

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

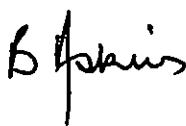
In Spring 2022 CTST organised a zoom event on Biodiversity with a local focus. Speakers presented in three areas: a theological reflection, a local project "Baldon Flats Wetlands Habitat" and "Biodiversity and Your Church- Laudato Si" and the "Minsteracres Project".

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 over a horizontal line.

Churches Together in South Tyneside
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity Number: 1153612

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





CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

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

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:

M & 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	56,886	67,788	124,674	109,191

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	
	49,607	102,051	151,657	126,074
Surplus/ Deficit for the year	7,279	-34,262	-26,983	-16,883

**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)

B Askins

Mrs A Tennet (Deputy Chairperson)

A Tennet

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.