

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

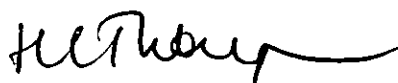
73% Of Young people supported to live independently.

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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**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	20,049	89,142	109,191

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
	38,805	75,236	114,041
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	-	-	-
	2,002	10,030	12,032
Total payments	40,807	85,266	126,074
Surplus / - Deficit for the year	-20,759	3,876	-16,883

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

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	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	-£16,883	97,327
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

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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>

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Mrs L. Armstrong
Armstrong Accountancy
65 Leander Drive
Hertley Grange
Bosdon Colliery
NE35 6LS



Independent Examiner

12 September 2022