

Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2025  
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 2025

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<b>TRUSTEES</b>	Revd P G Chamberlain T Fellows Mrs L J Wildsmith K R Davis (appointed 3.10.25)
<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 2025. 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.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Charitable activities**

The organisation continues to grow and evolve as we clearly see our two-pronged mission of "movement" and "moments" working out. "Movement" being our ongoing vision of churches, businesses, the third sector etc operating together. "Moments" being the practical, event led demonstrations of that assembling together.

This has clearly been seen in the last 12 months, not only in the regular gatherings of leaders and various groupings but specifically in 3 memorable events and ongoing events: -

- Amongst the young people, as both leaders have regularly gathered but perhaps more importantly gatherings of the youth themselves are growing and flourishing, with several events seeing over 300 in attendance.
- November 2024, saw over 1500 people from many churches come together for an amazing evening at the Bethel Convention Centre in Oldbury.
- In June 2025, the "Together" event at Himley Hall in Dudley brought together more than 3,000 attendees for a glorious day of celebration, fun, worship, activities and gatherings. The event was supported by over 100 churches from both boroughs and included participants from a range of backgrounds and communities.

Suffice to say, we are delighted with progress to date and look forward to going forward in many arenas.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial position**

The total net income over expenditure for the year amounts to £40,058 (2024 net expenditure over income £13,139). Total funds carried forward amount to £106,328 (2024 £66,270).

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.

### **Reserves policy and review**

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 2025, we feel that the free reserves available of £106,328 (2024 £66,270) would meet this objective.

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 4 members who meet quarterly.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 3 October 2025 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 2025.

**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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

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

Date: .....

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	5.4.25 Total funds £	5.4.24 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	118,482	-	118,482	122,195
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Networking and events		9,633	-	9,633	8,472
Investment income	3	697	-	697	35
<b>Total</b>		<u>128,812</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,812</u>	<u>130,702</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Networking and events		61,722	-	61,722	65,432
Together Festival		27,032	-	27,032	78,409
<b>Total</b>		<u>88,754</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,754</u>	<u>143,841</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		40,058	-	40,058	(13,139)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		66,270	-	66,270	79,409
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>106,328</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>106,328</u></u>	<u><u>66,270</u></u>

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	5.4.25 Total funds £	5.4.24 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Prepayments and accrued income		1,314	-	1,314	2,641
Cash at bank		105,514	-	105,514	64,129
		<u>106,828</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,828</u>	<u>66,770</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(500)	-	(500)	(500)
		<u>106,328</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,328</u>	<u>66,270</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		<u>106,328</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,328</u>	<u>66,270</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
		<u>106,328</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,328</u>	<u>66,270</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
		<u>106,328</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,328</u>	<u>66,270</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	8				
Unrestricted funds				<u>106,328</u>	<u>66,270</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>106,328</u>	<u>66,270</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 5 April 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2025 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 3 October 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

P G Chamberlain - Trustee



## 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. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	5.4.25	5.4.24
	£	£
Donations	77,801	114,574
Gift aid	7,554	7,621
Together Festival	33,127	-
	<u>118,482</u>	<u>122,195</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2025

**3. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	5.4.25	5.4.24
	£	£
Deposit account interest	697	35
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

	5.4.25	5.4.24
	£	£
Trustees' salaries	-	9,675
Trustees' pensions paid	-	212
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
	-	9,887
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 5 April 2025 nor for the year ended 5 April 2024.

**5. STAFF COSTS**

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

	5.4.25	5.4.24
	-	1
Administration	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

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

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	122,195	-	122,195
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Networking and events	8,472	-	8,472
Investment income	35	-	35
<b>Total</b>	<u>130,702</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130,702</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Networking and events	65,432	-	65,432
Together Festival	78,409	-	78,409
<b>Total</b>	<u>143,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>143,841</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(13,139)	-	(13,139)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	79,409	-	79,409

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2025

**6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>66,270</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,270</b>

**7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	5.4.25 £	5.4.24 £
Accruals and deferred income	500	500

**8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 6.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 5.4.25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	3,484	8,407	(473)	11,418
Next Generation	24,305	4,517	-	28,822
Together Festival	4,176	6,997	-	11,173
Love Wolverhampton	40	-	-	40
Love Dudley	4,312	117	991	5,420
Love Sandwell	13,920	259	473	14,652
Love Walsall	12,857	707	-	13,564
Chapel premises	1,867	(1,867)	-	-
Gender Conference	991	-	(991)	-
Mental Health	218	(24)	-	194
Retreats	100	284	-	384
Kingdom Business Fund	-	289	-	289
Fundraising	-	20,372	-	20,372
	<b>66,270</b>	<b>40,058</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,328</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>66,270</b>	<b>40,058</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,328</b>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2025

**8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	44,527	(36,120)	8,407
Next Generation	6,887	(2,370)	4,517
Together Festival	34,029	(27,032)	6,997
Love Dudley	2,298	(2,181)	117
Love Sandwell	1,140	(881)	259
Love Walsall	5,972	(5,265)	707
Chapel premises	305	(2,172)	(1,867)
Mental Health	-	(24)	(24)
Retreats	3,107	(2,823)	284
Kingdom Business Fund	1,097	(808)	289
Fundraising	29,450	(9,078)	20,372
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	128,812	(88,754)	40,058
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 6.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 5.4.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	13,897	(9,813)	(600)	3,484
Next Generation	21,210	3,095	-	24,305
Together Festival	(2,564)	(885)	7,625	4,176
Love Wolverhampton	80	(40)	-	40
Love Dudley	5,100	212	(1,000)	4,312
Love Sandwell	15,063	857	(2,000)	13,920
Love Walsall	20,855	(3,973)	(4,025)	12,857
Chapel premises	4,027	(2,160)	-	1,867
Gender Conference	991	-	-	991
Mental Health	750	(532)	-	218
Retreats	-	100	-	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	79,409	(13,139)	-	66,270
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2025

**8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

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	39,085	(48,898)	(9,813)
Next Generation	3,095	-	3,095
Together Festival	73,466	(74,351)	(885)
Love Wolverhampton	-	(40)	(40)
Love Dudley	1,734	(1,522)	212
Love Sandwell	1,140	(283)	857
Love Walsall	5,000	(8,973)	(3,973)
Chapel premises	-	(2,160)	(2,160)
Mental Health	1,547	(2,079)	(532)
Retreats	5,635	(5,535)	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	130,702	(143,841)	(13,139)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>130,702</u>	<u>(143,841)</u>	<u>(13,139)</u>

**9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 5 April 2025.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2025

	5.4.25 £	5.4.24 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	77,801	114,574
Gift aid	7,554	7,621
Together Festival	33,127	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	118,482	122,195
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	697	35
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Breakfast meetings	1,097	-
Retreats	3,107	5,442
Other receipts	5,429	3,030
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,633	8,472
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	128,812	130,702
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Trustees' salaries	-	9,675
Trustees' pensions paid	-	212
IT Support	989	1,080
Insurance	1,117	1,087
Postage and stationery	24	-
Advertising & marketing	2,121	1,241
Events	40,736	79,582
Retreats	3,052	4,630
Self Employed Workers	6,232	7,207
Equipment	2,172	2,160
Consultancy fees	24,000	24,000
Next Generation Champions	-	4,855
Breakfast meeting costs	808	-
Leadership costs	108	-
Accommodation	2,849	-
Gifts incl. visiting speakers	338	3,555
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	84,546	139,284
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Membership and subscriptions	1,364	1,294
<b>Finance</b>		
Bank charges	332	365

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 5 April 2025

	5.4.25 £	5.4.24 £
<b>Finance</b>		
<b>Information technology</b>		
Software and web hosting	559	559
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	1,953	2,339
Total resources expended	88,754	143,841
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	40,058	(13,139)