

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.

Objects

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.

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 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 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 Alheimers 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.



Churches Together in South Tyneside		11523612	
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	01/01/2020	To	31/12/2020

CC16a

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))				

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

B. Atkins
H. Thompson

BERNADETTE ASKINS
HILARY C. THOMPSON

12/05/21
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)

1153612

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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 Acthave 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:

L Anderson

Date:

4.5.2021

Name:

LYNN ANDERSON

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

A.C.M.A.

Address:

56 BEACONSIDE

SOUTH SHIELDS

NE34 7PX