

Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2023  
for  
The Black Country Net

S A R Accountants  
Tower View  
Broadway Road  
Childswickham  
Broadway  
Worcestershire  
WR12 7HD

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for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

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The Black Country Net

Reference and Administrative Details  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

<b>TRUSTEES</b>	Revd P G Chamberlain J Cook (resigned 6.12.22) T Fellows Mrs L J Wildsmith Communications manager
<b>COMPANY SECRETARY</b>	K R Davis
<b>REGISTERED OFFICE</b>	Alpha House 9 Tipton Street Sedgley West Midlands DY3 1HE
<b>REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER</b>	07372351 (England and Wales)
<b>REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER</b>	1142412
<b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINER</b>	S A R Accountants Tower View Broadway Road Childswickham Broadway Worcestershire WR12 7HD

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objectives and aims**

The principle objectives of the company are :-

- to promote the advancement of education of the general public in Christian principles;
- to advance Christian education of school children and young people;
- to promote such other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purpose.

Working primarily in the Black Country boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, promoting church partnerships and helping communities by encouraging business enterprise, food banks and the like.

The main activities have been facilitating the regular gatherings of leaders from both Church, business, public and charitable sectors, including representatives of youth and children's works, on a monthly basis, either in the local boroughs or on a wider basis across the Black Country. These, we are pleased to report, have spawned many initiatives at every level.

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the information contained in the Charity Commissioner's General Guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's objectives and activities. The Trustees consider that considerable public benefit will be achieved and many members of the public will benefit.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Charitable activities**

As in other years, we as a board have been delighted with the many and varied opportunities where we have clearly seen churches and organisations come TOGETHER. From leaders meetings across the four boroughs to youth gatherings culminating in a second TOGETHER day at Himley Hall, Dudley in July.

This saw well over 3000 attendees and close to 100 churches and groups joining together for a day of fun, engagement and networking. Although many volunteered hours and hours of time to make this happen specific, thanks, have to go to Linsey Wildsmith for coordinating the event, alongside several members of the core team.

Sadly, Linsey has stood down as an employee. However, we are delighted that she remains as a trustee and board member.

We remain focused on keeping the movement as active as it has grown to be in the last few years with specific moments being arranged for the future.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial position**

The total net expenditure over income for the year amounts to £33,099 (2022 net income over expenditure £19,106). Total funds carried forward amount to £79,409 (2022 £112,508).

The vast majority of the finances required to fund the activities are raised through regular giving and one-off donations from individuals, local churches and businesses, supplemented by the refund of income tax from HM Revenue and Customs through the gift aid scheme. Additionally grants are sourced and received on an ad-hoc basis.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves policy**

The policy agreed by the directors is to aim to hold in unrestricted reserves not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (the "free" reserves) sufficient to cover the general overhead expenses and salary costs not specifically funded by external agencies or able to be covered by other committed income such as rents for a period of six months. As of 5th April 2023, we feel that the free reserves available of £79,409 would meet this objective.

### **Risk policy and review**

The directors review risk periodically and are satisfied that major risks to which the charity is exposed, are adequately mitigated through insurance, strategic planning, policies and procedures.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

New directors are appointed by the existing directors. A selection and recruitment process takes place when potential board members are selected after making careful enquiry as to their suitability and their support of the objectives of the trust. The board aims to have a broad range of skills represented, in particular expertise in Christian doctrine, finance and charity law. The board of directors currently comprises of 6 members who meet quarterly. Director Linsey Wildsmith whilst being on staff brings an additional level of expertise to the board.

A Core Team, consisting of the board of directors plus at least 4 others, and a borough representatives Team also provide input and advice into the management of the trust.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 17 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd P G Chamberlain - Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Black Country Net ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 5 April 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sally-Ann Reeves FCCA  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

S A R Accountants  
Tower View  
Broadway Road  
Childswickham  
Broadway  
Worcestershire  
WR12 7HD

17 October 2023

The Black Country Net

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	5.4.23 Total funds £	5.4.22 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		94,932	-	94,932	73,845
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Networking		2,220	-	2,220	7,945
<b>Total</b>		97,152	-	97,152	81,790
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Pastoral and Ministry		-	-	-	13,754
Networking		59,468	-	59,468	48,930
Together Festival		70,783	-	70,783	-
<b>Total</b>		130,251	-	130,251	62,684
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		(33,099)	-	(33,099)	19,106
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		112,508	-	112,508	93,402
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		79,409	-	79,409	112,508

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Black Country Net

Balance Sheet

5 April 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	5.4.23 Total funds £	5.4.22 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Prepayments and accrued income		16,230	-	16,230	14,060
Cash at bank		87,565	-	87,565	98,948
		<u>103,795</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,795</u>	<u>113,008</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(24,386)	-	(24,386)	(500)
		<u>79,409</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,409</u>	<u>112,508</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		<u>79,409</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,409</u>	<u>112,508</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
		<u>79,409</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,409</u>	<u>112,508</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
		<u>79,409</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,409</u>	<u>112,508</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	6				
Unrestricted funds				<u>79,409</u>	<u>112,508</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>79,409</u>	<u>112,508</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 5 April 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.



