

Company Registration Number 06751712
Charity Registration Number 1127204

The Ascension Trust

Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2023



The Ascension Trust

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Reference and Administrative Details

Company Registration Number 06751712
Charity Registration Number 1127204

Trustees:

Mr O Ladega, Chair
Dr C C Ekhaton Deputy Chair
Rev L W Isaac OBE (President)
Mrs C Cato
Mr T Mathias-Nwaulune
Ms J Hedman
Rev A M Bacon
Mr C R Donnan (Appointed on 28 November 2023)
Mr J O Ogunji (Appointed on 28 November 2023)

Secretary:

Mr A W H Crow

Chief Executive Officer:

Mr B H Pal

Registered Office:

Alpha House
Alpha Place,
58 Garth Road,
Morden, Surrey SM4 4TQ

Independent Examiner:

Fred Lamprey & Co,
Chartered Certified Accountants,
26 Felstead Way
Luton, LU2 7LH

The Ascension Trust Annual Report 2023

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and Independent Examiner's report of The Ascension Trust (hereinafter called "AT") for the year ended 31 December 2023. This Report and the Accounts have been prepared to comply with the SORP FRS 102.

Structure, governance and management

AT is a charitable company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on the 8 October 2008. It has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £10. Prior to this, AT was a charitable trust but converted to a Charitable Company limited by guarantee due to the rapid expansion of the Trust.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

AT is run by a board of directors which comprises nine directors (Trustees). The Trustees are both Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the Company. Where there is a need for new Trustees, these would be identified and appointed by the current Trustees.

Organisational Structure

At present, the nine Trustees come from a variety of professional backgrounds, each relevant to the activities of the charity. The Board of Trustees meets at least four times a year, receiving reports from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) about the activities of the charity through its various projects set out below.

The day-to-day management of the organisation is shouldered by a staff team, headed by the CEO. Such day-to-day management is supervised by the CEO and a Senior Management Team (SMT) that includes the Chief Operations Officer, the Legal & Policy Officer, Finance Manager, Office Manager and a volunteer legal consultant, the Company Secretary.

The SMT receives regular reports (at least monthly) from the Finance Manager and serious consideration is given to the state of the charity's finances with appropriate reports being made to the Board of Directors for decisions to be made for the continuing financial viability of the charity. The remuneration of the paid SMT members is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees who takes into consideration the level of pay accorded to people in similar positions within the Third Sector.

The charity wholly owns its subsidiary trading company, Ascension Commercial Ltd, of which the CEO is also a director. The principal business of the trading subsidiary is the supply of uniforms to Street Pastors, School and College Pastors, Rail Pastors, and Response Pastors together with merchandise that promotes the work of the charity through its various initiatives.

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Induction and training of trustees

The chair of Trustees is responsible for the induction of any new Trustee. This involves awareness training of a Trustee's duties and responsibilities, the governing document, administrative procedures, as well as the history and ethos of the charity. A new Trustee will also receive a copy of the charity's governing document and the previous year's annual report and a copy of the Charity Commission leaflet 'The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do.'

Public benefit

AT has a number of schemes in operation which actively serve the public, namely Street Pastors, Response Pastors, School and College Pastors, Urban Youth Mission, Rail Pastors, the 60/40 Youth Project, the Synergy Network, Oyibi Project, Five2Medics and The Beacon Project, and Bridge Watch. More details are provided below.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Objectives and activities

The principal objective of AT concerns the advancement of the community through outreach and training. Each year the trustees review the objectives and activities to ensure that they continue to reflect our aims. During this review, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The aims of AT as set out in the charity's Memorandum of Association are summarised as follows:

- (a) To advance the Christian faith.
- (b) To relieve sickness and financial hardship.
- (c) To promote and preserve good physical, mental and emotional health.

This is achieved in the following ways:

- For the benefit of the public, transforming the direction of not only somebody's night but somebody's life.
- Offering human contact which reduces social isolation and provides connection within communities.
- Strengthening and preserving good physical, mental and emotional health of communities.

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- By the use of volunteers, influencing and giving power to individuals over own lives and communities.
- Building strong resilient communities.
- Building positive relationships with the police, Local Authorities and those who wish to partner with the Trust to reduce the challenges which is faced by all communities.

