

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

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for the Year Ended 30th September 2022

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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	53,380	895	54,275
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	35,357	-	35,357
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	92,196	177,285	269,481

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
	<hr/> 16,400	<hr/> 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
	<hr/> 31,434	<hr/> 15,894
Total incoming resources	47,834	54,275
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Publicity and promotion	1,038	292
Platform fees	216	226
	<hr/> 1,254	<hr/> 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
	<hr/> 54,013	<hr/> 34,839
Total resources expended	55,267	35,357
Net (expenditure)/income	<hr/> <hr/> (7,433)	<hr/> <hr/> 18,918

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements