

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

England & Wales · Charity number 1153612

Details

Other names CHURCHES TOGETHER SOUTH TYNESIDE

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2013-09-02

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

Contact

Address 52 Lawe Road
South Shields
NE33 2AL

Phone 01914277879

Email secretaryCTST@gmail.com

Website www.southtynesidechurches.co.uk

Activities

Objects: 1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN SOUTH TYNESIDE. 2) THE PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY: A) EDUCATING THE PUBLIC IN DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS BELIEFS INCLUDING AN AWARENESS OF THEIR DISTINCTIVE FEATURES AND THEIR COMMON GROUND TO PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN PERSONS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS. B) PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT OF THE BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS FAITHS.

Activities: CTST projects: Happy at Home (befriending service for isolated elderly people); Street Angels (supporting those in need on Saturday nights); Nurturing Dementia; interfaith projects. Supports Key2Life (foodbank, school uniforms, plus..). Affiliated charities: Key Project (homeless young people): South Tyneside Asylum Seeker Refugee Church Help. Shared prayer resources One off events eg hustings.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SOUTH TYNESIDE
- South Tyneside

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£160,091	£138,806	-	-
2023-12-31	£173,531	£127,588	-	-
2022-12-31	£124,674	£151,657	-	-
2021-12-31	£109,191	£126,074	-	-
2020-12-31	£196,147	£98,821	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Audrey Tennet	Chair	2014-07-09
Ann trollope		2018-04-25
BERNADETTE ASKINS B.A. Hons		2013-04-01
HILARY THOMPSON		2013-04-01
JANE ARTHURS		2013-04-01
Robert Finch		2025-06-06
STEPHEN SLADE		2018-04-25

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1153612

Accounts

Churches Together in South Tyneside
Annual Report for Financial Year:
January 1st 2024– December 31st 2024



Charity's Name:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

Any other name the Charity uses: **Churches Together South Tyneside; CTST; South Tyneside Churches Together**

Charity's Number: **1153612**

Charity's Registered Address:

52 Lawe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2AL

Names of Charity's Trustees on December 31st 2024

Jane Arthurs, Bernadette Askins, Stephen Slade, Audrey Tennet, Hilary Thompson, Ann Trollope

Structure, Governance and management:

CTST is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The present constitution of CTST was finalised on August 22nd, 2013. It outlines the objects, powers, policy on income, property and controls about payments, regulations re charity trustees and connected persons, conflicts of interest and loyalty, liabilities, membership, decision making, and meetings.

CTST has trustees. At the AGM the trustees, chair and deputy chair are elected. The secretary and treasurer are appointed. New trustees are inducted by the Chair in line with the constitution. Several trustees are involved with other charities and share their expertise with the group. New trustees are recruited through connections within the churches in South Tyneside and local social action projects and charities. New trustees are nominated and appointed at the AGMs. New trustees can be co-opted midterm and will be confirmed at the next AGM. Working groups may be set up to carry out agreed tasks.

The Trustees hold monthly meetings where they set overall strategy, review and monitor the charities activities, finances and make decisions. Meetings mostly take place online and occasionally in person. Minutes are circulated electronically.

Our main activities (projects) have their own management committees which monitor their work and finances. A trustee chairs each project management committee. Trustees receive the minutes of these meetings. We encourage volunteers and beneficiaries to become committee members and contribute to decision making.

CTST members are our stakeholders - volunteers, beneficiaries, local churches, social action projects and individuals who share our values and want to support our work.

100 people volunteer regularly to support our projects. This amounts to a contribution of 5250 hrs per annum.

The projects have been supported by an Executive Lead (appointed August 2021), who retired on 31st December 2024 and 6 other part time paid project workers, who support the trustees and volunteers and attend management committee meetings.

Financial review

Principal Funding Sources

1. Donations from
 - a. local churches
 - b. local organisations- John Lewis, Asda
 - c. private sources- personal gifts, legacy, funeral donations,
 - d. individuals
2. Fund raising events- Great North Run, St Gregory's and Westoe Fayre for Nurturing Dementia, Westoe Fayre for Happy at Home
3. Grants from trusts and foundations:
 - Core costs: Greggs, Sir James Knott, Dogger Bank
 - Happy at Home: South Tyneside Council, Community Foundation NT&W (Kellett 5, Prime Fund, National Lottery Community Fund), Ballinger, Arnold Clark, Barchester, Bentley Foundation, Sherburn House Charity Foundation
 - Nurturing Dementia: Coalfields Regeneration Trust, McCarthy & Stone, Community Foundation NT&W, Catherine Cookson, Storm Tempest, Inspire, Christmas Connections, Ballinger, Caritas
 - The Reflecting Together Project: William Leech Research Fund
4. Service Level Agreement: South Tyneside Council/ Happy at Home £11,000

Free Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to have free reserves of 6 months operating costs to enable them to make provision for the vulnerable people that are supported by the projects in the event of funding not being secured, time to raise further grants and if necessary to cover possible future costs of redundancies and wind down the charity in an orderly way. We are working towards this goal. Our Free Reserves at present are £37,984

Public Benefit

Churches Together has referred to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. Our charity's activities reflect our aims and objectives and are designed to provide accessible services and activities that benefit the appropriate sector of the public in accordance with our charitable aims.

Objectives

- 1) **THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN SOUTH TYNESIDE.**
CTST seeks to put into practice Christian teaching by carrying out practical social action for the benefit of the whole community with particular regard for the most vulnerable. Its activities give direct help as well as raising awareness of issues facing contemporary society. CTST also looks for ways to work with others for a more just society.

2) THE PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC by:

Developing relationships with leaders of other faiths and working together on practical activities that improve the lives of local people.

Activities

CTST has three activities which are directly responsible to the trustees - Happy at Home, Nurturing Dementia and Street Angels. Another activity, Key to Life, is a partnership between CTST and Key Community, another local charity, as is a collaboration with Money Advice South Tyneside. CTST also organises local collections for Operation Christmas Child. There are other activities which vary from year to year.

CTST Activities

Happy at Home -improves older people's lives with compassion and kindness. We do this by offering a range of activities: one to one befriending, Happy Hubs (lunch clubs with entertainment and activities), men's group, 'Joyrides' (outing along the coast with lunch provided), parties, theatre trips and day trips to local garden centres. We operate throughout the borough of South Tyneside. We have a large volunteer group who we support and have regular volunteer activities to build up friendships and rapport amongst the group.

Nurturing Dementia- Dementia Friendly Christmas events. Dementia Friendly Churches. Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project. Care Connect project with 3 local care homes.

Street Angels - Supporting those in need, during the night-time economy in South Shields Town Centre at weekends. Partners with South Tyneside Council and Northumbria Police, meeting the Police Area Community Inspector for updates. Collaboration with Pubwatch, attending monthly meetings.

Activity in Partnership

Key to Life – working with an associated charity, Key Community, to run a foodbank, children's holiday activities and food programmes, school uniform recycling, working with the fuel foundation, raising awareness of poverty issues, referrals to other agencies.

Money Advice South Tyneside- working with the Anglican parishes in Jarrow to support people in debt, for example dispersing household support grants.

Reflecting Together

In collaboration with Regent's College, Oxford University, CTST embarked on a year long project to learn about the experiences of loneliness and isolation of older people in South Tyneside and find ways to improve their lives.

Activity for another charity

Operation Christmas Child - organising collections from schools, churches and individuals of 'shoeboxes' with Christmas presents for children overseas.

Other CTST activities

CTST has a website, social media presence and does occasional press releases. CTST circulates news about events and initiatives that support its purposes to its members.

CTST addresses topical and ethical issues at its events and by organising hustings before general elections.

CTST publishes and circulates weekly Prayer Points which touch on local, national and international matters.

CTST organises an ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at the sea front followed by a breakfast, usually in a Church Hall.

Charities and projects we support

CTST supports other church-related projects by promoting their work and/or identifying funding opportunities:

Places of Welcome offers a "cuppa", food and friendship and 'Mental Health First Aid'.

South Tyneside Asylum Seeker Refugee Church Help (STARCH) - provides practical and personal support for asylum seekers and refugees.

Prison Matters: provides a safe space, friendship and support for ex-offenders.

Grace Place – a drop in café for lonely and homeless people.

Key Community supports young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Key was originally founded by CTST.

Achievements and performance for 2024

Activities:

Happy at Home

In 2024 we visited around 70 people weekly with our befriending service. Our Hubs are ever popular, often reaching full capacity in Shields and Jarrow. Our Hubs have also provided a gateway to other forms of support with external facilitators attending to run activities, health checks and giving welfare advice to our beneficiaries. We have had a lot more community engagement: developing links with local primary schools, care providers and libraries. Our Men's Group enjoyed varied activities – with the addition of new activities like Japan golf and carpet bowls.

There were 4 hub parties at Christmas with one larger party for the volunteers and those they visit. 30 people attended the local pantomime, 25 enjoyed a Christmas shopping trip. Christmas Eve boxes were given to the housebound and Christmas dinners delivered to those spending the day alone.

A summer Hawaiian themed celebration for the volunteers and those they visit which went down very well with much dressing up. Our Summer Hubs' theme remembered the D-day victory with lots of nostalgia and 1940s style buffet and singing.

We recruited new volunteers to meet the growing demand for the befriending service and continued our new volunteer activities to create community and aid volunteer retention.

Our staff, volunteers and beneficiaries played a central role in a research project into loneliness and social isolation in South Tyneside (described later in this report) working with Stefanie Conratt, a research fellow from Regent's College, Oxford, supported by the William Leech Research Fund.

We have engaged around 200 older people in our events and activities throughout the year.



Nurturing Dementia

4 Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Services were facilitated at four churches across the borough. Approximately 120 attended including people from Church communities and 5 schools. The feedback was very positive.

Dementia Friendly Churches together with St Gregory's parish has improved engagement for people with dementia at social events. They also facilitated Spirituality in Dementia Workshop for local churches and communities.

Nurturing Dementia helped facilitate a monthly Dementia Empowerment and Engagement group for people with dementia in South Tyneside. The group have called themselves The WAVE (we are valued equally) Dementia Club. The group has grown in numbers and are actively involved in raising their profile for example they are engaged in raising concerns regarding the lack of public conveniences in South Shields.

The Commencement of Care Connect project with 3 local care homes has established new ways of working between two care homes and the local community in Jarrow that has promoted relationships and friendships that have enriched residents' lives.



Street Angels

There are two new volunteers, and these have been essential in us continuing to provide a valuable service within South Shields town centre. We still, however, need more volunteers to come forward to enable the service to return to us being able to provide a weekly patrol. We currently have been able to provide a fortnightly patrol.

The town nightlife is still weak compared to what it was pre-covid and this has meant that Street Angels are still facing the challenge of maintaining a presence when, at times, we have had little to do apart from being a 'presence'. The significance of this however cannot be overemphasized. Our aim of 'Offering non-judgemental support to anyone who is vulnerable, in need or in difficulty' continues to be recognised and appreciated within the community.

Key to Life—Partnership Activity

A CTST Trustee and the Executive Lead serve on the Key to Life Management Committee alongside representatives from Key Community and staff involved in the Foodbank. The CTST Trustee is Chair at present. CTST promotes the work of Key to Life and other initiatives associated with food poverty through its circular emails and on social media, as well as word of mouth. Across 2024 Key to Life supported 7368 individuals which included 5660 adults, 2754 children and young people and 1954 pets. Through the Fuel Bank Foundation, Key to Life supported 274 households. During the school holidays activities and food were provided for over 300 children. School uniforms were provided for 206 children. Christmas gifts and treat hampers were distributed to 392 children. Referrals continue to be made to other services to support those in crisis. The cost-of-living crisis continues to stop donors giving as much as in the past. The Foodbank continues to shop more to keep up supplies and supermarket collections make a difference. A drop in numbers from 2023 is largely because there are more providers for those facing food poverty.

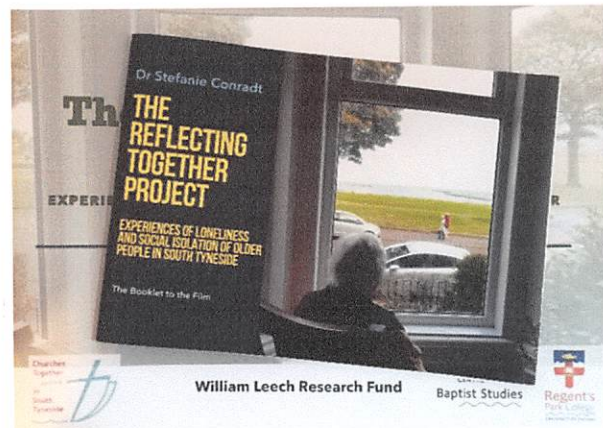
Key to Life's relationships with local schools, churches and funders have continued to be strengthened through the collaboration of CTST and Key Community.



The Reflecting Together Project- Partnership Activity

We wanted to learn about the experiences of loneliness and isolation of older people in South Tyneside and find ways to improve their lives. Churches Together South Tyneside and the principal investigator, Dr Stefanie Conradt, from Regent's Park College, Oxford University, worked in partnership to find new ways of tackling the suffering experienced as a result of

loneliness and isolation. We held conversations with the older people and then reflected on these with the 6 trustees, 7 staff, 12 members of local churches, 5 social care and health care agencies and representatives of South Tyneside Council. Report, film and booklet were produced, and these were launched on November 14th to an audience of guests from South Tyneside and the wider region. The Project has shown the need for a community response to address individual needs as well as structural challenges. In 2025, we plan to work with local churches and agencies to disseminate the research findings and bring about change. The findings have already been incorporated into South Tyneside Council's Isolation and Loneliness Strategy. The Reflecting Together Report, Booklet and Film can be accessed at <https://www.rpc.ox.ac.uk/research-life/centre-for-baptist-studies/research-projects-partnerships/reflecting-together-project/>



Operation Christmas Child **Local collection**

Arrangements for this was delayed due to Samaritans Purse moving their Warehousing & Headquarters until the end of September. The week of O.C.C. was from 13th to 20th November with us picking up the shoeboxes and cartons from the 20th to 24th November. Not as many schools supported this year but the response from local Churches was much appreciated. Having our local arrangements in place we were able to collect, and transport to the Wallsend Safe Store just under 70 cartons, the majority holding 12 shoeboxes.

We were also able to forward to Samaritans Purse a total of £520 in cash. In addition, some local churches sent donations directly. These were mainly toys/toiletries as well as other items specified by O.C.C. and several knitted items. We are already looking to working again with O.C.C. in the coming year and have a date in the diary for our planning to commence.

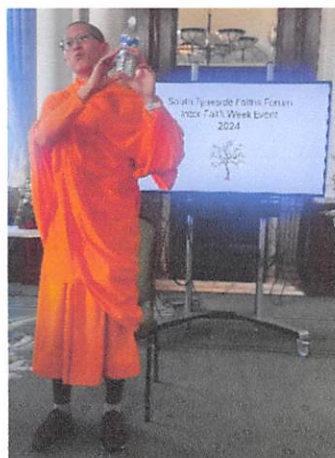
Other Achievements

Governance

Churches Together in South Tyneside regularly review and assess the risks faced by the CIO in all areas of work and plan for the management of those risks. In September 2024 Churches Together in South Tyneside reviewed risks and evaluated what action was needed to address existing risks. Potential risks were identified and actions to be taken were put in an action plan.

Churches Together in South Tyneside communicated the core values of the charity and the founding Christian principles of the organisation to a wide group of beneficiaries, staff, trustees, membership and external agencies in the research project Reflecting Together and to the membership in area church groups.

Policy and procedure development continued with reviews of staff induction and supervision; trustee introduction and induction/succession planning; health and safety. Safeguarding Policy annual review and approval in 2024.



Faiths Forum

The Executive Lead continued to convene the South Tyneside Faiths Forum. In 2024 member of the Faiths Forum have visited the Buddhist Temple and held an Interfaith event at South Shields Town Hall in November 2024 bringing together representatives of the different faith communities in the borough. The gathering included a Faith Quiz, Hindu dance, an Islamic Recitation, two Christian hymns, a Buddhist meditation, a gift for all of “Noah’s Pudding” from the Dialogue Society and a common Act of Commitment.

Household Support Grants

This year, we supported 70 households through the distribution of Household Support Grants. These grants provided vital help to individuals and families facing financial hardship due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. With this funding, we assisted people in meeting essential needs such as food, heating, and basic household items. For many, the grants offered not just practical help, but also a sense of hope and dignity. One recipient shared, “It meant I could keep the heating on a bit longer and buy food without panic. I felt someone cared.”

Hustings


CTST held a Hustings in June for the 2024 General Election at Living Waters Church. It was well attended and Rev Lesley Jones, chairing the gathering, set the tone for an informative and amicable evening.

Welcoming Spaces


Following our promotion of the South Tyneside Warm Spaces initiative in 2022, in 2024 14 churches continued to open their church halls to welcome the community. The scheme is now known as Welcoming Spaces.

The Old Oak: an invitation to a special viewing

In January 2024 CTST invited its members and contacts to a viewing of The Old Oak, a film by Ken Loach, exploring the response to a group of Syrian refugees arriving in a former mining town in County Durham. The film was followed by a Q&A with actors from the film. Over 80 attended the event which was hosted by St Jude’s Church.




JOURNEY WITH BEDE
A Bedetide Celebration



invitation to celebrate together
the birth of Bede

*prayers, readings, songs,
activities, refreshments*



WEDNESDAY MAY 22nd
6.30pm – 8.30pm

ST PAUL'S CHURCH
JARROW NE32 3DZ

organised by Churches Together South Tyneside

Bedetide Ecumenical Service

CTST was invited by the Parish of Jarrow and Simonside to hold an ecumenical service as part of the Bedetide events at the former monastery marking 1350 years since St Bede's birth.

Annual Narrative Report for Churches Together South Tyneside 2024

Approved by the Board of Trustees,

Mrs A Tennet, Chair

A Tennet

Mrs B Askins, Deputy Chair

B. Askins

Friday 6th June 2025

Churches Together in South Tyneside

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity Number **11553612**

Financial Statements for the Year

January 1st 2024 - December 31st 2024



Churches Together in South Tyneside
Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Receipts

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
Incoming Receipts				
Grants	11,000	121,020	132,020	149,862
Donations	27,281		27,281	23,019
Subscriptions	790		790	650
Total Receipts	39,071	121,020	160,091	173,531

Payments

Project costs	3,169	29,415	32,584	27,254
Salaries	3,820	80,299	84,118	85,585
Travel	94	1,756	1,850	2,039
Meeting Costs	677	56	733	163
Volunteer Retention	0	3,690	3,690	0
Office Costs	139	2,950	3,089	3,490
Telephone	35	1,290	1,325	1,632
Printing & Stationery	195	678	873	450
IT Costs	1,806	5,039	6,845	3,617
Legal & Professional	100	0	100	100
Insurance	917	305	1,222	1,175
Depreciation	0	1,680	1,680	1,680
Training	0	482	482	28
Subscriptions	216	0	216	376
	11,167	127,639	138,806	127,588
Surplus/ - Defecit for the year	27,904	-6,619	21,285	45,943

Churches Together in South Tyneside
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
Fixed Assets			1,685	3,364
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand				
Bank Accounts	74,931	142,512	217,443	196,415
Cash Accounts	326		326	1,062
Total Current Assets	75,257	142,512	217,769	197,477
Current Liabilities				
Legacy			50,000	50,000
PAYE and NIC			2,548	3,103
Redundancy Reserve			7,028	9,147
Total Current Liabilities			59,576	62,250
Total Net Assets			159,878	138,591
Equity				
Reserves b/f			138,591	94,648
Profit/ - Loss for the year			21,285	43,943
			159,876	138,591

Approved by the board of trustees xxxxxxxx

Mrs A Tennet (Chairperson)

A Tennet

Mrs B Askins (Deputy Chairperson)

B Askins



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Churches Together in South Tyneside

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2024

Charity no (if any)

11536612

Set out on pages

[Empty box for page numbers]

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

A Brady

16/4/2025

Name:

AILSA BRADY

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

CIMA QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

8 RAMSHAW CLOSE

NEWCASTLE

NE7 7GP

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

N/A

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1153612

Accounts

Churches Together in South Tyneside

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January 1st 2023– December 31st 2023



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Charity's Registered Address:

52 Lawe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2AL

Names of Charity's Trustees on December 31st 2022

Jane Arthurs, Bernadette Askins, Lesley Jones, Stephen Slade, Audrey Tennet, Hilary Thompson, Ann Trollope

Structure, Governance and management:

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CTST members are our stakeholders - volunteers, beneficiaries, local churches, social action projects and individuals who share our values and want to support our work.

122 people volunteer regularly to support our projects. This amounts to a contribution of 3376 hrs *per annum*. Following a retirement in 2022, we appointed a new Project Lead and also recruited a new member of staff, who took up their posts in January 2023.

The projects are supported by an Executive Lead (appointed August 2021) and 5 part time paid project workers, who support the trustees and volunteers and attend management committee meetings.

Financial review

Prindpal Funding Sources

1. Donations from

- a. local churches
- b. local organisations John Lewis, Asda
- c. private sources- personal gifts, legacy, funeral donations,
- d. individuals

2. Fund raising events- Great North Run, St Gregory's Fayre for Nurturing Dementia, Westoe Fayre for Happy at Home

3. Grants from trusts and foundations:

Core costs: Greggs, Sir James Knott, Hospital of God

Happy at Home: South Tyneside Council, Community Foundation NT&W (Kellett 5, Kellet 4, Linden Family Trust, Prime Fund, National Lottery Community Fund), Ballinger, Inspire Micro Grant, Ringtons, Newcastle Building Society

Street Angels: Police & Crime Commissioner

Nurturing Dementia: Coalfields Regeneration Trust, McCarthy & Stone, Community Foundation NT&W, Catherine Cookson, Storm Tempest, Inspire, Christmas Connections, Ballinger, Great North Run

Faiths Forum: NE Regional Faiths Network

The Reflecting Together Project: William Leech Research Fund

4. Service Level Agreement: South Tyneside Council/ Happy at Home £11,000

Free Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to have free reserves of 6 months operating costs to enable them to make provision for the vulnerable people that are supported by the projects in the event of funding not being secured, time to raise further grants and if necessary to cover possible future costs of redundancies and wind down the charity in an orderly way. We are working towards this goal. Our Free Reserves at present are £23,828.

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Nurturing Dementia- Facilitating: the development of carers' skills, Dementia Awareness sessions and Dementia Friendly Christmas events. Implementing Dementia Care Mapping in a care home.

Street Angels - Supporting those in need, during the night-time economy in South Shields Town Centre at weekends. Partners with South Tyneside Council and Northumbria Police, meeting the Police Area Community Inspector for updates. Collaboration with Pubwatch, attending monthly meetings.

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Charities and projects we support

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Places of Welcome offers a "cuppa", food and friendship and 'Mental Health First Aid'.

South Tyneside Asylum Seeker Refugee Church Help (STARCH) - provides practical and personal support for asylum seekers and refugees.

Prison Matters: provides a safe space, friendship and support for ex-offenders.

Key Community supports young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Grace Place – a drop in for lonely and homeless people.

Achievements and performance for 2023

Activities:

Happy at Home

In 2023 we visited around 70 people weekly with our befriending service. Our Hub numbers increased to an average of 150 per month. We secured funding for Coronation celebrations for over 150 people including food drinks and entertainment. 30 housebound beneficiaries received a Coronation goody bag with commemorative items and souvenirs. Our Men's Group enjoyed varied activities - riverside walks, beach trips, eating out in restaurants, cinema trip



and games afternoons. Christmas time was very busy with 4 hub parties and one larger party for the volunteers and those they visit . 40 people attended local pantomime, 25 enjoyed Christmas shopping trip. Christmas Eve boxes were given to the housebound and Christmas dinners delivered to those spending the day alone.

We recruited new volunteers to try and meet the growing demand for the befriending service and started new activities to create community within the project and aid in volunteer retention.

We have engaged around 200 older people in our events and activities.

Nurturing Dementia

3 Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Services-were facilitated at St Peter's, Jarrow, Living Waters, South Shields and Sacred Heart, Boldon. Approximately 120 attended overall including support from Church communities and 4 schools. The feedback was very positive.

Commenced Dementia Friendly Churches with St Gregory's parish: facilitated Dementia Awareness training, established an action group, completed Dementia Health Check. Improvements to the church environment include signage and availability of large print Mass and Newsletters.

Establishing a new monthly Dementia Empowerment and Engagement group for people with dementia in South Tyneside. Publicity has been distributed to Health, Social and Voluntary networks and is available in GP surgeries.



Street Angels

As last year, the night-time economy still struggles. In 2023 we continued to put out a team at least once a month but with fewer volunteers, we continue to assess when best to provide support. We struggle to recruit volunteers despite many different appeals. We have purchased new contact cards with email, phone number and Facebook details , along with the core purpose of Street Angels on the reverse. We have also been able to locate a town centre premises from which we can operate. Although this is solely for the Team, it will provide a speedier response centre. The police continue find our support invaluable.



Our aim of 'Offering non-judgemental support to anyone who is vulnerable, in need or in difficulty' is valued as a couple of comments, received while we have been out, show:

- 1) "Where have you been? We have missed you." (the first time we had not been out every week.)
- 2) From a mother out herself. "We're glad that you are here. I speak not for myself but my daughter and I'm glad you're here for her."

Key to Life—Partnership Activity

A CTST Trustee and the Executive Lead serve on the Key to Life Management Committee alongside representatives from Key Community and staff involved in the Foodbank. The CTST Trustee is Chair at present. CTST promotes the work of Key to Life and other initiatives associated with food poverty through its circular emails and on social media, as well as word of mouth. A church member and long-term volunteer for Key to Life spoke to the Trustees and Members at our CTST AGM in May 2023 about the work and needs of the Food bank.

Across 2023 Key to Life supported 4076 households which included 5660 adults, 2895 children and 2415 pets. Through the partnership with the Fuel Bank Foundation Key to Life supported 402 households in crisis with gas and electricity. During the school holidays activities and food were provided for 263 children. School uniforms were provided for 263 children. Christmas gifts and treat hampers were distributed to 497 children across 240 families. Referrals to other services have been made to support families and individuals through their financial issues. The cost-of-living crisis led to a drop in donations as many regular donors had to adapt to meet price increases themselves. It meant that the Foodbank had to shop more to keep up with the needs of its beneficiaries.

Key to Life relationships with local schools, churches and funders have continued to be strengthened through the collaboration of CTST and Key Community.



Operation Christmas Child Local collection

Arrangements for this was delayed due to Samaritans Purse moving their Warehousing & Headquarters until the end of September. The week of O.C.C. was from 13th to 20th November with us picking up the shoeboxes and cartons from the 20th to 24th November. Not as many schools supported this year but the response from local Churches was much appreciated. Having our local arrangements in place we were able to collect, and transport to the Wallsend Safe Store just under 70 cartons, the majority holding 12 shoeboxes.

We were also able to forward to Samaritans Purse a total of £520 in cash. In addition some local churches sent donations directly. These were mainly toys/toiletries as well as other items specified by O.C.C. and a

number of knitted items. We are already looking to working again with O.C.C. in the coming year and have a date in the diary for our planning to commence.

Other Achievements

Governance

We have written a 3-year Action Plan, incorporating feedback we received from our members during consultations in 2022. In 2023 we have further strengthened our Digital IT capacity to help us face future digital challenges and opportunities.

We have new/reviewed policies in place: Conflicts of Interest, External Complaints Procedure, Recruitment & Selection, Safeguarding, Risk Management, Data Protection, Privacy, and Terms & Conditions. We have also set up a Communications and Marketing Group.

Faiths Forum

The Executive Lead continues to convene the South Tyneside Faiths Forum, bringing together representatives of the different faith communities in the borough. This year we welcomed Buddhists and Jews joining the existing group of Christians, Muslims and Hindus.

Research Project

CTST has been successful in our application to the William Leech Research Fund to do research among older people in South Tyneside during 2024. We hope that this will strengthen our relationship with members and beneficiaries, as well as adding to the sum of knowledge to benefit the Borough and beyond. Two introductory events were held in 2023.

Household Grants

South Tyneside Council invited CTST to help in the distribution of the Government's Household Support Fund. We have so far supported 70 people who cannot afford food, pay utility bills or wider essentials.

Warm/ Welcoming Spaces

Following our promotion of the South Tyneside Warm Spaces initiative in 2022, in 2023 15 churches continued to open their church halls to welcome the community. The scheme is now known as Welcoming Spaces.

Online Event

In January 2023 organised a series of reflection sessions online to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Annual Narrative Report for Churches Together South Tyneside 2023

Approved by the Board of Trustees,

Mrs B Askins, Chair



Mrs A Tennet, Deputy Chair



Friday 12th April 2024

Churches Together in South Tyneside
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity Number: 1153612

Financial Statements for the Year
January 1st 2023– December 31st 2023



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Churches Together in South Tyneside
Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Receipts

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Incoming Receipts				
Grants	11,000	138,862	149,862	78,788
Donations	23,019		23,019	14,654
Subscriptions	650		650	31,232
Total Receipts	34,669	138,862	173,531	124,674

Payments

Project costs	3,453	23,801	27,254	31,071
Salaries	10,639	74,946	85,585	95,472
Travel	119	1,920	2,039	2,760
Meeting Costs	163	0	163	442
Office Costs	268	3,223	3,490	3,005
Telephone	0	1,632	1,632	1,670
Printing & Stationery	12	438	450	313
IT Costs	274	3,342	3,617	9,228
Legal & Professional	100	0	100	500
Insurance	881	294	1,175	1,091
Depreciation	0	1,680	1,680	3,514
Training	0	28	28	1,811
Subscriptions	376	0	376	731
Donations	0	0	0	50
	16,285	111,303	127,588	151,658

Surplus/ - Deficit for the year

18,384	27,559	45,943	-26,984
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Churches Together in South Tyneside
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Fixed Assets			3,364	5,044
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand				
Bank Accounts	46,285	150,130	196,415	169,845
Cash Accounts	1,062		1,062	1,998
Total Current Assets	47,347	150,130	197,477	171,843
Current Liabilities				
Legacy			50,000	75,000
PAYE and NIC			3,103	2,754
Redundancy Reserve			9,147	6,484
Total Current Liabilities			62,250	84,238
Total Net Assets			138,591	92,649
Equity				
Reserves b/f			94,648	119,632
Profit/ - Loss for the year			43,943	-26,983
			138,591	92,649

Approved by the board of trustees 12.04.2024

Mrs B Askins (Chairperson)

B Askins

Mrs A Tennet (Deputy Chairperson)

A Tennet



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Churches Together in South Tyneside		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2023	Charity no (if any)	11536612
	Set out on pages		

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

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Mary Naughton 27.3.24

Name: MARY NAUGHTON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): AATQB

Address: 38 ROXBY GARDENS
NORTH SHIELDS
NE29 7BW

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1153612

Accounts

Churches Together in South Tyneside

Annual Report for Financial Year:

January 1st 2022– December 31st 2022



Charity's Name:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

Any other name the Charity uses: **Churches Together South Tyneside; CTST; South Tyneside Churches Together**

Charity's Number: 1153612

Charity's Registered Address:

52 Lawe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2AL

Names of Charity's Trustees on December 31st 2022

Jane Arthurs, Bernadette Askins, Lesley Jones, Stephen Slade, Audrey Tennet, Hilary Thompson, Ann Trollope

Structure, Governance and management

CTST is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The present constitution of CTST was finalised on August 22nd, 2013. It outlines the objects, powers, policy on income, property and controls about payments, regulations re charity trustees and connected persons, conflicts of interest and loyalty, liabilities, membership, decision making, and meetings.

CTST has trustees. At the AGM the trustees, chair and deputy chair are elected. The secretary and treasurer are appointed. New trustees are inducted by the Chair in line with the constitution. Several trustees are involved with other charities and share their expertise with the group. New trustees are recruited through connections within the churches in South Tyneside and local social action projects and charities. New trustees are nominated and appointed at the AGMs. New trustees can be co-opted midterm and will be confirmed at the next AGM. Working groups may be set up to carry out agreed tasks.

The Trustees hold monthly meetings where they set overall strategy, review and monitor the charities activities, finances and make decisions. Meetings mostly take place online and occasionally in person. Minutes are circulated electronically.

Our main activities (projects) have their own management committees which monitor their work and finances. A trustee chairs each project management committee. Trustees receive the minutes of these meetings. We encourage volunteers and beneficiaries to become committee members and contribute to decision making.

CTST members are our stakeholders - volunteers, beneficiaries, local churches, social action projects and individuals who share our values and want to support our work.

Approximately 120 volunteers support our activities.

The projects are supported by an Executive Lead (appointed August 2021) and 5 part time paid project workers, who support the trustees and volunteers and attend management committee meetings.

Financial review

Principal Funding Sources

1. Donations from
 - a. local churches
 - b. private sources- personal gifts, legacy, funeral donations,
 - c. organisations: Hebburn Masons, Job Centre, John Lewis, Tesco
 - d. individuals
2. Fund raising events- Great North Run
3. Grants from trusts and foundations:
 - Happy at Home: Linden Family, Kellett Fund, Jubilee Fund, Ballinger
 - Street Angels: Police & Crime Commissioners' Fund
 - Nurturing Dementia: Rothley Trust, CARITAS (RC Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle)
5. Service Level Agreement: South Tyneside Council/ Happy at Home £12,000

Free Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to have free reserves of 6 months operating costs to enable them to make provision for the vulnerable people that are supported by the projects in the event of funding not being secured, time to raise further grants and if necessary to cover possible future costs of redundancies and wind down the charity in an orderly way. We are working towards this goal. Our Free Reserves at present are £20,073.

Public Benefit

Churches Together has referred to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. Our charity's activities reflect our aims and objectives, and are designed to provide accessible services and activities that benefit the appropriate sector of the public in accordance with our charitable aims.

Objectives

1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN SOUTH TYNESIDE.

CTST seeks to put into practice Christian teaching by carrying out practical social action for the benefit of the whole community with particular regard for the most vulnerable. Its activities give direct help as well as raising awareness of issues facing contemporary society. CTST also looks for ways to work with others for a more just society.

2) THE PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC by:

Developing relationships with leaders of other faiths and working together on practical activities that improve the lives of local people.

Activities

CTST has three activities which are directly responsible to the trustees - Happy at Home, Nurturing Dementia and Street Angels. A fourth activity, Key to Life, is a partnership between CTST and Key Community, another local charity. CTST also organises local collections for Operation Christmas Child

CTST Activities

Happy at Home - a befriending service for isolated elderly people in their homes and at social hubs around the borough, including extra social events and parties.

Nurturing Dementia- Facilitating: the development of carers' skills, Dementia Awareness sessions and Dementia Friendly Christmas events. Implementing Dementia Care Mapping in a care home.

Street Angels - Supporting those in need, during the night-time economy in South Shields Town Centre at weekends.

Activity in Partnership

Key to Life – working with an associated charity to run a foodbank, children's-holiday activities and food programmes, school uniform recycling, distributing fuel vouchers, raising awareness of poverty issues, referrals to other agencies.

Activity for another charity

Operation Christmas Child - organising collections from schools, churches and individuals of 'shoeboxes' with Christmas presents for children overseas.

Charities and projects we support

CTST supports other church-related projects by promoting their work and/or identifying funding opportunities:

Places of Welcome offers a "cuppa", food and friendship and "Free Help With Debt" and 'Mental Health First Aid'.

South Tyneside Asylum Seeker Refugee Church Help (STARCH) - provides practical and personal support for asylum seekers and refugees.

Prison Matters: provides a safe space, friendship and support for ex-offenders.

Key Community supports young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Grace Place – a drop in for lonely and homeless people.

CTST has a website, social media presence, produces an annual report of its activities and occasional press releases.

CTST addresses topical and ethical issues at its events and by organising hustings before general elections.

CTST publishes and circulates weekly Prayer Points which touch on local, national and international matters.

Achievements and performance for 2022

The trustees continue to be very proud of the way our project leaders, our employees and our volunteers have responded to the long-term effects of the Coronavirus Crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. They are extremely creative, resourceful and resilient in the face of many challenges. They have committed many hours to supporting vulnerable people in South Tyneside and are regularly commended for their work by their beneficiaries, funders and the trustees. They have shown the foresight to anticipate problems as well as opportunities. The commitment, enthusiasm and vision of those involved is reflected clearly in the report.

Activities:

Happy at Home

In 2022 Happy at Home provided birthday gifts, Valentine chocolates, Easter eggs, Christmas dinners, and winter warmer packs to approximately 100 beneficiaries .

Happy Hubs are back up to pre covid capacity with an average of 35 people at each hub, totalling around 125 each month. Hub in a Pub for men only has been running all year benefiting 10-15 men at each session. Our Joyride project continued and around 60 people benefitted from a coastal drive followed by lunch at local hotel. We continue to visit 60 beneficiaries at home each week.

Our Platinum Jubilee project was the highlight of the year for many. With funding from Arts Council England, we collaborated with a local photographer and historian and produced a book of memories of the Queen's Coronation as well as childhood stories from our volunteers and beneficiaries. We held two large book launch parties with 80 people in attendance at each one.

Training covered Safeguarding, fundraising, and active listening. Happy at Home also took part in Age Concern's Older Person's Festival.

Nurturing Dementia

A Life Story session was facilitated for 35 beneficiaries. Each received a Memory Box to collect memorabilia.

Dementia Care Mapping, a tool to improve person centred care for people with dementia in care settings, was implemented at a local care home. Action plans to improve practice included positive changes to mealtimes to enhance residents' experience and independence. In addition the provision of multi-sensory resources throughout the home promotes opportunities for more engagement.

3 Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Services-were facilitated at 3 churches: St Peter's, Jarrow, Living Waters, South Shields and Sacred Heart, Boldon with approximately 90 people in attendance overall. Church communities and 4 local schools supported the events The feedback was very positive.

Street Angels

Partnership with Northumbria Police and the South Tyneside Council continues. We meet the Police Area Community Inspector for updates. The police continue find our support invaluable. We have been asked to consider providing support at other local events, not necessarily night-time.

The night-time economy still struggles. With fewer volunteers we continue to assess when best to provide support. Although not being able to put a team out every week, these are two examples of support in 2022:

- 1) We put a team out for the end of term when local school leavers have their 'get together' on a grassy area near the coast. The support was appreciated and the event was a learning experience.
- 2) New Year's Eve: 2 couples where the female was having difficulties walking. We were able to assist and got both couples safely to taxis and able to make their journeys home safely.

Key to Life—Partnership Activity

Across 2022 Key to Life supported 10,100 people in food poverty, along with 2,600 pets. The cost-of-living crisis has impacted every household and had a significant impact on those on low incomes, additionally pushing those who previously were “just managing” into crisis situations.

Through the fuel bank foundation, we facilitated 560 households to receive financial fuel support. 1,200 children were supported during the school holidays with activities and food (HAF), both at the foodbank and the New Sundial in South Shields.

Over 2,000 items of school uniform were distributed to families who were struggling to make the purchases for themselves.

45 volunteers regularly attended the foodbank in 2022, assisting with the daily activities, deliveries of food parcels, and collecting donations. Several young people have found employment after volunteering with Key to Life.

Our relationships with local schools, churches and funders have continued to be strengthened through both CTST and Key Community. A planned review of our working agreement for Key to Life was initiated.

Operation Christmas Child Local collection

The response this year was around the same as last year, despite an earlier delay because of staff changes at OCC leading to some churches/schools not being able to take part. Shoeboxes were taken to the collection centres at Living Waters Church, Action Station and Grange Road Baptist Church. In total there were 60+ cartons, 3 parcels of soft toys and 750 shoeboxes which were transported to the storage Depot at Wallsend. Cheques and donations totalling £300 were sent to Samaritans Purse.

Other Achievements

Governance Review

Following a complete review of governance an action plan was drawn up in 2020 and is being implemented. New policies have been developed and others reviewed, including in 2022: Equal Opportunities, Bullying and Harassment, Grievance and Procedures, Disciplinary, Sickness and Absence and the annual review of Safeguarding. The role, participation and retention of members is also part of the review of governance undertaken 2021 -2022.

Faiths Forum

The Executive Lead has taken the lead in convening the Faiths Forum, bringing together representatives of the different faith communities in the borough.

Listening Events

CTST has held 3 Listening Events in Autumn 2022 across the borough. All churches, volunteers, beneficiaries and project employees were invited to send representatives to reflect on CTST’s activities and share their priorities going forward post pandemic and during a cost-of-living crisis. 22 churches and 80 people took part. An action plan will plot future developments from these discussions.

Online Event

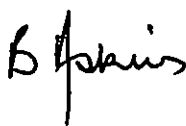
In Spring 2022 CTST organised a zoom event on Biodiversity with a local focus. Speakers presented in three areas: a theological reflection, a local project "Baldon Flats Wetlands Habitat" and "Biodiversity and Your Church- Laudato Si" and the "Minsteracres Project".

Warm Spaces

Following our promotion of the South Tyneside Warm Spaces initiative, 20 churches responded and opened their church halls to welcome the community.

Approved by the Board of Trustees,

Mrs B Askins, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Askins', written in a cursive style.

Churches Together in South Tyneside
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity Number: **1153612**

Financial Statements for the Year
January 1st 2022– December 31st 2022





Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name Churches Together in South Tyneside

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2022

Charity no (if any)

11536612

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Mary Naughton

Date:

28.04.2023

Name:

MARY NAUGHTON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

AATQB

Address:

38 ROXBY GARDENS
NORTH SHIELDS
NE29 7BW

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Churches Together in South Tyneside
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022**

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
Incoming Receipts				
Grants	11,000	67,788	78,788	104,353
Donations	14,654		14,654	4,533
Miscellaneous Receipts	31,232		31,232	305
Total Receipts	<u>56,886</u>	<u>67,788</u>	<u>124,674</u>	<u>109,191</u>

Payments

Project costs	6,541	24,531	31,071	31,012
Salaries	39,459	52,862	92,321	75,713
Employers pension	775	2,376	3,151	1,968
Travel	191	2,569	2,760	2,049
Meeting Costs	381	60	442	101
Office Costs	180	2,825	3,005	2,725
Telephone	60	1,610	1,670	1,815
Printing & Stationery	0	313	313	3,284
IT Costs	316	8,912	9,228	5,180
Legal & Professional	500		500	
Insurance	273	818	1,091	1,402
Depreciation		3,514	3,514	
Training	565	1,246	1,811	475
Subscriptions	316	415	731	350
Donations	50		50	
	<u>49,607</u>	<u>102,051</u>	<u>151,657</u>	<u>126,074</u>
Surplus/ Deficit for the year	<u>7,279</u>	<u>-34,262</u>	<u>-26,983</u>	<u>-16,883</u>

**Churches Together in South Tyneside
Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
Fixed Assets			5,044
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and in Hand			
Bank Accounts	128,975	40,870	169,845
Cash Accounts	1,998		1,998
Total Current Assets	130,973	40,870	171,843
Current Liabilities			
Legacy			75,000
PAYE and NIC			2,754
Redundancy Reserve			6,484
Total Current Liabilities			84,238
Total Net Assets			92,649
Equity			
Reserves b/f			119,632
Loss for the year			-26,983
			92,649

Approved by the board of trustees 4 May 2023

Mrs B Askins (Chairperson)

Mrs A Tennet (Deputy Chairperson)

B Askins

A Tennet

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Churches Together in South Tyneside

NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE CTST ACCOUNTS 2022

Purposes of Funds for Charity Activities

Restricted Funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

Unrestricted Fund are available for use at the discretion of the trustees, in the further adherence of their charitable objectives, without restriction.

Free Reserves: The Trustees have decided that a reserve within unrestricted funds should be established with the aim to cover up to six months operating expenditure. This decision recognises the extremely difficult funding environment and the longer lead times between funding applications and the final decision on those applications. Based on the Year End results for 2022 our expenditure £151,657, the maximum designated reserve on this basis should be £75,829. The Charity is working towards this and our free reserves on December 31st 2022 were £20,073. In addition, a further amount of £6,484 has been designated for potential redundancy payments.

Volunteers

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiasm of our volunteers which is acknowledged in the Trustees Annual Report. In accordance with the Charities SORP, the economic contribution of our general volunteers is not recognised in the financial statements.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1153612

Accounts

Churches Together in South Tyneside

Annual Report for Financial Year:

January 1st 2021– December 31st 2021



Charity's Name:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

Any other name the Charity uses: **Churches Together South Tyneside; CTST; South Tyneside Churches Together**

Charity's Number: 1153612

Charity's Registered Address:

52 Lawe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2AL

Names of Charity's Trustees on December 31st 2021

Jane Arthurs, Bernadette Askins, Stephen Slade, Audrey Tennet, Hilary Thompson, Ann Trollope

Structure, Governance and management

CTST is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The present constitution of CTST was finalised on August 22nd, 2013. It outlines the objects, powers, policy on income, property and controls about payments, regulations re charity trustees and connected persons, conflicts of interest and loyalty, liabilities, membership, decision making, and meetings.

CTST has trustees. At the AGM the trustees, chair and deputy chair are elected. The secretary and treasurer are appointed. New trustees are inducted by the Chair in line with the constitution. Several trustees are involved with other charities and share their expertise with the group. New trustees are recruited through connections within the churches in South Tyneside and local social action projects and charities. New trustees are nominated and appointed at the AGM.s. Trustees can join midterm and will be confirmed at the next AGM. Working groups may be set up to carry out agreed tasks.

The Trustees hold monthly meetings where they set overall strategy, review and monitor the charities activities, finances and make decisions. Since the beginning of the pandemic meetings have taken place online and following a complete review of governance an action plan was drawn up in 2020. This work continued in 2021. Minutes are circulated electronically . Significant documents e.g. updated and new policy documents, are stored in a secure area on the charity's website.

CTST members include representatives of local Churches Together neighbourhood groups, local social action projects and individuals who are interested in the work and want to support the organisation. Before the pandemic there were quarterly meetings for members with agendas and reports related to the charity's activities. Since the pandemic numbers

attending have dropped significantly. The role, participation and retention of members is part of the review of governance for 2022.

CTST has three projects which are directly responsible to the trustees - Happy at Home, Nurturing Dementia and Street Angels. A fourth project, Key 2 Life is a partnership between CTST and KEY, an affiliated charity. Key 2 Life aims to alleviate poverty and includes a large foodbank, school holiday programmes, School Uniforms 4 All and distribution of fuel vouchers. Approximately 150 volunteers support the work of our projects.

All projects have their own management committees which manage and monitor their activities and finances. A trustee chairs each project management committee. We also encourage volunteers interested in the work to become committee members. The projects are supported by part time paid development workers, who support the trustees and volunteers and attend management committee meetings.

Trustees receive reports from the projects on a quarterly basis. In addition, updates are received occasionally from two affiliated organisations, previously set up as projects by CTST but now independent charities: KEY and STARCH (South Tyneside Asylum and Refugee Church Help)

Churches Together also supports other church-related projects by promoting their work, helping recruit volunteers, identifying funding opportunities and inviting them to attend meetings to report on their projects. These projects include Prison Matters and Free Help with Debt.

Financial review

Principal Funding Sources

1. Donations from local neighbourhood Churches Together groups.
2. Donations from private sources –Corbridge Methodist Church, collection boxes
3. Fund raising events – Great North Run
4. Grants from trusts and foundations:
Churches Together: Covid Recovery & Renewal, Growth & Resilience, P&G , S Srivastava (all via Community Foundation Tyne and Wear)
Fund, Happy at Home: Kellett Fund (via Community Foundation Tyne and Wear), The National Lottery, Ballinger Charitable Trust, Morrisons, South Tyneside Community Area Forum, Hadrian Trust, A J Clarke, John Lewis
Street Angels: Police & Crime Commissioners' Fund
KEY2Life: Newcastle Building Society,
Nurturing Dementia: NECAT, CARITAS
5. Service Level Agreement – South Tyneside Council / Happy at Home Total: £11,000

CTST is aware that funding that increased during the pandemic, may not be continued at the same levels in the future.

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to have reserves of 6 months operating costs to enable them to make provision for the vulnerable people that are supported by the projects in the event of funding not being secured. Each project is working towards this goal. Reserves also cover possible future costs of redundancies.

Public Benefit

Churches Together has referred to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. Our charity's activities reflect our aims and objectives, and are designed to provide accessible services and activities that benefit the appropriate sector of the public in accordance with our charitable aims.

Objectives

1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN SOUTH TYNESIDE.

CTST seeks to put into practice Christian teaching by carrying out practical social action for the benefit of the whole community with particular regard for the most vulnerable. Its activities give direct help as well as raising awareness of issues facing contemporary society. CTST also looks for ways to work together for a more just society.

2) THE PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC by:

- a) Educating the public in different beliefs, including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different faiths.
- b) Promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths

Activities

(See section "Achievements and performance for 2021 for highlights)

Happy at Home - a befriending service for isolated elderly people in their homes and at social hubs around the borough, including the provision of Joy Rides, Theatre Trips and Summer and Christmas parties.

Key2Life including:

Foodbank – providing food across South Tyneside to all those in food poverty. We have fourteen collection points in South Tyneside, liaising with local supermarkets re food supplies, arranging training and awareness, raising awareness of the plight of *struggling* residents *with the media, politicians and relevant agencies*.

Food and Fun Holiday Clubs – food and activities for children and families in financial difficulties

National Fuel Foundation – offering grants and fuel bursaries to those in fuel poverty.

School Uniforms 4 All Project - collecting, storing and exchanging uniform.

Raising Awareness – giving talks to churches, schools and community groups

Street Angels - Supporting those who are vulnerable, in distress or in need, during the night-time economy in South Shields Town Centre at weekends as well as those who may be homeless or sleeping rough.

Nurturing Dementia- Facilitating the following: developing the skills of carers and professionals to improve meaningful interactions and activities with people with dementia; Dementia Friendly Awareness sessions to the community to raise awareness and confidence in addressing the needs of people with dementia; a Dementia Friendly Christmas Church Service for people with dementia and their carers.

Operation Christmas Child - CTST organises collections from schools, churches and individuals of 'shoeboxes' with Christmas presents for children which are sent overseas to third-world countries.

CTST promotes and supports affiliated charities through its networks:

Key supports young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

South Tyneside Asylum Seeker Refugee Church Help (STARCH) - provides practical and personal support for asylum seekers and refugees

CTST promotes and supports the following church related projects:

Prison Matters: providing support for ex-offenders settling back into the community.

Grace Place – a drop in for lonely and homeless people

Proposed "Places of Welcome" offering a cuppa, food and friendship and "Free Help With Debt". Trained volunteers will provide individual support to come into effect in 2022

CTST also has a website, social media presence, produces an annual report of its activities and occasional press releases.

CTST works in partnership with South Tyneside Council and community and voluntary sector organisations.

CTST addresses topical and ethical issues at its events and by organising hustings before general elections.

CTST publishes and circulates weekly Prayer Points which touch on local, national and international matters

Achievements and performance for 2021

The trustees continue to be very proud of the way our project leaders, our employees and our volunteers have responded to the Coronavirus Crisis, its long-term effects and the emerging inflation crisis. They are extremely creative, resourceful and resilient in the face of many challenges. They have committed many hours to supporting vulnerable people in South Tyneside and are regularly commended for their work by their beneficiaries, funders and the trustees. They have shown the foresight to anticipate problems as well as opportunities. The commitment, enthusiasm and vision of those involved is reflected clearly in the report.

Happy at Home

In 2021 Happy at Home: Provided birthday gifts, home from hospital packs, winter warmer packs, Valentine's Day gifts, Mothers' Day and Easter Eggs. Organised deliveries of Sunday lunches to isolate individuals. Gifts provided by Morrisons Supermarket and People's Angels. Approximately 100 beneficiaries. Their Happy Hubs continued, initially in hotels and later in church halls. Hub in a Pub started for isolated elderly men. Approximately 80 people per month benefitted. The Hubs included marking the 100th birthday of two beneficiaries. Joy Rides, a new activity, allowed approximately 70 people to benefit from "Joy Rides" which included a taxi ride and lunch or afternoon tea at a local hotel.

Happy at home provided two successful VE Day +1 events for approximately 100 people in total. Their summer and Christmas parties for 160 guests, held at a local hotel.

Training covered Safeguarding, Digital Inclusion, Volunteer Recruitment and Fundraising. In addition, a cross section of stakeholders took part in research interviews held by IPSOS Mori into the effectiveness of Covid Funding and research by Newcastle and Northumbria Universities relating to wellbeing.

Key2Life

We have once again supported over 16,000 people in food poverty. The cost-of-living crisis has had a significant impact of those on low incomes, many of them now unable to make ends meet. 44 volunteers regularly attend the foodbank, maintaining the weekday operations, collecting, and delivering food. We continued to build up our relationships with funders through both our CTST and KEY connections. The addition of a paid team leader at the foodbank has greatly enhanced our ability to meet the needs of our community. 4,300 children have received support during the school holidays from our HAF funded activities. Over 900 people have accessed financial support with Fuel Poverty via our partnership with National Fuel Foundation. Over 600 items of school uniform were provided to families who were unable to purchase it for themselves. 350 children received Christmas gifts from us which were kindly donated from local community.

Street Angels

Street Angels' work was halted in March 2020 and patrols did not resume until July 2021 as Covid regulations were lifted and restrictions eased. There have been difficulties in our capacity to get a full team out each week due to a lack of new volunteers and the inability of several of our core volunteers to return. There have been changes to the footfall of the people out enjoying the Night Time Economy and there were far fewer people out on Saturday nights. Issues in the town centre regarding the closure of a popular licenced premises and the early closing of other premises led to less need for our service. Press and TV reports during the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard highlighted issues regarding women's safety and we were approached by the office of the Police and Crime

Commissioner to assist with two projects: Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) and Safer Streets (Transport). In partnership with Northumbria Police, Nexus, Newcastle, Sunderland and Whitley Bay Street Pastors we achieved success in delivering these projects.

Nurturing Dementia

Five Life Story sessions were facilitated with over 80 beneficiaries. Each person completed a My Favourite Things document that captured his or her life story information. Beneficiaries received a Memory Box to collect memorabilia. Doll Therapy training was given and written guidance for staff at a local care home, leading to 3 residents benefitting.

8 Dementia Friendly Awareness sessions were arranged across a range of community groups including: Age Concern staff; Apna Ghar Ethnic Minorities Women's Centre staff and beneficiaries; Roseway Care Home for staff and volunteers; and 3 sessions for students at Jarrow School involving 47 students and staff.

There were 2 Dementia Friendly Christmas Services at St Peter's Church Jarrow and Living Waters Church South Shields. 30 people in attendance at each, despite Covid restrictions. Church communities and Jarrow School supported the event. Very positive feedback.

Members' Online Meetings

In 2021 CTST offered 3 meetings online to our members: In January the topic was Poverty Alleviation with speakers from KEY2Life and NECAT (North East Churches Acting Together), as well as a presentation about a Christmas Community project from one of our churches. In May we looked to the future at our AGM and in October the topic was Climate Change with a national speaker as well as a local Labour MP and Green Party Councillor.

Appointment of an Executive Lead

As part of our review of governance it was decided to create a new post to assist the Trustees with the development, implementation and monitoring of our projects and overall aims. With funding in place for 2 years, an Executive Lead was appointed in July 2021.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child provides an opportunity to engage with churches who were not members of Churches Together in South Tyneside. The response this year was lower than previous years because of Covid. Most of the shoeboxes were taken to the collection centres at Living Waters Church and Grange Road Baptist Church. 63 cartons of 750 shoeboxes were put into the container at St John the Baptist Church, Jarrow.

Promoting Affiliated Projects (KEY and STARCH- independent charities)

SOUTH TYNESIDE CHURCHES' KEY PROJECT Charity Number: 1108921

In 2021 KEY developed and implemented a wellbeing project aimed at improving the mental and physical health of our beneficiaries. It offers one to one and group counselling. Mindfulness, Zumba, Pilates, yoga and music lessons also form part of the offer. 2021 also saw the launch of KEY's Education, Employment & Training service. The aim is to support KEY's young people into meaningful work or education and act as a conduit with the employer/college to alleviate any issues. Strategically KEY began the process of becoming a registered provider (Housing Association).

248 Young people and their families accessed their intervention and mediation services

68% Of Young people accessing their intervention and mediation services remained in the family home and did not become homeless

116 Young people presented as homeless when accessing KEY services

79% Of young people presenting as homeless who did not return to the family home

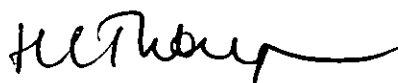
73% Of Young people supported to live independently.

**South Tyneside Refugee and Asylum Seeker Church Help (S.T.A.R.C.H.) Charity Number: 1100561
STARCH (South Tyneside Asylum Seekers and Refugee Church Help)**

In 2021 STARCH continued its "buddying" support by telephone during shutdown out of concern for the mental health of asylum seekers and refugees struggling with isolation and the very restricted services available. STARCH was off offered a shop unit where we were able to continue to offer support. Strict Covid rules were followed with only 8 people allowed in at a time with track and trace plus wearing of masks, sanitising of hands on entering and exiting the building. Numbers of asylum seekers increased in 2021 and finding school places was a challenge. STARCH was able to hold a Christmas Party with a difference-many restrictions on the layout and social distancing, but there were gifts of toys and toiletries. Two vaccination days were held at Living Waters Church to encourage the uptake of the Covid booster, with the first being very well attended. STARCH is most grateful for the generous donations of clothing, household goods and the support they continue to receive from our local communities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, on 28th September 2022


Mrs B Askins, Chair 28.9.22.


Trustee & Secretary

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the
year ended 31 December 2021**

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1	Charity information
2	Independent Examiner's Report
3	Statement of Receipts and Payments
4	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
5	Notes to the accounts

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

CHARITY INFORMATION

Charity Commission Registration Number	1153612
Trustees	Ms B. Askins (Chairperson) Ms H. Thompson (Secretary) Ms A. Tennet Ms A. Trollope Ms J. Arthurs Mr S. Slade
Banks	T.S.B. plc PO Box 373 Leeds LS14 9GQ Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HM
Independent Examiner	Mrs L Armstrong Armstrong Accountancy 68 Leander Drive Henley Grange Boldon Colliery NE35 9LS
Registered Office	52 Lawe Road South Shields Tyne and Wear NE33 2AL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees of CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE (CIO)

This report on the financial statements of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 4 to 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Charitable Accounting Regulations, of the Charities Act 2011.

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 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

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 Charities Act have not been met.

Signed

Mrs L Armstrong
Armstrong Accountancy
68 Leander Drive
Henley Grange
Baldon Colliery
NE35 9LS

Independent Examiner

12 September 2022

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total
Incoming resources			
Grants	15,211	89,142	104,353
Donations	4,533	-	4,533
Miscellaneous receipts	305	-	305
Total receipts	<u>20,049</u>	<u>89,142</u>	<u>109,191</u>

Payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total
Activities : related to the trusts work			
Project costs	232	30,780	31,012
Salaries	38,493	37,220	75,713
Pension administration charge	-	1,213	1,213
Employers pension	-	755	755
Working from home allowance	-	2,725	2,725
Travel expenses	-	2,049	2,049
Training	-	475	475
Sundry expenses	81	-	81
Refreshments and catering	-	20	20
	<u>38,805</u>	<u>75,236</u>	<u>114,041</u>
Management & administration			
Printing and stationery	-	3,284	3,284
Subscriptions	196	154	350
Software, websites etc	384	3,579	3,963
Insurance	1,402	-	1,402
Telephone	20	1,795	1,815
Equipment	-	1,217	1,217
Professional fees	-	-	-
	<u>2,002</u>	<u>10,030</u>	<u>12,032</u>
Total payments	<u>40,807</u>	<u>85,266</u>	<u>126,074</u>
Surplus / - Deficit for the year	<u>-20,759</u>	<u>3,876</u>	<u>-16,883</u>

**Churches Together in South Tyneside
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2021**

Page 4 of 5

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020
Fixed Assets	8,558	-	8,558	2,108
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand				
Bank Accounts	11,484	104,150	115,634	134,186
Cash Accounts	305	-	305	221
Debtors	1,619	-	1,619	-
Current Liabilities				
Accruals and deferred income	-6,484	-	-6,484	-
Total Net Assets	<u>15,482</u>	<u>104,150</u>	<u>119,632</u>	<u>136,515</u>

Represented by

Fund movements

	2021 Total	2020
Assets and Liabilities b/fwd	136,515	39,188
Adjustments	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) of resources for year	<u>-£16,883</u>	<u>97,327</u>
Total surplus from resources	<u>119,632</u>	<u>136,515</u>

Approved by the board of trustees, on 28 September 2022

Ms B Askins (Chairperson)

Ms A. Tennet (Deputy Chairperson)

Churches Together in South Tyneside
Notes to the financial Statements
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements of Churches Together on South Tyneside have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charitable Incorporated (General) Regulations 2012 and the Charities Act 2011 using the receipts and payments basis.

2 Fixed Assets for use by the PCC

Tangible Assets	Office equipment £
Gross book value	
at 1 January 2021	2,108
revaluation surplus	-
Additions during year	6,450
at 31 December 2021	<u>8,558</u>
Depreciation	
for year	<u>-</u>
Net book value	
at 31 December 2021	<u>8,558</u>

3 Restricted funds

	£
Happy at Home	
Kellett	3,065
Ballinger	4,561
Independent age	404
Ernest Hecht	813
Souter	6,484
South Tyneside Council	35,361
	<u>50,688</u>
Churches together	31,365
Happy at home	16,650
Dementia	5,447
	<u>53,462</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>104,150</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees of CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE (CIO)

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

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Baldon Colliery
NE35 6LS



Independent Examiner

12 September 2022

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1153612

Accounts

Churches Together in South Tyneside

Annual Report for Financial Year: January 1st 2020– December 31st 2020

Charity's Name:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

Any other name the Charity uses: **Churches Together South Tyneside; CTST**

Charity's Number: 1153612

Charity's Registered Address:

52 Lawe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2AL

Names of Charity's Trustees on Wednesday 10th May 2020

Jane Arthurs, Bernadette Askins, Stephen Slade, Audrey Tennet, Hilary Thompson, Ann Trollope

Structure, Governance and management

Please see note below re Coronavirus Changes.

CTST is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The present constitution of CTST was finalised on August 22nd, 2013. It outlines the objects, powers, policy on income, property and controls about payments, regulations re charity trustees and connected persons, conflicts of interest and loyalty, liabilities, membership, decision making, and meetings.

CTST has trustees and members. Members include representatives of local CT neighbourhood groups, local social action projects and individuals who are interested in the work and want to support the organisation. At the AGM the trustees, chair and deputy chair are elected. The secretary and treasurer are appointed. New trustees are inducted by the Chair in line with the constitution. Several trustees are involved with other charities and have shared their expertise with the group.

General meetings are held quarterly and are attended by trustees and members; decisions are made at these meetings. Before each meeting, an agenda is decided by the chair and secretary and circulated. Other members can add items. Minutes are circulated electronically or by post for those with no internet connection. At quarterly general meetings, working groups may be set up to carry out agreed tasks. Decisions are communicated electronically from these meetings. Each year the trustees and members agree a work plan which outlines the charity's major priorities for action.

CTST has three projects which are directly responsible to the trustees - Happy at Home, Nurturing Dementia and Street Angels. A fourth project, Key 2 Life aims to alleviate poverty. It includes a large foodbank, *Food and Fun* school holiday programmes and *School Uniforms 4 All*. Key 2 Life is a partnership between CTST and KEY, an affiliated charity. Approximately 320 volunteers support the work of our projects.

All projects have their own management committees which manage and monitor their activities. At least one trustee is a member of each project committee. We encourage volunteers interested in the work to become committee members. The projects are supported by part time paid development workers, who support the trustees and volunteers and attend management committee meetings. At CTST quarterly meetings, reports are received from the projects. In addition, updates are received from two affiliated organisations, previously set up as projects by CTST but now independent charities: KEY and STARCH (South Tyneside Asylum and Refugee Church Help)

Churches Together also supports other church-related projects by promoting their work, helping recruit volunteers, identifying funding opportunities and inviting them to attend meetings to report on their projects. These projects include Prison Matters.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE While most of the above remained as written, some changes took place from March 2020:

- Projects quickly reviewed their practice in line with government guidelines. For the detail see Achievements and Performance
- Staff already worked from home but now worked remotely using Zoom and Teams.
- Staff began working in different ways to meet the needs of beneficiaries. These included changes in deployment of staff, increased recruitment and training of volunteers, delivering services to the doorstep e.g: garden gate chats, food parcels, increased use of technology.
- Increased collaboration with partner organisations
- All CTST meetings of the trustees, project management committees and members' meetings moved to online.
- The Trustees took the opportunity to hold, initially, weekly, then monthly meetings in order to conduct a review of their governance. We used the Coalfields Community Investment Programme's Organisational Diagnostic Tool as a guide through this task.
- An action plan was drawn up to implement the outcomes of the governance review, including monitoring practice, most of which will come into place in 2021.
- A review took place of the KEY2LifePartnership Agreement between CTST and KEY

Financial review

Principal Funding Sources

1. Donations from local neighbourhood Churches Together groups.
2. Donations from private sources – People's Silver Band, Inner Wheel Harton, Corbridge Methodist Church, collection boxes
3. Fund raising events – Great North Run
4. Grants from trusts and foundations:
Happy at Home: Kellett Fund (via Community Foundation Tyne and Wear), Community Foundation Tyne and Wear Coronavirus Recovery Funding, Age, The National Lottery (Coronavirus Community Fund), Ballinger Charitable Trust, Morrisons, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, South Tyneside Community Area Forum, The Pargiter Trust (via Community Foundation Tyne and Wear), Newcastle Building Society (via Community Foundation Tyne and Wear)
Street Angels: P&G (via Community Foundation Tyne & Wear), 1989 Willan Trust
KEY2Life: Coalfields Regeneration, Bonas, Wood, NET Emergency, Charities Aid Foundation, Community Foundation T&W, P&G, This is Love, UTS Engineering, Dream Jar, Newcastle Building Society, ST Community Area Forum,
Nurturing Dementia: Linden Family Foundation P&G (via Community Foundation Tyne and Wear)
5. Grant from local government: KEY2Life: South Tyneside Council
6. Service Level Agreement – South Tyneside Council / Happy at Home Total: £11,000
7. Happy at Home also received a grant from HM Government (Via National Lottery- see 4 above) and KEY2Life received 2 grants from South Tyneside Local Authority through CTST. The total of these grants from the LA and HM Government to CTST is £41,075

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to have reserves of 6 months operating costs to enable them to make provision for the vulnerable people that are supported by the projects in the event of funding not being secured. Each project is working towards this goal. Reserves also cover possible future costs of redundancies.

Public Benefit

Churches Together has referred to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. Our charity's activities reflect our aims and objectives, and are designed to provide accessible services and activities that benefit the appropriate sector of the public in accordance with our charitable aims.

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CTST seeks to put into practice Christian teaching by carrying out practical social action for the benefit of the whole community with particular regard for the most vulnerable. Its activities give direct help as well as raising awareness of issues facing contemporary society.

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- a) Educating the public in different beliefs, including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different faiths.
- b) Promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths

Activities

(See section "Achievements and performance for 2020 for highlights and any changes during the Coronavirus crisis)

Happy at Home - a befriending service for isolated elderly people in their homes and at social hubs around the borough.

Key2Life including:

Foodbank – coordinating the food bank and four collection points in South Tyneside, liaising with local supermarkets re food supplies, arranging training and awareness, raising of the plight of residents who have no food.

Food and Fun Holiday Clubs – food and activities for children and families in financial difficulties

Fuel Bank – offering grants and fuel bursaries to those in fuel poverty.

School Uniforms 4 All Project - collecting, storing and exchanging uniform.

Directory of Support Services – '*Information Your Way*' website now online

Raising Awareness –giving talks to churches, schools and community groups

Street Angels - Supporting those who are vulnerable, in distress or in need, during the night-time economy in South Shields Town Centre at weekend as well as those sleeping rough.

Nurturing Dementia: was officially recognised as a CTST project in January 2020. A part-time project worker is liaising with relevant organisations and charities, running workshops/dementia

support/supervision in care homes and working with community organisations to promote and raise awareness and understanding of dementia among churches and the wider community in South Tyneside. The project seeks to organise events, such as inclusive church services.

CTST promotes and supports affiliated charities through its networks:

Key Project for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

South Tyneside Asylum Seeker Refugee Church Help (STARCH) - provides practical and personal support for asylum seekers and refugees and a weekly Tuesday drop in where agencies and asylum seekers and refugees can meet.

CTST promotes and supports the following church related projects:

Prison Matters: providing support for ex-offenders settling back into the community.

CTST also has a website, social media presence, publishes an annual report of its activities and occasional press releases.

CTST works in partnership with South Tyneside Council and community and voluntary sector organisations.

CTST addresses topical and ethical issues at its annual event and by organising hustings before general elections.

Achievements and performance for 2020

The trustees are very proud of the way our project leaders, our employees and our volunteers have responded to the Coronavirus Crisis. They have been extremely creative, resourceful and resilient in the face of many challenges. They have committed many hours to supporting vulnerable people in South Tyneside and have been commended for their work. They have shown the foresight to anticipate problems as well as opportunities. The commitment, enthusiasm and vision of those involved is reflected clearly in the report.

CTST Projects

Happy at Home

When the pandemic restrictions began Happy At Home decided to split the borough of South Tyneside into three geographical areas with a Team Leader responsible for the coordination of support in each area.

Volunteers provided telephone support calls to maintain the spirits of the beneficiaries and to check if they needed anything. Garden gate calls were made to those who were tearful and those most in need.

A variety of shopping services was provided including distributing Morrisons food parcels, organising shopping drop offs for people who used click and collect, helping with the distribution of a large amount of food for a Neighbourhood community group, doing small errands and collecting prescriptions from doctors and delivering to pharmacies. Additional alliances were formed with community organisations and other supermarkets and special treats were passed on, including bouquets of flowers, Easter Eggs, chocolates, toiletries and food.

Provision of survival Packs for emergencies - milk, bread, tea, coffee loo rolls, PPE etc Winter Warmer packs were distributed containing knee blankets, cocoa, cough sweets etc. Activity Packs were provided including jigsaws, colouring and painting books, playing cards, quiz and crossword books, wool, knitting needles and crochet hooks, craft supplies and reading books.

Special Fun Events were marked including VE Day by giving VE Day presents. A campaign that 'nobody spent a lonely a birthday in lockdown' was started so that everyone received a birthday card and a small gift to mark their special day. When someone went into hospital, they received a Get

Well card and after they were discharged, they received a Welcome Home card, a gift and emergency supplies if they were needed.

Garden Tidies were carried out at Independent Living Complexes, to make meeting visitors outdoors more pleasurable.

Between Lockdowns an alliance was formed with a local hotel to provide a Covid safe environment to enable some Happy Hubs to be held.

A monthly 'Lockdown Newsletter' was created with news, puzzles, recipes and biopics of the volunteers or beneficiaries.

Christmas Eve boxes and Christmas dinners were provided for those who were completely on their own, so that they could mark the special day. Christmas gifts were given to over 300 people involved with the project (volunteers and beneficiaries), even the pets of the owners received a gift.

KEY2LIFE

This year has been like no other. KEY2LIFE supported over 16,000 people in food poverty, because of covid and lockdown. This represents an increase on over 300%. Some of our regular volunteers had to shield but we were able to recruit recruited many new volunteers from our community who had been furloughed due to the pandemic, 22 of them are now regularly contributing many hours to the Foodbank. Volunteer drivers delivered food to the homes of clients using KEY's van.

We continued to build up our relationships with funders, which enabled KEY2LIFE both to increase supplies for the Foodbank and to appoint a part-time Team Leader in September 2020. The employees and volunteers worked relentlessly to manage all this change and adapt the systems to cope with the huge growth in demand at the same time as setting up protocols to keep themselves, donors and clients safe. Local businesses, supermarkets and many members of the public have responded with great generosity. This has involved high levels of coordination and liaison. The use of social media has been a great asset.

We had to come up with an alternative to Holiday Clubs, and in partnership with the Local Authority designed a Trails and Picnic initiative. Leaflets with local family walks were produced and we were able to supply 4,000 lunches to children from low-income families. In September we introduced a Fuel Bank, whereby those experiencing fuel poverty could apply for financial help with their utility bills, approx. £5,000 has been made available to those in need.

We continue to help other voluntary and community groups deliver their projects with guidance to develop their training, policies and processes. When possible in 2020 we gave talks about the causes of poverty and ways to eradicate misinformation so that we can assist those in need without prejudice or judgment. Over 100 volunteers, many local schools, churches, businesses and individuals support our work.

STREET ANGELS 2020

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic our work ceased in March 2020 and due to lockdown restrictions and the social distancing rules Street Angels have been unable to return.

Following the imposing of restrictions, the Street Angels project leader has been liaising with the Northumbria Police Local Neighbourhood Team, South Shields Pubwatch and South Tyneside Council Community Safety Team to discuss how they could work together when the lifting of restrictions and social distancing rules allow the team to return.

The team of volunteers will be ready to return to our work on the Streets working together with the other local organisations during the gradual lifting of restrictions. An appropriate Covid Risk Assessment is in place and any necessary extra PPE will be purchased to ensure the safety of our volunteers and the people we assist and support.

Nurturing Dementia

In February 2020, a half day community Nurturing Spirituality workshop was facilitated. Networking links have been made with Happy at Home, Durham Diocese Working Party 'Including People with

Dementia', Roseway House Care Home in Jarrow, South Tyneside HealthNet, local Alzheimers Society and South Tyneside Commissioning Group.

When possible, the project has been continuing to Intergenerational Working with local schools, Brownies, Cubs and Air Cadets. The project lead has completed DBS training to facilitate training for schools.

Operation Christmas Child

CTST offered to help coordinate collections of shoe boxes in support of the Samaritan Purse 'shoe box' appeal. The pick-up of shoeboxes was very different this year because our usual collection points were closed due to the pandemic. However, we were so pleased that Key 2 Life Foodbank, Grange Road Baptist Church, Living Waters Church and Peter Marsh Hairdressers were able to act as a collection points and 500 boxes were received. Thanks to KEY for the use of their van.

CTST Website

During 2020 The website and the other social media platforms were valuable assets to keep people informed about changes in our practice, various initiatives devised by our projects to help those in need and share links to online services from our churches.

Promoting Affiliated Projects (KEY, STARCH and Prison Matters - independent charities)

SOUTH TYNESIDE CHURCHES' KEY PROJECT Charity Number: 1108921

During the pandemic KEY had to redefine how we maintained service provision while following the latest government COVID-19 advice to protect the health and well-being of the young people and families we assist, our staff, volunteers, partner organisations and the wider public.

With all home visits suspended, unless there is an emergency, Tenancy Support clients have been contacted daily by phone or video to ensure no young person is left feeling isolated because of reduced opportunities for face-to-face contact. Prevention, Mediation, and Intervention have been provided on the same basis to all families at risk of breakdown with follow-up welfare checks plus out of hours chats and texts.

Our young people have been more reliant on us than ever to help and care for them during this difficult time; managing their needs and behaviours has required new strategies.

Some have struggled mentally so we have put together a 'Be better' resource with tips and advice on wellbeing and personal development. We have been piloting activities such as fitness classes, gardening, and upcycling projects in our supported accommodation properties to encourage a positive daily routine keeping mind and body active.

To cope with the increased demand in services KEY have employed a new Family Intervention Officer and two new Progression Coaches. KEY have opened 5 cottages on the Askins Lodge site which are used as 'steppingstone' properties between act as a go between supported and independent living. With over 80% of our young people citing a mental health issue KEY have secured funding to employ a Psychological Wellbeing Officer who will work with up to 30 young people across our services.

Prison Matters Charity Number: 1179904

The two weekly drop-ins, run by volunteers at the Independent Methodist Church in Hebburn, were suspended in March 2020 because of the pandemic. Sadly, the project encouraging healthy eating, which had just started, had to be suspended. Two sessions, led by a professional chef, had been delivered and the remaining four sessions will be picked up again once government legislation permits the drop-ins to re-start.

South Tyneside Refugee and Asylum Seeker Church Help (S.T.A.R.C.H.) Charity Number: 1100561

STARCH (South Tyneside Asylum Seekers and Refugee Church Help)

We have had a very challenging year. The Covid 19 Pandemic has made it difficult for us to offer our normal service to asylum seekers and refugees. Our base has had to close during long periods. We have many new people that we have only communicated with them by telephone. This in itself was a problem as many do not have English as their first language. We are fortunate that we do have volunteers who will translate in an emergency.

Numbers of refugees and asylum seekers continue to rise in South Tyneside. This has created problems for the schools. Children now have to wait longer for school admission and may have to travel further afield. It has become more difficult in some areas to register with a GP.

We have seen a rise in mental health problems. Isolation has been very difficult, it has meant not being able to meet and socialise, therefore integration has been more difficult.

We have continued to receive wonderful support from the community for which we are extremely grateful.



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/01/2020	To	31/12/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
CTST	750	- 450		300	1,366
Grant Income - inc K2Life (formerly Poverty Project) & Mentor a Mum Projects		37,399		37,399	22,750
Donations and Bag Pack				-	-
Happy at Home Project (incl Nurturing Dementia)	29,655	115,235		144,890	49,469
Street Angels Project		13,540		13,540	6,025
Subscriptions		18		18	210
				-	
				-	
				-	
				-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	30,405	165,742	-	196,147	79,820
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	30,405	165,742	-	196,147	79,820
A3 Payments					
K2Life (formerly Poverty) & Mentor a Mum Projects		33,375		33,375	24,065
Inter Project Expenses				-	6,386
Happy at Home Direct Costs		7,263		7,263	14,468
Street Angels Direct Costs		6		6	2,486
Employee Costs	19,476	29,350		48,826	40,907
Travel	220	1,737		1,957	1,048
Refreshments		9		9	88
Office Costs	965	5,538		6,503	4,203
Insurance	637			637	532
General Expenses (incl Training)	157	8		165	3,295
Subscriptions		80		80	154
Corporation Tax Levy				-	200
				-	
				-	
Sub total	21,455	77,366	-	98,821	97,832
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	21,455	77,366	-	98,821	97,832
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,950	88,376	-	97,327	- 18,012
Adjustments (capital purchases)	- 2,108				3,051
A6 Cash funds last year end	25,703	13,485		39,188	54,150
Cash funds this year end	32,545	101,861	-	134,407	39,189

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

2020

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CTST Bank Account	2,843	13,770	-
	Happy at Home - Bank Account	39,302	61,779	-
	Happy at Home - Cash	221		
	Street Angels - Bank Account		16,491	-
	Total cash funds	42,366	92,040	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				OK

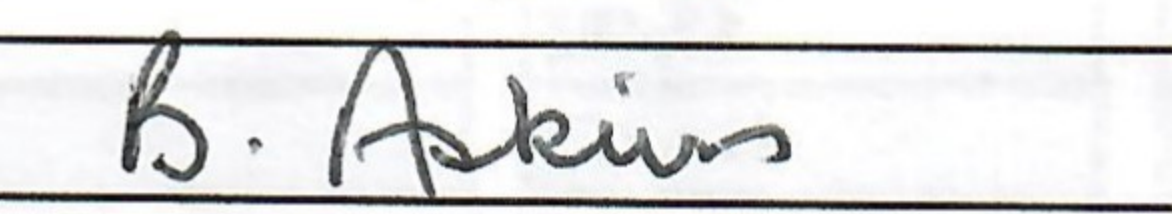

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	BERNADETTE ASKINS	12/05/21
	HILARY C. THOMPSON	12/05/2021



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Churches Together in South Tyneside		
	On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2020	Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
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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 section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

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

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:	<i>L Anderson</i>	Date:	4.5.2021
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Name:	LYNN ANDERSON
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Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	A.C.M.A.
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