AT has demonstrated its power and ability to mobilise communities and build positive relationships with its partners, particularly the Police, local authorities and churches that together we call 'The Urban Trinity'.

As set out below (Achievements and Performance), the charity aims to ensure and increase the safety of communities in the night-time economy, safety in schools and colleges, to prevent suicides at train stations, to support and counsel those traumatised by national tragic events, engaging young people in positive community activities rather than gang-related violence and drawing out the enormous potential that young people have to impact their peers and the wider community for good, building solidarity and cooperation between charities, community agencies, the police and local authorities in addressing all the above issues. More details are given in the "Achievements and Performance" section below.

Volunteers

Volunteers perform a key task on behalf of AT. They are therefore central to meeting the aims and objectives of AT. It would be impossible to deliver our mission without them. At present, there are approximately 14,000 trained volunteers in England and Wales working for local charities operating under the AT umbrella as Street Pastors, School and College Pastors, Rail Pastors and Response Pastors. AT aims to sustain and increase its volunteer base. AT aims, through its social action initiatives, to train individuals for relevant and informed interaction at local, national and international levels.

Achievements and performance

Training

AT through its social action initiatives aims to train individuals for relevant and informed interaction at local, national and international levels.

- A number of new Street Pastors were added to the pool of Street Pastors serving UK during 2023. The individuals training were able to attend and complete their training through the Ascension Trust Online Training. The online training was launched in October 2020 with the hope of delivering training to all for Street Pastors, School, Leadership courses, Equality course and other bespoke training courses to both our Pastor's initiatives and to the public in general.

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- New School Pastors trained online alongside Street Pastors in mental health, youth culture and listening skills in 2023.
- In person training events took place across the networks in the areas of Roles & Responsibilities, Refresher courses and School Pastors.

Projects

Street Pastors

Street Pastors are trained volunteers who typically patrol the streets between the hours of 10pm and 4am (although this varies in some areas according to local needs). At present there are approximately 230 local initiatives up and down the country and more internationally. (Website: www.streetpastors.org.uk -)

Response Pastors

Response Pastors deliver help to those who are traumatised by major disasters at events such as terrorist attacks, crashes and other incidents. They were last deployed for the Queen's lying in state and funeral.

School and College Pastors

As of 31 December 2023, there were 31 initiatives in the UK. School Pastors meet students at the school gate, at the bus stop and go into schools with a caring and listening ear, ready to help staff in encouraging young people who are hurting and vulnerable. (Website: www.schoolpastors.org.uk -)

Rail Pastors

Rail Pastors help to patrol on platforms and like Street Pastors they listen, care and help, thereby reducing risk maintaining the safety and wellbeing of the travellers.

60/40 Youth Project

Working in partnership with the Lambeth Methodist Circuit, and Young Life International, this project equips young people in the Borough of Lambeth to realise their full potential and develop as responsible members of their community. Two full time youth workers are working within the church and wider community to equip and empower young people to play their part in community life.

The Synergy Network

AT leads this network bringing together organisations and individuals to work collaboratively to address youth violence. Currently working in London, relationship is key as we are stronger together. The Synergy Network brings all voices to the table so that we unite behind one cry to bring peace and hope back to our streets and community.

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Five2Medics/The AT Beacon Project

Building wellness and resilience in communities facing challenges, disadvantage and requiring support, Five2Medics aim to improve lives, dismantle health inequalities and disparities and to reduce the impact of physical, psychological and social issues.

- Five2Medics deliver projects and initiatives that ease the health burdens on systems, communities and individuals.
- We promote health, dismantle misinformation and protect wellbeing in response to societal challenges, inequities, disadvantage and deprivation.
- We deliver these initiatives in partnership with key stakeholders through Commissioning, Collaboration, Partnership and Enterprise.

