



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

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Regional Officer &amp; Secretary</b> | Revd J Thorns |
|---|---------------|

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Independent Examiner</b> | Neil Mullen FCA FCCA<br>Mullen Stoker Ltd<br>Mullen Stoker House<br>Mandale Business Park<br>Belmont Industrial Estate<br>Durham<br>DH1 1TH |
|-----------------------------|---|

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Bankers</b> | Barclays Bank PLC<br>The North Tyneside Group<br>3 Northumberland Square<br>North Shields<br>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](http://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 [regionalsofficer@necat.co.uk](mailto:regionalsofficer@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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Thorns', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp. The stamp is partially obscured by the signature and the text below it.

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

|  |   | Unrestricted<br>Funds | Designated<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Funds | Total<br>2020<br>£ | Total<br>2019<br>£ |
|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Notes  |   | £                     | £                   | £                   |                    |                    |
| <b>Income from:</b>  |   |                       |                     |                     |                    |                    |
|  |   | 36,114                | 0                   | 0                   | 36,114             | 40,262             |
|  |   | 525                   | 0                   | 0                   | 525                | 1,162              |
|  |   | 2,284                 | 0                   | 0                   | 2,284              | 650                |
|  |   | 5,114                 | 0                   | 0                   | 5,114              | 0                  |
|  |   | 0                     | 0                   | 647                 | 647                | 1,314              |
|  | 3 | 0                     | 0                   | 647                 | 647                | 1,314              |
|  |   | 40                    | 0                   | 89                  | 129                | 129                |
|  | 4 | 0                     | 0                   | 89                  | 129                | 129                |
|  |   | 0                     | 0                   | 565                 | 565                | 549                |
|  |   | 0                     | 0                   | 565                 | 565                | 549                |
| <b>Total</b>   |   | <b>44,077</b>         | <b>0</b>            | <b>1,301</b>        | <b>45,378</b>      | <b>44,066</b>      |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>   |   |                       |                     |                     |                    |                    |
|  |   | 39,594                | 0                   | 79                  | 39,673             | 41,354             |
|  | 5 | 39,594                | 0                   | 79                  | 39,673             | 41,354             |
|  |   | 0                     | 700                 | 0                   | 700                | 0                  |
|  | 5 | 0                     | 700                 | 0                   | 700                | 0                  |
|  |   | 0                     | 0                   | 250                 | 250                | 312                |
|  | 5 | 0                     | 0                   | 250                 | 250                | 312                |
| <b>Total</b>   |   | <b>39,594</b>         | <b>700</b>          | <b>329</b>          | <b>40,623</b>      | <b>41,666</b>      |
|  |   | 39,594                | 700                 | 329                 | 40,623             | 41,666             |
|  |   | 39,594                | 700                 | 329                 | 40,623             | 41,666             |
| <b>Net incoming resources / (resources expended)</b>   |   |                       |                     |                     |                    |                    |
|  |   | 4,483                 | (700)               | 972                 | 4,755              | 2,400              |
|  |   | (1000)                | 1000                | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
|  |   | (1000)                | 1000                | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Net incoming resources/(resources expended)</b>   |   | <b>3,483</b>          | <b>300</b>          | <b>972</b>          | <b>4,755</b>       | <b>2,400</b>       |
|  |   | 0                     | 0                   | 752                 | 752                | 1,563              |
|  |   | 0                     | 0                   | 752                 | 752                | 1,563              |
| <b>Net incoming resources / (resources expended) including realised gains on investments</b> |   | <b>3,483</b>          | <b>300</b>          | <b>1,724</b>        | <b>5,507</b>       | <b>3,963</b>       |
|  |   | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
|  |   | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>   |   | <b>3,483</b>          | <b>300</b>          | <b>1,724</b>        | <b>5,507</b>       | <b>3,963</b>       |
|  |   | 20,756                | 28,190              | 39,182              | 88,128             | 84,165             |
|  |   | 20,756                | 28,190              | 39,182              | 88,128             | 84,165             |
|  |   | 24,239                | 28,490              | 40,906              | 93,635             | 88,128             |
|  |   | 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<br>2020<br>£ | Charity<br>2020<br>£ | Charity<br>2019<br>£ | Charity<br>2019<br>£ |
|---|-------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                                   |       |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Investments   | 6     |                      | 19,061               |                      | 18,309               |
|   |       |                      | <u>19,061</u>        |                      | <u>18,309</u>        |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                 |       |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Cash at bank and in hand                              |       |                      | 75,204               |                      | 70,437               |
|   |       |                      | <u>75,204</u>        |                      | <u>70,436</u>        |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b> | 7     |                      | (630)                |                      | (618)                |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                             |       |                      | <u>74,574</u>        |                      | <u>69,819</u>        |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                     |       |                      | <u>93,635</u>        |                      | <u>88,128</u>        |
| <b>Funds:</b>   |       |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>                             |       |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| General fund  | 8     |                      | 24,239               |                      | 20,756               |
| <b>Designated funds</b>                               |       |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Mission fund  | 8     | 2,490                |                      | 3,190                |                      |
| Reserve fund  | 8     | 26,000               | 28,490               | 25,000               | 28,190               |
| <b>Total unrestricted funds</b>                       |       |                      | <u>52,729</u>        |                      | <u>48,946</u>        |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>                               |       |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| 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               |
| <b>Total funds</b>                                    | 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<br>Funds | Designated<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Funds | Total<br>2020 | Total<br>2019 |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
|             | £                     | £                   | £                   | £             | £             |
| Individuals | 0                     | 0                   | 647                 | 647           | 1,314         |

### 4 Investment income

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds | Designated<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Funds | Total<br>2020 | Total<br>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<br>2020 | Total<br>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<br>£     | 2019<br>£     |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Within the UK</b>                              |               |               |
| Church of England Investment Fund at market value | <u>19,061</u> | <u>18,309</u> |

### 7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

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

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.