

NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER

England & Wales · Charity number 1157138

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-05-21

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

Contact

Address 30 Fieldhouse Lane
Durham
DH1 4LT

Phone 01913842018

Email regionalofficer@necat.co.uk

Website www.necat.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION AND THE PROMOTION OF THE CHURCHES MISSION IN NORTH EAST ENGLAND FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHURCH MEMBERS, LOCAL CHURCHES, THE WIDER CHURCH AND THE PUBLIC GENERALLY THROUGH:IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND WORSHIP;PROMOTING SPIRITUALITY AND THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION;PROVIDING ADVICE, SUPPORT AND TRAINING TO LOCAL CHURCHES, LOCAL CHURCHES TOGETHER GROUPS AND OTHER ECUMENICAL BODIES;IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES AND MANAGING RESOURCES;BRINGING TOGETHER STATUTORY, VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, COMMERCIAL, ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL AGENCIES IN A COMMON ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE THE CHURCHES? MISSION;INTERPRETING KEY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS AND ISSUES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE RESPONSES;PROMOTING RELIGIOUS HARMONY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMON GOOD.

Activities: To facilitate and support the churches of the North east in their relationships with one another and their wider mission in the world. This is promoted by encouraging and developing the principles and practicalities of Christian Unity throughout the region and encouraging the churches to engage with their communities through social action

Classification

- **How:** Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Durham
- Gateshead
- Hartlepool
- Middlesbrough
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- North Tyneside
- Northumberland
- South Tyneside
- Stockton-on-tees
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£10,216	£31,706	-	-
2023-08-31	£26,891	£36,781	-	-
2022-08-31	£117,087	£82,161	-	-
2021-08-31	£44,924	£38,961	-	-
2020-08-31	£45,378	£40,623	-	-

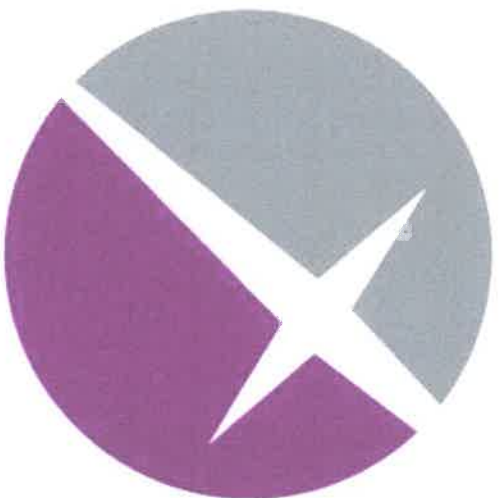
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr MARK ADRIAN BONNINGTON	Chair	2014-01-31
Right Reverend Mark Wroe		2021-03-02
Ros Maudsley		2021-06-09
WILLIAM BENEDICT OFFLER		2017-11-30

NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1157138

Accounts



NORTH EAST CHURCHES
ACTING TOGETHER

North East Churches Acting Together

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2024

Charity no: 1157138

North East Churches Acting Together

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2024

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Balance sheet	8
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Legal and administrative information

Trustees:

Dr MA Bonnington
Mrs R Maudslay
Mr W Offer
Mr D Pigeon (Resigned 2 February 2024)
Rt Revd M Wroe

Chairman:

Dr MA Bonnington

Treasurer:

Mr D Pigeon (Resigned 2 February 2024)

Regional Officer:

Ms C Stehouwer

Address:

30 Fieldhouse Lane
Durham
DH1 4LT

Independent Examiner:

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA
Mullen Stoker Ltd
Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC
The North Tyneside Group
3 Northumberland Square
North Shields
NE30 1QX

North East Churches Acting Together Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2024

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

Name of the charity North East Churches Acting Together
Charity number 1157138
Registered office 30 Fieldhouse Lane
Durham
DH1 4LT

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the Charity during the year ended 31 August 2024 were:

Dr MA Bonnington
Mrs R Maudsley
Mr W Offer
Mr D Pigeon (Resigned 2 February 2024)
Rt Revd M Wroe

Independent Examiner

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA
Mullen Stoker Ltd
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North East Churches Acting Together Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on 21st May 2014. The governing documents are the memorandum and articles of association of the CIO.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees consist of nominated trustees representing the Churches Together groups, the regional denominational ecumenical officers and the Northern Church leaders as well as other appointed Trustees. The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page two. Trustees usually meet four times each year and are responsible for formally monitoring the Charity. Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefit from the Charity. No expenses were reclaimed by Trustees from the Charity during the year.

Tees Valley Ministry

Oversight and financial guidance of Tees Valley Ministry is the responsibility of NECAT.

Objectives

To advance the Christian religion and the promotion of the churches mission in the North East of England for the benefit of church members, local churches, the wider church, and the public generally through:

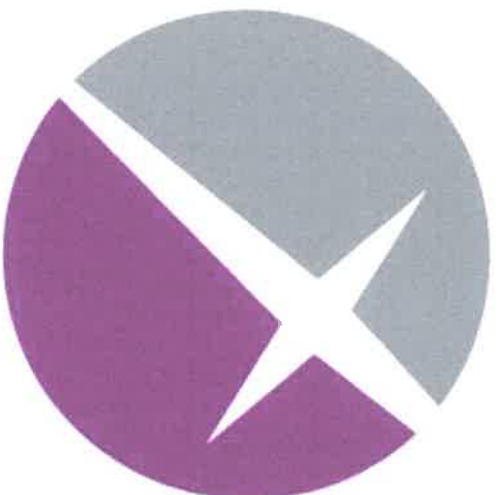
- identifying opportunities for prayer and worship.
- promoting spirituality and theological reflection.
- providing advice, support and training to local churches, local churches together groups and other ecumenical bodies.
- identifying priorities and managing resources.
- bringing together statutory, voluntary, community, commercial, artistic, and cultural agencies in a common attempt to advance the churches mission.
- interpreting key social and economic trends and issues from the perspective of the Christian faith and developing appropriate responses.
- promoting religious harmony for the benefit of the common good.

NECAT is an ecumenical body in the North East of England, serving a region with a distinct culture, spiritual life and self-awareness. NECAT was formed as a result of a review of the ecumenical structures in the North East and a combining of North East Christian Churches Together (NECCT) and The Churches' Regional Commission in the North East (CRCNE).

NECAT seeks to serve the Kingdom of God in the North East by being a partnership of churches and Christian organisations dedicated to answering the call of Jesus Christ and working ecumenically for the renewal of the region through specific and local action to bring about change for the common good.

NECAT's aim and method of working is to encourage and support churches to work together and with other partners both locally and regionally and to identify and release resources which will bring tangible benefits especially to communities and churches working with vulnerable people and groups. Its process within the rich inheritance of the Christian tradition is for action-reflection aimed to bring about changes which will improve the lives of people in local communities and the region. NECAT will offer a voice for the region and its ecumenical vision in national and inter-regional forums. NECAT will be about action to encourage renewal, and the action being undertaken with others wherever possible. Working together will be a catalyst for talking together. Reflection and analysis will follow practical actions benefiting local communities across the region.

North East Churches Acting Together works to support the churches of the North East in their relationships with one another and in their wider mission in the world. Our aim is to work in partnership and help to encourage partnership working with churches, voluntary agencies and other public bodies. Churches Together Groups in the region hold a key role in contributing to the work of the church locally. They and other Ecumenical agencies are supported by the Regional Officer and denominational Ecumenical Officers who together with representation from the Northern Church Leader's Group form the Local Ecumenical Group (LEG).



NORTH EAST CHURCHES
ACTING TOGETHER

North East Churches Acting Together

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2024

Charity no: 1157138

North East Churches Acting Together Reports and Financial Statements Year ended: 31 August 2024

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North East Churches Acting Together Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

Churches Together

We currently have 50 Churches Together groups formally registered with NECAT, these vary from large groups, who are in themselves separate charities, to small local alliances and fellowship groups. Many groups are still recovering from the pandemic – others are in good heart. Many have spent time reassessing their focus and mission.

We recognise the good missional work that Churches acting together do, the huge range of activities they provide and give thanks for all of those who volunteer with them and support the work and operation of their local churches Together group.

The Regional Church Leaders' Group

The North East Ecumenical Church Leaders group continues to meet online to pray together, discuss local and national issues and to liaise with one another across the churches.

A number of significant departures took place during the year including the retirement of the Bishop of Durham the Right Revd Paul Butler and the chair of the Newcastle Methodist district Revd Dr Stephen Lindridge, who also coordinated the church leaders' group meetings. The Anglican Bishop of Whitley Right Revd Paul Ferguson also retired in the summer of 2024. The churches and church leaders of the North East have benefited significantly from the leadership and the strong commitment to ecumenical co-working of these leaders over a number of years. New appointments were made, including the appointment of two knew Baptist northern Baptist association leaders Revd Linda Donaldson and Revd Johnny Pozzo. It was announced that the Chair of the Darlington Methodist District, Revd Richard Andrew, will become the President of the Methodist conference from the Summer of 2025.

Tees Valley Ministry (TVM)

TVM is a charity set up to work in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace. It has been part of NECAT since 2015 and NECAT continue to work with Regional Church leaders to discern the future direction and projects of TVM.

Regional Officer

The Trustees were delighted to appoint Ms Coryn Stehouwer as the new regional officer for NECAT. She took up her post on 1 January 2024. Coryn is Canadian and brought a refreshing and energetic outsider's perspective on the life and ministry of churches in the northeast. Coryn has impressed nearly everybody who has met her. Her contribution to the work of NECAT has been substantial. As well as expending considerable energy getting to know the people and churches of the region, she has energised contact with and discussion amongst Churches Together Groups, joined the Church Leaders for Prayers brought together and supported ecumenical initiatives and represented the region at CTE meetings and Ecumenical Officers' gatherings. We are sorry to say that Coryn will be returning to Canada to take up a post there in early 2024. We will be most sorry to lose her.

Ecumenical Officers and the Local Ecumenical Group

NECAT acts as the sponsoring body for the formal ecumenical structures in the North East including the Local Ecumenical Group which, on behalf of the denominations, is available to support Local Ecumenical Partnerships and initiate reviews. The Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEO) and continue to meet regularly and to offer that support to LEPs, Covenant Partnerships and other ecumenical structures. The number of denominational Ecumenical officers has grown slightly during the year, despite the retirement after long service of Mr Andy Lie as URC ecumenical officer. Many across the denominations of the region are grateful to Andy for his long service of and commitment to ecumenism in the region and we wish him a happy retirement. This does mean that it is difficult to give the support that we would like to and we are having to rethink the way in which we have worked and are trying to build up a team of volunteers able to help with reviews. LEG concerns about the future of the group and its ability to deliver the required support remain. However, across the churches, a new commitment vision of missional co-working seems to many a positive trajectory, despite pressures from within denominations to focus on internal life. The Churches Together in England toolkit, 'A New Framework for Local Unity' helps local groups ask the right questions as to what might be a good partnership model for them, enabling them to do what is needed with the minimal amount of bureaucracy, but ensuring the right documentation is in place to support their work and fellowship.

North East Churches Acting Together Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

Treasurer

Mr Danny Pigeon had been treasurer for NECAT since its inception until his retirement at the AGM in January 2024. Danny's quiet efficiency and effectiveness has made a huge contribution to the work of the CIO and we are grateful to him for all the expert and accurate work he has done on NECAT finances. NECAT will seek to appoint someone with financial skills to replace Danny during the 2024-25 financial year. In the meantime, we are grateful to Carol Mullen, of Mullen Stoker Ltd, our independent examiners, for their work in support of NECAT over the year.

Ecumenical Initiatives

North East Churches Acting Together is committed to working in partnership and trying to operate as a link or build networks between different churches and denominations and between churches and other agencies. We are delighted that in the past year the St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church has joined NECAT.

Plans for future periods

The NECAT Trustees have agreed to commence the appointment process for a new Regional Officer to replace Ms Coryn Stehouwer and we hope to have someone in place by the Spring of 2025. In order, as far as possible, to maintain the momentum developed in NECAT's work in 2024. We are also actively seeking a replacement for Mr Danny Pigeon as Trustee and Treasurer, alongside broadening the denominational and geographical spread of the Trustees.

Our website is www.necat.co.uk and Facebook page is www.facebook.com/northeastchurchesactingtogether

Mission Fund

All Churches Together Groups and informal ecumenical groups are able to submit applications for funding for work they may wish to do in the local communities. Further information and advice can be obtained from the following email address regionalofficer@necat.co.uk.

Financial review

The Charity's work is entirely reliant on income provided in the form of grants received from the Church Denominations and donations received from the Churches Together Groups in the North East.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves in a restricted fund at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenses. The Trustees consider that this will provide sufficient funds to ensure that support and governance costs are covered. Total reserves at 31 August 2024 amounted to £107,345 (2023: £126,971) of which £57,557 (2023: £54,183) were restricted.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 23/01/2025.

Mr W Offer (Trustee)



North East Churches Acting Together

Year ended: 31 August 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of North East Churches Acting Together

I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity (number 1157138) for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees, 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA

Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Date 23/01/2025

North East Churches Acting Together
Statement of Financial Activities including summary income and expenditure account for the
year ended 31 August 2024


	Notes	Unrestricted Designated Restricted			Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
		Funds	Funds	Funds		
Income from:		£	£	£		
Churches and denominations		8,183	0	0	8,183	25,216
Churches together groups		245	0	0	245	175
Sundry Income		0	0	0	0	340
Investment income - Bank interest	3	278	0	889	1,167	542
Investment income - Dividends		0	0	621	621	618
Total		<u>8,706</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,510</u>	<u>10,216</u>	<u>26,891</u>
Expenditure on:						
NECAT operation	4	31,706	0	0	31,706	6,439
Covid Recovery	4	0	0	0	0	30,092
TVM operation	4	0	0	0	0	250
Total		<u>31,706</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,706</u>	<u>36,781</u>
Net incoming resources / (resources expended) before transfers		<u>(23,000)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,510</u>	<u>(21,490)</u>	<u>(9,890)</u>
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0
Net incoming resources/(resources expended) Realised (loss)/gain on investment assets		<u>(23,000)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,510</u>	<u>(21,490)</u>	<u>(9,890)</u>
Net incoming resources / (resources expended) including realised gains on investments		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,864</u>	<u>1,864</u>	<u>667</u>
Unrealised gain on investment assets		(23,000)	0	3,374	(19,626)	(9,223)
		0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		<u>(23,000)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,374</u>	<u>(19,626)</u>	<u>(9,223)</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2023		50,598	22,190	54,183	126,971	136,194
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2023		<u>27,598</u>	<u>22,190</u>	<u>57,557</u>	<u>107,345</u>	<u>126,971</u>


All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

North East Churches Acting Together Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

		Charity 2024 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £	Charity 2023 £
	Notes				
Fixed assets					
Investments	5	23,262	23,262	21,398	21,398
		<u>23,262</u>		<u>21,398</u>	
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		86,803	54	106,215	0
Prepayments	6	54			
		<u>86,857</u>		<u>106,215</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(2,774)		(642)	
		<u>107,345</u>		<u>105,573</u>	
Net current assets		<u>107,345</u>		<u>107,345</u>	
Net assets		<u>107,345</u>		<u>126,971</u>	
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	8	27,598		50,598	
Designated funds					
Mission fund	8	2,190		2190	
Reserve fund	8	20,000	22,190	20,000	22,190
		<u>49,788</u>		<u>72,788</u>	
Total unrestricted funds		<u>49,788</u>		<u>72,788</u>	
Restricted funds					
Publicity fund	8	614		614	
Refuges and asylum seekers fund	8	1,525		1,525	
Big Society fund	8	9,402		9,402	
TVM fund	8	46,016	57,557	42,642	54,183
		<u>107,345</u>		<u>126,971</u>	
Total funds	8	<u>107,345</u>		<u>126,971</u>	

The financial statements on pages 7 to 12 were approved by the Executive Committee and authorised for issue by the trustees on 23 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


Dr MA Bonnington
Chairman


Mr W Offer
Trustee

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

Accounting policies

- (a) **Basis of preparation and going concern**
- The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.
- The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.
- The Charity constitutes a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.
- The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- (b) **Fund accounting**
- General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
- Designated funds have been transferred from unrestricted funds for a particular purpose and are to be used in accordance with that purpose as imposed by the trustees.
- Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for a particular purpose. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.
- Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.
- (c) **Incoming resources**
- All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.
- Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.
- (d) **Grant income**
- Grants and contributions received for current year expenditure are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are received, provided that the conditions for receipt have been complied with. Where income is received in advance for expenditure in a future accounting period, it is deferred and recognised in the future period to which it relates.
- (e) **Resources expended**
- All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.
- (f) **Investments**
- Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

(g) Defined contribution pension scheme

Existing employees of the Charity were entitled to join The Peoples Partnership which is funded by contributions from the employee and employer. New and existing employees were automatically enrolled into the master trust with the option to opt out should they choose to do so.

2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2023: £nil). Expenses, in respect of travel and subsistence, paid to trustees in the year totalled £nil (2023: £nil).

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Interest receivable - Barclays Active Saver a/c	£ 278	£ 0	£ 0	£ 278	£ 73
Interest receivable - CBF Deposit a/c	0	0	889	889	469
	<u>278</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>889</u>	<u>1,167</u>	<u>542</u>

4 Resources expended

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Stationery and printing	£ 122	£ 0	£ 0	£ 122	1
Necat management fee	0	0	0	0	250
Computer software/website	314	0	0	314	334
Telephone - emails	470	0	0	470	406
Web expenses	0	0	0	0	270
Advertising	0	0	0	0	1,669
Travel and subsistence	2,410	0	0	2,410	106
Conferences and coursed	678	0	0	678	0
Office allowance	0	0	0	0	0
Subscriptions	761	0	0	761	700
Insurance	415	0	0	415	458
Salaries	22,310	0	0	22,310	1,373
Employers pension payment	2,060	0	0	2,060	0
Sundries	238	0	0	238	151
Wages/TPP processing	338	0	0	338	329
Independent examination	990	0	0	990	642
TPP set up	600	0	0	600	0
Covid recovery	0	0	0	0	30,092
	<u>31,706</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,706</u>	<u>36,781</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2023: 0) with all employee time involved in providing either support to the governance of the charity or support services to charitable activities. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £2,060 (2023: £nil). No employees had employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) in excess of £60,000 (2023: £nil).

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
5 Fixed asset investments		
Within the UK		
Church of England Investment Fund at market value	23,262	21,398
6 Prepayments		
Insurance	2024 £ 54	2023 £ 0

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals:				
HMRC PAYE and NI	936	0	936	0
Employers pension payment	680	0	680	0
Regional Officer expenses	28	0	28	0
Independent examination	990	0	990	642
Wages/TPP processing	140	0	140	0
	<u>2,774</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,774</u>	<u>642</u>

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

8 Statement of funds

	At 1 Sept 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gains £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted						
General fund	50,598	8,706	(31,706)	0	0	27,598
Designated funds:						
Mission fund	2,190	0	0	0	0	2,190
Reserve fund	20,000	0	0	0	0	20,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>72,788</u>	<u>8,706</u>	<u>(31,706)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>49,788</u>
Restricted funds:						
Publicity fund	614	0	0	0	0	614
Refugees and asylum seekers fund	1,525	0	0	0	0	1,525
Big society fund	9,402	0	0	0	0	9,402
TVM fund	42,642	1,510	0	1864	0	46,016
Total restricted funds	<u>54,183</u>	<u>1,510</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1864</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>57,557</u>
Total funds	<u>126,971</u>	<u>10,216</u>	<u>(31,706)</u>	<u>1864</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>107,345</u>

General funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Mission funds provide small grants to Local Churches Together and similar groups such as Regional bodies/initiatives and ad hoc groups formed for a particular event.

Designated reserve funds are to be used to pay expenses due should the aims and objectives of NECAT, as originally envisaged, cease resulting in the cessation of NECAT.

Publicity funds are for the purpose of publicising NECAT and /or regional events.

Refugees and asylum seekers funds seek to provide support and integration into the community.

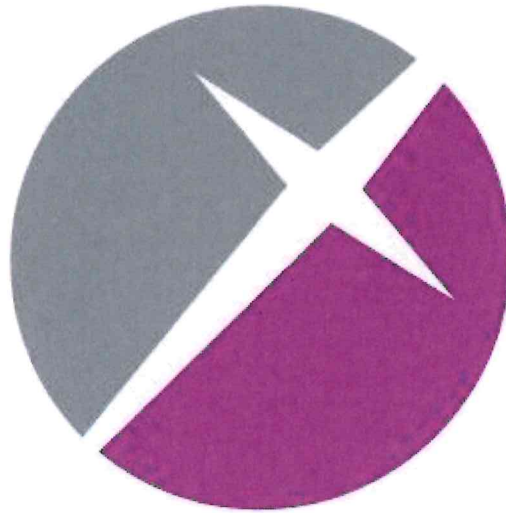
Big society fund is a social impact fund which looks into the feasibility of using church land and buildings to provide affordable housing. It supports a feasible project's further planning and securing its financing where appropriate.

TVM fund operates in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace.

NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1157138

Accounts



NORTH EAST CHURCHES
ACTING TOGETHER

North East Churches Acting Together

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2023

Charity no: 1157138

North East Churches Acting Together

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2023

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Legal and administrative information

Trustees:	Dr MA Bonnington Mrs R Maudslay Mr W Offler Mr D Pigeon Rt Revd M Wroe
Chairman:	Dr MA Bonnington
Treasurer:	Mr D Pigeon
Regional Officer:	Ms C Stehouwer (appointed November 2023)
Address:	30 Fieldhouse Lane Durham DH1 4LT
Independent Examiner:	Neil Mullen FCA FCCA Mullen Stoker Ltd Mullen Stoker House Mandale Business Park Belmont Industrial Estate Durham DH1 1TH
Bankers:	Barclays Bank PLC The North Tyneside Group 3 Northumberland Square North Shields NE30 1QX

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2023

Reference and Administrative Details

Name of the charity	North East Churches Acting Together
Charity number	1157138
Registered office	30 Fieldhouse Lane Durham DH1 4LT

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the Charity during the year ended 31 August 2023 were:

Dr MA Bonnington
Mrs R Maudsley
Mr W Offler
Mr D Pigeon
Rt Revd M Wroe

Independent Examiner

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA
Mullen Stoker Ltd
Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
The North Tyneside Group
3 Northumberland Square
North Shields
NE30 1QX

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on 21st May 2014. The governing documents are the memorandum and articles of association of the CIO.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees consist of nominated trustees representing the Churches Together groups, the regional denominational ecumenical officers and the Northern Church leaders as well as other appointed Trustees. The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page two. Trustees usually meet four times each year and are responsible for formally monitoring the Charity. Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefit from the Charity. No expenses were reclaimed by Trustees from the Charity during the year.

Tees Valley Ministry

Oversight and financial guidance of Tees Valley Ministry is the responsibility of NECAT.

Objectives

To advance the Christian religion and the promotion of the churches mission in the North East of England for the benefit of church members, local churches, the wider church, and the public generally through:

- identifying opportunities for prayer and worship.
- promoting spirituality and theological reflection.
- providing advice, support and training to local churches, local churches together groups and other ecumenical bodies.
- identifying priorities and managing resources.
- bringing together statutory, voluntary, community, commercial, artistic, and cultural agencies in a common attempt to advance the churches mission.
- interpreting key social and economic trends and issues from the perspective of the Christian faith and developing appropriate responses.
- promoting religious harmony for the benefit of the common good.

NECAT is an ecumenical body in the North East of England, serving a region with a distinct culture, spiritual life and self-awareness. NECAT was formed as a result of a review of the ecumenical structures in the North East and a combining of North East Christian Churches Together (NECCT) and The Churches' Regional Commission in the North East (CRCNE).

NECAT seeks to serve the Kingdom of God in the North East by being a partnership of churches and Christian organisations dedicated to answering the call of Jesus Christ and working ecumenically for the renewal of the region through specific and local action to bring about change for the common good.

NECAT's aim and method of working is to encourage and support churches to work together and with other partners both locally and regionally and to identify and release resources which will bring tangible benefits especially to communities and churches working with vulnerable people and groups. Its process within the rich inheritance of the Christian tradition is for action-reflection aimed to bring about changes which will improve the lives of people in local communities and the region. NECAT will offer a voice for the region and its ecumenical vision in national and inter-regional forums. NECAT will be about action to encourage renewal, and the action being undertaken with others wherever possible. Working together will be a catalyst for talking together. Reflection and analysis will follow practical actions benefitting local communities across the region.

North East Churches Acting Together works to support the churches of the North East in their relationships with one another and in their wider mission in the world. Our aim is to work in partnership and help to encourage partnership working with churches, voluntary agencies and other public bodies. Churches Together Groups in the region hold a key role in contributing to the work of the church locally. They and other Ecumenical agencies are supported by the Regional Officer and denominational Ecumenical Officers who together with representation from the Northern Church Leader's Group form the Local Ecumenical Group (LEG).

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

Churches Together

We currently have 72 Churches Together groups formally registered with NECAT, these vary from large groups, who are in themselves separate charities, to small local alliances and fellowship groups. We know that churches and Churches Together groups are finding the current post-lockdown situation difficult. The continued impact of the pandemic has meant that many groups struggled to meet, had to cancel events and are now seeing reduced numbers of volunteers returning. After the Covid pandemic some groups are recovering well, others are struggling to re-establish themselves. Numbers of people accessing Food banks have again increased and groups have expanded their provision to provide additional support, also providing debt advice, clothing banks, warm food and other support. Other groups have responded by providing Holiday Fun and Food, working together to provide food and activities, After School or breakfast clubs or by going into local schools to deliver 'Open the Book' sessions or Collective Worship or to offer volunteer time to support children with reading.

We recognise the good missional work that Churches acting together do, the huge range of activities they provide and give thanks for all of those who volunteer with them and support the work and operation of their local churches Together group.

Church Leaders

The North East Ecumenical Church Leaders group continues to meet online to pray together, discuss local and national issues and to liaise with one another across the churches.

Reverend Paul Revill left his role with the Northern Baptist Association in the Autumn. Bishop Robert Byrne left his ministry as Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, to which role Bishop Stephen Wright was appointed in June 2023. Revd David Herbert retired, after many years service in various roles for the URC in the region, as Moderator of the URC Northern Synod and was replaced by Revd Kim Plumpton. Dave has been a great supporter of our Ecumenical work across the region, we thank him for all he has done and wish him well in his future ministry. The Right Reverend Helen Ann Hartley became the next Bishop of Newcastle and was installed in early 2023.

Tees Valley Ministry (TVM)

TVM is a charity set up to work in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace. It has been part of NECAT since 2015 and NECAT continue to work with Regional Church leaders to discern the future direction and projects of TVM.

Regional Officer

Revd Joanne Thorns left her post in August 2022. Joanne did a few days work in order to sustain the life of NECAT through the autumn of 2022 and kept an eye on phone and emails through the year whilst the work of NECAT was necessarily diminished. All involved in the ecumenical life of our churches across the North East of England have been enormously grateful for the way in which Joanne has supported and advanced the life and mission of the churches over her time in office. This included the period of the pandemic when things were particularly difficult for all the churches of the region, and we were enormously grateful for the way in which she helped encourage the restoration of ecumenical church life in the last three years. We wish her well in her new post with the Diocese of Durham and we appointed a new regional officer in the autumn of 2023. The trustees agreed to engage Daniel Wright on an interim hourly basis to support the small number of ongoing administrative tasks that were necessary.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

Ecumenical Officers and the Local Ecumenical Group

NECAT acts as the sponsoring body for the formal ecumenical structures in the North East including the Local Ecumenical Group which, on behalf of the denominations, is available to support Local Ecumenical Partnerships and initiate reviews. The Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEO) and continue to meet regularly and to offer that support to LEPs, Covenant Partnerships and other ecumenical structures. The number of denominational Ecumenical officers has reduced considerably, we only have one paid officer and two volunteer officers. This does mean that it is difficult to give the support that we would like to and we are having to rethink the way in which we have worked and are trying to build up a team of volunteers able to help with reviews. The LEG has expressed concern about the future sustainability of the group and its ability to deliver the required support and the possibility of loss of Ecumenical expertise as we look to the future. The Churches Together in England toolkit, 'A New Framework for Local Unity' helps local groups ask the right questions as to what might be a good partnership model for them, enabling them to do what is needed with the minimal amount of bureaucracy, but ensuring the right documentation is in place to support their work and fellowship.

Preparing for the appointment of a new regional officer has taken quite a large part of the year and we made the appointment in Autumn 2023 for a start in January 2024. This has meant that involvement in Churches Together in England has necessarily been much less but we expect this to be restored in 2024 with the appointment of a new Regional Officer. Similarly relationship with ecumenical bodies, synods and inter-church activities will be revived in 2024.

Ecumenical Initiatives

North East Churches Acting Together is committed to working in partnership and trying to operate as a link or build networks between different churches and denominations and between churches and other agencies.

Plans for future periods

The NECAT trustees have actively considered the best way forward for NECAT and for the Regional Officer role and advertising for the post went out in the Summer of 2023. The Trustees appointed a Regional Officer in the Autumn of 2023 with the support the regional Ecumenical Church Leaders Group.

We have been kindly and expertly served for ten years since the launch of NECAT by Mr Danny Pigeon as NECAT Treasurer, who has announced an intention to stand down at the next AGM. We will therefore be seeking someone with relevant experience to replace Danny as a Trustee from early 2024.

Our website www.necat.co.uk or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/northeastchurchesactingtogether>

Mission Fund

All Churches Together Groups and informal ecumenical groups are able to submit applications for funding for work they may wish to do in the local communities. Further information and advice can be obtained from the following email address regionallofficer@necat.co.uk.

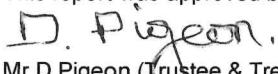
Financial review

The Charity's work is entirely reliant on income provided in the form of grants received from the Church Denominations and donations received from the Churches Together Groups in the North East.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves in a restricted fund at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenses. The Trustees consider that this will provide sufficient funds to ensure that support and governance costs are covered. Total reserves at 31 August 2023 amounted to £126,971 (2022: £136,194) of which £54,183 (2022: 87,221) were restricted.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 02/02/2024.


Mr D Pigeon (Trustee & Treasurer)

North East Churches Acting Together

Year ended: 31 August 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of North East Churches Acting Together

I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity (number 1157138) for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees, 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA



Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Date 02/02/24

North East Churches Acting Together
Statement of Financial Activities including summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:						
Churches and denominations		25,216	0	0	25,216	26,729
Churches together groups		175	0	0	175	770
Sundry Income		340	0	0	340	330
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant		0	0	0	0	0
Other Grants		0	0	0	0	88,500
Donations	3	0	0	0	0	100
Investment income - Bank interest	4	73	0	469	542	47
Investment income - Dividends		0	0	618	618	611
Total		<u>25,804</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,087</u>	<u>26,891</u>	<u>117,087</u>
Expenditure on:						
NECAT operation	5	6,439	0	0	6,439	41,433
Mission	5	0	0	0	0	300
Refugee and Asylum Seekers	5	0	0	0	0	172
Covid Recovery	5	0	0	30,092	30,092	39,908
Big Society	5	0	0	0	0	98
TVM operation	5	0	0	250	250	250
Total		<u>6,439</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30,342</u>	<u>36,781</u>	<u>82,161</u>
Net incoming resources / (resources expended)						
before transfers		19,365	0	(29,255)	(9,890)	34,926
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0
Net incoming resources/(resources expended)		<u>19,365</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(29,255)</u>	<u>(9,890)</u>	<u>34,926</u>
Realised (loss)/gain on investment assets		0	0	667	667	(1,116)
Net incoming resources / (resources expended) including realised gains on investments		<u>19,365</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(28,588)</u>	<u>(9,223)</u>	<u>33,810</u>
Unrealised gain on investment assets		0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		<u>19,365</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(28,588)</u>	<u>(9,223)</u>	<u>33,810</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2022		31,233	22,190	82,771	136,194	102,384
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2023		<u>50,598</u>	<u>22,190</u>	<u>54,183</u>	<u>126,971</u>	<u>136,194</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.


North East Churches Acting Together

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes	Charity 2023 £	Charity 2023 £	Charity 2022 £	Charity 2022 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		21,398		20,732
			<u>21,398</u>		<u>20,732</u>
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand			106,215		116,104
			<u>106,215</u>		<u>116,104</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7		(642)		(642)
			<u>(642)</u>		<u>(642)</u>
Net current assets			105,573		115,462
			<u>105,573</u>		<u>115,462</u>
Net assets			126,971		136,194
			<u>126,971</u>		<u>136,194</u>
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	8		50,598		31,233
Designated funds					
Mission fund	8	2,190		2,190	
Reserve fund	8	20,000	22,190	20,000	22,190
			<u>22,190</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>22,190</u>
Total unrestricted funds			72,788		53,423
			<u>72,788</u>		<u>53,423</u>
Restricted funds					
Publicity fund	8	614		614	
Refuges and asylum seekers fund	8	1,525		1,525	
Covid recovery fund	8	0		30,092	
Big Society fund	8	9,402		9,402	
TVM fund	8	42,642	54,183	41,138	82,771
			<u>54,183</u>	<u>41,138</u>	<u>82,771</u>
Total funds	8		126,971		136,194
			<u>126,971</u>		<u>136,194</u>

The financial statements on pages 9 to 12 were approved by the Executive Committee and authorised for issue by the trustees on 2 February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


 Dr MA Bonnington
 Chairman


 Mr D Pigeon
 Trustee & Treasurer

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

Accounting policies

(a) **Basis of preparation and going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The Charity constitutes a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds have been transferred from unrestricted funds for a particular purpose and are to be used in accordance with that purpose as imposed by the trustees.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for a particular purpose. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

(c) **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) **Grant income**

Grants and contributions received for current year expenditure are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are received, provided that the conditions for receipt have been complied with. Where income is received in advance for expenditure in a future accounting period, it is deferred and recognised in the future period to which it relates.

(e) **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(f) **Investments**

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

(g) **Defined contribution pension scheme**

Existing employees of the Charity were entitled to join NEST which is funded by contributions from the employee and employer. New and existing employees were automatically enrolled into the master trust with the option to opt out should they choose to do so.

2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2022: £nil). Expenses, in respect of travel and subsistence, paid to trustees in the year totalled £nil (2022: £nil).

3 Donations and gifts

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Individuals	0	0	0	0	100

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable - Barclays Active Saver a/c	73	0	0	73	2
Interest receivable - CBF Deposit a/c	0	0	469	469	45
	<u>73</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>542</u>	<u>47</u>

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

5 Resources expended

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Stationery and printing	1	0	0	1	38
Necat management fee	0	0	250	250	250
Computer software/website	334	0	0	334	332
Telephone - emails	406	0	0	406	286
Web expenses	270	0	0	270	0
Advertising	1,669	0	0	1,669	0
Travel and subsistence	106	0	0	106	1,154
Training	0	0	0	0	69
Office allowance	0	0	0	0	306
Subscriptions	700	0	0	700	1,400
Insurance	458	0	0	458	458
Salaries	1,373	0	0	1,373	34,330
Employers pension payment	0	0	0	0	1,694
Sundries	151	0	0	151	0
Wages/NEST processing	329	0	0	329	723
Independent examination	642	0	0	642	642
Refugees and asylum seekers	0	0	0	0	172
Covid recovery	0	0	30,092	30,092	39,909
Big society	0	0	0	0	98
Mission	0	0	0	0	300
	<u>6,439</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30,342</u>	<u>36,781</u>	<u>82,161</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 0 (2022: 1) with all employee time involved in providing either support to the governance of the charity or support services to charitable activities. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £nil (2022: £1,694). No employees had employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) in excess of £60,000 (2022: £nil).

6 Fixed asset investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Within the UK		
Church of England Investment Fund at market value	21,398	20,732

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals - accountancy	642	0	642	642

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

8 Statement of funds

	At 1 Sept 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gains £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted						
General fund	31,233	25,804	(6,439)	0	0	50,598
Designated funds:						
Mission fund	2,190	0	0	0	0	2,190
Reserve fund	20,000	0	0	0	0	20,000
Total unrestricted funds	53,423	25,804	(6,439)	0	0	72,788
Restricted funds:						
Publicity fund	614	0	0	0	0	614
Refugees and asylum seekers fund	1,525	0	0	0	0	1,525
Covid recovery fund	30,092	0	(30,092)	0	0	0
Big society fund	9,402	0	0	0	0	9,402
TVM fund	41,138	1,087	(250)	667	0	42,642
Total restricted funds	82,771	1,087	(30,342)	667	0	54,183
Total funds	136,194	26,891	(36,781)	667	0	126,971

General funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Mission funds provide small grants to Local Churches Together and similar groups such as Regional bodies/initiatives and ad hoc groups formed for a particular event.

Designated reserve funds are to be used to pay expenses due should the aims and objectives of NECAT, as originally envisaged, cease resulting in the cessation of NECAT.

Publicity funds are for the purpose of publicising NECAT and /or regional events.

Refugees and asylum seekers funds seek to provide support and integration into the community.

Covid recovery fund gives support to community buildings and church halls of all denominations across County Durham. Initially to help with the re-opening post covid, but this was extended to include funding works that would improve the energy efficiency of a building and make community space more sustainable.

Big society fund is a social impact fund which looks into the feasibility of using church land and buildings to provide affordable housing. It supports a feasible project's further planning and securing its financing where appropriate.

TVM fund operates in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace.

NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1157138

Accounts



NORTH EAST CHURCHES
ACTING TOGETHER

North East Churches Acting Together

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2022

Charity no: 1157138

North East Churches Acting Together

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2022

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Legal and administrative information

Trustees:	Dr MA Bonnington Mrs R Maudslay Mr W Offler Mr D Pigeon Rt Revd M Wroe
Chairman:	Dr MA Bonnington
Treasurer:	Mr D Pigeon
Secretary	Revd J Thorns (Resigned 31/08/22)
Address:	30 Fieldhouse Lane Durham DH1 4LT
Independent Examiner:	Neil Mullen FCA FCCA Mullen Stoker Ltd Mullen Stoker House Mandale Business Park Belmont Industrial Estate Durham DH1 1TH
Bankers:	Barclays Bank PLC The North Tyneside Group 3 Northumberland Square North Shields NE30 1QX

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2022

Reference and Administrative Details

Name of the charity	North East Churches Acting Together
Charity number	1157138
Registered office	30 Fieldhouse Lane Durham DH1 4LT

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the Charity during the year ended 31 August 2022 were:

Dr MA Bonnington
Mrs R Maudsley
Mr W Offler
Mr D Pigeon
Rt Revd M Wroe

Regional Officer & Secretary Revd J Thorns (Resigned 31/08/22)

Independent Examiner Neil Mullen ACA FCCA
Mullen Stoker Ltd
Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC
The North Tyneside Group
3 Northumberland Square
North Shields
NE30 1QX

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

Structure, Governance and Management

North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on 21st May 2014. The governing documents are the memorandum and articles of association of the CIO.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees consist of nominated trustees representing the Churches Together groups, the regional denominational ecumenical officers and the Northern Church leaders as well as other appointed Trustees. The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page two. Trustees usually meet four times each year and are responsible for formally monitoring the Charity. Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefit from the Charity. No expenses were reclaimed by Trustees from the Charity during the year.

Tees Valley Ministry

Oversight and financial guidance of Tees Valley Ministry is the responsibility of NECAT.

Objectives

To advance the Christian religion and the promotion of the churches mission in the North East of England for the benefit of church members, local churches, the wider church, and the public generally through:

- identifying opportunities for prayer and worship.
- promoting spirituality and theological reflection.
- providing advice, support and training to local churches, local churches together groups and other ecumenical bodies.
- identifying priorities and managing resources.
- bringing together statutory, voluntary, community, commercial, artistic, and cultural agencies in a common attempt to advance the churches mission.
- interpreting key social and economic trends and issues from the perspective of the Christian faith and developing appropriate responses.
- promoting religious harmony for the benefit of the common good.

NECAT is an ecumenical body in the North East of England, serving a region with a distinct culture, spiritual life and self-awareness. NECAT was formed as a result of a review of the ecumenical structures in the North East and a combining of North East Christian Churches Together (NECCT) and The Churches' Regional Commission in the North East (CRCNE).

NECAT seeks to serve the Kingdom of God in the North East by being a partnership of churches and Christian organisations dedicated to answering the call of Jesus Christ and working ecumenically for the renewal of the region through specific and local action to bring about change for the common good.

NECAT's aim and method of working is to encourage and support churches to work together and with other partners both locally and regionally and to identify and release resources which will bring tangible benefits especially to communities and churches working with vulnerable people and groups. Its process within the rich inheritance of the Christian tradition is for action-reflection aimed to bring about changes which will improve the lives of people in local communities and the region. NECAT will offer a voice for the region and its ecumenical vision in national and inter-regional forums. NECAT will be about action to encourage renewal, and the action being undertaken with others wherever possible. Working together will be a catalyst for talking together. Reflection and analysis will follow practical actions benefitting local communities across the region.

North East Churches Acting Together works to support the churches of the North East in their relationships with one another and in their wider mission in the world. Our aim is to work in partnership and help to encourage partnership working with churches, voluntary agencies and other public bodies. Churches Together Groups in the region hold a key role in contributing to the work of the church locally. They and other Ecumenical agencies are supported by the Regional Officer and denominational Ecumenical Officers who together with representation from the Northern Church Leader's Group form the Local Ecumenical Group (LEG).

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

Churches Together

We currently have 72 Churches Together groups formally registered with NECAT, these vary from large groups, who are in themselves separate charities, to small local alliances and fellowship groups. We know that churches and Churches Together groups are finding the current post-lockdown situation difficult. The continued impact of the pandemic has meant that many groups struggled to meet, had to cancel events and are now seeing reduced numbers of volunteers returning. Working ecumenically is primarily about building relationships and the lack of face-to-face meetings and the reduction in events has made sustaining relationships more difficult and making new relationships even more so. The pandemic and other world events have meant that there has been even more need in our communities and there are many examples of the amazing work Churches Together groups are doing to support those in need and offer a safe space for people to meet. Numbers accessing Food banks have increased and groups have expanded their provision to provide additional support, also providing debt advice, clothing banks, warm food and other support. Other groups have responded by providing Holiday Fun and Food, working together to provide food and activities, After School or breakfast clubs or by going into local schools to deliver 'Open the Book' sessions or Collective Worship or to offer volunteer time to support children with reading. I have been able to visit 'Drop ins' and Luncheon clubs where there is always a warm welcome. In other areas groups have adapted to people not meeting in person and set up delivery services to get food to those who need it. There are more of our Churches Together groups running some sort of night-time support in our towns and cities, with Street Pastor schemes operating often with the support of volunteers from a wide range of churches. There are many more examples of churches working together to deliver support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, support for Ukrainians arriving in the UK, support to young people needing housing, support the homeless and providing a warm, welcoming space. Groups have reopened their regular activities such as Toddler groups, Messy Church, Coffee mornings and are meeting together in person again for prayer, Bible Study and worship. Recently, there has also been discussions about how we support people during the winter months with the increase in energy costs and churches are talking together about opening 'Warm Hubs' over the winter months.

The Churches Together groups have been very active and innovative in working to provide fellowship and opportunities to learn, pray and worship together and to continue to provide much needed support for their local communities. It was good this year to see groups returning to hosting services of prayer and worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in person and a privilege for me to be able to attend some of them. We recognise the good missional work that Churches acting together do, the huge range of activities they provide and give thanks for all of those who volunteer with them and support the work and operation of their local churches Together group.

Church Leaders

The North East Ecumenical Church Leaders group continues to meet online to pray together, discuss local and national issues and to liaise with one another across the churches. I thank them for the warm welcome they have extended to me as Regional Officer to be part of those meetings.

Reverend Paul Revill is to leave his role with the Northern Baptist Association in the Autumn, Paul has been a great supporter of our Ecumenical work across the region, including chairing the Local Ecumenical Group, we thank him for all he has done and wish him well in his future ministry. Reverend David Herbert has announced his intention to stand down as Moderator of the Northern Synod in 2023. It has also been announced that The Right Reverend Helen Ann Hartley will become the next Bishop of Newcastle and is to be installed in early 2023.

Tees Valley Ministry (TVM)

TVM is a charity set up to work in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace. It has been part of NECAT since 2015 and NECAT are working with Regional Church leaders to discern the future direction and projects of TVM.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

Ecumenical Officers and the Local Ecumenical Group

NECAT acts as the sponsoring body for the formal ecumenical structures in the North East including the Local Ecumenical Group which, on behalf of the denominations, is available to support Local Ecumenical Partnerships and initiate reviews. The Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEO) and I continue to meet regularly and to offer that support to LEPs, Covenant Partnerships and other ecumenical structures. Revd. Paul Reville acts as Chair of the LEG group on behalf of the Church Leaders, he steps down from this role in 2022. The number of denominational Ecumenical officers has reduced considerably, we only have one paid officer and 3 volunteer officers as well as the Regional Officer. This does mean that it is difficult to give the support that we would like to and we are having to rethink the way in which we have worked and are trying to build up a team of volunteers able to help with reviews. The LEG has expressed concern about the future sustainability of the group and its ability to deliver the required support and the possibility of loss of Ecumenical expertise as we look to the future. Churches Together in England have produced a toolkit, 'A New Framework for Local Unity' which helps local groups ask the right questions as to what might be a good partnership model for them, enabling them to do what is needed with the minimal amount of bureaucracy, but ensuring the right documentation is in place to support their work and fellowship. Over this year we have facilitated a number of Staffing Advisory Groups and Local Advisory Groups for existing Local Partnerships as well as offering advice and support to some new groups looking at whether a partnership is right for them. We have also been involved in advice on constitutions and on reviews about future direction for existing groups. We also share with one another updates on ecumenical partnerships and how we can best support ecumenical mission initiatives throughout the region.

As Regional Officer I have represented the region on the Enabling group of Churches Together in England, attending the two national meetings and other consultations and training events held this year. CTE has held consultations and training events around the issues of Racial Justice and Asylum Seekers and Refugees. They formed a national group, which I was part of, to support churches as they responded to the crisis in Ukraine and the Homes for Ukraine scheme. CTE are committed to look at the issues facing Intermediate Ecumenical bodies such as NECAT and have established a working group to look at the issues and best ways of supporting, I have been part of that group over the last year. A highlight of the year was the Churches Together in England forum which took place in March. Over 300 people attended the forum which focused on reconciliation and had some excellent speakers on issues such as Racial Justice, Climate issues and social justice as well as input from the CTE Presidents. Paul Goodliff, the General Secretary of CTE stood down at the forum and Mike Royal took over the role. Jenny Bond, who has been a member of CTE staff for many years also retired this year with Doral Hayes being appointed to support Intermediate Ecumenism.

The Northern group of Regional and County Ecumenical officers have also continued to meet, with support from the staff of CTE, sharing resources and advice from across the North of England.

Ecumenical Initiatives

North East Churches Acting Together is committed to working in partnership and trying to operate as a link or build networks between different churches and denominations and between churches and other agencies.

As Regional Officer I have been privileged to be invited to denominational Synods and Assemblies, it had been wonderful to get to know people and to hear stories from churches and projects across the region. There have been many highlights but I would mention the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Northern Synod which culminated in a family fun day at Beamish in the summer, ending with a celebratory service in a tent on the show field.

We have developed an Ecumenical Environment group, with members from each of the denominations. The group has been working to raise the profile of Environmental issues and sharing information and advice from their own denominations. As a team we have held online webinars about reducing energy use in home, church and in person taster practical session for those interested in beginning Forest Church. The group shares information about events being hosted by other churches or organisations which then enable them to be advertised widely within our denominations. NECAT is a supporter of the North East of England Climate Coalition, alongside a number of our regional denominational churches and the North East Church Leaders Group. In November, Glasgow hosted COP26 and the North East welcomed two pilgrimages on their way to Glasgow. The Youth Climate Change Network began walking in Cornwall and stopped over in the region for a week, with main events in Teesside, Durham, Newcastle and Holy Island as well as being welcomed by others as they walked. A second Ecumenical European pilgrimage arrived in North Shields and were shown hospitality by churches on their route and held events to raise awareness of the climate situation.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

Other events were held across the region to raise awareness and pray for the conference, including a funeral of the planet by Bishop Auckland Fellowship of churches. It is hoped that we can continue to build on this work as we look to the future, working better together to make this region 'the greenest region'.

Churches Together continue to raise awareness and to act on other issues that affect us, such as Dementia Friendly churches, reducing isolation, Covid recovery, mental health, community resilience etc. I continue as a Trustee at the North East Religious Resources Learning Centre, promoting the use of the Resources Centre across all denominations and schools.

Citizens Tyne and Wear, a local chapter of national Citizens UK, has churches and other faith organisations in membership and I work alongside them supporting their Living Wage team. We have worked to raise the issues around low pay and particularly this year, levels of pay amongst key workers such as carers, cleaners and other key workers. The number of accredited living wage employers have continued to increase across the region and this year we have seen Sunderland City Council become the first local Authority in the region to accredit as well as Sunderland University. Sunderland has declared that it will work to become a Real Living Wage City. I have also worked with the 'Just Change' team to encourage schools and meal suppliers to look at how they operate the system and ensure those on Free School Meals get all that they are entitled to.

NECAT secured some funding to undertake a feasibility study around the use of church land and buildings to provide affordable and secure accommodation. The Archbishop of Canterbury's 'Coming Home' report, published in 2021, highlighted housing issues nationally and suggested ways in which the churches may be able to help. We have been working with members of the Archbishop's Housing Commission and other denominational partners to look at some of our particular regional issues. Funding was received from Big Society Capital's Social Impact Fund which enabled us to do some further thinking on the issue including what might be needed to establish a social investment fund to support development. We used some of the funding to commission a report looking more in depth at three possible sites to ask questions about costs, feasibility, funding and sustainability. The report highlighted issues around capacity and funding that churches looking at major development projects face and the issue of finding investment finance being aggravated by relatively low land prices in the region. This is an area that needs more work and support, but could make a difference in finding affordable accommodation in particular communities.

We have continued to support work with Asylum Seekers and refugees. This year the war in Ukraine has seen many more people being displaced from their homes. The Government introduced the Homes for Ukraine scheme to help house thousands of Ukrainians needing safety and matching with rooms offered around the country. As Churches Together we have supported those offering as hosts, collected items to be sent to Ukraine or to be given to those evacuated and held events for prayer and awareness raising. NECAT began to host a weekly online drop in for hosts to offer support and has been part of local and national conversations about how the church can best offer support. The situation for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in this country is critical, thousands are still in hotels, or even homeless, and in desperate need of practical support and friendship. The voluntary sector, often local Churches Together groups like STARCH in South Tyneside or Walking With in North Tyneside are offering support and help while other churches offer buildings for meetings or English classes, arranging collections, offering volunteers and other levels of support. We are also working with Church Leaders and other partners in raising awareness of the Refugee and Asylum system and campaigning, as needed, to change aspects of the system.

