

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

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for the Year Ended 30th September 2021

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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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M J Young', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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				<u>177,285</u>	<u>172,890</u>
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	370,792	5,170	-	375,962
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30th September 2020	370,792	2,810	-	373,602
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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>172,890</u>	<u>895</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>177,285</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<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>895</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>895</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
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/> 38,381	<hr/> 25,933
Charitable activities		
Go2Bless	960	240
Year/Time2Bless	814	897
Bethanie facilities	5,319	6,508
Management fees	8,801	4,287
	<hr/> 15,894	<hr/> 11,932
Total incoming resources	<hr/> 54,275	<hr/> 37,865
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Events	-	566
Publicity and promotion	292	750
Platform fees	226	544
	<hr/> 518	<hr/> 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/> 34,839	<hr/> 31,396
Total resources expended	<hr/> 35,357	<hr/> 33,256
Net income	<hr/> <hr/> 18,918	<hr/> <hr/> 4,609

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements