

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1133513

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2010-01-12

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

Contact

Address 15 Meadowvale
Ponteland
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE20 9NF

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Activities

Objects: The objects of the Church (¶the Objects-) are for the benefit of the public:(a) to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit;(b) to relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time think fit; and(c) to advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council form time to time may think fit.

Activities: The charity is an evangelical church based in Birtley. The aims of the church are the proclamation of the Christian gospel and the nurture and development of the congregation to participate in this task.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE GATESHEAD, DURHAM, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE CITY, SUNDERLAND.
- Durham
- Gateshead
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£45,419	£45,364	-	-
2023-12-31	£47,609	£43,585	-	-
2022-12-31	£44,441	£41,329	-	-
2021-12-31	£29,462	£31,277	-	-
2020-12-31	£25,452	£35,761	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Chair of Trustees PATRICK ROY BRIDDON BSC PHD	Chair	
Joanna Rachel Snaith		2018-04-25
Joseph James Clifford		2017-04-01
ROWAN MARSH PHILLIMORE		

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133513

Accounts

Birtley Community Church

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

**For the period ended
31 December 2024**

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Legal and Administrative Information

Name: Birtley Community Church

Charity No: 1133513

Address:

Edward Road
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham
DH3 1HG

Trustees:

Prof Patrick Roy Briddon BSc PhD (Chair)
Mr Rowan Marsh Phillimore
Mrs Joanna Rachel Snaith (Administrator)
Mr Joseph James Clifford.

Document Prepared by:

Prof Patrick Briddon (Chair)

Governing Document:

The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 6 November 2009

Bankers:

Lloyds TSB
Blaydon-on-Tyne Branch
3 Wesley Court
Blaydon-on-Tyne
NE21 5BY

Independent Examiner:

Mark Thompson
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB

Birtley Community Church Trustees’ Annual report 2024

Objects:

The objects of the Birtley Community Church Trust (referred to as “the Trust” below) are as follows:

1. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.
2. To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time-to-time think fit
3. To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit

Summary

The year 2024 has marked stability or growth in all areas of church life and ministry with Sunday attendance increasing and significant numbers of children from the local community attending our Royal Rangers. In summary, the Trustees believe that the Charity is continuing to thrive and to fulfil its objectives and its financial position remains stable.

Leadership and Oversight

The leadership of Birtley Community Church is unchanged in 2024.

The trustees (in alphabetic order) are:

Patrick Briddon (Chairman),

Joe Clifford,

Phil Phillimore and

Rachel Snaith (Administrator).

The elders responsible for spiritual leadership remain Patrick Briddon and Phil Phillimore. John and Meme Cama continue to participate in leadership decision making. We continue to receive support and oversight from Taking Ground.

Dawn Wolfington has taken over from Joe Clifford as treasurer in 2024.

Church Worship and Teaching

Our Sunday meetings have continued throughout the year. It is particularly encouraging that attendance at these is significantly higher than our position prior to Covid, with Sunday attendance typically being 60 people throughout most of the year although some meetings have had above 80 people present. This represents an increase of above 100%. As a church family we have also continued to evolve to a church more closely representing the makeup of our part of Gateshead with families from Fiji, Nigeria, Russia and China now being part of our church family. This has also introduced more younger people with children into the church helping to balance our age demographic.

Christian teaching and its application has continued through Sunday ministry, but also in mid-week housegroups. A weekend away was held at Minsteracres, 21-23 June 2024. A total of 58 people attended (45 adults, 13 children), 50 of whom stayed overnight and a further 8 attended in the daytime only. This is our largest number to date – for comparison, pre-covid in 2019, only 26 people attended including 2 children. Claire and Warren Harrison ministered to us, and this was also a good time for the church to spend together, given the large percentage of newer church members. The children's activities were run throughout the weekend by Denise, Patrick and Feifei. This weekend involved a significant investment of approximately £5000 by the church, but this was nevertheless believed by the trustees to be beneficial in terms of achieving our first object.

It is part of the church's ethos that we encourage members to grow in gifting and confidence. We also have rotas of people sharing and leading communion, worship, Sunday school and a stewarding team, so that more than half the church members are actively serving in some capacity. It is particularly pleasing that the newer members are now serving and leading alongside others.

Ladies Breakfasts take place on Saturday mornings. These are open to ladies from the church plus friends, family and others from the local community. They have been well attended, by up to 70 ladies. In addition to this, we have continued a biweekly meeting for ladies, which remains popular. This is to give a further opportunity for support and fellowship, especially important given the make-up of the church.

The Trustees consider that in these ways, we have continued to make progress with the first object of our Trust.

Pastoral Care and Housegroups

Pastoral care remains especially important to us. In arranging this, particular attention is given to people who are vulnerable and home or hospital visits by leaders have also taken place where this was needed.

We continue to run three housegroups led by the Briddons, the Camas and the Phillimores. These are provided so that members have the opportunity to share and pray with each other as well as to study the Bible and develop confidence to lead. Approximately 30 adults are involved with one of these.

Church Ministries: Children and Community

Royal Rangers (<https://www.royalrangers.co.uk/>) ran throughout the year, meeting regularly on Saturday afternoons with a team of helpers from the church. Approx. 30 children are associated with this with an average attendance of about 20. These are mainly drawn from outside our Sunday attenders, with most of the children coming from the local community. It has been a very positive development to see leaders in this growing in confidence and attending training events. We now have a team of 6 helpers and leaders who have the confidence to lead many different types of activities.

In 2024, we took a group of older children from our outpost to the European Rangers Camp in Hungary, attended by approximately 8000 Rangers from all European countries. In total 10 children and 6 adults registered for this from our outpost and the trip lasted 10 days and created huge excitement among the children and excellent feedback from parents. It was especially good to see our children mixing with the children from different countries. We already have requests for the next camp, to be held in Spain in 2028.

The budget for this was £7330 which was met by fees paid by participants, a flight subsidy by Rangers UK, two earmarked gifts, external funding raised (£1750), and the outstanding balance (£1390) was covered by the church. Overall, the church invested approximately £1300 into Royal Rangers in 2024.

The Messy Church ministry (<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>) met monthly on Saturday afternoons and ran successfully through the first half of the year. It was led by Pauline and was well received by all children who came. It was however decided to cease running this as we struggled to develop a regular group of children attending (the average attendance was about 5), and most of these attended Rangers in any case. The final messy church was in July 2024.

Sunday school has also grown with the arrival of new families in the church, and usually has 12 children, although we have had up to 20 children. There is certainly a greater engagement with children than before.

These activities promote the first object of the Trust, with the Rangers ministry also contributing to education and to growth in social and leadership skills of young children from the wider community in Birtley. We were awarded the High Sherriff Award for our work with these children.

Birtley Churches Together

Birtley Community Church remains an active member of Birtley Churches together and we have hosted two meetings on behalf of this organisation in 2024. We have also participated in the leading of the Remembrance Sunday service at the Birtley Cenotaph.

Church Staff

Our church administrator, Rachel Snaith, is now in her sixth year with the church, working 10 hours per week. The main projects she has worked on during 2024 are:

- Conducting Human Resources activities relating employed staff and volunteers, including policy development and implementation.
- Running the church payroll.
- Updating, maintaining and implementing our Safeguarding policy and procedures. In 2024 we held one training session attended by 20 volunteers
- Running our safe recruitment policy that we are now implementing for all new volunteers with the church.
- Maintaining rotas for church activities.
- General administration
- Church cleaning

These activities are crucial to our efficient and legal operation as a trust.

Estates and Furnishings

We have not undertaken significant projects investing in our estate during 2024. Items of significant expenditure included a new piano/keyboard and the cleaning of the upholstery of our chairs. It should be noted that our properties are generally in a reasonable condition.

Gifts

Birtley Community Church has continued to support a number of external organisations and people, giving a total of £3360. All these gifts were within the scope of our objectives as a charitable trust.

Financial Review:

The income from Sunday morning offerings, standing orders and Gift Aid Income from HMRC was £34,775 compared to £32,828 in 2023. This is an increase in giving of £1,947. Overall income amounted to £45,419 compared to £47,500 in 2023. Gift aid provision, based on donations in 2023, was £2,313. Interest earned was £2,969; in 2023 this was £2396.

The overall expenditure in 2024 was £45,364 compared to £43,476 in 2023. This is an increase of £1,888 reflecting additional expenditure on the church retreat and the Royal Rangers young people's work.

Salaries and expenses amounted to £6,763 in 2024 compared to £6,984 in 2023.

The hardship loan, authorised in 2019, has continued, but only 1 payment was made in 2024. The amount outstanding is £656.32 and it has been agreed that this be removed from the balance sheet.

The Church's finances were thus in surplus of £54 in 2024. This compares to a surplus of £4,024 in 2023.

The total of our bank balances in deposit and current accounts was £290,162 at the end of December 2024.

The value of our land and buildings was continued to be estimated at £230,000 as at the end of December 2024.

The Trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be stable.

Risk Management:

The Trustees continue to monitor for major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business, giving consideration to the likelihood and the impact of risks, and review what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:


It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted expenditure. This will provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time.

Trustees' responsibilities:

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them

to ascertain the financial position of the company and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Prof. P R Briddon	Position:	Chair Trustees
Signature		Date	10/03/2025

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of Birtley Community Church on Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 11-15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 s.144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these 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.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mark Thompson MAAT
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 5LB

Date: 8/03/2025

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

01/01/24-31/12/24

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	34,775	0	34,775	32,828
Charitable Activities	7,674	0	7,674	11,676
Other Trading Activities	0	0	0	0
Investments	2,969	0	2,969	2,396
Other	0	0	0	600
Total Incoming Resources	45,419	0	45,419	47,500
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	0		0	0
Charitable Activities	44,663	0	44,663	43,476
Other	701		701	0
Total	45,364	0	45,364	43,476
Net income/(expenditure)	54	0	54	4,024
Transfers between funds	0		0	
Net movement in funds	0	0	0	4,024
Total Funds brought forward	522,584		522,584	518,560
Total funds carried forward	522,638	0	522,638	522,584

**BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
31/12/2024**

	NOTES	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Land and Buildings		230,000	230,000
		230,000	230,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	Hardship Loan	0	701
	HMRC	2,476	2,731
Cash at Bank and In Hand	*1	290,162	289,152
Total Current Assets		292,638	292,584
Total Assets		522,638	522,584
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		0	0
Hardship Payment		0	0
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		522,638	522,584
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		0	0
Unrestricted income funds		522,638	522,584
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		522,638	522,584

*1 Cash at bank includes uncleared year end items

Print Name *Prof. P R Briddon*

Signature 

Date of Approval 10/03/2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 1/1/24 to 31/12/24

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014;
- and with the Charities Act 2011

There has been no change to the accounting policies, valuation rules and methods of accounting since last year.

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable

The value of volunteer help is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees Annual Report.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance costs include costs of Trustee meetings and relevant travel expenses.

Grants are recognised in the accounts as they are paid to the charity.

2. FUNDS

The Charity has one fund: An unrestricted general fund.

3. DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Income

Donations and legacies	
External Donations	1,013.62
Gift Aided Income	9,904.00
HMRC Gift Aid	2,058.44
Loan Repayment	45.00
Offerings	14,708.72
Offerings SO	7,045.00
Total Donations and legacies	34,774.78
Income from charitable activities	105.00
Church Retreat Income	2,335.00
Ladies Breakfast income	879.00
Royal Rangers Income	4,355.49
Total Income from charitable activities	7,674.49
Income from Investment (interest)	2,969.32
Total Income	45,418.59
Total	45,418.59

Expenditures

Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Buildings and estates	1,083.47
Furnishings and fittings	76.14
IT/PA/Worship	4,023.25
Maintenance	2,627.87
Total Buildings and estates	7,810.73
Charitable gifts	2,310.00
Consumables	22.13
Consumables - admin	418.21
Consumables - cleaning	142.48
Consumables - kitchen	855.42
Consumables - other	546.88
Total Consumables	1,985.12
Dues and Subscriptions	22.00
Insurances	1,057.99
Memberships & Licences	840.51
Ministry	519.15
Church Retreat	7,462.50
General Church Activity	320.80
Gift to visiting speakers	1,050.00
Ladies Breakfasts	681.24
Messy Church	573.35
Royal Rangers	5,668.52
Total Ministry	16,275.56
Other Professional Services	400.00
Salaries	6,763.81
Taxes Paid	65.20
Utilities	0.00
Broadband	793.05
Heating/Gas	4,203.52
TV licence	159.00
Water	1,736.68
Website Hosting	240.00
Total Utilities	7,132.25
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities	44,663.17
Other Expenditure	701.32
Total Expenditures	45,364.49
Net Income/(Expenditure)	54.10

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133513

Accounts



**Birtley Community Church
Financial Statements
For the period ended
31 December 2023**



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Legal and Administrative Information.

Name: Birtley Community Church

Charity No: 1133513

Address:

Edward Road
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham
DH3 1HG

Trustees:

Prof Patrick Roy Briddon Bsc Phd (Chair)
Mr Rowan Marsh Phillimore (Secretary)
Mrs Joanna Rachel Snaith (Administrator)
Mr Joseph James Clifford. (Treasurer)

Document Prepared by:

Mr Joseph James Clifford. (Treasurer)

Governing Document:

The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 6 November 2009

Bankers:

Lloyds TSB
Blaydon-on-Tyne Branch
3 Wesley Court
Blaydon-on-Tyne
NE21 5BY

Independent Examiner:

Mark Thompson
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB



Birtley Community Church Trustees’ Annual report 2023

Objects:

The objects of the Birtley Community Church Trust (referred to as “the Trust” below) are as follows:

1. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.
2. To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time-to-time think fit
3. To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit

Summary

The year 2023 has been the first year for some time in which activities were only marginally affected by Covid. The year marked stability or growth in all areas of church life and ministry with Sunday attendance increasing and significant numbers of children from the local community attending Royal Rangers and Messy Church activities. In summary, the Trustees believe that the Charity is continuing to thrive and to fulfil its objectives.

Leadership and Oversight

The leadership of Birtley Community Church is unchanged in 2022.

The trustees (alphabetic order) are:

Patrick Briddon (Chairman),

Joe Clifford (Treasurer),

Phil Phillimore (Secretary) and

Rachel Snaith (Administrator).



The elders responsible for spiritual leadership remain Patrick Briddon and Phil Phillimore. John and Meme Cama continue to participate in leadership decision making.

We continue to receive support and oversight from Taking Ground, formerly a regional sphere of Salt and Light, but now an independent network of 7 churches.

Dawn Wolfington will take over from Joe Clifford as treasurer in 2024.