The AT Beacon Project is working currently across Lambeth, having Health and Well-being Hubs, providing access to trusted sources on health and well-being. The AT Beacon Project supports people to make healthy choices, provides mental health and peer support, and facilitates education and webinars for churches, faith groups and local communities. (website: www.atbeaconproject.org) The Project works closely with Lambeth Public Health and Impact on Urban Health It has operated a joint initiative with the Alexander Rose Charity on the charity's Fruit & Veg Rose Voucher Scheme providing a fruit and vegetables on prescription. The AT Beacon Project works with a number of other organisations. A key objective of its work is to build **trust** in Black and other ethnic minority communities in Lambeth.

Bridge Watch

AT is working with a number of agencies including the RNLI, the Port of London Authority, the Police, the Fire Brigade, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and the City of London Corporation to provide a service through volunteers who patrol the Thames bridges in London where there have been frequent suicides with a view to seeking to prevent these happening. Volunteers have been trained and the first patrol on one of the bridges took place in December 2023. Funding has been provided by the City Bridge Trust for £65,000 over 2 years payable in quarterly instalments.

Overseas Mission

This year, AT organised a mission to Ghana in October with a team of 17 individuals which included doctors, nurses, an ophthalmologist and a pharmacist as well as ministers of religion and other professionals. This was the mission team's first return to Ghana since the COVID-19 pandemic and included the resumption of work with the Kayayei Youth Association (KYA) based in the Agboghloshie area of Accra, and a return to the central region village of Beman Fawomanyo.

During the two days at the Old Fadama Clinic in Agboghloshie, mission team members worked alongside the KYA, officials from the Ghanaian National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and workers at the Old Fadama Clinic providing health checks whilst 315 Kayayei women and children were registered with the NHIS after sponsorship by the Ascension Trust.

The mission team spent three days in the village of Beman Fawomanyo where the medical practitioners held health clinics supported in the work by a medical team from a neighbouring village. The education team was led across the three days by an educational consultant and former executive

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head teacher from the UK who worked alongside teaching staff at the village school demonstrating how STEM could be embedded in the curriculum across age groups, with limited resources. At the end of their time in Breman Fawomanyo the mission team left educational and medical resources, including exercise books for each of the school's pupils, text books and equipment for the continuation of the STEM work at the village school; blood pressure monitoring machines for the local health team, and clothing for the local villagers.

Oyibi Project

Situated in Greater Accra region, Ghana, Oyibi is working with exploited young women.

Principal funding sources

Although we generate income by way of donations from the public and churches, the principal funding source for the charity are contributions from its various initiatives (including Street Pastors Initiatives) in the form of licence fees. The licence fee income, when compared to the previous years has reduced. However, we would like to thank our initiatives who, notwithstanding their stressed financial circumstances, continue to contribute to the central funds so that AT can maintain its services to the whole network. AT Beacon has received substantial grants to fund its work.

The Board and its Finance Sub-Committee remains vigilant in their commitment to the work of AT, seeking to identify new opportunities to increase revenue and to review fundraising options.

We acknowledge and thank all those individuals, churches, and companies, who have supported the work of Ascension Trust in the past years through their kind donations of funds, advice and time.

Our specific thanks to the following organisations:

Church Communities UK	St Marks Kennington PCC
Christian Life Fellowship	Parochial Church Council
The Jerusalem Trust	New Testament Church of God
Micah Christian	Berrymead Evangelical Church
The Apostolic Church	Perry Rise Baptist Church
Christ Church Purley	

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Financial Review

The charity's financial position at the end of the year ended 31 December 2023

The financial position of the charity at 31 December 2023 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income	<u>19,813</u>	<u>97,061</u>
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available For the general purposes of the charity	919,355	885,461
Restricted Revenue Funds	<u>26,311</u>	<u>40,392</u>
Total Funds	<u>945,666</u>	<u>925,853</u>

Reserves

The Management and Trustees examined the charity's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by AT is not less than 12 months of expenditure. This will allow AT to function properly, even if there is a significant downturn in income in the present economic circumstances. As at 31 December 2023, Ascension Trust had free reserves, being unrestricted funds not designated for a specific purpose, totalling **£919,355** (2022: £885,461). This represents about 11 months of expected overhead expenditure.

The Management and Trustees acknowledge the significant shortfall of its target level and plan to continue to build reserves through operating surpluses and targeted funding applications. In the short term, the Management and Trustees have also considered the extent to which existing activities and expenditure could be curtailed, should such circumstances arise.

Investment policy and objectives

To date there has been very little financial headroom to consider any significant long-term investment opportunities. The Senior Management Team and Trustees remain active in exploring ways to improve the returns on cash reserves.

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Major risks and management of those risks

The CEO, along with the directors, routinely examines the business, reputation and operational risks when preparing strategic plans and budgets, and when considering forthcoming projects. In particular, AT is aware of the risks involved in working with its various constituencies, including:

- i. Associated projects around the UK
- ii. Vulnerable people including young people
- iii. Individual Street Pastors
- iv. Financial procedures
- v. International development

The SMT reviews the financial position of the charity on a monthly basis with the Finance Manager. The CEO seeks to raise funds in the many meetings he has across the UK. The Finance team regularly chase local Street Pastor initiatives for the payment of licence fees. The Board of Trustees receives financial reports at each of their meetings and will advise the CEO of strategies that need to be undertaken to address potential shortfalls in income. The Board of Trustees is aware of the pattern of the plateauing of licence fee income from the longer established Street Pastor initiatives. The CEO and members of the SMT regularly speak to the coordinators and Chairs of the Management Teams and, where necessary and possible, meet with local initiatives to stimulate growth through fresh outworking of local charitable objectives.

A careful watch is kept upon the use of uniforms by local initiatives to ensure no undermining of AT's reputation or brands. Furthermore, AT carries out Quality Assurance Reviews with local initiatives, particularly where concerns arise in dealings between AT and a local initiative.

The Refresher courses address the key issue of safety on the streets for all our Street Pastors and School and College Pastor initiatives.

Plans for future periods

AT will continue all its projects listed in the section above "Achievements and Performance – Projects" seeking, where the demand is expressed by local churches, to grow the number of Street Pastor initiatives nationally and internationally and School and College Pastor initiatives throughout the UK. Particular work will be continued to grow the 60/40 Youth Project, the Synergy Network and AT Beacon Project.

Further training of Response Pastors will be undertaken. AT will continue to provide online training for new Street Pastors and School Pastors nationally and internationally.

The Board of Trustees and the SMT will work with the AT Prayer Representatives to grow prayer for all its projects.

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Disclosure of information to Independent Examiner


Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant independent examination information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the independent examiner is unaware.

Support

Having read this Report, please consider supporting the work of AT. Through our various projects, we are addressing key issues affecting our society today and the number of years that we have been operating is testimony to the effectiveness of our projects and methods of working. There is still much work to be done and your support will be invaluable to our contributing our part in improving the lives of young people and the wider community.

Please contact us on 020 8330 2809 or by email at finance@ascensiontrust.org.uk to make a donation or set up a standing order.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 28/08/2024 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Julaine Hedman
Trustee

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Statement of the Directors Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in October 2018 and applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), .

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to:

- Prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice had been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity

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and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, the report is consistent with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.


Method of preparation of accounts - Small company provisions

The financial statements are set out on pages 14 to 27.

The financial statements have been prepared implementing the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in October 2018 and applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016).

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 28/08/2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Julaine Hedman
Trustee

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Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Ascension Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 27. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of chartered Accountants of England and Wales.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of The Ascension Trust (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').

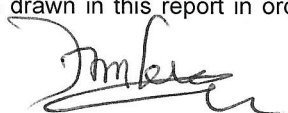
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of The Ascension Trust are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 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 Ascension Trust 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.


Fred Lamptey
Fred Lamptey & Co
Chartered Certified Accountant and Independent Examiner
26 Felstead Way
Luton,
LU2 7LH

Date: 03/09/24

The Ascension Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Income & Endowments from:					
Donations & Legacies	3	424,206	73,011	497,217	434,812
Charitable activities	4	390,114	-	390,114	333,392
Other trading activities	5	43,892	-	43,892	36,282
Investments	6	7,780	-	7,780	1,474
Other	7	2,374	-	2,374	2,332
Total income		<u>868,366</u>	<u>73,011</u>	<u>941,377</u>	<u>808,292</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	13	136,241	-	136,241	74,213
Charitable activities	12	698,231	87,092	785,323	637,018
Total expenditure		<u>834,472</u>	<u>87,092</u>	<u>921,564</u>	<u>711,231</u>
Net income for the year		33,894	(14,081)	19,813	97,061
Net movement in funds		<u>33,894</u>	<u>(14,081)</u>	<u>19,813</u>	<u>97,061</u>
Reconciliation of funds: -					
Total funds brought forward		885,461	40,392	925,853	828,792
Total funds carried forward		<u>919,355</u>	<u>26,311</u>	<u>945,666</u>	<u>925,853</u>

The notes attached on pages 19 to 27 form an integral part of these accounts.

The Ascension Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Analysis of prior year

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income & Endowments from:				
Donations & Legacies	3	393,509	41,303	434,812
Charitable activities	4	333,392	-	333,392
Other trading activities	5	36,282	-	36,282
Investments	6	1,474	-	1,474
Other	7	2,332	-	2,332
Total income		766,989	41,303	808,292
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	13	74,213	-	74,213
Charitable activities	12	583,988	53,030	637,018
Total expenditure		658,201	53,030	711,231
Net income for the year		108,788	(11,727)	97,061
Net income after transfers		108,788	(11,727)	97,061
Net movement in funds		108,788	(11,727)	97,061
Reconciliation of funds: -				
Total funds brought forward		776,673	52,119	828,792
Total funds carried forward		885,461	40,392	925,853

The Ascension Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	213,681	219,664
Investments held as fixed assets	18	1	1
Total fixed assets		<u>213,682</u>	<u>219,665</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	19	187,510	177,257
Cash at bank and in hand		847,577	665,538
Total current assets		<u>1,035,087</u>	<u>842,795</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	<u>(287,448)</u>	<u>(110,599)</u>
Net current assets		747,639	732,196
Net assets		<u>961,321</u>	<u>951,861</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	21	(15,655)	(26,009)
The total net assets of the charity		<u>945,666</u>	<u>925,853</u>
The total net assets of the charity are funded by the funds of the charity, as follows: -			
Restricted funds			
Restricted Revenue Funds	22	26,311	40,392
Unrestricted Funds			
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	22	919,355	885,461
Total charity funds		<u>945,666</u>	<u>925,853</u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

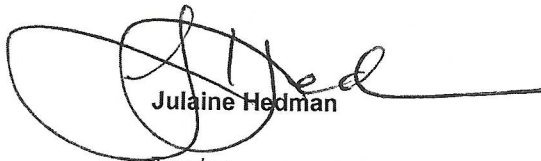
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The charity is subject to audit under charity legislation, and the report of the Charities Act auditor is on page 11.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The notes attached on pages 19 to 27 form an integral part of these accounts.


Julaine Hedman

Trustee

Approved by board of trustees on 28/08/2024 2024

The Ascension Trust

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash provided by operating activities as shown below	<u>178,113</u>	<u>231,514</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	7,780	1,474
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>(3,857)</u>	<u>(3,433)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>3,923</u>	<u>(1,959)</u>
Cash inflows from new borrowings	7	(9,629)
Overall cash provided by all activities	<u>182,043</u>	<u>219,926</u>
Cash movements		
Change in cash and cash equivalents from activities in the year ended 31 December 2023	182,043	219,926
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023	665,534	445,608
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 31 December	<u>847,397</u>	<u>665,534</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand at for the year ended 31 December 2023	847,397	665,534
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>847,397</u>	<u>665,534</u>

Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, 'FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019.

1.2 Going Concern

The Trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

1.3 Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non-exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably. Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met. All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

1.4 Deferred income

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

1.5 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which donors have specified are solely used for a particular areas of the charity work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

1.6 Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated. All liabilities are measured at fair value.

1.7 Allocating costs to activities

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities.

The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is:-
Staffing - on a per capita basis, based on the number of people employed within any particular activity.
Premises related and non-specific support costs – on the basis of a certain percentage based on the estimation of time spent in the office and work carried out during the year.

1.8 Volunteers

In accordance with the SORP, and in recognition of the difficulties in placing a monetary value on the contribution from volunteers, the contribution of volunteers is not included within the income of the charity.

1.9 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at their original cost value, or subsequent revaluation, or if donated, as described above. Cost value includes all costs expended in bringing the asset into its intended working condition.

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Freehold premises	2% straight line
Office Equipment	15% straight line
Furniture & Fixtures	20% reducing balance

1.10 Cash at bank

Cash held by the charity is included in the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

1.11 Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

1.12 Pensions defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.13. Creditors

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using effective interest method.

2. Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £10.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Public donations	25,410	15,595	41,005	37,425
Grants: Govt & public bodies	331,525	31,125	362,650	341,543
Private sectors donations	47,799	26,291	74,090	45,303
Mission income	14,165	-	14,165	4,190
Gift Aid Receivable	5,307	-	5,307	6,351
	424,206	73,011	497,217	434,812

4. Income from charitable activities – Trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Licence fee	232,920	-	232,920	237,972
Training Income	30,672	-	30,672	41,937
Other trading income	126,522	-	126,522	53,483
	390,114	-	390,114	333,392

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5 Income from other non-charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income from various events	32,677	-	32,677	26,198
Income from letting from charitable purpose	11,215	-	11,215	10,084
	43,892	-	43,892	36,282

6. Investment Income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	7,780	-	7,780	1,474
	7,780	-	7,780	1,474

7. Other Income gain

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Employment Allowance	2,374	-	2,374	2,332
	2,374	-	2,374	2,332

8. Expenditure on charitable activities – Direct spending

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Bridge Watch	-	11,293	11,293	-
Operation Restoration	-	10,283	10,283	9,956
Synergy Network	-	420	420	828
Operation Save Jamaica	-	1,885	1,885	-
60:40 Youth Project	-	2,257	2,257	2,628
Street Pastors	50,857	-	50,857	53,933
Prayer Pastors	464	-	464	854
	51,321	26,138	77,459	68,199

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9. Expenditure on charitable activities – Charitable trading

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
			2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Training Expenditure	9,099	-	9,099	10,479
Annual events cost	21,232	-	21,232	869
Gross wages and salaries	180,833	48,562	229,395	171,822
Employers' NI	14,011	4,190	18,201	13,372
Defined contribution pension costs	2,251	1,078	3,330	3,162
UK Vision 2030	-	4,952	4,952	-
Mission	13,805	-	13,805	-
	241,231	58,782	300,013	199,704

10. Support costs for charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
			2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Employees costs not included in direct costs:				
Salaries – Administrative staff	198,550	-	198,550	170,202
Defined contribution pension costs	5,580	-	5,580	3,896
Employers' NI	17,683	-	17,683	16,798
Life Insurance	-	-	-	300
Volunteers cost	450	-	450	727
Premises expenses	21,337	660	21,997	19,342
Administrative overheads	34,758	1,073	35,831	32,774
Legal & Professional fee	637	11	648	547
Bank charges	3,560	110	3,670	3,049
Depreciation	9,543	295	9,838	9,837
Bank interest payable	754	23	777	1,019
	292,852	2,172	295,024	258,489

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11. Other Expenditure – Governance costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees	1,800	-	1,800	1,800
Trustees' remuneration	42,500	-	42,500	43,700
NIC on Trustees remuneration	4,687	-	4,687	4,973
Trustees defined contribution Pension costs	816	-	816	-
Benefits paid to trustees	55,980	-	55,980	57,092
Professional & Consultancy fee	7,044	-	7,044	3,061
	112,827	-	112,827	110,626

12. Total Expenditure

			2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Direct charitable cost	51,321	26,138	77,459	68,199
Trading cost	241,231	58,782	300,013	199,704
Support cost	292,852	2,172	295,024	258,489
Governance cost	112,827	-	112,827	110,626
Total	698,231	87,092	785,323	637,018

13. Expenditure on raising funds and cost of project management

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
AT Beacon Project	136,241	-	136,241	74,213
	136,241	-	136,241	74,213

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14. Net Income for the year

This is stated after charging:	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	9,838	9,837
Independent Examiner's fee	1,800	1,800
Pension costs	8,910	7,058
	20,548	18,695

15. Staff Numbers

The average monthly headcount was 20 staff (2022: 17 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including part-time staff) during the year as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Average number of full-time employees in the year was	15	13

No employee received emoluments (excluding pension costs) in excess of £60,000 per annum.

16. Related party transactions

One of the trustees, Dr Ekhaton, is a director of Dr Ekhaton & Associates. During the year a sum of £55,980 (2022: £57,092) was paid to Dr Ekhaton & Associates for services rendered as a GP clinical lead for AT Beacon Project.

17. Tangible fixed assets

Current Year	Land and Buildings	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fixtures	Total
	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023	283,476	50,147	4,609	338,232
Additions	-	3,857	-	3,857
At 31 December 2023	283,476	54,004	4,609	342,089
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	79,262	35,121	4,186	118,569
Charge for the year	5,670	4,084	85	9,839
At 31 December 2023	84,932	39,205	4,271	128,408
Net book value				
At 31 December 2023	198,544	14,799	338	213,681
At 31 December 2022	204,214	15,026	423	219,663

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18. Investment held as assets

	Investments in subsidiaries £
Carrying value of investments	
At 1 January 2023	1
At 31 December 2023	<u>1</u>

19. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts owed by group undertakings	118,507	99,644
Prepayments and accrued interest	61,958	60,301
Other debtors	7,045	17,312
	<u>187,510</u>	<u>177,257</u>

20. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans and overdraft	10,112	9,629
Accruals for grants payable	235,463	62,740
Trade creditors	17,225	21,042
Accruals for	5,140	5,196
PAYE, NIC, VAT and other taxes	10,676	10,255
Other Creditors	8,832	1,737
	<u>287,448</u>	<u>110,599</u>

21. Creditors: amount falling due after one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	15,655	26,009

22. Analysis of charitable funds

	Balance 01/01/2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Funds 31/12/2023 £
Unrestricted funds	885,463	868,366	(834,472)	919,357
Restricted funds:				
Operation Save Jamaica	2,058	360	(1,885)	533
Operation Restoration	(1,320)	10,283	(10,283)	(1,320)
60:40 Methodist project	(1)	15,409	(15,418)	(10)
Synergy Network	(79)	10,882	(10,830)	(27)
Jerusalem Trust	10,373	-	-	10,373
Bridge Watch	-	31,125	(31,289)	(164)
UK Vision 2030	-	4,952	(4,952)	-
Other restricted funds	29,359	-	(12,435)	16,924
Total restricted funds	40,390	73,011	(87,092)	26,309
Total charity funds	925,853	941,377	(921,564)	945,666

Operation Save Jamaica is the umbrella body that operates Street Pastors initiatives in Jamaica under a Master Operator Agreement with Ascension Trust.

Operation Restoration Christian School is a school in Trench Town, Kingston, Jamaica which Ascension Trust has partnered with to raise funds towards the school's running costs.

60:40 Methodist Project is an initiative of Ascension Trust based in the London Borough of Lambeth in partnership with the Methodist Church. The project has been established to care for, equip and empower young people in the borough of Lambeth.

Jerusalem Trust provided funding for the Synergy Network initiative of Ascension Trust which tackles youth violence and knife crime.

Synergy Network is the initiatives of Ascension Trust together in association with South London Church Fund & Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance, London City Mission and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The aim is to tackle and impact in a positive manner on the levels of violence and societal dysfunction, to help vulnerable individuals and benefit society.

Bridge Watch Programme is an initiative of Ascension Trust in association with City Bridge Trust. It aims to provide a physical presence of teams of volunteers that patrol the areas on and around the bridges of London and who have a brief to engage with anybody indicating intent to enter the water.

Other restricted funds are restricted funds from previous projects.

23. Reconciliation of net movement of net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds per SOFA	19,813	97,061
Depreciation charges	9,838	9,837
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(10,253)	89,573
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	166,495	36,517
Interest	(7,780)	(1,474)
	178,113	231,514

24. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	213,681	-	213,681
Investments	1	-	1
Current Assets	1,008,605	26,302	1,034,907
Current Liabilities	(287,268)	-	(287,268)
Long Term Liabilities	(15,655)	-	(15,655)
At 31 December 2023	919,364	26,302	945,666