As part of the Covid Recovery program in County Durham the Local Authority have arranged a fund to help church halls used by the community to re-open after lockdown. The fund gives small grants to help with any additional costs incurred to reopen and NECAT was asked to manage those applications. We were able to award 33 grants from the initial fund and then a further 12 grants in a second wave of funding to help with energy reduction measures.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

Plans for future periods

It was announced in the summer that I would be leaving my role as Regional Officer for NECAT. I have been in the role for 8 years and have loved being able to share my passion for working together and for this region. I have met and worked with some amazing people and have heard so many stories of the great work that is happening in churches across our region. It has been a privilege to represent the North East both at Churches Together in England and other national events, and I hope that I have raised the profile of this wonderful and often overlooked region. Working ecumenically and in partnership with others is always first and foremost about building relationships and trust, this can take time and be hard work, but is the root of our journey together. I know that sometimes working ecumenically can be frustrating and that sometimes regulations and consultations can feel like an added burden but where churches come together in prayer and fellowship, we do see things change and great things emerging. There is a much-quoted African saying *"If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together."* In working together ecumenically we are thinking to the future and building sustainable relationships. We can do so much more together than we can do apart.

The NECAT trustees are considering the best way forward for NECAT and for the Regional Officer role and will be able to update you in due course. I want to thank them for all of their support over the last 8 years.

Our website www.necat.co.uk or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/northeastchurchesactingtogether>

Mission Fund

All Churches Together Groups and informal ecumenical groups are able to submit applications for funding for work they may wish to do in the local communities. Further information and advice can be obtained from the following email address regionallofficer@necat.co.uk.

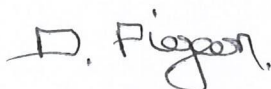
Financial review

The Charity's work is entirely reliant on income provided in the form of grants received from the Church Denominations and donations received from the Churches Together Groups in the North East.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves in a restricted fund at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenses. The Trustees consider that this will provide sufficient funds to ensure that support and governance costs are covered. Total reserves at 31 August 2022 amounted to £136,194 (2021: £102,834) of which £82,771 (2021: £44,059) were restricted.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 09/02/2023



Mr D Pigeon (Trustee & Treasurer)

North East Churches Acting Together

Year ended: 31 August 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of North East Churches Acting Together

I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity (number 1157138) for the year ended 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

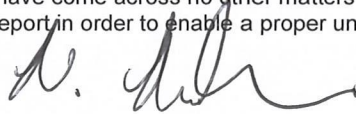
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA



Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Date 09/02/23

North East Churches Acting Together

Statement of Financial Activities including summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:						
Churches and denominations		26,729	0	0	26,729	36,467
Churches together groups		770	0	0	770	920
Sundry Income		330	0	0	330	846
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant		0	0	0	0	6,061
Other Grants		0	0	88,500	88,500	0
Donations	3	0	0	100	100	0
Investment income - Bank interest	4	2	0	45	47	41
Investment income - Dividends		0	0	611	611	589
Total		27,831	0	89,256	117,087	44,924
Expenditure on:						
NECAT operation	5	41,433	0	0	41,433	38,711
Mission	5	0	300	0	300	0
Refugee and Asylum Seekers	5	0	0	172	172	0
Covid Recovery	5	0	0	39,908	39,908	0
Big Society	5	0	0	98	98	0
TVM operation	5	0	0	250	250	250
Total		41,433	300	40,428	82,161	38,961
Net incoming resources / (resources expended)						
before transfers		(13,602)	(300)	48,828	34,926	5,963
Transfers between funds		16,000	(7,000)	(9,000)	0	0
Net incoming resources/(resources expended)		2,398	(7,300)	39,828	34,926	5,963
Realised (loss)/gain on investment assets		0	0	(1,116)	(1,116)	2,786
Net incoming resources / (resources expended) including realised gains on investments		2,398	(7,300)	38,712	33,810	8,749
Unrealised gain on investment assets		0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		2,398	(7,300)	38,712	33,810	8,749
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2020		28,835	29,490	44,059	102,384	93,635
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2021		31,233	22,190	82,771	136,194	102,384

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

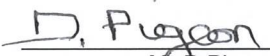
North East Churches Acting Together

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

	Notes	Charity 2022 £	Charity 2022 £	Charity 2021 £	Charity 2021 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		20,732		21,847
			<u>20,732</u>		<u>21,847</u>
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand			116,104		156,167
			<u>116,104</u>		<u>156,167</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7		(642)		(75,630)
			<u>115,462</u>		<u>80,537</u>
Net current assets					
			<u>136,194</u>		<u>102,384</u>
Net assets					
			<u>136,194</u>		<u>102,384</u>
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	8		31,233		28,835
Designated funds					
Mission fund	8	2,190		2,490	
Reserve fund	8	20,000	22,190	27,000	29,490
Total unrestricted funds			<u>53,423</u>		<u>58,325</u>
Restricted funds					
Publicity fund	8	614		614	
Refuges and asylum seekers fund	8	1,525		1,597	
Covid recovery fund	8	30,092		0	
Big Society fund	8	9,402		0	
TVM fund	8	41,138	82,771	41,848	44,059
Total funds	8		<u>136,194</u>		<u>102,384</u>

The financial statements on pages 9 to 14 were approved by the Executive Committee and authorised for issue by the trustees on 9 February 2023 and signed on their behalf by:


 Dr MA Bonnington
 Chairman


 Mr D Pigeon
 Trustee & Treasurer

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The Charity constitutes a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds have been transferred from unrestricted funds for a particular purpose and are to be used in accordance with that purpose as imposed by the trustees.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for a particular purpose. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) Grant income

Grants and contributions received for current year expenditure are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are received, provided that the conditions for receipt have been complied with. Where income is received in advance for expenditure in a future accounting period, it is deferred and recognised in the future period to which it relates.

(e) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(f) Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

(g) **Defined contribution pension scheme**

Existing employees of the Charity were entitled to join NEST which is funded by contributions from the employee and employer. New and existing employees were automatically enrolled into the master trust with the option to opt out should they choose to do so.

2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2021: £nil). Expenses, in respect of travel and subsistence, paid to trustees in the year totalled £nil (2021: £nil).

3 Donations and gifts

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Individuals	0	0	100	100	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable - Barclays Active Saver a/c	2	0	0	2	13
Interest receivable - CBF Deposit a/c	0	0	45	45	28
	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>41</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>41</u>

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

5 Resources expended

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Stationery and printing	38	0	0	38	34
Necat management fee	0	0	250	250	250
Computer software/website	332	0	0	332	806
Telephone - emails	286	0	0	286	279
Travel and subsistence	1,154	0	0	1,154	133
Training	69	0	0	69	0
Office allowance	306	0	0	306	204
Conferences and courses	0	0	0	0	180
Subscriptions	1,400	0	0	1,400	0
Insurance	458	0	0	458	447
Salaries	34,330	0	0	34,330	33,889
Employers pension payment	1,694	0	0	1,694	1,694
Sundries	0	0	0	0	0
Wages/NEST processing	723	0	0	723	412
Independent examination	642	0	0	642	630
Refugees and asylum seekers	0	0	172	172	0
Covid recovery	0	0	39,908	39,908	0
Big society	0	0	98	98	0
Mission	0	300	0	300	0
	<u>41,433</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>40,428</u>	<u>82,161</u>	<u>38,961</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2021: 1) with all employee time involved in providing either support to the governance of the charity or support services to charitable activities. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £1,694 (2021: £1,694). No employees had employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) in excess of £60,000 (2021: £nil).

6 Fixed asset investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Within the UK		
Church of England Investment Fund at market value	20,732	21,847
	<u>20,732</u>	<u>21,847</u>

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals - accountancy	642	0	642	630
Deferred income - covid recovery grant	0	0	0	75,000
	<u>642</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>642</u>	<u>75,630</u>

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

8 Statement of funds

	At 1 Sept 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gains £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2022 £
Unrestricted						
General fund	28,835	27831	(41,433)	0	16,000	31,233
Designated funds:						
Mission fund	2,490	0	(300)	0	0	2,190
Reserve fund	27,000	0	0	0	(7000)	20,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>58,325</u>	<u>27,831</u>	<u>(41,735)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>53,423</u>
Restricted funds:						
Publicity fund	614	0	0	0	0	614
Refugees and asylum seekers fund	1,597	100	(172)	0	0	1,525
Covid recovery fund	0	75,000	(39,908)	0	(5,000)	30,092
Big society fund	0	13,500	(98)	0	(4,000)	9,402
TVM fund	41,848	656	(250)	(1,116)	0	41,138
Total restricted funds	<u>44,059</u>	<u>897,256</u>	<u>(40,428)</u>	<u>(1,116)</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>	<u>82,771</u>
Total funds	<u>102,384</u>	<u>117,085</u>	<u>(82,163)</u>	<u>(1,116)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>136,194</u>

General funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Mission funds provide small grants to Local Churches Together and similar groups such as Regional bodies/initiatives and ad hoc groups formed for a particular event.

Designated reserve funds are to be used to pay expenses due should the aims and objectives of NECAT, as originally envisaged, cease resulting in the cessation of NECAT.

Publicity funds are for the purpose of publicising NECAT and /or regional events.

Refugees and asylum seekers funds seek to provide support and integration into the community.

Covid recovery fund gives support to community buildings and church halls of all denominations across County Durham. Initially to help with the re-opening post covid, but this was extended to include funding works that would improve the energy efficiency of a building and make community space more sustainable.

Big society fund is a social impact fund which looks into the feasibility of using church land and buildings to provide affordable housing. It supports a feasible project's further planning and securing its financing where appropriate.

TVM fund operates in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace.

NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1157138

Accounts



NORTH EAST CHURCHES
ACTING TOGETHER

North East Churches Acting Together

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2021

Charity no: 1157138

North East Churches Acting Together

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2021

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Legal and administrative information

Trustees: Dr MA Bonnington
Mrs R Maudslay (Appointed 9 June 2021)
Mr W Offler
Mr D Pigeon
Rt Revd M Wroe (Appointed 2 March 2021)

Chairman: Dr MA Bonnington

Treasurer: D Pigeon

Secretary: Revd J Thorns

Address: 30 Fieldhouse Lane
Durham
DH1 4LT

Independent Examiner: Neil Mullen FCA FCCA
Mullen Stoker Ltd
Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC
The North Tyneside Group
3 Northumberland Square
North Shields
NE30 1QX

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2021

Reference and Administrative Details

Name of the charity	North East Churches Acting Together
Charity number	1157138
Registered office	30 Fieldhouse Lane Durham DH1 4LT

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the Charity during the year ended 31 August 2021 were:

Dr MA Bonnington
Mrs R Maudsley (Appointed 9 June 2021)
Mr W Offler
Mr D Pigeon
Rt Revd M Wroe (Appointed 2 March 2021)

Regional Officer & Secretary Revd J Thorns

Independent Examiner Neil Mullen ACA FCCA
Mullen Stoker Ltd
Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC
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3 Northumberland Square
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North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021

Structure, Governance and Management

North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on 21st May 2014. The governing documents are the memorandum and articles of association of the CIO.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees consist of nominated trustees representing the Churches Together groups, the regional denominational ecumenical officers and the Northern Church leaders as well as other appointed Trustees. The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page two. Trustees usually meet four times each year and are responsible for formally monitoring the Charity. Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefit from the Charity. No expenses were reclaimed by Trustees from the Charity during the year.

Tees Valley Ministry

Oversight and financial guidance of Tees Valley Ministry is the responsibility of NECAT.

Objectives

To advance the Christian religion and the promotion of the churches mission in the North East of England for the benefit of church members, local churches, the wider church, and the public generally through:

- identifying opportunities for prayer and worship.
- promoting spirituality and theological reflection.
- providing advice, support and training to local churches, local churches together groups and other ecumenical bodies.
- identifying priorities and managing resources.
- bringing together statutory, voluntary, community, commercial, artistic, and cultural agencies in a common attempt to advance the churches mission.
- interpreting key social and economic trends and issues from the perspective of the Christian faith and developing appropriate responses.
- promoting religious harmony for the benefit of the common good.

NECAT is an ecumenical body in the North East of England, serving a region with a distinct culture, spiritual life and self-awareness. NECAT was formed as a result of a review of the ecumenical structures in the North East and a combining of North East Christian Churches Together (NECCT) and The Churches' Regional Commission in the North East (CRCNE).

NECAT seeks to serve the Kingdom of God in the North East by being a partnership of churches and Christian organisations dedicated to answering the call of Jesus Christ and working ecumenically for the renewal of the region through specific and local action to bring about change for the common good.

NECAT's aim and method of working is to encourage and support churches to work together and with other partners both locally and regionally and to identify and release resources which will bring tangible benefits especially to communities and churches working with vulnerable people and groups. Its process within the rich inheritance of the Christian tradition is for action-reflection aimed to bring about changes which will improve the lives of people in local communities and the region. NECAT will offer a voice for the region and its ecumenical vision in national and inter-regional forums. NECAT will be about action to encourage renewal, and the action being undertaken with others wherever possible. Working together will be a catalyst for talking together. Reflection and analysis will follow practical actions benefitting local communities across the region.

More than eighty Churches Together Groups contribute to the NECAT Charity operation, support to all these bodies is provided by the Regional Officer and denominational Ecumenical Officers. These are appointed by the denominations and work across the region, coordinating their work not only through the Local Ecumenical Group (LEG), but also through their own support network.

North East Churches Acting Together works to support the churches of the North East in their relationships with one another and in their wider mission in the world. Our aim is to work in partnership and help to encourage partnership working with churches, voluntary agencies and other public bodies. Partnerships continue to develop between groups of churches who act together and pray together and NECAT continues to give support to Churches Together groups and the like. We continue to be involved in events whose purpose has been to bring those volunteers and agencies working in similar areas to come together for support and to share information.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021

Churches Together

We currently have 72 Churches Together groups formally registered with NECAT as well as other groups and some subgroups that meet more informally for prayer and fellowship. These vary enormously from groups that have over 20 churches in their organization to those with just 2. The continued impact of the pandemic has meant that many groups have struggled to meet in person and hold events. Some groups have continued to meet virtually for prayer, study and mutual support, but are aware that not being able to meet face to face and hold events has meant that sustaining relationships and momentum for some projects has been hard. Churches Together groups continue to reach out to their local communities and their support is vital in these challenging times. The demand for Foodbanks and other forms of support have grown, but groups are reporting that some regular volunteers have had to step back and that recruiting and training new volunteers has been challenging. Projects have had to find new ways of operating to accommodate Social Distancing rules and measures to prevent the spread of Covid which has meant additional costs and some having to find alternative venues to enable them to open again. Financial challenges have been substantial. Despite all those challenges I have been amazed at the way churches, working together, have responded, quickly implementing new procedures, finding, and training new volunteers, responding to new needs, working in partnership, and continuing to offer support to their community. As soon as they were able groups and churches began to open for Lunch Clubs, Toddler groups, Children's activities, Coffee mornings and Drop-ins, Street Pastor schemes and much more. This happened alongside continuing to operate Foodbanks and delivery schemes and friendship and pastoral support as well, of course, of local churches beginning to return to normal with regular worship and events in their buildings. During the pandemic we have seen other groups and church groups working in partnership, and Regional Church leaders and NECAT continues to talk with and work with Local Authorities, Members of Parliament, Councilors, schools and other agencies asking where the need was, what could be done and asking how we, as churches could help. Good relationships have been established and we hope we can continue to build on that co-operation.

The Churches Together groups have been very active and innovative in working to provide fellowship and opportunities to learn, pray and worship together and to continue to provide much needed support for their local communities. We can do so much more together than we can do apart.

We recognize the good missional work that Churches acting together provide and all that they do in their communities and as Regional Officer I continue to be available to give any support I can.

Church Leaders

The Northern Ecumenical Church Leaders group has continued to meet regularly online. There is a continued commitment from all to meet frequently for prayers, to update one another on current issues, to share advice and concerns and to liaise with one another across the churches.

This designated Year of Pilgrimage for 2020 saw a number of the planned events transferred to this year. The Northern Saints trails were opened and Church Leaders from the region have taken part in the pilgrimages, meeting with others and sharing stories. You can find more details about the Northern Saints trails on their website, [Northern Saints](#).

The Church Leaders group have also seen the retirement of John Claydon after many years of service as the Regional Minister of the Northern Baptist Association and we have welcomed the Rev Hayley Young as the Transitional Strategic Regional Minister. Bishop Christine, the Bishop of Newcastle has also announced her retirement later in 2021

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021

Ecumenical Officers and the Local Ecumenical Group

NECAT acts as the sponsoring body for the formal ecumenical structures in the North East including the Local Ecumenical Group which has responsibility for reviews of Local Ecumenical Partnerships. The Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEO) and I continue to meet regularly and to offer support to LEP's and Covenant Partnerships and other ecumenical structures. Revd. Paul Revill acts as Chair of the LEG group on behalf of the Church Leaders. The number of denominational Ecumenical officers and the hours that those still in post work, has reduced considerably, only one of the officer posts is now paid, the others work on a voluntary basis and so the group is having to rethink the ways in which it gives support and the best way to do this. The Churches Together in England document, 'A New Framework for Local Unity' has helped us in these conversations, providing a toolkit for local churches looking at ways in which they can work together both formally and informally. We continue to offer support with reviews, staffing, queries, updates of constitutions and partnership agreements as well as looking at the review procedure and how the reviews might be more purposeful and ask the right questions for the future. We have also share with one another updates on ecumenical partnerships and how we can best support ecumenical mission initiatives such as Thy Kingdom Come, Movement Day that are happening and are planned for the future.

As Regional Officer I have represented the region on the Enabling group of Churches Together in England, attending the two national meetings and several wider consultations and training events held online this year. CTE has held consultations and training events around the issues of Racial Justice, Covid Recovery, Asylum Seekers and Refugees and looking at some of the challenges of working together locally and the issues facing Intermediate Ecumenical bodies such as NECAT. Staff of CTE and National Ecumenical officers were able to meet with the North East Church Leaders and Ecumenical officers to discuss the situation in the North East, asking what is working well and what the issues may be in the future. This is part of their longer-term project to find ways to support Intermediate Bodies around the country. Paul Goodliff, the General Secretary of CTE, will be joining us at our Annual General Meeting in December and CTE have recently announced that Bishop Mike Royal will take up the role of General Secretary in April after Paul's retirement.

The Northern group of Regional and County Ecumenical officers have also continued to meet, with support from the staff of CTE, sharing resources and advice from across the North of England.

Tees Valley Ministry (TVM)

TVM is a charity set up to work in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace. It has been part of NECAT since 2015 and NECAT are working with Regional Church leaders to discern the future direction and projects of TVM.

In Partnership

North East Churches Acting Together is committed to working in partnership and we do continue to do that with a number of agencies. In this challenging year many of the ways in which we work and meet has had to be adapted but we have continued to strengthen those relationships.

We continue to focus on building partnerships with all our partner churches and I have attended denominational Synods and Assemblies through the year, mainly online. We have worked to develop an Ecumenical Environment group, with members from each of the denominations. The group has been working to raise the profile of Environmental issues by hosting a study course entitled 'Ecology and the Bible' and an online regional conference. The North East of England Climate Coalition was launched in March and NECAT, the Regional Church Leaders group, a number of our Regional denominations and some individual churches have all signed up as supporters. This year will see the hosting of COP26 in Glasgow in November and the North East Churches have been planning a welcome for two pilgrimages heading to Glasgow. The Youth Climate Change Network are walking from Cornwall and will spend time in the region being welcomed by churches, holding events and a residential in Newcastle. A second Ecumenical European pilgrimage will be arriving in North Shields, having walked across Europe and again numerous churches in the region will welcome them and Christians from across the churches will spend time walking with both pilgrimages. We will continue to build on this work as we look to the future and how we can work better together to make this region 'the greenest region'.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021

Across the churches we are also looking at other issues that affect us all such as Dementia Friendly churches, reducing isolation and Covid recovery. I continue as a Trustee at the North East Religious Resources Learning Centre, promoting the use of the Resources Centre across all denominations and schools. NECAT have worked with the RRC on an online ecumenical book group looking at 'Being Interrupted' by Al Barrett and Ruth Harley.

Citizens Tyne and Wear, a local chapter of national Citizens UK, has churches and other faith organizations in membership and I work alongside them supporting their Living Wage team. We have worked to raise the issues around low pay and particularly this year, levels of pay amongst key workers such as carers, cleaners and other key workers. The number of accredited living wage employers have continued to increase across the region but there is more to do. Citizens Tyne and Wear are engaged in other projects around hate crime, mental health, Free School Meals and the environment. I have also worked with the 'Just Change' team to encourage schools and meal suppliers to look at how they operate the system and ensure those on Free School Meals get all that they are entitled to.

NECAT has also been spending time looking at the issue of affordable and secure housing. Many of these issues were highlighted in the Archbishop of Canterbury's 'Coming Home' report, published in 2021 following lots of research. We have been working with members of the Archbishop's Housing Commission and other denominational partners to take a specific regional look at this issue and particularly the challenge to use church land and buildings more creatively to provide homes for those most in need. As a result of this we secured some funding to do some more work on this from Big Society Capital's Social Impact Fund. The funding has enabled us to do some further thinking on the issue and work with our local denominations to think about what might be possible and to look at how a social investment fund might be established to support this. Further funding has enabled us to employ a consultant to look at some possible ideas more in depth and to do some further conversations with partners. This project might help us to think anew about how we use our buildings and land and help us to think creatively about how we can help the housing crisis in our country.

We have continued to support work with Asylum Seekers and refugees, with many of our churches and Churches Together groups providing vital support to Asylum Seeker in desperate need and very practical support and friendship to them and to those settled under the Syrian Resettlement Scheme. This year we have also seen events in Afghanistan mean that other families have arrived from Afghanistan and settled in the region. We are also working with Church Leaders and other partners in raising awareness of the Refugee and Asylum system and campaigning as needed to change aspects of the system. I remain a member of the Humanitarian Support Partnership in County Durham. We would also like to promote the issue of Community Sponsorship in the region, two local groups have now been approved and we hope to learn from them and encourage others.

As part of the Covid Recovery program in County Durham the Local Authority have arranged a fund to help church hall used by the community to re-open after lockdown. The fund gives small grants to help with any additional costs incurred to reopen. NECAT has been asked to manage that fund by Durham County Council which will run from August into 2022.

Plans for future periods

In the coming year we will seek to support the churches of the North East as we to recover from the COVID crisis. It will be even more important for us to work together and pool our resources as we work on projects common to all denominations. We know that some local Churches Together groups have struggled this year, and as Regional Officer I am available to help and support them. Over the coming year we will continue to partner Citizens UK on the Living Wage and Just Change campaigns and other issues such as Mental Health and Hate crime. The funding from the Social Impact Fund will enable us to do some further work on how we might be able, as churches, to respond to the issues Housing and Communities. We are looking to produce a report and, hopefully, identify one or two projects that we might be able move further forward. The Environment group will continue to meet, and we will look to other projects or issues that we can collaborate on. We will also work with others as we engage with issues that as churches we continue to work together on such as Dementia Friendly Communities, work with refugees and Asylum seekers and working with others.

Churches Together in England have been working on a strategic plan for to encourage ecumenical working nationally and regionally. This will include continued learning on working together both on projects and on mission and dialogue on issues of justice and theology.

You can visit us at our website www.necat.co.uk or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/northeastchurchesactingtogether> and sign up for our newsletter via the website or by sending me an email.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021

Mission Fund

There has been one Mission Fund grant awarded in the past year, to South Tyneside Churches Together to support their ecumenical dementia friendly Carol services.

All Churches Together Groups and informal ecumenical groups are able to submit applications for funding for work they may wish to do in the local communities. Further information and advice can be obtained from Joanne Thorns at the following email address regionallofficer@necat.co.uk.

Financial review

The Charity's work is entirely reliant on income provided in the form of grants received from the Church Denominations and donations received from the Churches Together Groups in the North East.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves in a restricted fund at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenses. The Trustees consider that this will provide sufficient funds to ensure that support and governance costs are covered. Total reserves at 31 August 2021 amounted to £102,384 (2020: £93,635) of which £44,059 (2020: £40,906) were restricted.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 02/12/2021



Revd J Thorns (Regional Officer & Secretary)

North East Churches Acting Together

Year ended: 31 August 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of North East Churches Acting Together

I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity (number 1157138) for the year ended 31 August 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees, 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA

Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Date 02/12/21

North East Churches Acting Together

Statement of Financial Activities including summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:						
Churches and denominations		36,467	0	0	36,467	36,114
Churches together groups		920	0	0	920	525
Sundry Income		846	0	0	846	2,284
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant		6,061	0	0	6,061	5,114
Donations	3	0	0	0	0	647
Investment income - Bank interest	4	13	0	28	41	129
Investment income - Dividends		0	0	589	589	565
Total		44,307	0	617	44,924	45,378
Expenditure on:						
NECAT operation	5	38,711	0	0	38,711	39,673
Mission fund	5	0	0	0	0	700
TVM operation	5	0	0	250	250	250
Total		37,711	0	250	38,961	40,623
Net incoming resources / (resources expended) before transfers						
		5,596	0	367	5,963	4,755
Transfers between funds						
		(1000)	1000	0	0	0
Net incoming resources/(resources expended)						
		4,596	1,000	367	5,963	4,755
Realised gains on investment assets						
		0	0	2,786	2,786	752
Net incoming resources / (resources expended) including realised gains on investments						
		4,596	1,000	3,153	8,749	5,507
Unrealised gains on investment assets						
		0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds						
		4,596	1,000	3,153	8,749	5,507
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2020						
		24,239	28,490	40,906	93,635	88,128
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2021						
		28,835	29,490	44,059	102,384	93,635

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

North East Churches Acting Together

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Notes	Charity 2021 £	Charity 2021 £	Charity 2020 £	Charity 2020 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		21,847		19,061
			<u>21,847</u>		<u>19,061</u>
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand			156,167		75,204
			<u>156,167</u>		<u>75,204</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7		<u>(75,630)</u>		<u>(630)</u>
Net current assets			<u>80,537</u>		<u>74,574</u>
Net assets			<u>102,384</u>		<u>93,635</u>
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	8		28,835		24,239
Designated funds					
Mission fund	8	2,490		4,490	
Reserve fund	8	27,000	29,490	26,000	28,490
Total unrestricted funds			<u>58,325</u>		<u>52,729</u>
Restricted funds					
Publicity fund	8	614		614	
Refuges and asylum seekers fund	8	1,597		1,597	
TVM fund	8	41,848	44,059	38,695	40,906
Total funds	8		<u>102,384</u>		<u>93,635</u>

The financial statements on pages 9 to 14 were approved by the Executive Committee and authorised for issue by the trustees on 2 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr MA Bonnington
Chairman

Revd J Thorns
Regional Officer & Secretary

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The Charity constitutes a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds have been transferred from unrestricted funds for a particular purpose and are to be used in accordance with that purpose as imposed by the trustees.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for a particular purpose. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) Grant income

Grants and contributions received for current year expenditure are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are received, provided that the conditions for receipt have been complied with. Where income is received in advance for expenditure in a future accounting period, it is deferred and recognised in the future period to which it relates.

(e) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(f) Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

(g) Defined contribution pension scheme

Existing employees of the Charity were entitled to join NEST which is funded by contributions from the employee and employer. New and existing employees were automatically enrolled into the master trust with the option to opt out should they choose to do so.

2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2020: £nil). Expenses, in respect of travel and subsistence, paid to trustees in the year totalled £nil (2020: £nil).

3 Donations and gifts

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Individuals	0	0	0	0	647

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable - Barclays Active Saver a/c	13	0	0	13	40
Interest receivable - CBF Deposit a/c	0	0	28	28	89
	13	0	28	41	129

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

5 Resources expended

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Stationery and printing	34	0	0	34	25
Necat management fee	0	0	250	250	250
Computer software/website	806	0	0	806	297
Telephone - emails	279	0	0	279	279
Travel and subsistence	133	0	0	133	1,132
Training	0	0	0	0	15
Office allowance	204	0	0	204	168
Conferences and courses	180	0	0	180	0
Subscriptions	0	0	0	0	700
Insurance	447	0	0	447	442
Salaries	33,889	0	0	33,889	33,029
Employers NI	0	0	0	0	735
Employers pension payment	1,694	0	0	1,694	1,694
Sundries	3	0	0	3	104
Wages/NEST processing	412	0	0	412	344
Independent examination	630	0	0	630	630
Refugees and asylum seekers	0	0	0	0	79
Mission Fund	0	0	0	0	700
	<u>38,711</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>38,961</u>	<u>40,623</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2020: 1) with all employee time involved in providing either support to the governance of the charity or support services to charitable activities. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £1,694 (2020: £1,694). No employees had employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) in excess of £60,000 (2020: £nil).

6 Fixed asset investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Within the UK		
Church of England Investment Fund at market value	21,847	19,061

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals - accountancy	630	0	630	630
Deferred income - covid recovery grant	0	75,000	75,000	0
	<u>630</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,630</u>	<u>630</u>

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

8 Statement of funds

	At 1 Sept 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gains £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted						
General fund	24,239	44,307	(38,711)	0	(1,000)	28,835
Designated funds:						
Mission fund	2,490	0	0	0	0	2,490
Reserve fund	26,000	0	0	0	1000	27,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>52,729</u>	<u>44,307</u>	<u>(38,711)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>58,325</u>
Restricted funds:						
Publicity fund	614	0	0	0	0	614
Refugees and asylum seekers fund	1,597	0	0	0	0	1,597
TVM fund	38,695	617	(250)	2,786	0	41,848
Total restricted funds	<u>40,906</u>	<u>617</u>	<u>(250)</u>	<u>2,786</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>44,059</u>
Total funds	<u><u>93,635</u></u>	<u><u>44,924</u></u>	<u><u>(38,961)</u></u>	<u><u>2,786</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>102,384</u></u>

General funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Mission funds provide small grants to Local Churches Together and similar groups such as Regional bodies/initiatives and ad hoc groups formed for a particular event.

Designated reserve funds are to be used to pay expenses due should the aims and objectives of NECAT, as originally envisaged, cease resulting in the cessation of NECAT.

Publicity funds are for the purpose of publicising NECAT and /or regional events.

Refugees and asylum seekers funds seek to provide support and integration into the community.

TVM fund operates in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace.

NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1157138

Accounts



NORTH EAST CHURCHES
ACTING TOGETHER

North East Churches Acting Together

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2020

Charity no: 1157138

North East Churches Acting Together

Reports and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 August 2020

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Legal and administrative information

Trustees:	Dr MA Bonnington D Pigeon Rt Revd MSA Tanner (Resigned 1 September 2020) W Offler A Murray (resigned 30 June 2020)
Chairman:	Dr MA Bonnington
Treasurer:	D Pigeon
Secretary	Revd J Thorns
Address:	30 Fieldhouse Lane Durham DH1 4LT
Independent Examiner:	Neil Mullen FCA FCCA Mullen Stoker Ltd Mullen Stoker House Mandale Business Park Belmont Industrial Estate Durham DH1 1TH
Bankers:	Barclays Bank PLC The North Tyneside Group 3 Northumberland Square North Shields NE30 1QX

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2020

Reference and Administrative Details

Name of the charity	North East Churches Acting Together
Charity number	1157138
Registered office	30 Fieldhouse Lane Durham DH1 4LT

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the Charity during the year ended 31 August 2020 were:

Dr MA Bonnington
D Pigeon
Rt Revd MSA Tanner (resigned 1 September 2020)
W Offler
A Murray (resigned 30 June 2020)

Regional Officer & Secretary Revd J Thorns

Independent Examiner Neil Mullen FCA FCCA
Mullen Stoker Ltd
Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC
The North Tyneside Group
3 Northumberland Square
North Shields
NE30 1QX

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Structure, Governance and Management

North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on 21st May 2014. The governing documents are the memorandum and articles of association of the CIO.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees consist of nominated trustees representing the Churches Together groups, the regional denominational ecumenical officers and the Northern Church leaders as well as other appointed Trustees. The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 2. Trustees usually meet four times each year and are responsible for formally monitoring the Charity. Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefit from the Charity. No expenses were reclaimed by Trustees from the Charity during the year (2019: £nil).

Tees Valley Ministry

Oversight and financial guidance of Tees Valley Ministry is the responsibility of NECAT.

Objectives

To advance the Christian religion and the promotion of the churches mission in North East England for the benefit of church members, local churches, the wider church, and the public generally through:

- identifying opportunities for prayer and worship.
- promoting spirituality and theological reflection.
- providing advice, support and training to local churches, local churches together groups and other ecumenical bodies.
- identifying priorities and managing resources.
- bringing together statutory, voluntary, community, commercial, artistic, and cultural agencies in a common attempt to advance the churches mission.
- interpreting key social and economic trends and issues from the perspective of the Christian faith and developing appropriate responses.
- promoting religious harmony for the benefit of the common good.

NECAT is an ecumenical body in the North East of England, serving a region with a distinct culture, spiritual life and self-awareness. NECAT was formed as a result of a review of the ecumenical structures in the North East and a combining of North East Christian Churches Together (NECCT) and The Churches' Regional Commission in the North East (CRCNE).

NECAT seeks to serve the Kingdom of God in the North East by being a partnership of churches and Christian organisations dedicated to answering the call of Jesus Christ and working ecumenically for the renewal of the region through specific and local action to bring about change for the common good.

NECAT's aim and method of working is to encourage and support churches to work together and with other partners both locally and regionally and to identify and release resources which will bring tangible benefits especially to communities and churches working with vulnerable people and groups. Its process within the rich inheritance of the Christian tradition is for action-reflection aimed to bring about changes which will improve the lives of people in local communities and the region. NECAT will offer a voice for the region and its ecumenical vision in national and inter-regional forums. NECAT will be about action to encourage renewal, and the action being undertaken with others wherever possible. Working together will be a catalyst for talking together. Reflection and analysis will follow practical actions benefitting local communities across the region.

More than eighty Churches Together Groups contribute to the NECAT Charity operation, support to all these bodies is provided by the Ecumenical Officers. These are appointed by the denominations and work across the region, coordinating their work not only through the Local Ecumenical Group (LEG), but also through their own support network.

North East Churches Acting Together works to support the churches of the North East in their relationships with one another and in their wider mission in the world. Our aim is to work in partnership and help to encourage partnership working with churches, voluntary agencies and other public bodies. Partnerships continue to develop between groups of churches who act together and pray together and NECAT continues to give support to Churches Together groups and the like. We continue to be involved in events whose purpose has been to bring those volunteers and agencies working in similar areas to come together for support and to share information.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Churches Together

We currently have 74 Churches Together groups formally registered with NECAT as well as other groups and some subgroups that meet more informally for prayer and fellowship. These vary enormously from groups that have over 20 churches in their organization to those with just 2. This year has been difficult for Churches Together groups, many have struggled to meet at all, others have met virtually but all acknowledge how difficult it has been to continue to build and strengthen relationships during the current situation and how much they are missing the regular opportunities to come together. Churches Together groups continue to reach out to their local communities and their action have been even more important this year. The demand for Foodbanks and other forms of support have grown and have needed to find new ways of operating to accommodate Social Distancing rules and measures to prevent the spread of Covid, groups have also seen a number of their longstanding volunteers having to take a step back as they fall into the vulnerable persons category. I have been amazed at the way churches have responded, quickly implementing new procedures, finding, and training new volunteers, responding to new needs, working in partnership and continuing to offer support to their community. Many of the regular activities such as Lunch Clubs, Holiday Clubs and Street Pastor schemes could not happen, but children still need food, folks needed company and friendship and people needed help and support. Local groups have helped deliver food parcels and meals, picked up shopping and prescriptions and delivered activity packs and service sheets as well as setting up telephone befriending services and online prayers and worship. Churches, Church leaders and NECAT were able to talk with and work with Local Authorities, Members of Parliament, Councilors, schools and other agencies asking where the need was, what could be done and asking how we, as churches could help. Good relationships have been established and we hope we can continue to build on that co-operation.

Open the Book and Messy Church have continued with pre-recorded videos or via online platforms and many prayer groups and bible studies have adjusted to being online. In December, the country held a General Election and many Churches Together groups held a local hustings event, providing a neutral space for dialogue and questions. Church buildings may have been closed for long periods of time over this year, but the church has been as active as ever and churches have reached out to others to work in partnership. Churches, together, have been very active providing much needed support for members of their local communities, we can do so much more together than we can do apart.

Churches Together groups have explored new ways of providing fellowship and opportunities to learn, pray and worship together. As well as online examples, we have seen partnerships with local radio and some groups have pioneered drive in worship, hosting worship from the back of a truck in car parks and the like. We recognize that there has been a lot of disappointment too as regular events and some special events, that had involved a lot of planning have had to be cancelled or postponed and for some groups this year has meant that it was even harder to keep going, if there is anything we can do to support please do get in touch.

We recognize the good missional work that Churches acting together provide and all that they do in their communities and as Regional Officer I continue to be available to give any support I can.

Church Leaders

Despite the COVID restrictions the Northern Ecumenical Church Leaders group has continued to meet regularly online. There was a commitment from all to meet frequently for prayers, to update one another on current issues and restrictions, to share advice and concerns and to liaise with one another across the churches.

This year, 2020, was designated the Year of Pilgrimage for the region and there were a number of events and pilgrimages planned through the year. The group events had to be postponed, but the routes have been marked out and the website was able to direct people to them. People have followed the pilgrimage ways as individuals or families and the hope is that some of those group walks and events can happen in 2021, coming together as ecumenical pilgrims.

Over this year we have seen the group change as Seamus, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle retired and Mark, Bishop of Berwick became the Bishop Chester and we welcomed Sarah, Bishop of Jarrow and Robert, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Ecumenical Officers and the Local Ecumenical Group

NECAT acts as the sponsoring body for the formal ecumenical structures in the North East including the Local Ecumenical Group which has responsibility for reviews of Local Ecumenical Partnerships. The Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEO) and I continue to meet regularly and to offer support to LEP's and Covenant Partnerships and to other ecumenical structures. Revd. Paul Revill acts as Chair of the LEG group on behalf of the Church Leaders. The number of denominational Ecumenical officers and the hours that those still in post work, has reduced considerably. We have said goodbye to the Reverend Judith Grieve (Diocese of Newcastle) and to Andrea Murray (Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle), we thank them both for all that they have contributed. We have welcomed Major Eric Pearce from the Salvation Army to the group. Only one of the officer posts is now paid, the others work on a voluntary basis and so we continue to look at the way we work and offer support. We have carried out some reviews this year, notably some considerable work with South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area and Woodhouse Close LEP. We continue to offer support with reviews, staffing, queries, updates of constitutions and partnership agreements as well as looking at the review procedure and how the reviews might be more purposeful and ask the right questions for the future. We have also spent time in our meetings sharing stories of ecumenical partnership, particularly in response to COVID and looking at ecumenical mission initiatives such as Thy Kingdom Come and Movement Day that are happening and are planned for the future.

The document 'Frameworks for Local Unity' has been worked on by Churches Together in England and the National Ecumenical Officers and provides an excellent toolkit for churches and Churches Together groups to look at ways in which they can build better relationships and work together more in partnership. It has been a long time in production and has consulted widely and is a document that offers lots of advice and creative solutions for joint projects, shared buildings and churches and communities wanting to work together, encouraging a range of partnerships from the formal legal arrangement to the shorter term, less structured projects.

As Regional Officer, I have represented the region on the Enabling group of Churches Together in England, attending the two national meetings and a number of wider consultations and training events held online this year. CTE has held consultations and training events around the issue of Racial Justice, encouraging churches to come together to learn from each other and to challenge unjust structures. They have also been looking at some of the challenges of working together locally and the issues facing Intermediate Ecumenical bodies such as NECAT. Ben Aldous, their Principal Officer for Mission and Evangelism, visited the North East in September to visit local projects and hear about the region. We had planned a day conference with Paul Goodliff, the General Secretary of CTE in March, which unfortunately we had to postpone. We are planning to re-arrange and this will provide an opportunity for us to come together and to hear Paul's thoughts on the future of local ecumenism.

The Northern group of Regional and County Ecumenical officers have also continued to meet, with support from the staff of CTE, sharing resources and advice from across the North of England.

Tees Valley Ministry (TVM)

TVM is a charity set up to work in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace. It has been part of NECAT since 2015 and NECAT are working with Regional Church leaders to discern the future direction and projects of TVM.

In Partnership

North East Churches Acting Together is committed to working in partnership and we do continue to do that with a number of agencies, although in this challenging year many of the ways in which we work has had to be adapted.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Over this year I have continued to work alongside Citizens Tyne and Wear, a local chapter of national Citizens UK, which has churches and other faith organizations in membership. As part of the Regional Living Wage team we have worked alongside others to raise the issues around low pay and particularly this year of levels of pay amongst key workers such as carers, cleaners and others. The effects of low pay for families has been even more critical this year. The number of accredited living wage employers have increased across the region to 130, and this year have included our first Regional Local Authority as Sunderland Council accredited. When schools closed earlier this year we began to hear stories of children going hungry at home and questions about erratic provision of Free School Meals. We worked as a team with others from across the country to ask for a voucher scheme, for provision to be extended over the holidays, for fast tracking of those children whose families were now in need and applying for Universal Credit and for a consistent response in supply and reimbursement of schools. We have listened to lots of stories and talked to schools and have of course been helped with interventions from national figures such as Marcus Rashford. Citizens Tyne and Wear have been engaged in a listening exercise over the summer, talking with as many people as possible about what makes life difficult for them, what would help them and some of these issues will be taken forward as part of some of their work in the future.

NECAT has begun to look and also continued to look at some of the issues around housing and engaged with members of Archbishop's Housing Commission amongst other projects, to look at some of the long term issues around housing and how the churches may be influential moving forward.

We continue to focus on building partnerships with all our partner churches and I have attended denominational Synods and Assemblies through the year, many happening online. As part of that partnership there are the beginnings of an Ecumenical Group developing, with representatives of our denominations looking to work better together as we look to become greener both in our churches and in the region. Across the churches we are also looking at other issues such as Dementia Friendly churches and Domestic Violence awareness training. I continue as a Trustee at the North East Religious Resources Learning Centre, promoting the use of the Resources Centre across all denominations and schools. NECAT have worked with the RRC on some training including an information and sharing event to help churches mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

We have continued to support work with Asylum Seekers and refugees across the region. Many of the agencies and groups working with those in need have had to stop meeting in person and getting support to those in need has proved challenging. A huge number of volunteers are involved and without the support, friendship, campaigning, and practical help supplied by church communities many Asylum Seekers and refugees would be struggling to survive. We would also like to promote the issue of Community Sponsorship in the region, two local groups have now been approved and we hope to learn from them and encourage others.

Plans for future periods

In the coming year, we will seek to support the churches of the North East as we to recover from the COVID crisis. It will be even more important for us to work together and pool our resources as we work on projects common to all denominations. We know that some local Churches Together groups have struggled this year, and as Regional Officer I am available to help and support local Churches Together groups. As part of our future we will continue to partner Citizens UK on the Living Wage and Just Change and other issues and continue to explore issues and responses to Housing and Communities. We will also work with others as we engage with issues that as churches we continue to work together on such as Dementia Friendly Communities, work with refugees and Asylum seekers and the Environment.

Churches Together in England have been working on a strategic plan for to encourage ecumenical working nationally and regionally. This will include continued learning on working together both on projects and on mission and dialogue on issues of justice and theology.

We have worked this year on trying to improve our communication, developing a website and Facebook page. The website was launched this year and work continues but you can visit us at www.necat.co.uk or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/northeastchurchesactingtogether>. We will continue to work with other agencies across the region to encourage the sharing of information and encourage closer co-operation.

North East Churches Acting Together

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

Mission Fund

There have been two Mission Fund grants awarded in the past year. The first to the Small Faithful Rural Conference, an ecumenical conference for Rural mission and the second to the Darlington District of the Methodist Church for an Ecumenical training course on Spirituality in the elderly and those with Dementia. All Churches Together Groups and informal ecumenical groups are able to submit applications for funding for work they may wish to do in the local communities. Further information and advice can be obtained from Joanne Thorns at the following email address regionallofficer@necat.co.uk.

Financial review

The Charity's work is entirely reliant on income provided in the form of grants received from the Church Denominations and donations received from the Churches Together Groups in the North East.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves in a restricted fund at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenses. The Trustees consider that this will provide sufficient funds to ensure that support and governance costs are covered. Total reserves at 31 August 2020 amounted to £93,635 (2019: £88,128) of which £40,906 (2019: £39,182) were restricted.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 3/12/2020



Revd J Thorns (Regional Officer & Secretary)

North East Churches Acting Together

Year ended: 31 August 2010

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of North East Churches Acting Together

I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity (number 1157138) for the year ended 31 August 2020 which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees, 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA

Mullen Stoker House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TH

Date 3/12/20

North East Churches Acting Together

Statement of Financial Activities including summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from:						
Churches and denominations		36,114	0	0	36,114	40,262
Churches together groups		525	0	0	525	1,162
Sundry Income		2,284	0	0	2,284	650
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant		5,114	0	0	5,114	0
Donations	3	0	0	647	647	1,314
Investment income - Bank interest	4	40	0	89	129	129
Investment income - Dividends		0	0	565	565	549
Total		44,077	0	1,301	45,378	44,066
Expenditure on:						
NECAT operation	5	39,594	0	79	39,673	41,354
Mission fund	5	0	700	0	700	0
TVM operation	5	0	0	250	250	312
Total		39,594	700	329	40,623	41,666
Net incoming resources / (resources expended) before transfers						
		4,483	(700)	972	4,755	2,400
Transfers between funds						
		(1000)	1000	0	0	0
Net incoming resources/(resources expended)						
		3,483	300	972	4,755	2,400
Realised gains on investment assets						
		0	0	752	752	1,563
Net incoming resources / (resources expended) including realised gains on investments						
		3,483	300	1,724	5,507	3,963
Unrealised gains on investment assets						
		0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds						
		3,483	300	1,724	5,507	3,963
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2017						
		20,756	28,190	39,182	88,128	84,165
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2018						
		24,239	28,490	40,906	93,635	88,128

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

North East Churches Acting Together

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

	Notes	Charity 2020 £	Charity 2020 £	Charity 2019 £	Charity 2019 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		19,061		18,309
			<u>19,061</u>		<u>18,309</u>
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand			75,204		70,437
			<u>75,204</u>		<u>70,436</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7		(630)		(618)
Net current assets			<u>74,574</u>		<u>69,819</u>
Net assets			<u>93,635</u>		<u>88,128</u>
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	8		24,239		20,756
Designated funds					
Mission fund	8	2,490		3,190	
Reserve fund	8	26,000	28,490	25,000	28,190
Total unrestricted funds			<u>52,729</u>		<u>48,946</u>
Restricted funds					
Publicity fund	8	614		614	
Refuges and asylum seekers fund	8	1,597		1,029	
TVM fund	8	38,695	40,906	37,539	39,182
Total funds	8		<u>93,635</u>		<u>88,128</u>

The financial statements on pages 9 to 14 were approved by the Executive Committee and authorised for issue by the trustees on 3 December 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr MA Bonnington
Chairman

Revd J Thorns
Regional Officer & Secretary

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020

Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The Charity constitutes a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds have been transferred from unrestricted funds for a particular purpose and are to be used in accordance with that purpose as imposed by the trustees.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for a particular purpose. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) Grant income

Grants and contributions received for current year expenditure are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are received, provided that the conditions for receipt have been complied with. Where income is received in advance for expenditure in a future accounting period, it is deferred and recognised in the future period to which it relates.

(e) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(f) Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020

(g) Defined contribution pension scheme

Existing employees of the Charity were entitled to join NEST which is funded by contributions from the employee and employer. New and existing employees were automatically enrolled into the master trust with the option to opt out should they choose to do so.

2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2019: £nil). Expenses, in respect of travel and subsistence, paid to trustees in the year totalled £nil (2019: £nil).

3 Donations and gifts

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Individuals	0	0	647	647	1,314

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable - Barclays Active Saver a/c	40	0	0	40	41
Interest receivable - CBF Deposit a/c	0	0	89	89	88
	41	0	88	129	129

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020

5 Resources expended

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Stationery and printing	25	0	0	25	31
Necat management fee	0	0	250	250	250
Computer software/website	297	0	0	297	0
Telephone - emails	279	0	0	279	289
Travel and subsistence	1,132	0	0	1,132	2,071
Training	15	0	0	15	0
Office allowance	168	0	0	168	192
Conferences and courses	0	0	0	0	1,028
Subscriptions	700	0	0	700	700
Insurance	442	0	0	442	439
Salaries	33,029	0	0	33,029	33,219
Employers NI	735	0	0	735	384
Employers pension payment	1,694	0	0	1,694	1,661
Bank charges	0	0	0	0	62
Donations	0	0	0	0	0
Sundries	104	0	0	104	84
Wages/NEST processing	344	0	0	344	338
Independent examination	630	0	0	630	618
Refugees and asylum seekers	0	0	79	79	300
Mission Fund	0	700	0	700	0
	<u>39,594</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>40,623</u>	<u>41,666</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2019: 1) with all employee time involved in providing either support to the governance of the charity or support services to charitable activities. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £1,694 (2019: £1,661). No employees had employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) in excess of £60,000 (2019: £nil).

6 Fixed asset investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Within the UK		
Church of England Investment Fund at market value	19,061	18,309
	<u>19,061</u>	<u>18,309</u>

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted £	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals - accountancy	630	630	618
	<u>630</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>618</u>

North East Churches Acting Together

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020

8 Statement of funds

	At 1 Sept 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gains £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted						
General fund	20,756	44,077	(39,594)	0	(1,000)	24,239
Designated funds:						
Mission fund	3,190	0	700	0	0	2,490
Reserve fund	25,000	0	0	0	1000	26,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>48,946</u>	<u>44,077</u>	<u>(40,294)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>52,729</u>
Restricted funds:						
Publicity fund	614	0	0	0	0	614
Refugees and asylum seekers fund	1,029	647	79	0	0	1,597
TVM fund	37,539	654	250	752	0	38,695
Total restricted funds	<u>39,182</u>	<u>1,301</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>752</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40,906</u>
Total funds	<u><u>88,128</u></u>	<u><u>45,378</u></u>	<u><u>40,623</u></u>	<u><u>752</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>93,635</u></u>

General funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Mission funds provide small grants to Local Churches Together and similar groups such as Regional bodies/initiatives and ad hoc groups formed for a particular event.

Designated reserve funds are to be used to pay expenses due should the aims and objectives of NECAT, as originally envisaged, cease resulting in the cessation of NECAT.

Publicity funds are for the purpose of publicising NECAT and /or regional events.

Refugees and asylum seekers funds seek to provide support and integration into the community.

TVM fund operates in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace.