time enabling the current use of Bethanie to continue. The money raised to purchase Bethanie will continue to be used for the same reasons in the building in Caen and Bethanie will also continue to function in its originally stated way. The trustees are keen to see this happen and so are negotiating selling the property to the Halls and considering also discounting the amount for the above mentioned necessary sale works to be done.

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Core running costs are continually kept under review and were 1% lower in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22; it is acknowledged that the trustees and volunteer team cover expenses incurred on behalf of Bless. None of the trustees or volunteers receive any remuneration.

Bless received a loan of US\$95,000 (£ 74,862) in January 2023 from Ryan & Karen Hall, repayable in December 2028 or the date of sale of Bethanie, whichever is the earlier. Part of the loan has been used during the year in repayment of a portion (28%) of the outstanding loan from Gerard & Chrissie Kelly (£ 32,500), funding a part-time church manager in France, and payment of the costs associated with negotiating the loan.

The net loss for the year of around £ 9,000 is almost entirely due to the funding of the church manager in France. Further losses are expected in the coming year as the loan monies are used to develop the work of the churches in France (Caen and Livarot), including larger premises in Caen.

Reserves policy

The policy on reserves is to maintain funds equivalent to keeping the charity (including VPLA in France) operational for 3 months before additional income is required from grants, donations or contributions from Bless programmes, i.e. approximately £7,500. Action is in hand to improve the reserves position by increasing the level of unrestricted income via donations and fund-raising, and by reducing the net operating costs of the charity.

Financial Review

Core running costs are continually kept under review; it is also acknowledged that the trustees and volunteer team often cover expenses incurred on behalf of Bless. None of the trustees or volunteers receive any remuneration.

The net loss for the year contrasts with the relatively large surplus in the previous year (2020-2021). This is due to the receipt of donations, allocated to the repair and maintenance of Bethanie, in the earlier year, but which were spent during the current financial year. Note that around £5,200 remains to be spent on projects and expenses associated with the likely transition of Bethanie to new managers.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

Bless, established as a charitable company in June 2004, is overseen by a board of trustees, who delegate operational tasks to a core team of volunteers. The core team, living mainly in community in France, include trustees Gerard and Chrissie Kelly, who lead this team and operate as the link between it and the trustees. Additionally there continues to be volunteer 'reps' operating in the UK and the Netherlands, as well as France, assisting in the development, in both working practices and values, of a Europe wide Bless network.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05156475 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1105173

Registered office

c/o Rising Brook Baptist Church
Burton Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST17 9LT

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

Trustees

Mrs C E Kelly
G J Kelly
T D Gwilliam
M J Young - Board Chairman
Prof J M Saker
Mrs C L Gwilliam
Mrs S C Harrington

Company Secretary

T M Herriott

Independent Examiner

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank Plc
PO Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24th June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

M J Young - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BLESS NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Bless Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30th September 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Russell Ball

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

24th June 2024

THE BLESS NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.23 Total funds £	30.9.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		10,146	-	10,146	16,400
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		9,461	-	9,461	7,699
Year2Bless		1,226	-	1,226	1,814
Bethanie		18,412	-	18,412	15,208
Management & administration		6,573	-	6,573	6,713
Total		<u>45,818</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,818</u>	<u>47,834</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		216	-	216	1,254
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		6,583	-	6,583	4,478
Year2Bless		649	-	649	317
Bethanie		20,230	-	20,230	28,025
Management & administration		25,251	-	25,251	19,655
SOS Caen		1,840	-	1,840	1,538
Total		<u>54,769</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,769</u>	<u>55,267</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(8,951)	-	(8,951)	(7,433)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		84,610	177,438	262,048	269,481
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>75,659</u></u>	<u><u>177,438</u></u>	<u><u>253,097</u></u>	<u><u>262,048</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET
30th September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.23 Total funds £	30.9.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	196,262	177,438	373,700	374,669
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	122	-	122	5,856
Cash at bank		47,434	-	47,434	6,779
		<u>47,556</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,556</u>	<u>12,635</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(11,258)	-	(11,258)	(10,717)
		<u>36,298</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,298</u>	<u>1,918</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>36,298</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,298</u>	<u>1,918</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		232,560	177,438	409,998	376,587
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	8	(156,901)	-	(156,901)	(114,539)
		<u>75,659</u>	<u>177,438</u>	<u>253,097</u>	<u>262,048</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>75,659</u>	<u>177,438</u>	<u>253,097</u>	<u>262,048</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				75,659	84,610
Restricted funds				177,438	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>253,097</u>	<u>262,048</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET - continued
30th September 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24th June 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

M J Young - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Motor vehicles	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	30.9.23	30.9.22
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	969	1,293
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30th September 2023 nor for the year ended 30th September 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30th September 2023 nor for the year ended 30th September 2022.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	16,247	153	16,400
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	7,699	-	7,699
Year2Bless	1,814	-	1,814
Bethanie	15,208	-	15,208
Management & administration	6,713	-	6,713
Total	<u>47,681</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>47,834</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	1,254	-	1,254
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	4,478	-	4,478
Year2Bless	317	-	317
Bethanie	28,025	-	28,025
Management & administration	19,655	-	19,655
SOS Caen	1,538	-	1,538
Total	<u>55,267</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,267</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(7,586)	153	(7,433)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	92,196	177,285	269,481
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>84,610</u></u>	<u><u>177,438</u></u>	<u><u>262,048</u></u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st October 2022 and 30th September 2023	370,792	9,118	904	380,814
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st October 2022	-	5,241	904	6,145
Charge for year	-	969	-	969
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 30th September 2023	-	6,210	904	7,114
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30th September 2023	370,792	2,908	-	373,700
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 30th September 2022	370,792	3,877	-	374,669
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.23 £	30.9.22 £
Inter-Charity account	-	4,948
Other debtor	122	908
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	122	5,856
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.23 £	30.9.22 £
Other loans (see note 9)	5,000	5,000
Accrued expenses	6,258	5,717
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	11,258	10,717
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	30.9.23	30.9.22
	£	£
Other loans (see note 9)	156,901	114,539
	<u>156,901</u>	<u>114,539</u>

9. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	30.9.23	30.9.22
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Other loans	5,000	5,000
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Other loans - 2-5 years	156,901	114,539
	<u>156,901</u>	<u>114,539</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.22	Net movement in funds	At 30.9.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	84,610	(8,951)	75,659
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	177,438	-	177,438
	<u>262,048</u>	<u>(8,951)</u>	<u>253,097</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>262,048</u>	<u>(8,951)</u>	<u>253,097</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	45,818	(54,769)	(8,951)
	<u>45,818</u>	<u>(54,769)</u>	<u>(8,951)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>45,818</u>	<u>(54,769)</u>	<u>(8,951)</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.10.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	92,196	(7,586)	84,610
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	177,285	153	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>269,481</u>	<u>(7,433)</u>	<u>262,048</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	47,681	(55,267)	(7,586)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	153	-	153
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>47,834</u>	<u>(55,267)</u>	<u>(7,433)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.10.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	92,196	(16,537)	75,659
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	177,285	153	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>269,481</u>	<u>(16,384)</u>	<u>253,097</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	93,499	(110,036)	(16,537)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	153	-	153
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>93,652</u>	<u>(110,036)</u>	<u>(16,384)</u>

Unrestricted funds

These represent funds held to meet the reserves policy. Any surplus funds will be used to fulfil the charitable objectives. Details of both are provided in the Report of the Trustees.

Restricted funds

These relate to the funds donated towards the purchase of the property "Bethanie" at Heurtevent, France.

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30th September 2023.

THE BLESS NETWORK

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

	30.9.23	30.9.22
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	1,571	2,360
Donations - general	7,716	6,112
Donations - Bethanie	426	5,203
SOS Caen	433	2,725
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,146	16,400
Charitable activities		
Go2Bless	9,461	7,699
Year/Time2Bless	1,226	1,814
Bethanie facilities	18,412	15,208
Management fees	6,573	6,713
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	35,672	31,434
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	45,818	47,834
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Publicity and promotion	-	1,038
Platform fees	216	216
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	216	1,254
Charitable activities		
Insurance	2,916	2,629
Repairs and maintenance	326	-
Motor and travel expenses	6,462	6,902
Gifts passed to third parties	1,571	2,360
Mission costs - Bethanie	20,233	28,025
Mission costs - Go2Bless	6,583	4,478
Mission costs - Year/Time2Bless	530	317
Mission costs - SOS Caen	1,840	1,538
Church manager	8,079	-
Sundry expenses	2,654	2,058
Accountancy and legal costs	2,390	4,413
Depreciation of vehicle	969	1,293
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	54,553	54,013
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	54,769	55,267
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net expenditure	<u>(8,951)</u>	<u>(7,433)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1105173

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05156475 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1105173

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022
FOR
THE BLESS NETWORK

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

THE BLESS NETWORK

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance Sheet	6 to 7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 13
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	14

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2022**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The objective of The Bless Network ('Bless'), is the advancement of the Christian faith throughout Europe in accordance with the articles of faith set out in the Company's articles of association. Bless uses a range of programmes to mobilise Christian individuals and groups to engage in relevant and missional strategies in contemporary European culture. Recognising the place of the local church at the heart of Christian mission, Bless provides opportunities for individuals and groups to connect with dynamic local churches in strategic locations on mainland Europe.

Charity's Mission Statement

'The Bless Network exists to transform the lives of people in Europe by empowering Christians through prayer, personal creativity and strategic partnerships to live for the service of others.'

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The charity has continued to grow through 2021/22, with the majority of activities returning more or less to pre-covid levels and some areas seeing significant growth.

CHURCHES

In France, we have continued to support the work of the Bless Churches, planted alongside our French partner organisation L'Association Vivre Pour Les Actress (VPLA). The churches now meet in 3 locations, Caen, Livarot and Villedômer, and are seeing growth in each of these locations. This growth, along with recent changes in French legislation, will require these churches to move in the coming year to a more formal structure and the charity is supporting the Directors of VPLA through this transition.

SOS CHAI

Our work with refugees, under the name of SOS Chai, has seen steady growth in Caen, with 30 - 40 asylum seekers joining us each week for French lessons and some 50 - 80 receiving meals and other supplies. A strong volunteer team has drawn a number of local people into this work as well as attracting interns and other volunteers from further afield. We have deepened connection and relationship, this year, with other groups working with the refugee community in Caen.

BETHANIE

Bethanie has continued to receive numerous visitors, notably from partner churches and groups in the USA. We have entered into a partnership this year with Ryan and Karen Hall from the Nashville House of Prayer, and are beginning a process of transition for their team to take-on full responsibility for the running of Bethanie, which will be developed as a resource base for prayer and worship for France and for Europe more widely. The new partnership will continue to see Bethanie developed and used in continuity with the objectives of the charity, and Bless will continue to make use of the facilities at Bethanie for local gatherings, courses and other needs.

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2022**

SEVEN STORIES

The Seven Stories Course has been run this year at Bethanie, in Caen, in Nashville and online, and continues to be well received by participants.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Our Kingdom Business Network has continued to support the work of Keys&Co in Caen, L'Orangerie de Beauregard in Villedômer and Hopefully Made in Shrewsbury, UK. All three of these business start-ups are thriving - sometimes in difficult circumstances - and are continuing to express, in a number of ways, their support for, and partnership with, the charity.

PREMISES

VPLA has continued to lease the premises at 3, Avenue de Paris in Caen, as a base for Church gatherings, SOS Chai and other team activities. The need for larger premises is now clear, and the charity is committed to supporting VPLA as they seek to establish and fund a more substantial and permanent base in the city.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The policy on reserves is to maintain funds equivalent to keeping the charity operational for 3 months before additional income is required from grants, donations or contributions from Bless programmes, i.e. approximately £6,000. Action is in hand to improve the reserves position by increasing the level of unrestricted income via donations and fund-raising, and by reducing the net operating costs of the charity.

Financial Review

Core running costs are continually kept under review; it is also acknowledged that the trustees and volunteer team often cover expenses incurred on behalf of Bless. None of the trustees or volunteers receive any remuneration.

The net loss for the year contrasts with the relatively large surplus in the previous year (2020-2021). This is due to the receipt of donations, allocated to the repair and maintenance of Bethanie, in the earlier year, but which were spent during the current financial year. Note that around £5,200 remains to be spent on projects and expenses associated with the likely transition of Bethanie to new managers.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

Bless, established as a charitable company in June 2004, is overseen by a board of trustees, who delegate operational tasks to a core team of volunteers. The core team, living mainly in community in France, include trustees Gerard and Chrissie Kelly, who lead this team and operate as the link between it and the trustees. Additionally there continues to be volunteer 'reps' operating in the UK and the Netherlands, as well as France, assisting in the development, in both working practices and values, of a Europe wide Bless network.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05156475 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1105173

Registered office

c/o Rising Brook Baptist Church
Burton Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST17 9LT

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

Trustees

Mrs C E Kelly
G J Kelly
T D Gwilliam
M J Young - Board Chairman
Prof J M Saker
Mrs C L Gwilliam
Mrs S C Harrington

Company Secretary

T M Herriott

Independent Examiner

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank Plc
PO Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26th June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

M J Young - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BLESS NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Bless Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30th September 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Russell Ball

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

26th June 2023

THE BLESS NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.22 Total funds £	30.9.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		16,247	153	16,400	38,381
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		7,699	-	7,699	960
Year2Bless		1,814	-	1,814	814
Bethanie		15,208	-	15,208	5,319
Management & administration		6,713	-	6,713	8,801
Total		<u>47,681</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>47,834</u>	<u>54,275</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		1,254	-	1,254	518
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		4,478	-	4,478	368
Year2Bless		317	-	317	48
Bethanie		28,025	-	28,025	20,484
Management & administration		19,655	-	19,655	10,374
SOS Caen		1,538	-	1,538	3,565
Total		<u>55,267</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,267</u>	<u>35,357</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(7,586)	153	(7,433)	18,918
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		92,196	177,285	269,481	250,563
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>84,610</u></u>	<u><u>177,438</u></u>	<u><u>262,048</u></u>	<u><u>269,481</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET
30th September 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.22 Total funds £	30.9.21 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	197,231	177,438	374,669	375,962
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	5,856	-	5,856	22,110
Cash at bank		6,779	-	6,779	10,901
		<u>12,635</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,635</u>	<u>33,011</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(10,717)	-	(10,717)	(6,653)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,918</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,918</u>	<u>26,358</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		199,149	177,438	376,587	402,320
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	8	(114,539)	-	(114,539)	(132,839)
NET ASSETS		<u>84,610</u>	<u>177,438</u>	<u>262,048</u>	<u>269,481</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				84,610	92,196
Restricted funds				177,438	177,285
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>262,048</u>	<u>269,481</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET - continued

30th September 2022

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26th June 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

M J Young - Trustee

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **for the Year Ended 30th September 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Motor vehicles	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	30.9.22	30.9.21
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	1,293	908
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30th September 2022 nor for the year ended 30th September 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30th September 2022 nor for the year ended 30th September 2021.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	37,486	895	38,381
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	960	-	960
Year2Bless	814	-	814
Bethanie	5,319	-	5,319
Management & administration	8,801	-	8,801
Total	<u>53,380</u>	<u>895</u>	<u>54,275</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	518	-	518
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	368	-	368
Year2Bless	48	-	48
Bethanie	20,484	-	20,484
Management & administration	10,374	-	10,374
SOS Caen	3,565	-	3,565
Total	<u>35,357</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,357</u>
NET INCOME	18,023	895	18,918
Transfers between funds	(3,500)	3,500	-
Net movement in funds	14,523	4,395	18,918
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	77,673	172,890	250,563
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>92,196</u></u>	<u><u>177,285</u></u>	<u><u>269,481</u></u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st October 2021 and 30th September 2022	370,792	9,118	904	380,814
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st October 2021	-	3,948	904	4,852
Charge for year	-	1,293	-	1,293
At 30th September 2022	-	5,241	904	6,145
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30th September 2022	370,792	3,877	-	374,669
At 30th September 2021	370,792	5,170	-	375,962

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.22 £	30.9.21 £
Inter-Charity account	4,948	21,834
Other debtor	908	276
	<u>5,856</u>	<u>22,110</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.22 £	30.9.21 £
Other loans (see note 9)	5,000	5,000
Accrued expenses	5,717	1,653
	<u>10,717</u>	<u>6,653</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	30.9.22 £	30.9.21 £
Other loans (see note 9)	<u>114,539</u>	<u>132,839</u>

9. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	30.9.22 £	30.9.21 £
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Other loans	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Other loans - 2-5 years	<u>114,539</u>	<u>132,839</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	92,196	(7,586)	84,610
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	177,285	153	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>269,481</u>	<u>(7,433)</u>	<u>262,048</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	47,681	(55,267)	(7,586)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	153	-	153
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>47,834</u>	<u>(55,267)</u>	<u>(7,433)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.10.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	77,673	18,023	(3,500)	92,196
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	172,890	895	3,500	177,285
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>250,563</u>	<u>18,918</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>269,481</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	53,380	(35,357)	18,023
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	895	-	895
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>54,275</u>	<u>(35,357)</u>	<u>18,918</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.10.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	77,673	10,437	(3,500)	84,610
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	172,890	1,048	3,500	177,438
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>250,563</u>	<u>11,485</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>262,048</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	101,061	(90,624)	10,437
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	1,048	-	1,048
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>102,109</u>	<u>(90,624)</u>	<u>11,485</u>

Unrestricted funds

These represent funds held to meet the reserves policy. Any surplus funds will be used to fulfil the charitable objectives. Details of both are provided in the Report of the Trustees.

Restricted funds

These relate to the funds donated towards the purchase of the property "Bethanie" at Heurtevent, France.

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30th September 2022.

THE BLESS NETWORK

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

	30.9.22	30.9.21
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	2,360	-
Donations - general	6,112	5,836
Donations - Bethanie	5,203	28,584
SOS Caen	2,725	3,961
	16,400	38,381
Charitable activities		
Go2Bless	7,699	960
Year/Time2Bless	1,814	814
Bethanie facilities	15,208	5,319
Management fees	6,713	8,801
	31,434	15,894
Total incoming resources	47,834	54,275
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Publicity and promotion	1,038	292
Platform fees	216	226
	1,254	518
Charitable activities		
Insurance	2,629	1,645
Motor and travel expenses	6,902	4,684
Gifts passed to third parties	2,360	-
Mission costs - Bethanie	28,025	20,484
Mission costs - Go2Bless	4,478	368
Mission costs - Year/Time2Bless	317	48
Mission costs - SOS Caen	1,538	3,565
Sundry expenses	2,058	2,344
Accountancy and legal costs	4,413	651
Bank charges	-	142
Depreciation of vehicle	1,293	908
	54,013	34,839
Total resources expended	55,267	35,357
Net (expenditure)/income	(7,433)	18,918

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1105173

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05156475 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1105173

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021
FOR
THE BLESS NETWORK

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

THE BLESS NETWORK

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance Sheet	6 to 7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 13
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	14

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2021**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The objective of The Bless Network ('Bless'), is the advancement of the Christian faith throughout Europe in accordance with the articles of faith set out in the Company's articles of association. Bless uses a range of programmes to mobilise Christian individuals and groups to engage in relevant and missional strategies in contemporary European culture. Recognising the place of the local church at the heart of Christian mission, Bless provides opportunities for individuals and groups to connect with dynamic local churches in strategic locations on mainland Europe.

Charity's Mission Statement

'The Bless Network exists to transform the lives of people in Europe by empowering Christians through prayer, personal creativity and strategic partnerships to live for the service of others.'

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The continuing restrictions in 2020/ 21 associated with the Covid pandemic again impacted the activities of the charity, limiting the capacity of participants from the UK, USA and Netherlands to engage in programmes based on mainland Europe. This particularly affects the work of Bethanie, our residential centre in France, which had another quiet year. The lull in residential activities gave the trustees the opportunity to move forward with overdue maintenance activities, particularly the replacement of windows to the main farmhouse. This work was funded by designated donations.

Our local work in France, both the planting of a bilingual / international church in Caen and our regular support of the refugee community in the city, continued strongly despite the restrictions. We were able to supply vital supplies and support to refugees through the winter of 2020/21 at a time when many other organisations were closed to them.

The set-backs of the pandemic also gave us the opportunity to plan for the publishing of our "Seven Stories" course online. Having edited and published the course workbook in 2020, we were able in 2021 to schedule for the training sessions to be filmed. Filming and online publication is scheduled for 2022.

Stichting Bless Holland, the Dutch-based charity supporting the work of Bless, has grown in 2021, with two significant events in the Netherlands and a growing number of Dutch participants.

The trustees have also taken time in 2021 to consider the future of Bethanie, not only in response to the two very (financially) difficult years of the pandemic, but also in the light of the long-term development of the charity. Activities in France outside the running of Bethanie as a residential centre have grown significantly, and have potential to grow further, and it is not the opinion of the trustees that a continued emphasis on residential events should necessarily be at the heart of the charity going forward. The possibility of selling the property was discussed and a valuation obtained, but the decision was taken, in the first instance, to initiate a search for a partner organisation willing to take-on the management of the centre in continuity with the broad parameters of the Bless vision. Significant progress has been made in this endeavour, and a full proposal will be considered by the Trustees in 2022.

Issues around the implementation, in January 2021, of the decision of the UK to leave the European Union have also impacted the charities activities. UK interns and potential team members are now subject to visa restrictions, meaning that they cannot spend more than 90 days in any period of 180 days in the Schengen zone, unless they have been granted a visa. The visa process is restrictive and complex, and does not cover many of our potential interns - young people under 25 who are completing an internship without the specific involvement of an institute of Higher Education in France. This has led to a slowing-down of UK applications for our intern programme, and to difficulties in recruiting long-term volunteers. The trustees are exploring creative ways to overcome these difficulties, and are aware that they will change the relationship of UK nationals to the charity's work in France.

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2021**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The policy on reserves is to maintain funds equivalent to keeping the charity operational for 3 months before additional income is required from grants, donations or contributions from Bless programmes, i.e. approximately £6,000. Action is in hand to improve the reserves position by increasing the level of unrestricted income via donations and fund-raising, and by reducing the net operating costs of the charity.

Financial Review

Core running costs are continually kept under review; it is also acknowledged that the trustees and volunteer team often cover expenses incurred on behalf of Bless. None of the trustees or volunteers receive any remuneration.

The higher-than-normal net assets at the year-end reflect income set aside for Bethanie renovation projects. Around £10,500 was subsequently spent in November 2021 on new windows for Bethanie, leaving a further £6,500 for other maintenance or running costs (at the discretion of the trustees).

Any funds raised from a partner organisation willing to take on the management of Bethanie will be used primarily for the repayment of loans associated with the initial purchase.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

Bless, established as a charitable company in June 2004, is overseen by a board of trustees, who delegate operational tasks to a core team of volunteers. The core team, living mainly in community in France, include trustees Gerard and Chrissie Kelly, who lead this team and operate as the link between it and the trustees. Additionally there continues to be volunteer 'reps' operating in the UK and the Netherlands, as well as France, assisting in the development, in both working practices and values, of a Europe wide Bless network.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05156475 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1105173

Registered office

c/o Rising Brook Baptist Church
Burton Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST17 9LT

Trustees

Mrs M A Eccleshall (resigned 6.11.20)

Mrs C E Kelly

G J Kelly

T D Gwilliam

M J Young - Board Chairman

Prof J M Saker

Mrs C L Gwilliam

Mrs S C Harrington

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company Secretary

T M Herriott

Independent Examiner

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank Plc
PO Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24th June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



M J Young - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BLESS NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Bless Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30th September 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Russell Ball
D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

24th June 2022

THE BLESS NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.21 Total funds £	30.9.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		37,486	895	38,381	25,933
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		960	-	960	240
Year2Bless		814	-	814	897
Bethanie		5,319	-	5,319	6,508
Management & administration		8,801	-	8,801	4,287
Total		53,380	895	54,275	37,865
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		518	-	518	1,860
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		368	-	368	1,264
Year2Bless		48	-	48	-
Bethanie		20,484	-	20,484	17,507
Management & administration		10,374	-	10,374	11,972
SOS Caen		3,565	-	3,565	653
Total		35,357	-	35,357	33,256
NET INCOME		18,023	895	18,918	4,609
Transfers between funds	10	(3,500)	3,500	-	-
Net movement in funds		14,523	4,395	18,918	4,609
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		77,673	172,890	250,563	245,954
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		92,196	177,285	269,481	250,563

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET
30th September 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.21 Total funds £	30.9.20 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	198,677	177,285	375,962	373,602
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	22,110	-	22,110	5,348
Cash at bank		10,901	-	10,901	14,705
		<u>33,011</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,011</u>	<u>20,053</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(6,653)	-	(6,653)	(7,753)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>26,358</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,358</u>	<u>12,300</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		225,035	177,285	402,320	385,902
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	8	(132,839)	-	(132,839)	(135,339)
NET ASSETS		<u>92,196</u>	<u>177,285</u>	<u>269,481</u>	<u>250,563</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				92,196	77,673
Restricted funds				177,285	172,890
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>269,481</u>	<u>250,563</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET - continued

30th September 2021

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24th June 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

M J Young - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Motor vehicles	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	30.9.21	30.9.20
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	908	937
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30th September 2021 nor for the year ended 30th September 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30th September 2021 nor for the year ended 30th September 2020.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	25,023	910	25,933
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	240	-	240
Year2Bless	897	-	897
Bethanie	6,508	-	6,508
Management & administration	4,287	-	4,287
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	36,955	910	37,865
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	1,860	-	1,860
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	1,264	-	1,264
Bethanie	17,507	-	17,507
Management & administration	11,972	-	11,972
SOS Caen	653	-	653
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	33,256	-	33,256
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCOME	3,699	910	4,609
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	73,974	171,980	245,954
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>77,673</u>	<u>172,890</u>	<u>250,563</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st October 2020	370,792	5,850	904	377,546
Additions	-	3,268	-	3,268
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30th September 2021	370,792	9,118	904	380,814
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st October 2020	-	3,040	904	3,944
Charge for year	-	908	-	908
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30th September 2021	-	3,948	904	4,852
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30th September 2021	<u>370,792</u>	<u>5,170</u>	-	<u>375,962</u>
At 30th September 2020	<u>370,792</u>	<u>2,810</u>	-	<u>373,602</u>

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.21 £	30.9.20 £
Inter-Charity account	21,834	3,442
Other debtor	276	1,906
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,110	5,348
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.21 £	30.9.20 £
Other loans (see note 9)	5,000	5,000
Accrued expenses	1,653	2,753
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,653	7,753
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	30.9.21	30.9.20
	£	£
Other loans (see note 9)	132,839	135,339
	<u>132,839</u>	<u>135,339</u>

9. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	30.9.21	30.9.20
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Other loans	5,000	5,000
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Other loans - 2-5 years	132,839	135,339
	<u>132,839</u>	<u>135,339</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	77,673	18,023	(3,500)	92,196
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	172,890	895	3,500	177,285
	<u>250,563</u>	<u>18,918</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>269,481</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	53,380	(35,357)	18,023
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	895	-	895
	<u>54,275</u>	<u>(35,357)</u>	<u>18,918</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.10.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	73,974	3,699	77,673
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	171,980	910	172,890
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>245,954</u>	<u>4,609</u>	<u>250,563</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	36,955	(33,256)	3,699
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	910	-	910
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>37,865</u>	<u>(33,256)</u>	<u>4,609</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.10.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	73,974	21,722	(3,500)	92,196
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	171,980	1,805	3,500	177,285
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>245,954</u>	<u>23,527</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>269,481</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	90,335	(68,613)	21,722
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	1,805	-	1,805
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>92,140</u>	<u>(68,613)</u>	<u>23,527</u>

Unrestricted funds

These represent funds held to meet the reserves policy. Any surplus funds will be used to fulfil the charitable objectives. Details of both are provided in the Report of the Trustees.

Restricted funds

These relate to the funds donated towards the purchase of the property "Bethanie" at Heurtevent, France.

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30th September 2021.

THE BLESS NETWORK

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

	30.9.21	30.9.20
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations - general	5,836	17,915
Donations - Bethanie	28,584	6,035
SOS Caen	3,961	1,983
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	38,381	25,933
Charitable activities		
Go2Bless	960	240
Year/Time2Bless	814	897
Bethanie facilities	5,319	6,508
Management fees	8,801	4,287
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15,894	11,932
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	54,275	37,865
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Events	-	566
Publicity and promotion	292	750
Platform fees	226	544
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	518	1,860
Charitable activities		
Insurance	1,645	1,841
Repairs and maintenance	-	31
Motor and travel expenses	4,684	6,639
Mission costs - Bethanie	20,484	17,506
Mission costs - Go2Bless	368	1,265
Mission costs - Year/Time2Bless	48	-
Mission costs - SOS Caen	3,565	653
Sundry expenses	2,344	1,571
Accountancy and legal costs	651	600
Bank charges	142	353
Depreciation of vehicle	908	936
Depreciation of computer	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	34,839	31,396
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	35,357	33,256
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income	18,918	4,609
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1105173

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05156475 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1105173

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020
FOR
THE BLESS NETWORK

DRAFT
18/06/21 09:30

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

THE BLESS NETWORK

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance Sheet	6 to 7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 13
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	14

DRAFT
18/06/21 09:30

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2020**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The object of The Bless Network ('Bless'), is the advancement of the Christian faith throughout Europe in accordance with the articles of faith set out in the Company's Articles of Association. Bless uses a range of programmes to mobilise Christian individuals and groups to engage in relevant missional strategies in contemporary European culture. Recognising the place of the local church at the heart of Christian mission, Bless provides opportunities for individuals and groups to connect with dynamic local churches in strategic locations on mainland Europe. Emphasising the role of young adults as leaders in mission and community, our training programmes combine spiritual development, personal growth and skills acquisition to maximise the learning benefits of cross-cultural experience.

Charity's Mission Statement

'The Bless Network exists to transform the lives of people in Europe by empowering Christians through prayer, personal creativity and strategic partnerships to live for the service of others.'

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

As for all organisations in our sector, 2020 has been a year unlike any other. Despite restrictions on both international travel and localised activities, we have been able to maintain our work and have seen growth in several key areas.

The slowing down of our activities through the pandemic has afforded the opportunity to clarify vision and consolidate structures, with four key areas of activity emerging as priorities for future growth. These are: the church-plants in France; our activities in support of refugees and others in need; our training initiatives centring on the 7 Stories Course and our work in coaching and support new kingdom business ventures. These activities are largely carried out through our French organisation, L'Association Vivre Pour Les Autres, supported by partners in France, the UK, the Netherlands and the USA. A new emphasis on online engagement has allowed us to consolidate and strengthen these International links through the year.

- **Bethanie**, our ministry centre in Normandy has had a largely fallow year, with our usual international groups unable to travel. Despite this, we have been able to use the centre for a number of localised activities as well as accommodating interns.

- **Our Church-plants** have weathered the storm of the pandemic reasonably well, despite several instances of sickness and extended periods of lock-down. We transferred some of our gatherings to an online format which was much appreciated by our somewhat dispersed community. Where gatherings have been allowed they have continued in Caen, Livarot and Villedômer. Our Vision Team has continued to meet online, as has our 'Kingdom Business Network' supporting the business ventures linked to our community.

- **Training**. The lockdown period of early 2020 gave us the opportunity to create and publish a new workbook for our "7 Stories" training course. This has been used by groups in France, the UK and the Netherlands and will form the basis both of future residential offerings and of an online course.

Our intern programme in 2020 this year attracted 4 students, all from the UK, working with us for periods from 3 to 12 months.

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 30th September 2020**

- **Refugees.** Our refugee ministry, SOS CHAI, continues to grow in strength this year, spearheading our vision to see transformation in the city of Caen. Our base in the City is now open twice weekly, on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and we continue to feed between 30 and 100 on each of these evenings. Our volunteer team now also offer small conversation classes in both French and English, and we have expanded our capacity to supply clothing, toiletries and other essentials. Funding for this work comes from the USA, the Netherlands, France and the UK.

- **Network:**

Stichting Bless Holland, in the Netherlands, experienced a transition in 2020, with new Directors being recruited and a renewed vision to draw Dutch nationals into the ministry and to develop the 7 Stories course for Dutch participants. Our partnership with L'Orangerie de Beauregard, the international campsite in Villedômer, has significantly increased our engagement with Dutch nationals.

Our links with the USA have continued to build, with increased financial support for SOS Chai and the work in Caen.

Overall the year saw the charity facing significant challenges - both operational and financial - in responding to the pandemic, but we have come through these in good health, with signs of growth and strong future vision in all four of our key areas of activity.

The trustees have continued to take due regard of the Charity Commission's guidance related to public benefit, and the specific guidance for charities on the advancement of religion.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The policy on reserves is to maintain funds equivalent to keeping the charity operational for 3 months before additional income is required from grants, donations or contributions from Bless programmes, i.e. approximately £6,000. Action is in hand to improve the reserves position by increasing the level of unrestricted income via donations and fund-raising, and by reducing the net operating costs of the charity.

Financial Review

Core running costs are continually kept under review; it is also acknowledged that the trustees and volunteer team often cover expenses incurred on behalf of Bless. None of the trustees or volunteer team receive any remuneration.

As Bless strives to grow, it will be important to secure increasing levels of income in future years to cover the operating costs of the charity and to continue to look at ways of minimising those costs.

Funds continued to be raised towards the purchase of Bethanie and the repayment of the associated loans.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

Bless, established as a charitable company in June 2004, is overseen by a board of trustees, who delegate operational tasks to a core team of volunteers. The core team, living mainly in community in France, include trustees Gerard and Chrissie Kelly, who lead this team and operate as the link between it and the trustees. Additionally there continues to be volunteer 'reps' operating in the UK and the Netherlands, as well as France, assisting in the development, in both working practices and values, of a Europe wide Bless network.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05156475 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1105173

THE BLESS NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020

Registered office

c/o Rising Brook Baptist Church
Burton Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST17 9LT

Trustees

Mrs M A Eccleshall
Mrs C E Kelly
G J Kelly
T D Gwilliam
M J Young - Board Chairman
Prof J M Saker
Mrs C L Gwilliam
Mrs S C Harrington

Company Secretary

T M Herriott

Independent Examiner

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank Plc
PO Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

DRAFT
18/06/21 09:30

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
M J Young - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BLESS NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Bless Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30th September 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

DRAFT
18/06/21 09:30

Russell Ball
D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

Date:

THE BLESS NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.20 Total funds £	30.9.19 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		25,023	910	25,933	22,038
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		240	-	240	5,626
Year2Bless		897	-	897	459
Bethanie		6,508	-	6,508	22,133
Management & administration		4,287	-	4,287	7,263
Total		<u>36,955</u>	<u>910</u>	<u>37,865</u>	<u>57,519</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		1,860	-	1,860	648
Charitable activities					
Go2Bless		1,264	-	1,264	8,800
Year2Bless		-	-	-	1,290
Bethanie		17,507	-	17,507	24,608
Management & administration		11,972	-	11,972	15,622
SOS Caen		653	-	653	4,309
Total		<u>33,256</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,256</u>	<u>55,277</u>
NET INCOME		<u>3,699</u>	<u>910</u>	<u>4,609</u>	<u>2,242</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>73,974</u>	<u>171,980</u>	<u>245,954</u>	<u>243,712</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>77,673</u></u>	<u><u>172,890</u></u>	<u><u>250,563</u></u>	<u><u>245,954</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET
30th September 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	30.9.20 Total funds £	30.9.19 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	204,291	169,311	373,602	374,539
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	5,348	-	5,348	8,306
Cash at bank		11,126	3,579	14,705	5,720
		<u>16,474</u>	<u>3,579</u>	<u>20,053</u>	<u>14,026</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(7,753)	-	(7,753)	(2,272)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>8,721</u>	<u>3,579</u>	<u>12,300</u>	<u>11,754</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		213,012	172,890	385,902	386,293
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	8	(135,339)	-	(135,339)	(140,339)
NET ASSETS		<u>77,673</u>	<u>172,890</u>	<u>250,563</u>	<u>245,954</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				77,673	73,974
Restricted funds				172,890	171,980
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>250,563</u>	<u>245,954</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2020.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

THE BLESS NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET - continued

30th September 2020

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
M J Young - Trustee

DRAFT
18/06/21 09:30

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **for the Year Ended 30th September 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Motor vehicles	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	30.9.20	30.9.19
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	937	1,290
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020**

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30th September 2020 nor for the year ended 30th September 2019.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30th September 2020 nor for the year ended 30th September 2019.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	19,045	2,993	22,038
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	5,626	-	5,626
Year2Bless	459	-	459
Bethanie	22,133	-	22,133
Management & administration	7,263	-	7,263
Total	54,526	2,993	57,519
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	648	-	648
Charitable activities			
Go2Bless	8,800	-	8,800
Year2Bless	1,290	-	1,290
Bethanie	24,608	-	24,608
Management & administration	15,622	-	15,622
SOS Caen	4,309	-	4,309
Total	55,277	-	55,277
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(751)	2,993	2,242
Transfers between funds	3,500	(3,500)	-
Net movement in funds	2,749	(507)	2,242
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	71,225	172,487	243,712
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	73,974	171,980	245,954

THE BLESS NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020**

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st October 2019 and 30th September 2020	370,792	5,850	904	377,546
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st October 2019	-	2,104	903	3,007
Charge for year	-	936	1	937
At 30th September 2020	-	3,040	904	3,944
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30th September 2020	370,792	2,810	-	373,602
At 30th September 2019	370,792	3,746	1	374,539

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.20 £	30.9.19 £
Inter-Charity account	3,442	7,881
Other debtor	1,906	425
	<u>5,348</u>	<u>8,306</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.20 £	30.9.19 £
Other loans (see note 9)	5,000	-
Accrued expenses	2,753	2,272
	<u>7,753</u>	<u>2,272</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	30.9.20 £	30.9.19 £
Other loans (see note 9)	<u>135,339</u>	<u>140,339</u>

9. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	30.9.20 £	30.9.19 £
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Other loans	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Other loans - 2-5 years	<u>135,339</u>	<u>5,000</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020**

9. LOANS - continued

	30.9.20	30.9.19
	£	£
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable otherwise than by instalments:		
Other loans more 5yrs non-inst	-	135,339
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	73,974	3,699	77,673
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	171,980	910	172,890
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>245,954</u>	<u>4,609</u>	<u>250,563</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	36,955	(33,256)	3,699
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	910	-	910
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>37,865</u>	<u>(33,256)</u>	<u>4,609</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.10.18 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.19 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	71,225	(751)	3,500	73,974
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	172,487	2,993	(3,500)	171,980
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>243,712</u>	<u>2,242</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>245,954</u>

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	54,526	(55,277)	(751)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	2,993	-	2,993
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>57,519</u>	<u>(55,277)</u>	<u>2,242</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.10.18 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	71,225	2,948	3,500	77,673
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	172,487	3,903	(3,500)	172,890
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>243,712</u>	<u>6,851</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250,563</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	91,481	(88,533)	2,948
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	3,903	-	3,903
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>95,384</u>	<u>(88,533)</u>	<u>6,851</u>

Unrestricted funds

These represent funds held to meet the reserves policy. Any surplus funds will be used to fulfil the charitable objectives. Details of both are provided in the Report of the Trustees.

Restricted funds

These relate to the funds donated towards the purchase of the property "Bethanie" at Heurtevent, France.

THE BLESS NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30th September 2020.

DRAFT
18/06/21 09:30

THE BLESS NETWORK

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 30th September 2020

	30.9.20	30.9.19
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations - general	17,915	13,892
Donations - Bethanie	6,035	5,148
SOS Caen	1,983	2,998
	25,933	22,038
Charitable activities		
Go2Bless	240	5,626
Year/Time2Bless	897	459
Bethanie facilities	6,508	22,133
Management fees	4,287	7,263
	11,932	35,481
Total incoming resources	37,865	57,519
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Events	566	-
Publicity and promotion	750	343
Platform fees	544	305
	1,860	648
Charitable activities		
Insurance	1,841	2,061
Repairs and maintenance	31	130
Motor and travel expenses	6,639	11,340
Mission costs - Bethanie	17,506	24,608
Mission costs - Go2Bless	1,265	8,800
Mission costs - SOS Caen	653	4,309
Sundry expenses	1,571	1,551
Accountancy and legal costs	600	540
Bank charges	353	-
Depreciation of vehicle	936	1,248
Depreciation of computer	1	42
	31,396	54,629
Total resources expended	33,256	55,277
Net income	4,609	2,242

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements