

Carelinks

Charity Registration No.1157202

Trustee's Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2021

Carelinks

Status: Charity Registration No.1157202
Governing document: The Charity's governing document is its Constitution.

Registered Office: 27 Castle Gardens
Bath
BA2 2AN

Trustees who served since the start of the year up to today : Steve Gretton
Jean Field
Andy Taylor
Pete Eichhorn
Rob Clements
Liz Hemingray - Resigned 21 Aug 2020

Independent examiner: Shruti Soni ACCA
Shruti Soni Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Introduction

The main aims of the charity are to advance Christianity, primarily by distributing Bible and other Christian literature, and to relieve poverty by providing support to those in need. These aims are reflected in our formal objectives, which follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. During the year the main focus for our work has been to support both these objectives at the same time.

Structure, governance and management

Carelinks is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales: Number 1157202, governed by Constitution. The Board of Trustees meets regularly and is responsible for the governance of the charity. Carelinks does not employ any staff. The trustees and volunteers undertake the day-to-day management of the charity.

Risk management

We have a risk register which enable us to monitor our activities under four main headings – safeguarding, regulatory and compliance risk, financial risk and operational risk. This has helped us to implement a number of actions designed to mitigate those risks which we felt were at unsatisfactory levels.

Objectives and activities

Our formal objectives are:

- (1) The advancement of the Christian religion for the benefit of the public in accordance with the statement of faith appearing in the schedule to the charity's constitution, in particular but not exclusively by distributing Christian literature at cost or free of charge.
- (2) The prevention or relief of poverty by the providing of grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Our main focus has always been on the advancement of Christian religion by providing practical support for those in need alongside the distribution of Bible-based material. The global Covid pandemic has meant that the amount of face-to-face and physical support we have been able to give has been severely limited, but we are glad to report that our new app, launched last year, and other online activity has enabled us to continue to be very active throughout the year and provide spiritual and other support to many people in a large number of countries, as summarised below.

Activities and performance

During the year, the charity worked – either directly or by supporting others - in the UK and in many other countries. Highlights of the year are summarised below. Some of these activities were carried out in conjunction with the Christadelphian Advancement Trust and the Riga Welfare Programme, both of which we have worked with for many years. One of the most important outcomes of this work is that several hundred individuals in at least 47 countries, supported by us, committed themselves to Jesus Christ during the year, many of them through baptism.

Arguably the most important activity in the year was the continuing development of the *Bible Companion*, a free and advertisement-free Bible app comprising a full Bible text including audio; deeper commentary on every verse; basic devotionals, an audio and a youth message on every chapter; a reading planner; a *Bible Basics* study course; and powerful search functionality. We believe that this app offers more features and resources than any other free Bible app. The English language version was launched in both Android and Apple/iOS versions in October 2019 with high usage, strong retention rates and very positive feedback. This encouraged us to invest significantly in advertising the app via Google Ads, a decision which proved doubly happy in the light of the pandemic, and we thank God for His guidance in making this decision. The initial aims of the app were both to increase the reach of the gospel message, given the widespread use of online sources, and to create long-term savings in postage costs for traditional paper-based publications so as to release more funds for pastoral and welfare work. The severe limitations that the pandemic placed on travelling to support those in need showed how valuable the app could be in enabling the message to reach many more people virtually.

Russian, Spanish, French and Farsi versions of the app were launched on Android in the spring of 2020. In January 2021, an updated English-language version was launched, including a video talk and a three minute 'Christian Basics' video on every chapter of the New Testament along with a 'dark mode' to aid reading in darkness. Later, the French, Russian, Farsi and Spanish were launched on Apple/iOS for the first time.

By May 2021, the app had been downloaded a total of 1,325,000 times. The breakdown by language was:

- English – 435,000
- Russian – 67,900
- Farsi – 154,700
- Spanish – 332,400
- French – 335,000

About 17,000 of those who have downloaded the app use it every day, many of them more than once. At least 72,000 people use it every 48 hours,

The app has been particularly well-used in countries such as Afghanistan and Iran which are challenging for anyone wishing to consider Christianity, and also (for example) in Francophone West and Central Africa, or South America, where it is now possible to reach people in very remote areas that would have been effectively inaccessible to physical evangelism given our resources.

Alongside the development of the app, we have launched a 'Virtual Church' (www.virtualchurch.cc) which is a gateway to both pastoral support and to regular online communion services hosted in Europe, Canada and New Zealand. The Zoom platform has been used to provide support from round the world to those wishing to learn more about the message of the Bible and, in many cases, to be baptised.

Carelinks also has a well-used YouTube channel, where the videos have now been viewed more than two million times.

The Covid crisis has meant that we have been unable to provide food, clothing and other welfare support to those in need, as we have done in previous years, but we were able to continue to give food and other support to mostly African asylum seekers in mainland Italy and Sicily; to provide similar support in Latvia, where the winter was exceptionally cold; and in a number of other places.

In addition, we were glad to introduce the CAF Donate service, which makes donations very easy to make, especially from abroad, with no bank charges. We also developed and adopted formal policies on conflicts of interest, investment and reserves during the year.

Financial Review

During the year 2020/21 the charity's total receipts were £78,917 (2019/20: £92,281), of which £32,805 was restricted. Total payments during the year amounted to £63,168 (2019/20: £43,103) resulting in net receipts for the year of £15,749 (2019/20: £35,286).

Total cash funds at year end were £71,843 (2019/20: £56,094), all of which was unrestricted.

Reserves policy

Our formal reserves policy is that we will aim to maintain our reserves held in cash or near-cash at a level of not less than 50 per cent of our expenditure in the preceding financial year. If the reserves fall below that level for a period of three months, the trustees will consider what action needs to be taken to rectify the situation.

Plans for future periods

Our plans for the future are to continue with the range of largely demand-led activities exemplified above. We would very much like to be able once again to provide support in-person in a number of countries, but the complete unpredictability of the Covid situation and associated travel restrictions means that we cannot, at present, say how and when we might do that. Our organisation is, however, such that we can often act flexibly and at short notice so we hope that we will be able to meet needs where we can. In the meantime, we will continue to use, develop, and advertise our online resources as flexibly as we can as these have – as can be seen – had a highly positive impact on bringing many people to faith,

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing this annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable charity law, Charity Commission guidance and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on **5 July 2021** and signed on their behalf by:



Steve Gretton

Trustees

The Trustees/Members of Carelinks throughout the year were Steve Gretton, Jean Field, Andy Taylor, Pete Eichhorn and Rob Clements.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Carelinks

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 7 to 8.

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').

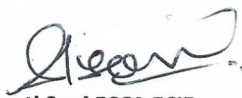
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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.



Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE

Shruti Soni Ltd • Chartered Certified Accountants
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 03/09/2021

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Receipts						
Donation under Gift Aid	20,349	2,800	23,149	14,885	2,825	17,710
Gift Aid Payment from HMRC	9,931	325	10,256	5,611	53	5,664
Donation not under Gift Aid	12,188	28,680	40,868	65,808	850	66,658
Other Income	-	-	-	-	400	400
Overseas Donation	3,641	1,000	4,641	-	1,848	1,848
Interest receivable	3	-	3	1	-	1
Total Receipts	46,112	32,805	78,917	86,305	5,976	92,281
Payments						
Postage, Telephone and Admin	4,043	448	4,491	2,704	11	2,715
Printing and Advertising	222	36,143	36,365	442	-	442
Room Hire and publicity	-	-	-	1,929	421	2,350
Software	296	-	296	223	-	223
Travel and subsistence	10,943	-	10,943	29,269	381	29,650
Wages and salaries	147	1,355	1,502	605	-	605
Accountancy	2,200	-	2,200	-	-	-
Charitable grants:						
Church Food	3,891	9	3,900	1,479	548	2,027
Transport	18	-	18	161	612	773
Welfare	3,453	-	3,453	1,333	2,985	4,318
Sub total	25,213	37,955	63,168	38,145	4,958	43,103
Assets and investment purchase						
Mobile App development	-	-	-	12,874	1,018	13,892
Sub Total	-	-	-	12,874	1,018	13,892
Total payments	25,213	37,955	63,168	51,019	5,976	56,995
Net of receipts/(payments)	20,899	(5,150)	15,749	35,286	-	35,286
Transfer between funds	(5,150)	5,150	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	56,094	-	56,094	20,808	-	20,808
Cash funds this year end	71,843	-	71,843	56,094	-	56,094

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Statement of assets and liabilities

at the end of the period 31 March 2021

Details	Unrestricted	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Cash at bank	71,897	-	71,897
Cash on hand	(54)	-	(54)
Total cash at bank and on hand	71,843	-	71,843

Related party transactions

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

Admin Service charge includes payment to one trustee of £60 towards software subscription for use for charity's business. Two trustees were reimbursed £156 for refund of charitable grants welfare paid personally. There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2021 (2020: none).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business.

The financial statements comprising of the Receipts and Payments Summary and Statement of Assets and Liabilities were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 25 Sept. 2021

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

Signature


Steve Gratton.

Name
Trustee