

## Churches Together in South Tyneside

### Annual Report for Financial Year:

January 1st 2023– December 31st 2023



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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

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, Kellett 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.

### **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

### **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 only activities, 'Joyrides' (outings along the coast with lunch provided), parties, theatre trips and day trips to local garden centres . We operate throughout the borough of South Tyneside.



**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.

### **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.



### 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, 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.

**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.



"Just wanted to say a huge thank you to the lady who helped me today. Please thank everyone for your kindness and for those volunteers who make receiving these parcels a pleasant experience, no judgement, welcoming and hugely understanding."

– Key to Life Foodbank user

### 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 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November with us picking up the shoeboxes and cartons from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Churches Together in South Tyneside**

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity Number: **1153612**

**Financial Statements for the Year**

**January 1st 2023– December 31st 2023**





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

**Receipts**

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

**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
	<b>16,285</b>	<b>111,303</b>	<b>127,588</b>	<b>151,658</b>
<b>Surplus/ - Deficit for the year</b>	<b>18,384</b>	<b>27,559</b>	<b>45,943</b>	<b>-26,984</b>

**Churches Together in South Tyneside**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2023**

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

Approved by the board of trustees 12.04.2024

Mrs B Askins (Chairperson)

*B Askins*

Mrs A Tennet (Deputy Chairperson)

*A Tennet*



**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 Churches Together in South Tyneside

On accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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: M. 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).