Church Worship and Teaching

As outlined above, our Sunday meetings have retained a much more normal format this year. It has been particularly encouraging that our attendance has remained significantly higher our position prior to Covid, with Sunday attendance typically 50 throughout most of the year although some meetings have been somewhat larger. As a church family we have also continued to evolve to a church more closely representing the makeup of our part of Gateshead with families from Fiji, Nigeria, Russia and China now being part of our church family. This has also introduced more younger people with children into the church helping to balance our age demographic.

Bible teaching and its application has continued through Sunday ministry, but also in mid-week housegroups, and I will return to these later. In addition, four members completed one year of learning at the Taking Group *School of Applied Theology*.

A weekend away was held at Minsteracres, 12-14 May 2024. A total of 52 people attended, 48 of whom stayed overnight (38 adults, 10 children), and a further four attended in the daytime only. This is our largest number to date – for comparison, pre-covid in 2019, only 26 people attended including 2 children. Ray and Sylvia Mills ministered to us, and this was a positive spiritual experience in which members grew in faith but it was also a good time for the church to spend together, given the large percentage of newer church members. The children's activities were run throughout the weekend by Feo and Lisa and the children were really thrilled by the experience. This weekend involved a significant investment of approximately £4500 by the church, but this was nevertheless believed by the trustees to be beneficial in terms of achieving our first object.

It is part of the church's ethos that we encourage members to grow in gifting and confidence. It was particularly encouraging that, even though Phil and Linda became ill the night before the retreat, other members of the church were able to lead us in worship throughout the weekend. We also have rotas of people sharing and leading communion, worship, Sunday school and a stewarding team, so that than half the church members are actively serving in some capacity. It is particularly pleasing that the newer members who joined during lockdown are now serving and leading alongside others.

Ladies Breakfasts have been held on Saturday mornings. These are open to ladies from the church plus friends, family and others from the local community. They have been well attended, by up to 70 ladies. In addition to this, we have continued a biweekly meeting for



ladies, which remains popular. This is to give a further opportunity for support and fellowship, especially important given the make-up of the church.

The Trustees consider that in these ways, we have continued to make progress with the first object of our Trust.

Pastoral Care and Housegroups

Clearly pastoral care has been especially important as we readjusted following the covid hiatus:

- Particular attention was given to people who may have been particularly vulnerable or badly affected by the lockdown.
- Home visits by leaders have also taken place where this was needed.

We run three housegroups led by the Briddons, the Camas and the Phillimores. These are provided so that members have the opportunity to share and pray with each other as well as study the Bible. Approximately 30 adults are involved with these, mainly from our church.

Church Ministries: Children and Community

Royal Rangers (<https://www.royalrangers.co.uk/>) ran throughout the year, meeting regularly on Saturday mornings with a team of helpers from the church. After a small dip in the early part of the year, the numbers of children at these meetings gradually built up to about 20-25. It has been very positive development to see leaders in this growing in confidence and attending training events. We now have a team of 6 helpers and leaders who have the confidence to lead many different types of activities. The church invested £878 into this ministry in 2023. For the first time post-covid, Royal Rangers ran a three-day camp at the Moor House adventure centre, just outside Durham. This included overnight stays in tents for over 7s, while younger children just attended during the daytime. 49 people registered for the camp in total: 36 children and 13 adults, including 29 children from our regular group and 7 from Germany. It went very well indeed, with lots of very positive feedback from both children and from parents. It was especially good to see our children mixing with the team from Germany who joined us for the camp. In July 2024, we will be taking our older Rangers children to Eurocamp, a Europe-wide camp in Hungary with above 5000 European Rangers expected to attend. 16 people will go from our outpost. The estimated budget for this is £7300 including £2750 of fundraising/gifts and church support £1200.

The Messy Church ministry (<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>) meets monthly on Saturdays and ran successfully throughout most of the year, now led by Pauline. This had a slower start



but gained in momentum towards the end of the year with a new group of very enthusiastic attenders joining us. We look forward to this continuing to build in strength in 2024.

Sunday school has also grown with the arrival of new families in the church, and has up to 8 children each week.

These activities promote the first object of the Trust, with the Rangers ministry also contributing to education and growth in social and leadership skills of young children from our community.

Birtley Churches Together

Birtley Community Church remains part of Birtley Churches together. This year our main event together was a "Pie and Pea" evening in which nearly £300 was raised as part of Christian Aid week.

.Church Staff

Our church administrator, Rachel Snaith, is now in her fifth year with the church, working 10 hours per week. The main projects she has worked on during 2023 are:

- Conducting Human Resources activities relating to the employment of staff and hosting volunteers, including policy development and implementation.
- Running the church payroll.
- Updating, maintaining and implementing our Safeguarding policy and procedures. This included undertaking and delivering training, developing of policies and guidelines for engagement of children and vulnerable adults using social media or on-line platforms and updating policies and procedures in view of state of external advice.
- Producing a safe recruitment policy that we are now implementing for all new volunteers with the church.
- Maintaining rotas for church activities.
- General administration (for example, updating our address book).

These activities are crucial to our efficient and legal operation as a trust.

From Jan-July we had two charity volunteers, Feo Lotz and Lisa Teifel, recruited from Germany. They were sent as part of a programme run by Arbeitsgemeinschaft Pfingstlich-Charismatischer Missionen (APCM) and recruited by us on a Tier-5 UK visa which we are now approved by the Home Office to sponsor. They mainly supported children's work in the church (Rangers, Messy Church, Sunday School) but also contributed in further ways to our work and ministry. They made an excellent contribution during their time with us (as indicated



by some of the activities above) and we maintain a close friendship with them even though they are now studying in Germany. A new Charity Volunteer, FeiFei Chen is now working with us.

Estates

We have not undertaken significant projects investing in our estate during 2023. It should be noted that our properties are in a good condition following last year's investment into the Manse. A year on, it can now be seen that the decision to upgrade of our projection system has been a success.

Gifts

Birtley Community Church has continued to support a number of external organisations and people, giving a total £2236. All these gifts were within the scope of our objectives as a charitable trust.

Financial Review:

The income from Sunday morning offerings and standing orders was £29,566 compared to £32,081 in 2022. This is a decrease in giving of £2,515. Overall income amounted to £47,609 compared to £44,441 in 2022. Gift aid provision, based on donations in 2023, was £2,731, whereas in 2022 it was £3,042. Interest earned was £2,396, in 2022 this was £139.

The overall expenditure in 2023 was £43,585 compared to £41,329 in 2022. This is an increase of £2,256 as a result of additional expenditure on the church retreat and the Royal Rangers young people's work.

Salaries and expenses amounted to £6,984 in 2023 compared to £6,101 in 2022.

The loan, which was authorised in 2019, has continued to be repaid, but only 1 payment was made in 2023. The amount outstanding is £701.32.

The Church's finances were in surplus of £4,024 in 2023 compared to £3,112 in 2022.

The total of our bank balances in deposit and current accounts was £289,152 at the end of December 2023.

The value of our land and buildings was continued to be estimated at £230,000 as at the end of December 2022,

The Trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be stable.



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of Birtley Community Church on Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 11-15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 s.144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these 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.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Thompson", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Thompson MAAT
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 5LB

Date: 21st March 2024



Statement of Financial Activities

Birtley Community Church

for the period ended 31 December 2023

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	32,828		32,828	35,165
Charitable Activities	11,785	0	11,785	8,837
Other Trading Activities			0	0
Investments	2,396		2,396	139
Other	600		600	300
Total Incoming Resources	47,609	0	47,609	44,441
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	0		0	0
Charitable Activities	43,585	0	43,585	41,329
Other			0	0
Total	43,585	0	43,585	41,329
Net income/(expenditure)	4,024	0	4,024	3,112
Transfers between funds				
Net movement in funds	4,024	0	4,024	3,112
Total Funds brought forward	518,560		518,560	515,448
Total funds carried forward	522,584	0	522,584	518,560



Balance Sheet

Birtley Community Church
as at 31 December 2023

	Note	Total Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fixed Assets			
	Land and Buildings	230,000	230,000
		<u>230,000</u>	<u>230,000</u>
Current Assets			
	Debtors	701	746
	Hardship Loan HMRC	2,731	3,042
	Cash at Bank and In Hand *1	289,152	284,922
	Total Current Assets	<u>292,584</u>	<u>288,710</u>
	Total Assets	<u>522,584</u>	<u>518,710</u>
Liabilities			
	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	0	150
	Hardship Payment	0	0
	Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	0	0
	Total Assets less Total Liabilities	<u>522,584</u>	<u>518,560</u>
The Funds of the Charity:			
	Restricted income funds	0	0
	Unrestricted income funds	522,584	518,560
	TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	<u>522,584</u>	<u>518,560</u>

*1 Cash at bank includes uncleared year end items

Print Name *Prof. P R Briddon*

Signature *P R Briddon*

Date of Approval 25/03/2024



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 1 January to 31 December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014;
- and with the Charities Act 2011

There has been no change to the accounting policies, valuation rules and methods of accounting since last year.

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable

The value of volunteer help is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees Annual Report.



Expenditure and Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance costs include costs of Trustee meetings and relevant travel expenses.

Grants are recognised in the accounts as they are paid to the charity.

2 Funds

The Charity has one fund: An unrestricted general fund.

3 Detailed Income & Expenditure

Income

Collections & Donations	29,566
Covenant Income	3,262
Church Retreat	2,795
Bank Interest	2,396
Breakfasts	1,027
Accommodation	600
Other	349
Royal Rangers	7,614
Total Income	47,609

Expenditure

Visiting Speakers	300
Gifts	1,936
Utilities & Building	10,544
Furniture and Equipment	764
Salaries and Expenses	6,984
Administration	1,778
Church Retreat	9,292
Breakfasts	1,056
Evangelism	996
Other Expenditure	1,081
Training & development	362
Royal Rangers	8,492
Total Expenditure	43,585

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133513

Accounts



**Birtley Community Church
Financial Statements
For the period ended
31 December 2022**



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Legal and Administrative Information.

Name: Birtley Community Church

Charity No: 1133513

Address:

Edward Road
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham
DH3 1HG

Trustees:

Prof Patrick Roy Briddon Bsc Phd (Chair)
Mr Rowan Marsh Phillimore (Secretary)
Mrs Joanna Rachel Snaith (Administrator)
Mr Joseph James Clifford. (Treasurer)

Document Prepared by:

Mr Joseph James Clifford. (Treasurer)

Governing Document:

The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 6 November 2009

Bankers:

Lloyds TSB
Blaydon-on-Tyne Branch (Branch changed September 2022)
3 Wesley Court
Blaydon-on-Tyne
NE21 5BY

Independent Examiner:

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB
20 Ennerdale Crescent
Winlaton
Blaydon on Tyne
NE21 6PS



Birtley Community Church Trustees’ Annual report 2022

Objects:

The objects of the Birtley Community Church Trust (referred to as “the Trust” below) are as follows:

1. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit
2. To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time-to-time think fit
3. To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit

Summary

The year 2022 has been the year in which the church fully reopened and returned to normal activities as the year progressed. The year began with a month of zoom meetings while the trustees considered the potential impact of the Omicron variant of Covid, but following this all activities in church returned to normal. The year marked considerable growth in many areas of church life and ministry with Sunday attendance approximately doubling and large numbers of children from the local community attending Royal Rangers and Messy Church activities. In summary, the Trustees believe that the Charity is continuing to thrive and to fulfil its objectives.

Leadership and Oversight

The leadership of Birtley Community Church is unchanged in 2022.

The trustees (alphabetic order) are:

Patrick Briddon (Chairman),

Joe Clifford (Treasurer),

Phil Phillimore (Secretary) and

Rachel Snaith (Administrator).



The elders responsible for spiritual leadership remain Patrick Briddon and Phil Phillimore. John and Meme Cama have been invited to participate in leadership meetings.

We continue to receive support and oversight from Taking Ground, formerly a regional sphere of Salt and Light, but now an independent network of churches.

Church Worship and Teaching

As described above, our Sunday meetings returned to a much more normal format this year. It has been particularly encouraging that our attendance has actually grown compared to our position prior to Covid, with Sunday attendance typically 50-60 throughout most of the year. Initially, meetings were somewhat shorter with reduced contact between members, but as all government guidelines were gradually relaxed and the congregation gained in confidence, we returned to a more normal service length and format. There was a great excitement at seeing so many new people meeting with us and the opportunity to worship without restrictions was a huge release for the majority of the church.

Bible teaching and its application has continued through Sunday ministry, but also in mid-week housegroups, and I will return to these later.

A church weekend away was held at Minsteracres, 13-15 May 2022. That was the first church retreat since 2019. It was attended by 47 people (34 adults, 13 children), again a significant increase on 2019 when 26 people attended (2 children). Ray and Sylvia Mills ministered to us and this was a positive spiritual experience in which members grew in faith but it was also a good time for the church to spend together, given the large percentage of newer church members. This involved a significant investment of nearly £3000 by the church, but this was believed to be beneficial in terms of achieving our objects.

It is part of the church's ethos that we encourage members to grow in gifting and confidence. In 2022, this has been reflected in us expanding our worship team to include a further nine people. It was particularly encouraging that when Phil and Linda tested positive with Covid the night before our retreat started, the team were well able to support worship throughout the weekend. We also have a rota of people sharing and leading communion each week as a stewarding team, and more than half the church members are serving in some capacity. It is particularly pleasing that the newer members who joined during lockdown are now serving and leading alongside others.

Four Ladies Breakfasts have been held on Saturday mornings. These are open to ladies from the church plus friends, family and others from the local community. They have been well attended, by up to 70 ladies. In addition to this, we have started a biweekly meeting for ladies, initially



starting with church members. This is to give a further opportunity for support and fellowship, especially important given the make-up of the church.

We have had some very busy meetings, for example at Christmas when parents of children involved in community groups such as Rangers or Messy Church attended, doubling our numbers.

The Trustees consider that in these ways, we have continued to make progress with the first object of our Trust.

Pastoral Care and Housegroups

Clearly pastoral care has been especially important as we readjusted following the covid hiatus:

- Particular attention was given to people who may have been particularly vulnerable or badly affected by the lockdown.
- Home visits by leaders have also taken place where this was needed.

We run three housegroups led by the Briddons, the Camas and the Phillimores. These are provided so that members have the opportunity to share and pray with each other as well as study the Bible. Approximately 30 adults are involved with these, mainly from our church.

Church Ministries: Youth and Community

Royal Rangers (<https://www.royalrangers.co.uk/>) ran throughout the year, this time led by Patrick and Denise with a team of helpers from the church. The numbers of children at these gradually built up to about 30 by the start of the summer. We ran a summer camp that ran over 3 days and 45 children registered for this, including 28 from our regular group. It went very well indeed, with lots of very positive feedback from both children and from parents.

We were more cautious in restarting our Messy Church ministry (<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>), with this being an indoors event with provision and sharing of food being a very significant part of it. This ran successfully throughout most of the year, led by Pauline and Nicola. We look forward to this continuing to build in strength in 2023.

These activities promote the first object of the Trust, with the Rangers ministry also contributing to education and growth in social and leadership skills of young children from our community.

Birtley Churches Together



Birtley Community Church remains part of Birtley Churches together, and we will look forward to meeting more with our local churches in 2023.

Church Staff

Our church administrator, Rachel Snaith, is now in her fourth year with the church, working 10 hours per week. The main projects she has worked on during 2022 are:

- Conducting Human Resources activities relating to the employment of staff, including policy development and implementation.
- Running the church payroll.
- Maintaining Church rotas.
- Updating, maintaining and implementing our Safeguarding policy and procedures. This included undertaking training, developing of policies and guidelines for engagement of children and vulnerable adults using social media or on-line platforms and updating policies and procedures in view of state of external advice.
- Producing a volunteer policy that we are now implementing for all new volunteers with the church.
- Completing a round of DBS checks.

These activities are crucial to our efficient and legal operation as a trust.

In September, we recruited two volunteers from Germany. They are here as part of a programme run by Arbeitsgemeinschaft Pfingstlich-Charismatischer Missionen (APCM). This involved getting our Church registered with the German Government as a hosting organisation and getting us registered with the UK Government as an organisation trusted to sponsor and to host volunteers. The scheme runs for a maximum 12 months, and our two volunteers will be with us until July 2023. They are mainly supporting children's work in the church (Rangers, Messy Church, Sunday School) but are also contributing in further ways to our work and ministry.

Estates

The main investment into our estate concerned the refurbishment of the manse prior to our volunteers arriving. This included recarpeting and decoration as well as the conversion of a second room into a bedroom. In addition we have invested into our central heating system and the projection system in the church, upgrading from a projector to a large TV screen. This has proved to be more reliable and produces a far better quality image.



Gifts

Birtley Community Church has continued to support a number of external organisations. Notable gifts include:

- a monthly gift to support our regional sphere of Salt and Light (total £845)
- support for churches and humanitarian work in the Ukraine (£1,007)

The total of all gifts was £4,049 that is 12.6% of the donation income during 2022

Financial Review:

The income from Sunday morning offerings and standing orders was £32,081 compared to £20,187 in 2021. This is an increase in giving of £11,894. Overall income amounted to £44,441 compared to £29,462 in 2021. Gift aid provision, based on donations in 2022, was £3,042, whereas in 2021 it was £2,242. Income from Royal Rangers amounted to £3,253.

The overall expenditure in 2022 was £41,329 compared to £31,227 in 2021. This is an increase of £10,102 as a result of additional expenditure on furniture and fittings, church retreat and the Royal Rangers young people's work.

An offering for humanitarian relief for the people affected by the conflict in Ukraine was taken, which raised £1,993.00 to which the church added an additional £1,007 as a gift. This was forwarded through Tees Valley Community Church who were co-ordinating North East Churches' contribution.

Salaries and expenses amounted to £6,101 in 2022 compared to £12,347 in 2021.

The loan, which was authorised in 2019, has continued to be repaid.

The Church's finances were in surplus of £3,112 in 2022 compared to a loss of £1,815 in 2021.

The total of our bank balances in deposit and current accounts was £284,922 at the end of December 2022.

The value of our land and buildings was continued to be estimated at £230,000 as at the end of December 2022,

The Trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be stable.

Risk Management:

The Trustees continue to monitor for major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business, giving consideration to



the likelihood and the impact of risks, and review what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:

It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted expenditure. This will provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time.

Trustees' responsibilities:

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the company and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Prof. P R Briddon	Position:	Chair Trustees
Signature		Date	



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of Birtley Community Church on Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 set out on pages 11-15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 s.144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these 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.

Independent examiner's statement

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 2011 Act ; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE

Date.....

Signed.....



Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians



Statement of Financial Activities

Birtley Community Church

for the period ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds 2022	Funds 2021
Note	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	35,165		35,165	22,471
Charitable Activities	6,844	1,993	8,837	6,110
Other Trading Activities			0	0
Investments	139		139	27
Other	300		300	854
Total Incoming Resources	42,448	1,993	44,441	29,462
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	0		0	0
Charitable Activities	39,336	1,993	41,329	31,277
Other			0	0
Total	39,336	1,993	41,329	31,277
Net income/(expenditure)	3,112	0	3,112	(1,815)
Transfers between funds				
Net movement in funds	3,112	0	3,112	(1,815)
Total Funds brought forward	515,448		515,448	517,263
Total funds carried forward	518,560	0	518,560	515,448



Balance Sheet

Birtley Community Church as at 31 December 2022

	Note	Total Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Land and Buildings		230,000	230,000
		230,000	230,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	Hardship Loan	746	886
Cash at Bank and In Hand	HMRC	3,042	2,242
Total Current Assets		284,922	282,470
		288,710	285,598
Total Assets		518,710	515,598
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		150	150
Hardship Payment		0	0
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		518,560	515,448
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		0	0
Unrestricted income funds		518,560	515,448
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		518,560	515,448

Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Print Name *Prof. P R Briddon*

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Date of Approval



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 1 January to 31 December 2022

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014;
- and with the Charities Act 2011

There has been no change to the accounting policies, valuation rules and methods of accounting since last year.

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable

The value of volunteer help is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees Annual Report.



Expenditure and Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance costs include costs of Trustee meetings and relevant travel expenses.

Grants are recognised in the accounts as they are paid to the charity.

2 Funds

The Charity has one fund: An unrestricted general fund.

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133513

Accounts



**Birtley Community Church
Financial Statements
For the period ended
31 December 2021**



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Legal and Administrative Information.

Name: Birtley Community Church

Charity No: 1133513

Address:

Edward Road
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham
DH3 1HG

Trustees:

Prof Patrick Roy Briddon Bsc Phd (Chair)
Mr Rowan Marsh Phillimore (Secretary)
Mrs Joanna Rachel Snaith
Mr Joseph James Clifford. (Treasurer)

Document Prepared by:

Mr Joseph James Clifford. (Treasurer)

Governing Document:

The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 6 November 2009

Bankers:

Lloyds TSB
Whickham Branch
44 Front Street
Whickham
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE16 4DS

Independent Examiner:

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB
20 Ennerdale Crescent
Winlaton
Blaydon on Tyne
NE21 6PS



Birtley Community Church Trustees’ Annual report 2021

Objects:

The objects of the Birtley Community Church Trust (referred to as “the Trust” below) are as follows:

1. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit
2. To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time-to-time think fit
3. To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit

Summary

The year 2021 has been a second successive year which has proved to be different from all our previous experience in our Church. The long lockdown and restrictions that characterised the first half of the year again meant that many of our activities had to be either cancelled or rearranged on-line. It once again put to test a number of questions regarding the resilience of our Trust in the face of difficult circumstances. It has been pleasing that Birtley Community Church has been able to continue in its work, even when entirely deprived of access to indoors physical infrastructure for a significant part of the year.

In spite of these difficulties, we have finished 2021 without losing any members and contrary to many churches experience, we now have an increased attendance at our meetings, both in Sunday worship and in community children’s activities. We can therefore approach the coming year with some confidence. In summary, the Trustees believe that the Charity is continuing to thrive and to fulfil its objectives.



Leadership and Oversight

The leadership of Birtley Community Church is unchanged in 2021.

The trustees (alphabetic order) are:

Patrick Briddon (Chairman),
Joe Clifford (Treasurer),
Phil Phillimore (Secretary) and
Rachel Snaith.

The elders responsible for spiritual leadership remain Patrick Briddon and Phil Phillimore.

We continue to receive support and oversight from Taking Ground, formerly a regional sphere of Salt and Light, but now an independent network of churches.

Church Worship and Teaching

The year 2021 began with several months of lockdown and we continued our activities with Zoom meetings. Attendance at these was generally in the range 30-40. The meetings were planned with shorter worship and preaching messages, but with the opportunity for wider participation in leading communion, praying and sharing each week. The ability and willingness of members to interact and share together has been a very positive development over this period. Sunday School also continued using a breakout group from the central Zoom meeting. Zoom gave additional opportunities, for example using visiting speakers such as pastor Yesupadam in India.

Attendance in zoom meetings remained very steady throughout the first part of the year. This was unlike the experiences of other churches with zoom, where attendance had typically fallen markedly as the lockdown continued. As such, the trustees felt there was no reason to rush to reopen the church building, partly in view of the risk still posed by Covid given the age profile of the congregation but also because the limitations that were still placed on face-to-face meetings at that point. Our ethos remains to promote spiritual growth in our members and to encourage all of us to share and participate in meetings and ministry, and this would not be possible in the front-led format initially prescribed by government guidance.

From July, the Trustees agreed to restart face to face meetings, initially meeting outside in our large scouting tent, purchased for the Royal Rangers camp two years



before. This enabled our first uninhibited pause and worship without face masks for 15 months, a profound release for us all. These outdoor meetings were also very well attended, with again 30 or more present on average. Outdoors worship also gave an excellent spiritual dynamic of witnessing to the community and a few visitors living nearby came to listen or to join us. In summary, meeting outdoors was a positive thing in itself. Use of the tent also gave the opportunity to enjoy a barbeque, Fijian style provided to us by the Cama family.

In October, we recommenced our indoors meetings, with the trustees agreeing a protocol for the meetings to be compliant with Government guidelines and broadly following similar practice to other local churches. Attendance was good with typically 40-45 people coming. It became clear that we had not only come through the pandemic without losing anyone, but our congregation had actually increased in the process. The age profile of the church continued to balance over the pandemic period, with three younger parents and six children having joined us, giving a Sunday school class of nine children when all are present, up from three in 2019. We believe this will continue into 2022.

Bible teaching and its application has continued through Sunday ministry, but also in mid-week housegroups, and I will return to these later. A central church prayer meeting attended by an average of approximately 15 people ran over the first half of the year. This focused mainly on outwards facing issues, prayer for the country, the NHS and the developing Covid crisis around the world.

The Ladies Breakfasts have also continued, initially with zoom and later a face-to-face Christmas meeting in December. These were attended by about 30 ladies, these being a mixture of church members and visitors.

The Trustees consider that in these ways, we have continued to make progress with the first object of our Trust.

Pastoral Care and Housegroups

Clearly pastoral care was especially important in view of the lockdown restrictions and the resulting physical separation between members at the start of the year. We therefore continued the strategies from the previous year:

- Special attention has been paid to the church members who were not able to use Zoom, as they were cut off from a lot of our on-going activities.
- Particular attention was given to people who may have been particularly vulnerable or badly affected by the lockdown.
- A social group was run on zoom in addition to the usual church activities. This was intended to add light-hearted fun to the program, and this proved popular with a group of members throughout the year.



- All members were encouraged to stay in touch by phone or other means, and it was very clear that this had functioned well throughout the year.
- Home visits by leaders have also taken place in situations where this was needed.

Housegroups continued on-line for the first part of the year, but moved to face-to-face meetings after the summer. We currently have three groups led by the Briddons, the Camas and the Phillimores.

After leading small groups in Birtley for many years, Russell and Edith, asked to step down in December 2020, and this finally happened at the summer break in 2021. Patrick felt that God had spoken to him previously about moving to a new generation of leaders, and we believe God is continuing to work this process in us. It is with a lot of affection and appreciation from the whole fellowship that we thank Russell and Edith for their faithful and self-giving service in leading their housegroup over so many years.

Church Ministries: Youth and Community

Royal Rangers (<https://www.royalrangers.co.uk/>) started in January-March with Zoom meetings led by Karol based in Germany. From April onwards, Rangers moved back to face-to-face meetings at the church, led by Patrick and Denise. The numbers of children at these gradually built up from 10 to about 30 by the start of the summer. Karol returned from Germany to plan and lead our summer camp. This was held a summer camp over 4 days in August and 45 children registered for this, 28 from our regular group. It went very well indeed, with lots of very positive feedback from both children and from parents.

We were more cautious in restarting our Messy Church ministry

(<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>), with this being an indoors event with provision and sharing of food being a very significant part of it. We have so far held two meetings in October and December and look forward to this continuing to build strength in 2022.

These activities promote the first object of the Trust, with the Rangers ministry also contributing to education and growth in social and leadership skills of young children from our community.

Birtley Churches Together

Birtley Community Church remains part of Birtley Churches together, and we will look forward to meeting more with our local churches in 2022.

Church Staff

Karol continued to work for the church until August 2021. She returned to Germany for Christmas in 2020, but wasn't able to return because of the covid situation. We agreed that she would continue to run five zoom sessions each week until March.



After that, she provided remote suggestions to Patrick and Denise when Rangers moved to face-to-face meetings. She returned to Birtley in July for 10 days of isolation, 10 days of planning with Patrick and Denise and then led the 4-day summer camp very well. She was offered options for an extension to remain here, but decided to return to Germany to continue her life there.

Our church administrator, Rachel Snaith, is now in her third year with the church. The main projects she has worked on during 2021 are

- Conducting Human Resources activities relating to the employment of staff, including policy development and implementation, and administration of the furlough scheme.
- Running the church payroll, updating and maintaining our Safeguarding policy and procedures. This included undertaking training, developing of policies and guidelines for engagement of children and vulnerable adults using social media or on-line
- platforms and updating policies and procedures we will follow when face-to-face meetings recommence
- Continuing a fresh round of DBS checks, and setting in place new policies needed to do this.

These activities are crucial to our efficient and legal operation as a trust.

Estates

No substantial projects of work have been conducted on the Church premises during 2021.

Gifts

Birtley Community Church has continued to support a number of external organisations. We give a monthly gift to support our regional sphere of Salt and Light (2% of our donation income) and, in addition to this, have given particular support (£3,899) to covid relief and support to education in India. The total of the gifts was £2,165 that is 11% of the donation income during 2021.

Financial Review:

The income from Sunday morning offerings and standing orders was £20,187 compared to £18,756 in 2020. This is an increase in giving of £1,429. Overall income amounted to £29,462 compared to £25,452 in 2020. Gift aid provision, based on donations in 2021 is £2,242, whereas in 2020, was £2,508

The overall expenditure in 2021 was £31,277 compared to £35,761 in 2020. This is a reduction of £4,484.

A freewill offering was taken to support Pastor Yesapadam of Narasapuram, India regarding the appalling conditions his Ministry Team were experiencing in that region due to Covid. This offering, amounting to £3,899, was forwarded to India through Kathleen Homes. This appears as restricted income and expenditure.



Salaries and expenses amounted to £12,347 in 2021 compared to £15,057 in 2020.

The loan, which was authorised in 2019, has continued to be repaid.

The Church's finances were in deficit of £1,815 in 2021 compared to £10,309 in 2020.

The total of our bank balances in deposit and current accounts was £282,470 at the end of December 2021.

The value of our land and buildings was continued to be estimated at £230,000 as at the end of December 2021.

The use of Internet Banking, which was implemented during 2019, has allowed Birtley Community Church to meet its financial responsibilities during the period of lockdown.

The Trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be stable.

Risk Management:

The Trustees continue to monitor for major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business, giving consideration to the likelihood and the impact of risks, and review what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:

It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted expenditure. This will provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time.

Trustees' responsibilities:

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the company and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Directors/Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Prof. P R Briddon	Position:	Chair Trustees
Signature	<i>P R Briddon</i>	Date	2/4/2022



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of Birtley Community Church on Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 set out on pages 11-15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 s.144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these 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.

Independent examiner's statement

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 2011 Act ; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE

Date.....4/4/2022.....

Signed.....K A Tully.....



Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians



Statement of Financial Activities

Birtley Community Church

for the period ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note	£	£	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	22,471		22,471	21,272
Charitable Activities	2,211	3,899	6,110	741
Other Trading Activities			0	0
Investments	27		27	102
Other	854		854	3,337
Total Incoming Resources	25,563	3,899	29,462	25,452
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	0		0	0
Charitable Activities	27,378	3,899	31,277	35,761
Other			0	0
Total	27,378	3,899	31,277	35,761
Net income/(expenditure)	(1,815)	0	(1,815)	(10,309)
Transfers between funds				
Net movement in funds	(1,815)	0	(1,815)	(10,309)
Total Funds brought forward	517,263		517,263	527,572
Total funds carried forward	515,448	0	515,448	517,263



Balance Sheet

Birtley Community Church
as at 31 December 2021

	Note	Total Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Land and Buildings		230,000	230,000
		230,000	230,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	Hardship Loan	886	1,923
	HMRC	2,242	2,508
Cash at Bank and In Hand		282,470	282,982
Total Current Assets		285,598	287,413
Total Assets		515,598	517,413
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		150	150
Hardship Payment		0	0
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		515,448	517,263
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		0	0
Unrestricted income funds		515,448	517,263
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		515,448	517,263



Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Print Name *Prof. P R Briddon*

Signature *P R Briddon*

Print Name

Signature

Date of Approval 4/4/2022



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 1 January to 31 December 2021

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014;
- and with the Charities Act 2011

There has been no change to the accounting policies, valuation rules and methods of accounting since last year.

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable

The value of volunteer help is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees Annual Report.



Expenditure and Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance costs include costs of Trustee meetings and relevant travel expenses.

Grants are recognised in the accounts as they are paid to the charity.

2 Funds

The Charity has one fund: An unrestricted general fund.

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133513

Accounts



Birtley Community Church

**Financial Statements
For the period ended
31 December 2020**



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Legal and Administrative Information.

Name: Birtley Community Church

Charity No: 1133513

Address:

Edward Road
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham
DH3 1HG

Trustees:

Prof Patrick Roy Briddon Bsc Phd (Chair)
Mr Rowan Marsh Phillimore (Secretary)
Mrs Joanna Rachel Snaith
Mr Joseph James Clifford. (Treasurer)

Document Prepared by:

Mr Joseph James Clifford. (Treasurer)

Governing Document:

The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 6 November 2009

Bankers:

Lloyds TSB
Whickham Branch
44 Front Street
Whickham
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE16 4DS

Independent Examiner:

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB
20 Ennerdale Crescent
Winlaton
Blaydon on Tyne
NE21 6PS



Birtley Community Church Trustees' Annual report 2020

Objects:

The objects of the Birtley Community Church Trust (referred to as "the Trust" below) are as follows:

1. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit
2. To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time-to-time think fit
3. To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.

Summary

The year 2020 has been a year unlike any other in the experience of our Church. The arrival of the Covid pandemic in March 2020 meant that many of our activities had to be either cancelled or rearranged on-line. It also put to test a number of questions regarding the resilience of our Trust in the face of difficult circumstances. It has been pleasing that Birtley Community Church has been able to continue in its work, even when entirely deprived of access to physical infrastructure. In summary, the Trustees believe that the Charity is continuing to thrive and fulfil its objectives.

Leadership and Oversight

The leadership of Birtley Community Church is unchanged in 2020, with the Elders and Trustees remaining the same as in 2019. We have continued to receive support and oversight from Taking Ground, the regional sphere of Salt and Light.

Church Worship and Teaching

2020 began with approximately 30 people typically present at Sunday meetings. The situation changed rapidly with the arrival of the pandemic in March. The trustees decided that all face-to-face meetings be suspended immediately, a decision formalised by the announcement of the first lockdown a week later on March 23rd.



From April, Sunday Worship became a mixture of a zoom prayer and communion service, followed by us connecting with broadcasts from Tees Valley Community Church. The Trustees decided not to recommence face-to-face meetings later in the year, partly in view of the risk posed by Covid given the age profile of the congregation but also because the limitations that would be placed on face-to-face meetings. Our ethos is to promote spiritual growth in our members and to encourage all of us to share and participate in meetings and ministry, and this would not be possible in the front-led format prescribed by government guidance. Instead, we developed a zoom meeting that included worship, communion, sharing by our congregation and preaching/teaching. The ability and willingness of members to interact and share together has been a very positive development over the course of the year. Eventually, even Sunday School was able to restart, using a breakout group from the central Zoom meeting.

Bible teaching and its application has continued through Sunday ministry, but also in mid-week housegroups, and I will return to these later. A central church prayer meeting began once each week, attended by an average of approximately 15 people over the year. This focused mainly on outwards facing issues, prayer for the country, the NHS and the developing Covid crisis around the world.

Typically, Sunday zoom meetings have an attendance of 35-40 people, including 7 new attendees who joined us during the course of 2020. It is notable therefore that our average attendance has grown by about 25% compared to our pre-lockdown size, and more than this when we take into account our long-established members who don't use zoom but who remain connected with us. The age profile of the church has also balanced slightly as a result of this growth.

The Ladies Breakfasts have also been able to restart with zoom and a Christmas special meeting was held in December, attended by about 30 ladies, these being a mixture of church members and visitors.

The Trustees consider that in this regard, we have continued to make progress with the first object of our Trust in these ways.

Pastoral Care and Housegroups

Clearly in view of the lockdown restrictions and the resulting physical separation between members, the provision of pastoral care has been especially important during 2020, and we therefore followed a number of strategies:

- At the start of the pandemic, the members and attendees of church were assigned a principal contact among the housegroup leaders, who would ensure they were contacted regularly, and that they were safe and supported.



- Special attention has been paid to the church members who were not able to use Zoom, as they were cut off from a lot of our on-going activities.
- Particular attention was given to people who may be particularly vulnerable or badly affected by the lockdown.
- A social group was run on zoom in addition to usual church activities. This was intended to add light-hearted fun to the program, and this proved popular with a group of members throughout the year.
- During the summer, smaller groups of members were able to meet together following relaxation of Government guidelines.
- All members were encouraged to stay in touch by phone or other means, and it was very clear that this had functioned well throughout the year.
- Home visits by leaders have also taken place in situations where this was needed.

Housegroups also moved to on-line meeting with zoom, and it is notable that attendance at these had increased compared to pre-lockdown. In fact, about 25-30 of our members who use zoom attended housegroup regularly.

The Trustees consider that in this way, we have been able to continue to fulfil the second object of our Trust.

Church Ministries: Youth and Community

Our Messy Church ministry (<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>) began strongly at the start of 2020, attended by 20+ children plus parents, largely non-church members from the surrounding community. Following encouraging events in January-March we finished with a large event combining both Messy Church and Ranger activities as part of the visit of an international ministry team. Following the lockdown, a Messy Church community has continued to connect via Facebook, and we retain telephone contact with some of the children and parents.

Royal Rangers (<https://www.royalrangers.co.uk/>) also began strongly with events in February and March in addition to our usual outpost meetings. From April onwards, Rangers has taken place by four Zoom meetings each week, led by Patrick and Denise from April to July and Karol from October. We regularly met with 20-30 children in these. Regular contact has thus been maintained throughout with our children and some of their parents in the community surrounding our church.

A number of church members have participated in a "Hope Rocks" ministry (<https://www.facebook.com/edithandrussell/>), in which messages of hope are painted on stones and placed around the community. There has been good feedback from some people who have been encouraged when finding the stones.



These activities promote the first object of the Trust, with the Rangers ministry also contributing to education and growth in social and leadership skills of young children from our community.

Texan Ministry Team visit

In March, we hosted a ministry team of Texan students for a week. During their time here, they visited Barley Mow Primary School, conducting assemblies, physical education (line dancing) and delivering religious education in classrooms. After this, approximately 50 children plus parents attended a Messy Church/Rangers activity in our building on Saturday. The Texans also provided a community event, a line dancing event, attended by approximately 70 people, of whom roughly half were visitors from the community. This visit thus contributed to the first and third objects of our trust. A Texan team will return in March 2022, hopefully with a similar or extended itinerary.

Birtley Churches Together

Birtley Community Church remains part of Birtley Churches together, and we hosted a joint meeting in January and participated in their *Open the Book* ministry prior to the first lockdown. Occasional contact between the church leaders has continued throughout the lockdown process.

Church Staff

Our two youth leaders were given the choice of remaining in the UK during the lockdown, or of returning to Germany to spend this time with their families. They both chose to return to Germany. However, as time passed, it became clear that we would not be restarting activities during their existing contracts. Karol decided to return to work for us for a second year, and was furloughed under the Government scheme through the summer months. She returned in October 2020 and led a single outdoor outpost before the November lockdown and has continued to run four zoom sessions each week since then. In addition, she has led Sunday School and provided German lessons by zoom for the older children in Rangers. Joshua decided not to continue here, and is currently continuing with his studies in Germany.

Our church administrator, Rachel Snaith, is now in her second year with the church. The main projects she has worked on during 2020 are

- Conducting Human Resources activities relating to the employment of three staff, including policy development and implementation, and administration of the furlough scheme.



- Running the church payroll.
- Updating our Safeguarding policy and procedures. This included undertaking training, conducting an urgent developing of policies and guidelines for engagement of children and vulnerable adults using social media or on-line platforms and updating policies and procedures we will follow when face-to-face meetings recommence
- Commencing a fresh round of DBS checks, and setting in place new policies needed to do this.

These activities are crucial to our efficient and legal operation as a trust.

Estates

No substantial projects of work have been conducted on the Church premises during 2020.

Gifts

Birtley Community Church has continued to support a number of external organisations. We give a monthly gift to support our regional sphere of Salt and Light (2% of our donation income) and, in addition to this, have given particular support in the effort to establish a new church in York (£2,500), and to develop youth leadership (Daniel Challenge, £500). We made a gift to support Kathleen Homes (£1,000). All of these gifts are clearly associated with promotion of the Christian faith and indeed all objects of our Trust are involved in these gifts, namely the promotion of the Christian faith, the alleviation of hardship and the promotion of education. The total of the gifts was £5,568, that is 19% of the donation income during 2020.

Financial Review:

The income from Sunday morning offerings and standing orders was £18,756 in 2020 compared to £26,008 in 2019. This is a reduction in giving of £7,252. Overall income amounted to £25,452 in 2020 compared to 36,682 (excluding the provision for a loan made in 2019, 39,653 in total) in 2019. Gift aid provision, based on donations in 2020, was £2,508, whereas in 2019 this was £2,939.



The overall expenditure in 2020 was £35,761 compared to £58,952 in 2019 (Less provision for loan), £62,017 in total. This is a reduction of £26,294, reflecting the lack of large estate projects or capital expenditure this year.

Salaries and expenses amounted to £15,075 in 2020 compared to £6,450 in 2019.

The result was a deficit of £10,309 in 2020 as opposed to a deficit of £22,364 in 2019.

The total of our bank balances in deposit and current accounts was £282,982 at the end of December 2020.

The value of our land and buildings was continued to be estimated at £230,000 as at the end of December 2020.

Risk Management:

The Trustees continue to monitor for major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business, giving consideration to the likelihood and the impact of risks, and review what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:

It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted expenditure. This will provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time.

expenditure. This will provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time.



Trustees' responsibilities:

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the company and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Directors/Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Prof. P R Briddon	Position:	Chair Trustees
Signature	<i>P R Briddon</i>	Date	28-04-2021



Independent Examiner’s Report

Report to the trustees/members of Birtley Community Church on Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages 9-13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 s.144 of the Charities Act 2011 (‘the Act’), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act;and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner’s statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these 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.

Independent examiner’s statement

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 2011 Act ; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB

Date..... 29th April 2021

Signed..... *K A Tully*



Statement of Financial Activities

Birtley Community Church

for the period ended 31 December 2020

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	21,272		21,272	28,986
Charitable Activities	741	0	741	10,522
Other Trading Activities			0	0
Investments	102		102	145
Other	3,337		3,337	0
Total Incoming Resources	25,452	0	25,452	39,653
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	0		0	0
Charitable Activities	35,761		35,761	62,017
Other			0	0
Total	35,761	0	35,761	62,017
Net income/(expenditure)	(10,309)	0	(10,309)	(22,364)
Transfers between funds				
Net movement in funds	(10,309)	0	(10,309)	(22,364)
Total Funds brought forward	527,572		527,572	549,936
Total funds carried forward	517,263	0	517,263	527,572



Balance Sheet

Birtley Community Church as at 31 December 2020

	Note	Total Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Fixed Assets			
Land and Buildings		230,000	230,000
		230,000	230,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	Hardship Loan	1,923	2,971
	HMRC	2,508	2,939
Cash at Bank and In Hand		282,982	294,877
Total Current Assets		287,413	300,787
Total Assets		517,413	530,787
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		150	150
Hardship Payment		0	3,065
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		517,263	527,572
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		0	0
Unrestricted income funds		517,263	527,572
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		517,263	527,572

Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Print Name *Prof. P R Briddon*

Signature

P R Briddon

Print Name

Signature

Date of Approval

28-04-2021



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 1 January to 31 December 2020

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014;
- and with the Charities Act 2011

There has been no change to the accounting policies, valuation rules and methods of accounting since last year.

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable

The value of volunteer help is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees Annual Report.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.



Governance costs include costs of Trustee meetings and relevant travel expenses.

Grants are recognised in the accounts as they are paid to the charity.

2 Funds

The Charity has one fund: An unrestricted general fund.