These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 October 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

P G Chamberlain - Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

	5.4.23	5.4.22
	£	£
Trustees' salaries	22,053	21,345
Trustees' pensions paid	474	449
	<u>22,527</u>	<u>21,794</u>
<b>Trustees' expenses</b>		
	5.4.23	5.4.22
	£	£
Trustees' expenses	40	169
	<u>40</u>	<u>169</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

**3. STAFF COSTS**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	5.4.23	5.4.22
Administration	1	1

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	73,845	-	73,845
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Networking	7,945	-	7,945
<b>Total</b>	81,790	-	81,790
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Pastoral and Ministry	13,754	-	13,754
Networking	48,930	-	48,930
<b>Total</b>	62,684	-	62,684
<b>NET INCOME</b>	19,106	-	19,106
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	93,402	-	93,402
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	112,508	-	112,508

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	5.4.23	5.4.22
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	24,386	500

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 6.4.22	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 5.4.23
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	25,102	(9,336)	(1,869)	13,897
Next Generation	19,905	1,305	-	21,210
Together Festival	24,288	(30,556)	3,704	(2,564)
Love Wolverhampton	40	(60)	100	80
Love Dudley	4,362	673	65	5,100
Love Sandwell	14,915	1,148	(1,000)	15,063
Love Walsall	18,878	2,977	(1,000)	20,855
Chapel premises	4,027	-	-	4,027
Gender Conference	991	-	-	991
Mental Health	-	750	-	750
	112,508	(33,099)	-	79,409
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	112,508	(33,099)	-	79,409

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	44,840	(54,176)	(9,336)
Next Generation	1,405	(100)	1,305
Together Festival	40,227	(70,783)	(30,556)
Love Wolverhampton	-	(60)	(60)
Love Dudley	1,490	(817)	673
Love Sandwell	1,440	(292)	1,148
Love Walsall	7,000	(4,023)	2,977
Mental Health	750	-	750
	97,152	(130,251)	(33,099)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	97,152	(130,251)	(33,099)

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 6.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 5.4.22 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	4,818	9,622	10,662	25,102
Next Generation	43,862	(3,957)	(20,000)	19,905
Together Festival	7,941	16,347	-	24,288
Love Wolverhampton	60	(20)	-	40
Love Dudley	5,793	(1,878)	447	4,362
Love Sandwell	11,718	622	2,575	14,915
Love Walsall	18,953	(2,575)	2,500	18,878
Theology Network	257	199	(456)	-
Chapel premises	-	(245)	4,272	4,027
Gender Conference	-	991	-	991
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	93,402	19,106	-	112,508
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>93,402</u>	<u>19,106</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,508</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	49,162	(39,540)	9,622
Next Generation	1,758	(5,715)	(3,957)
Together Festival	19,367	(3,020)	16,347
Love Wolverhampton	-	(20)	(20)
Love Dudley	1,260	(3,138)	(1,878)
Love Sandwell	1,515	(893)	622
Love Walsall	5,000	(7,575)	(2,575)
Theology Network	209	(10)	199
Chapel premises	-	(245)	(245)
Gender Conference	3,519	(2,528)	991
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	81,790	(62,684)	19,106
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>81,790</u>	<u>(62,684)</u>	<u>19,106</u>

**7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

During the year, John Cook, who was a trustee until 6.12.22, was paid £12,000 up to the date of resignation (2022 £nil) relating to consultancy fees.

D Chamberlain, daughter in law of trustee Revd P G Chamberlain, was paid £nil (2022 £5,415) for consultancy fees as the Next Generation coordinator.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

	5.4.23 £	5.4.22 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	87,137	66,320
Gift aid	7,795	7,525
	<hr/> 94,932	<hr/> 73,845
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Breakfast meetings	780	2,100
Retreats	1,440	1,045
Other receipts	-	4,800
	<hr/> 2,220	<hr/> 7,945
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<hr/> 97,152	<hr/> 81,790
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Trustees' salaries	22,053	21,345
Trustees' pensions paid	474	449
Trustees' expenses	40	169
IT Support	1,402	1,469
Insurance	1,086	-
Advertising & marketing	692	180
Events	72,488	6,240
Retreats	1,098	1,100
Self Employed Workers	884	-
Equipment	-	5,973
Next Generation Coordinator	-	5,415
Consultancy fees	20,000	842
Next Generation Champions	3,503	8,039
Breakfast meeting costs	134	3,608
As One Project costs	-	2,523
Gifts incl. visiting speakers	1,824	2,073
	<hr/> 125,678	<hr/> 59,425
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Membership and subscriptions	791	929
<b>Finance</b>		
Bank charges	400	279

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

The Black Country Net

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2023

	5.4.23 £	5.4.22 £
<b>Finance</b>		
<b>Information technology</b>		
Software and web hosting	24	15
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	3,358	2,036
Total resources expended	130,251	62,684
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	(33,099)	19,106

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements