

CONNECT MID-DEVON

England & Wales · Charity number 1126303

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2008-10-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Crediton Congregational Church
High Street
Crediton
Devon
EX17 3LF

Phone 07419359515

Email info@connectdevon.org

Website www.connectdevon.org

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF RELIGIOUS OR OTHER EDUCATION AND THE PROMOTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION THE WORSHIP OF GOD AND THE SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING THE PROMOTION FOSTERING AND FACILITATING OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE OF SCHOOL AGE AND BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT SCHOOLS COLLEGES AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS (AND THEREBY ASSIST IN ENSURING THAT DUE ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THE SPIRITUAL SOCIAL AND MORAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS WELL AS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND OCCUPATION OF THEIR MINDS AND BODIES) AND WITH A VIEW TO FURTHERING THIS OBJECT THE TRUSTEES SHALL ALSO HAVE THE POWER:- TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES LESSONS CHRISTIAN BASED CLUBS CAMPS HOUSEPARTIES AND ACTIVITIES. TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF COURSES LECTURES PUBLICATIONS MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAINING EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTARY WORKERS OF THE CHARITY SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TEACHERS AND YOUTH WORKERS. TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND TRAINING IN DRAMA SPORT ART AND MUSIC. TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF EVENTS PROJECTS MISSIONS AND TRIPS WHETHER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR ABROAD TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST (WHETHER FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE) ANY OTHER CHARITIES, VOLUNTARY BODIES AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES OPERATING IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD IN FURTHERANCE OF THE OBJECT.

Activities: Connect Mid-Devon is a voluntary, ecumenical, Christian youth work project, based in Mid & West Devon. Connect trainees are volunteer trainee youth workers, who are undertaking formal youth work training, they are assisted by local associate youth workers. We support young people in four local Community Colleges by providing lesson support, extra curricular activities, and running youth groups.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED, IN PRACTICE
- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£18,023	£31,318	-	-
2024-08-31	£29,447	£30,292	-	-
2023-08-31	£22,182	£26,885	-	-
2022-08-31	£20,958	£32,975	-	-
2021-08-31	£38,360	£34,216	-	-
2020-08-31	£25,807	£21,725	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr John Paul King		2025-03-31
James David Gregory		2020-06-23
Rev Christopher Andrew Jackson		2025-03-31

Accounts



Partnering local churches, serving local communities.

Connect Mid-Devon

Annual Report 2023-24

Charity Number: 1126303

CONNECT CHAIR'S REPORT

Work in Schools

Our work across the four schools continues to go well, with an Associate Worker in place in each of the areas, supported by a trainee in Crediton and a volunteer in Chulmleigh.

The last two years have seen significant changes in the school teams.

In the spring of 2024, Sherrin unexpectedly stepped down from her role as a Methodist youth worker, which meant we also lost her as an Associate at Chulmleigh. By the end of the summer term, the youth worker role had been filled by Chris Boyle; he has since been joined at Chulmleigh by Mim Cassell, who is serving as a volunteer.

At the end of the summer term, we said 'Goodbye' to both our trainees, Kyra and Immanuel. Kyra had spent four years in Okehampton, where she has made a significant impact on the school and young people; Immanuel was in Crediton for a year and has now taken up a youth work role in his home country of Germany. Both will be missed.

In September we took on Will Jago as a trainee in Crediton. This means our schools work team is currently:

- **Chulmleigh:** Chris Boyle (AW) and Mim Cassell (volunteer)
- **Crediton:** Dave Poulson (AW) and Will Jago (trainee)
- **Holsworthy:** Ruth Jones (AW)
- **Okehampton:** Stephen Waters (AW)

Across the four schools, we continue to offer a wide range of options. These include lesson support (in RS and other subjects), mentoring, prayer spaces, CU groups, lunch clubs, helping on trips, leading an Easter service, and whatever else serves the needs of the schools, staff and students.

Trustees and Leadership Team

Our Trustees have also seen significant change. Several trustees have stepped down – Terry Nott, Janet May, Clarissa Vanstone, Lizz Williams, Jane Skinner and Jerry Bird. This has left us in a difficult position, and we have struggled to find new trustees to rebuild the team. Recently, however, we have been able to appoint Chris Jackson and John King, who join James Gregory.

Three trustees remains the absolute minimum, and leaves us vulnerable to unavailability or retirement, so we continue to look for more trustees. We have placed emphasis on finding trustees who are able to make direct contributions to the running of Connect, either through existing skills and experience, or through a willingness to take on specific roles within the team.

Over the last two years, we have restructured the ways in which Connect is steered. The model that we were using at the start of 2023 had become unwieldy, with the Trustees and Exec groups overlapping and duplicating their efforts, leading to miscommunication and frustration. In the summer of 2023, we dissolved the Exec group, shifting the responsibility for running Connect (as a charity) to the Trustees, and allowing the LSGs to focus on their teams and schools.

Whilst this took a significant workload away from members of the Exec, it also left them feeling 'out of the loop', and as we moved into 2025 we have restructured again. We now have a single

leadership group, made up of the Trustees, Officers (secretary and treasurer) and the Chairs of the four LSGs. We feel that this will avoid the issues that arose from having things split between Trustees and the Exec, whilst also ensuring that all areas of Connect feel part of the leadership conversation.

Finances

Towards the end of 2024, our treasurer Brian passed away. His role was temporarily taken on by Ally Partridge and has now been permanently filled by Rachel Setchfield.

Our financial position is not strong. Our predicted income for the coming year is much lower than it has been; coupled with depleted reserves, we are now at a point where we must find new funding, or significantly increase our existing streams, in order to reach a place of financial stability.

Unfortunately, this leaves us unable to take on a trainee for the 25/26 academic year, with the possibility that it may take some time before we can make any decisions about 26/27.

Looking Ahead

As with many other voluntary and charitable organisations, we find ourselves in difficult times, with both volunteers and finances in short supply. I am hopeful, however, that we have now turned a corner in recruiting for our leadership group, with two new trustees and a new treasurer now in place. I am confident that the new energy and confidence that they will bring to their roles will help us to become a more effective organisation, able to reach new supporters and uncover new sources of income to better support the work we're doing.

Our schools work teams continue to do excellent work across the four areas, and the relationships with the different schools remain strong. Our limitations are not ones of creativity, or of poor communication with schools and staff – instead, we're only limited by the number of high-quality school workers we can put in place, and it feels that this is a limitation that can be overcome.

So this is our most important prayer: that our team of trustees, volunteers and school workers would hear God's clear leading into the next season of growth for Connect, so that we might be ever better positioned to serve our schools, staff, students and ultimately, his kingdom.

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1126303

**CONNECT MID-DEVON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

CONNECT MID-DEVON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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CONNECT MID-DEVON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees	Terence Nott Rev. Christopher Jackson (appointed 31 March 2025) Dr John King (appointed 31 March 2025) James Gregory
Registered Charity No.	1126303
Contact Address	Crediton Congregational Church High Street Crediton Devon EX17 3LF
Accountant	Terry Bridle FMAAT 123 Greystone Walk Cullompton Devon EX15 1GZ

CONNECT MID-DEVON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report on the Financial Statements
of Connect Mid-Devon**

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

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- * the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- * the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- * the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



.....
Terry Bridle FMAAT
123 Greystone Walk
Cullompton
Devon
EX15 1GZ

Dated: 25 May 2025

CONNECT MID-DEVON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Receipts:				
Personal gifts	5,409.03	-	5,409.03	5,564.06
Personal gifts (Gift Aid)	493.75	-	493.75	1,770.92
Church gifts	3,933.90	-	3,933.90	5,025.00
Grants and awards	16,960.00	-	16,960.00	5,000.00
Fundraising events	2,546.30	-	2,546.30	4,265.34
Interest received	104.12	-	104.12	-
Sundry income	-	-	-	200.00
Total receipts	<u>29,447.10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,447.10</u>	<u>21,825.32</u>
Payments:				
Youthwork expenses	174.94	-	174.94	752.31
Associate workers	12,300.00	-	12,300.00	16,400.00
Training fees (SWYN)	8,100.00	-	8,100.00	3,100.00
Host allowance	7,900.00	-	7,900.00	3,300.00
Vehicle and travelling expenses	681.26	-	681.26	963.07
Insurance	350.00	-	350.00	350.00
Publicity and website	66.00	-	66.00	-
Fundraising expenses	-	-	-	30.41
Accountancy and bookkeeping fees	-	-	-	1,123.20
Bank charges and commercial card fees	253.50	-	253.50	(304.38)
General administrative expenses	-	-	-	409.50
Sundry expenses	466.43	-	466.43	403.88
Total payments	<u>30,292.13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,292.13</u>	<u>26,527.99</u>
Net income / (loss) for the period	<u>(845.03)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(845.03)</u>	<u>(4,702.67)</u>

CONNECT MID-DEVON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Balance Sheet

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets:					
Debtors	2	350.00	-	350.00	56.88
Bank current account		16,091.87	-	16,091.87	26,184.14
Bank savings account		15,104.12	-	15,104.12	-
		<u>31,545.99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,545.99</u>	<u>26,241.02</u>
Current liabilities:					
Creditors	3	6,150.00	-	6,150.00	-
		<u>6,150.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,150.00</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>25,395.99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,395.99</u>	<u>26,241.02</u>
Reserves:					
Brought forward at 31 August 2023		26,241.02	-	26,241.02	30,943.69
Net income / (loss) for the period		(845.03)	-	(845.03)	(4,702.67)
Carried forward at 31 August 2024		<u>25,395.99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,395.99</u>	<u>26,241.02</u>

CONNECT MID-DEVON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Charitable objectives

The advancement for the public benefit of religious or other education and the promotion and advancement of the Christian religion the workshop of God and the spreading of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and without prejudice of the generality of the foregoing the promotion fostering and facilitating of the knowledge and practice of the Christian faith amongst young people of school age and both within and without schools colleges and other educational establishments (and thereby assist in ensuring that due attention is given to the spiritual social and moral education and development of young people as well as to the development and occupation of their minds and bodies) and with a view to furthering this object the Trustees shall also have the power to provide or assist in the provision of school assemblies lessons Christian based clubs camps house parties and activities

To provide or assist in the provision of courses lectures publications materials and equipment for the purpose of training employees and voluntary workers of the Charity school and college teachers and youth workers.

To provide or assist in the provision of facilities and training in drama sport art and music.

To provide or assist in the provision of events projects missions and trips whether in the United Kingdom or abroad to support and assist (whether financial or otherwise) any other Charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in any part of the world in furtherance of the object.

2 Debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Refund due from trainee's hosts (Okehampton)	350.00	56.88
	<u>350.00</u>	<u>56.88</u>

3 Creditors and accruals

	2024	2023
	£	£
2nd Yearly Payment to local churches	6,150.00	-
	<u>6,150.00</u>	<u>-</u>

Accounts

Connect Mid-Devon

Charity number: 1126303



Trustees' report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

Connect Mid-Devon

Legal and administrative information

Charity number: 1126303

Registered office:

99 High Street
Crediton
Devon
EX17 3LF

Trustees:

Terence Nott
Revd Nick Weldon
Janet Browne
Kevin Ball
Elizabeth Williams
James Gregory

Chair of trustees
Vice Chair of Trustees
Chair of Executive Committee

Independent Examiner:

Magnus Proctor FFA
Lindisfarne
Landkey Road
Barnstaple
Devon
EX32 9BW

Bankers:

HSBC
250 High Street
Exeter
Devon
EX4 3PZ

Connect Mid-Devon

Report of the trustees For the year ended 31 August 2021

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are as set out on the information page.

Structure, governance and management

Structure

Connect Mid-Devon ("Connect") is a charitable trust formed by Trust Deed made 3 October 2008.

Governance and management

The Trustees entrust the management of the charity to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is therefore responsible for the written policies under which the charity operates and the day to day decision making. The Trustees are appointed as and when required, from long-standing Executive Committee members, people with significant experience in the youth work field, and prominent local clergy/church members. The Executive Committee is appointed from local clergy, church members and people with relevant qualifications/experience associated with the roles undertaken. Working under the Executive Committee are Local Support Groups in each of the three areas who are tasked with supporting the volunteer trainee youth workers ("trainees") in their studies, providing spiritual support and enabling the trainees to undertake the work of Connect in their local area. This local support helps to ensure that the work of Connect is carried out in a suitable manner for each of the schools.

Objectives and activities

Connect is a voluntary Christian ecumenical youth project. Connect now works within four secondary schools in Mid and West Devon: at Chulmleigh Community College, Okehampton College, Queen Elizabeth's Academy in Crediton and now Holsworthy Community College. The charity's objectives are achieved by placing qualified and trainee youth workers in each of the four schools. The mission statement and aim of Connect is to:

- Demonstrate Christ's love for young people.
- Offer support on behalf of Mid & West Devon's churches to each community college in each area in developing young people mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially.
- Encourage young people to work out, own, and stand for their Christian faith among their peers, in their school and community.

Activities

Connect works in partnership with and on behalf of the local church community in each of the catchment areas. In order to enact the charity's objectives the Connect team of volunteers have undertaken activities such as the following this year:

- Lesson support
- Run lunch-time clubs
- After school activities
- Taking assemblies
- Supporting local youth provision
- Taking part in a local youth mentoring programme
- Encouraging rural churches in youth mission

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 in regard to the public benefit requirement.

Connect Mid-Devon

Achievements and performance

As the lockdown strived to impact on our work, we responded by trying to maintain relationships with churches, schools and communities with offers of continuing support as and when possible. Whilst three associate workers were furloughed, three others and Lydia, our trainee, have continued working within the restrictions and boundaries we uphold for use of social media.

Our youth work team has seen substantial change in the past year as we saw the departure of our much-valued Jonathan Schnarr. He started training with us and then went on to become such a generous and effective associate worker. Thankfully, we had two new associate workers join, Paul Reisbach in Okehampton and Sherrin Neenan in Chulmleigh. For this next year, Chulmleigh will no longer have Nick Jefferson in the school. I would like to thank him on behalf of everyone in Connect for the dedicated service he gave to the school over many years. We are delighted that the team there will not be diminished as Lydia is transferring there to work alongside Janet May and Sherrin. There will also be a new trainee in Crediton called Libby to work with Dave Poulson and Kez. It doesn't end there as we are hopeful to have another trainee start in Okehampton in September. Altogether we will have nine in our team of volunteer youth workers.

In the first half-of this year, we had the GSUS trailer which was very well received in each of the colleges it visited. A big thank you to our youth workers supported by local volunteers, who put in extra hours to enable as many students as possible to benefit from the teaching. The work also developed across the different schools through individual mentoring of students as well as more involvement and teaching in lessons including Beliefs and Values, Technology and PSHE.

As Connect has been blessed with more activity and youth workers, you don't need me to remind you we live in a very complex world which requires more and more management alongside specific challenges unknown in our lifetimes. In October we delivered training in mentoring to the team which was well-received. Now we are subscribing to the organisation 'Thirty-One: Eight' to ensure we have the highest possible standard of Policies and procedures for safeguarding and use of social media. We will follow that with training updates in September. I'd like to thank Esther Dodden who has offered to help with administration although the lockdown has hindered us in progressing with this as much as we would have liked.

Our Trustees are actively engaged in supporting all our work as we build a stronger team, able to build deeper relationships within Connect as well as with our partner churches and other charities, particularly those who employ our Associate Youth Workers. To this end we plan to make more of our Commissioning Service in September by following that with time to meet each other and chat over a cream tea, of course (you're all invited!).

In addition, we will look for how to build-in closer working practices with our partners.

Whilst I feel privileged to serve the Lord in my present capacity, the workload is unsustainable without regular reliable help. In addition, the amount of necessary work which routes through me is an organisational weakness. You have not had a vice-chair for a year, neither do we have a Social Media Officer, both of which would make a substantial difference to the effectiveness of running Connect. I greatly appreciate the members of the Executive Committee, some of which are working full-time as well as volunteering for Connect. They make a highly motivated, responsible and hard-working team. I very much hope that people come forward to join us in this service.

Our treasurer, Marcus Down, has regrettably resigned due to the time demands of the role. He has served us well through a difficult transition and we are enormously grateful to him. We are actively looking for a new treasurer and Marcus has kindly offered to assist them as they take up post. There are a number of elements to this role, some of which could be fulfilled by another person if one becomes available.

Connect Mid-Devon

Each of these roles are opportunities which, when filled, will grow the work for Christ. Without them we are limited. Please make this a matter for prayer and tell others who may be motivated to join us or support us by using their gifting.

Financial review

Income

Connect Mid-Devon received 25% (2020: 40%) of its support during the year from local churches and 37% (2020: 49%) from personal donations. Together these account for 62% (2020: 90%) of the charity's total income for the year. During the year to 31 August 2021 Connect received grant funding of £12,147 (2020: £nil). Income increased by 48% for the year to 31 August 2021

It is the continuing support of the local church community that has allowed the charity to continue throughout this financial year.

Expenditure

The main expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2021 continues to be the training fees and allowances for the Connect trainees, along with the contributions payable to the employers of the associate workers.

Results

As noted above, the charity's income level has increased this year by 48%. There is a surplus for the year of £4,134 (2020: £5,249). The Executive Committee are fully aware that if the charity were to be at full capacity with trainees it will need to continue to seek and encourage further financial support from local churches across all four areas and through additional fundraising events etc. All of this will help to secure the long-term viability of the charity.

Reserves

The surplus has again allowed the charity to maintain its cash reserves and therefore continue in existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees and Executive Committee look to provide a reserve equivalent to 3-4 months expenditure at minimum (approximately £10,000). The charity is aware that its current reserves considerably exceed this amount. However, it is also aware that should it have been operating at full capacity, as it would hope to be, reserves would now be significantly lower. The charity always seeks to be operating at full capacity at the start of each academic year. The current reserves balance allows us to continue seeking to do this, free from financial worry at the present time.

Connect Mid-Devon

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

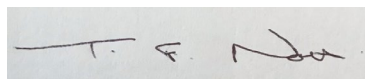
The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



7th June 2022

..... Date:

Terence Nott
Chair of Trustees

Connect Mid-Devon

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Connect Mid-Devon.

I report on the accounts of Connect Mid-Devon for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on the following pages.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention,

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



..... 20th May 2022

Magnus Proctor FFA

Independent Examiner

Lindisfarne, Landkey Road, Barnstaple, EX32 9BW



partnering local churches ~ serving local communities

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st August 2021

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Receipts				
Personal Gifts	11,179.43		11,179.43	12,751.62
Personal gifts: Gift Aid	3,023.33		3,023.33	0.00
Personal Gifts Total	14,202.76	0.00	14,202.76	12,751.62
Church Gifts Total	9,425.00		9,425.00	10,579.17
Interest	0.04		0.04	0.92
Grants	12,147.00		12,147.00	0.00
Fundraising events	2,220.00		2,220.00	1,676.50
Sundry Income	364.92		364.92	299.28
Gsus Bus	0.00		0.00	500.00
Total receipts	38,359.72	0.00	38,359.72	25,807.49
Payments				
Youthwork Expenses	100.98		100.98	0.00
Subsistence	1,870.00		1,870.00	2,970.00
Associate Workers	15,789.35		15,789.35	12,588.13
Training Fees (SWYM)	7,300.00		7,300.00	1,100.00
Other Training Expenses	258.00		258.00	689.10
Host Allowance	6,299.77		6,299.77	2,100.00
Car Expenses (Exc. Fuel)	577.26		577.26	49.95
Fuel	508.78		508.78	0.00
Travel	163.55		163.55	0.00
Insurance	335.00		335.00	335.00
Publicity & Website	21.59		21.59	15.59
Accountancy Fees	918.00		918.00	100.00
Bank Charges/Commercial card	64.00		64.00	601.12
Sundry Expenses	10.00		10.00	10.00
Total payments	34,216.28	0.00	34,216.28	20,558.89
Net receipts / (payments)	4,143.44	0.00	4,143.44	5,248.60
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	38,697.38	119.85	38,817.23	34,734.63
Total funds carried forward	42,840.82	119.85	42,960.67	39,983.23

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st August 2021

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank				
Business Money Manager Account	42,840.82	119.85	42,960.67	39,983.23

Notes to the accounts:

- Analysis of Sundry Income**

Overpaid Host Payment	200.00
Car expenses paid back to Connect	175.47
	<u>375.47</u>
- Analysis of Sundry Expenses**

Stopped cheque	10.00
	<u>10.00</u>
- Restricted funds**

The LSG in Okehampton, along with other local churches have started to hold a Youth Service 2-3 times a year. A donation originally of £214.08 was given towards this initiative by a local church. Due to the project not yet having it's own bank account, Connect accepted the gift on it's behalf. Connect will make payments as requested by Oke LSG for relevant costs of the project up to the amount donated. Connect therefore holds the money on behalf of Oke LSG and will transfer any remaining balance to a separate account should the project take off. Should the project not be successful the donor has requested that the amount be retained and used by Connect centrally as it sees fit.

Accounts

Connect Mid-Devon

Charity number: 1126303

Okehampton
Devon



Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2020

Connect Mid-Devon

Legal and administrative information

Charity number : 1126303

Registered office:
99 High Street
Credton
Devon
EX17 3LF

Trustees:
Kevin Ball
Revd Nick Weldon
Janet Browne
Terence Nott
Elizabeth Williams
James Gregory

Chair of trustees
Vice Chair of Trustees
Chair of Executive Committee

Independent Examiner:
Magnus Proctor FFA
Lindisfarne
Landkey Road
Barnstaple
Devon
EX32 9BW

Bankers:
HSBC
250 High Street
Exeter
Devon
EX4 3PZ

Connect Mid-Devon

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 August 2020

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are as set out on the information page.

Structure, governance and management

Structure

Connect Mid-Devon ("Connect") is a charitable trust formed by Trust Deed made 3 October 2008.

Governance and management

The Trustees entrust the management of the charity to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is therefore responsible for the written policies under which the charity operates and the day to day decision making. The Trustees are appointed as and when required, from long-standing Executive Committee members, people with significant experience in the youth work field, and prominent local clergy/church members. The Executive Committee is appointed from local clergy, church members and people with relevant qualifications/experience associated with the roles undertaken. Working under the Executive Committee are Local Support Groups in each of the three areas who are tasked with supporting the volunteer trainee youth workers ("trainees") in their studies, providing spiritual support and enabling the trainees to undertake the work of Connect in their local area. This local support helps to ensure that the work of Connect is carried out in a suitable manner for each of the schools.

Objectives and activities

Connect is a voluntary Christian ecumenical youth project. Connect now works within four secondary schools in Mid and West Devon: at Chulmleigh Community College, Okehampton College, Queen Elizabeth's Academy in Crediton and now Holsworthy Community College. The charity's objectives are achieved by placing qualified and trainee youth workers in each of the four schools. The mission statement and aim of Connect is to:

- ☐ Demonstrate Christ's love for young people.
- ☐ Offer support on behalf of Mid & West Devon's churches to each community college in each area in developing young people mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially.
- ☐ Encourage young people to work out, own, and stand for their Christian faith among their peers, in their school and community.

Activities

Connect works in partnership with and on behalf of the local church community in each of the catchment areas. In order to enact the charity's objectives the Connect team of volunteers have undertaken activities such as the following this year:

- ☐ Lesson support
- ☐ Run lunch-time clubs
- ☐ After school activities
- ☐ Taking assemblies
- ☐ Supporting local youth provision
- ☐ Taking part in a local youth mentoring programme
- ☐ Encouraging rural churches in youth mission

Connect Mid-Devon

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 in regard to the public benefit requirement.

Achievements and performance

As the lockdown due to COVID strived to impact on our work, we responded by trying to maintain relationships with churches, schools and communities with offers of continuing support as and when possible. Whilst three associate workers were furloughed, three others and Lydia, our trainee, have continued working within the restrictions and boundaries we uphold for use of social media.

Our youth work team has seen substantial change in the past year as we saw the departure of our much-valued Jonathan Schnarr. He started training with us and then went on to become such a generous and effective associate worker. Thankfully, we had two new associate workers join, Paul Reisbach in Okehampton and Sherrin Neenan in Chulmleigh. For this next year, Chulmleigh will no longer have Nick Jefferson in the school. I would like to thank him on behalf of everyone in Connect for the dedicated service he gave to the school over many years. We are delighted that the team there will not be diminished as Lydia is transferring there to work alongside Janet May and Sherrin. There will also be a new trainee in Crediton called Libby to work with Dave Poulson and Kez. It doesn't end there as we are hopeful to have another trainee start in Okehampton in September. Altogether we will have nine in our team of volunteer youth workers.

In the first half-of this year, we had the GSUS trailer which was very well received in each of the colleges it visited. A big thank you to our youth workers supported by local volunteers, who put in extra hours to enable as many students as possible to benefit from the teaching. The work also developed across the different schools through individual mentoring of students as well as more involvement and teaching in lessons including Beliefs and Values, Technology and PSHE.

As Connect has been blessed with more activity and youth workers, you don't need me to remind you we live in a very complex world which requires more and more management alongside specific challenges unknown in our lifetimes. In October we delivered training in mentoring to the team which was well-received. Now we are subscribing to the organisation 'Thirty-One: Eight' to ensure we have the highest possible standard of Policies and procedures for safeguarding and use of social media. We will follow that with training updates in September. I'd like to thank Esther Dodden who has offered to help with administration although the lockdown has hindered us in progressing with this as much as we would have liked.

Our Trustees are actively engaged in supporting all our work as we build a stronger team, able to build deeper relationships within Connect as well as with our partner churches and other charities, particularly those who employ our Associate Youth Workers. We will continue to look for how to build-in closer working practices within the organisation and our partners.

There are challenges with "manpower" within Connect. We have not had an Executive Committee vice-chair for a year, and neither do we have a Social Media Officer, both of which would make a substantial difference to the effectiveness of running Connect. That's not to say the members of the Executive Committee aren't appreciated – they really are. Some of which are working full-time as well as volunteering for Connect. They make a highly motivated, responsible and hard-working team. We also would benefit from additional Trustees. I just hope that we can encourage new people come forward to join us in this service both at Trustee and local level.

Our treasurer, Marcus Down, has regrettably resigned due to the time demands of the role. He has served us well through a difficult transition and we are enormously grateful to him. We are

Connect Mid-Devon

actively looking for a new treasurer and Marcus has kindly offered to assist them as they take up post. There are a number of elements to this role, some of which could be fulfilled by another person if one becomes available.

COVID has caused us some challenges, however we continue to press in, so the over all aims of being a Christian presence within our schools can be maintained.

Financial review

Income

Connect Mid-Devon received 40% (2019: 51%) of its support during the year from local churches and 49% (2019: 32%) from personal donations. Together these account for 90% (2019: 83%) of the charity's total income for the year. During the year to 31 August 2019 Connect received grant funding of £nil (2019: £2,589. Income decreased by 8% for the year to 31 August 2020

It is the continuing support of the local church community that has allowed the charity to continue throughout this financial year.

Expenditure

The main expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2020 continues to be the training fees and allowances for the Connect trainees, along with the contributions payable to the employers of the associate workers.

Results

As noted above, the charity's income level has decreased this year by 8% . There is a surplus for the year of £4,082 (2018: Deficit £12,273). The Executive Committee are fully aware that if the charity were to be at full capacity with trainees it will need to continue to seek and encourage further financial support from local churches across all four areas and through additional fundraising events etc. All of this will help to secure the long-term viability of the charity.

Reserves

The surplus has again allowed the charity to maintain its cash reserves and therefore continue in existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees and Executive Committee look to provide a reserve equivalent to 3-4 months expenditure at minimum (approximately £10,000). The charity is aware that its current reserves considerably exceed this amount. However, it is also aware that should it have been operating at full capacity, as it would hope to be, reserves would now be significantly lower. The charity always seeks to be operating at full capacity at the start of each academic year. The current reserves balance allows us to continue seeking to do this, free from financial worry at the present time.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity's financial activities

Connect Mid-Devon

during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees are required to:

- ☐ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ☐ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- ☐ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



.....

30/06/2021

..... Date:

Kevin Ball
Chair of Trustees

Connect Mid-Devon

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Connect Mid-Devon.

I report on the accounts of Connect Mid-Devon for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on the following pages.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- ☐ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention,

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....th 16 June 2021

Magnus Proctor FFA
Independent Examiner
Lindisfarne, Landkey Road, Barnstaple, EX32 9BW

Receipts & Payments for Y/E 31/08/20

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Receipts			
Personal Gifts	less gift aid	12,751.62	9,028.17
Personal gifts: Gift Aid		0.00	0.00
Personal Gifts Total	0.49	12,751.62	9,028.17
Church Gifts Total	0.409926343	10,579.17	14,339.08
	23,330.79		
Interest	0.904031737	0.92	0.84
Grants		0.00	2,588.96
Fundraising events		1,676.50	1,259.08
Fundraising expenses		0.00	0.00
Sundry Income		299.28	1,300.82
Gsus Bus		500.00	(500.00)
	2,209.46	25,807.49	28,016.95
Payments			
	0.08		
Youthwork Expenses		0.00	252.84
Subsistence		2,970.00	3,740.00
Associate Workers		12,588.13	20,500.00
Training Fees (SWYM)		1,100.00	6,320.00
Other Training Expenses		689.10	0.00
Host Allowance		2,100.00	6,600.00
Mobile Phones		0.00	0.00
Car Expenses (Exc. Fuel)		49.95	177.75
Fuel		0.00	831.58
Car Insurance		0.00	0.00
Travel		0.00	0.00
Insurance		335.00	335.00
Office Costs		0.00	25.69
PPS		0.00	0.00
Publicity & Website		15.59	658.48
Accountancy Fees		100.00	0.00
Bank Charges/Commercial card		601.12	542.18
Sundry Expenses		1,176.00	306.50
		21,724.89	40,290.02
Excess receipts over payments		4,082.60	(12,273.07)
Balance of accounts at 1 September 2019			
Community Account		34,734.63	
Business Money Manager Account		-	
Held on account for Oke LSG	3	(119.85)	34,614.78
Excess receipts over payments for y/e 31/08/20		4,082.60	
Total Capital		38,697.38	
Represented by:			
Capital as at 31 August 2020			
Community Account		38,817.23	
Business Money Manager Account		0.00	
Held on account for Oke LSG	3	(119.85)	38,697.38



partnering local churches – serving local communities

Receipts & Payments for Y/E 31/08/20

Notes to the accounts:

1.	Analysis of Sundry Income	
	Lydia Mason Car repayment due to personal mileage	299.28
	@ 17p per mile.	
2.	Analysis of Sundry Expenses	
	Cancelled cheque, bank charge	10.00
	Treasurers Consideration	666.00
	Gsus Bus	500.00
		<u>1176.00</u>
3.	Oke Youth Service Initiative (Restricted Funds)	Reconciliation/Restricted Funds Movement:-
	The LSG in Okehampton, along with other local churches have started to hold a Youth Service 2-3 times a year. A donation originally of £214.08 was given towards this initiative by a local church. Due to the project not yet having it's own bank account, Connect accepted the gift on it's behalf. Connect will make payments as requested by Oke LSG for relevant costs of the project up to the amount donated. Connect therefore holds the money on behalf of Oke LSG and will transfer any remaining balance to a separate account should the project take off. Should the project not be successful the donor has requested that the amount be retained and used by Connect centrally as it sees fit.	
	Opening Balance	119.85
	Closing Balance	119.85