

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1157993

Details

Other names	SMETHWICK CAN
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-07-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Website	www.smethwickcan.org

Activities

Objects: I. TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN SMETHWICK AND THE SURROUNDING AREA IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY: A. BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH BY I. INCREASING ITS AWARENESS OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE THEIR CHURCHES SEEK TO HELP FROM THE STATUTORY, VOLUNTARY AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND FACILITATING THE CHURCH'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THOSE SECTORS IN ACCESSING THOSE RESOURCES; II. THE ENABLEMENT OF CHURCHES IN SMETHWICK AND THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING AREA TO DEVELOP GROWING AND CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE LIVING AND SHARING OF THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH. B. INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND ASSOCIATED CHARITIES IN THE EFFECTIVE USE OF THEIR RESOURCES; II. THE PROMOTION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC OF URBAN REGENERATION IN THE SOCIALLY OR ECONOMICALLY DEPRIVED AREAS OF SMETHWICK AND THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING AREAS BY ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MEANS A. THE RELIEF OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP: B. THE RELIEF OF FOOD POVERTY: C. THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT: D. THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING OR RETRAINING, PARTICULARLY AMONG UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE, AND PROVIDING UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE WITH WORK EXPERIENCE: E. THE CREATION OF TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY THE PROVISION OF WORKSPACE, BUILDINGS, AND/OR LAND FOR USE ON FAVOURABLE TERMS: F. THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE OR THOSE WHO BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES: III. SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: Smethwick CAN works with local communities to tackle poverty, build community, increase aspiration and support the most vulnerable. We provide a wide range of services through local churches and community groups including places of welcome to build community; supporting people towards work and social enterprise to increase aspiration; and provide crisis relief to support the most vulnerable.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing, 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, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Sandwell

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£150,081	£169,888	-	-
2024-03-31	£187,980	£190,388	-	-
2023-03-31	£199,389	£147,630	-	-
2022-03-31	£140,279	£170,243	-	-
2021-03-31	£202,482	£165,337	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev DAVID ROBERT GOULD	Chair	2014-07-24
Gareth David Brown		2023-03-21
Hannah Girling		2023-03-21
JENNY CANNINGS		2014-07-24
Kerry Joanne Peniket		2019-07-01
Rev Nicholas Martin Ross		2020-03-18
Rev Stephen John Bentham		2014-07-24
WENDY DYKE		2014-07-24

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE002343 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157993

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Smethwick Church Action Network is a grassroots organisation that seeks to support our neighbours in times of crisis and walk with them to a place of hope and self-sufficiency. Smethwick CAN is an asset-based community organisation, grown from the premise that we can achieve much more together than we ever could in isolation. We have an established foodbank, community pantry, signposting, and volunteering services, as well as supporting the churches in the network to develop their own social action projects and initiatives.

How we go about our work is as important for us as the work itself. Therefore, all our endeavours are underpinned by an ethos that we are always stronger working together.

Smethwick Church Action Network has a set of **12 Core Values** that underpin how we work:

* **Collaborative and Partnering** We work together as a group of churches, partnering with local initiative and resources to signpost our neighbours to additional support within the community.

* **Inclusive and Accepting** Anyone is welcome to come and serve or be served regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

* **Intentional and Responsive** To love our neighbours and community well, we need to be watchful of the needs and intentional about how we respond: stewarding our resources to where they are needed and wanted

* **Integrity and Excellence** We want to deliver high quality projects with transparency. This includes the food we provide (high quality and healthy), the way we recruit and treat our team (safeguarding and staff care), the way we treat our neighbours and colleagues (with dignity and respect) and the way we handle our finances; as we steward ALL aspects of what God has entrusted to us in a responsible way.

* **Advocacy and Empowering** We want to pay attention to the ideas, dreams and voices within our neighbourhood as well as speaking up for those who don't have a voice through advocacy, while also working to empower them to have one through campaigning and seeking change at a structural and governmental level.

* **Prayerful and Motivated by the Love of Christ** All our work is done in prayer because we believe God loves Smethwick and wants to see our neighbours and our community flourish.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Smethwick Foodbank 2025

The demand on Smethwick Foodbank has remained steady over the past 12 months due to the Cost-of-Living crisis, rise in fuel prices and other factors affecting the local community. The demand has remained very consistent over the last twelve months, after the steep increase in April 2020, however, overall, 440 parcels have been given out on average each month during the last financial year, compared with an average of 483 parcels being given out each month in 2023/2024. As a comparison, 190 parcels per month were given out in 2019/20.

The main causes of crisis throughout the year have been the rising cost of essentials, the ongoing impact of a physical or mental health condition, and insecure housing, a change from previous years where having no recourse to public funds and benefit delays and benefits changes due to the re-evaluation of their eligibility for specific benefits, namely PIP and ESA, were common reasons for referral.

In the last twelve months there has been a shift in the household structure of people requiring Foodbank support: currently, 38% of people accessing the Foodbank are families (with 19% of these being single parent households), up from 36% last year; 62% are single; 3% are couples. The biggest increase has been in the number of homeless and insecurely housed people accessing our services as support for families has been a priority in Sandwell over the last few years which has consequently reduced the number of families that need emergency foodbank support, for example in the provision of food and vouchers for during school holidays for children who receive free school meals.

As in previous years, 60% of Foodbank users are from the four Smethwick wards, with residents of the remainder of Sandwell and of Birmingham each making up around 20% of users each month. To address the needs of clients accessing Foodbank and not seeking additional help for their monetary crisis, we have successfully implemented a variety of strategies to encourage clients to seek help from other organisations. We host a Signposting Hub with representatives from the Cost of Living Team (COLT), Citizen's Advice, Healthy Minds Sandwell, Action for Children and Sandwell Community Offer, NHS Stop Smoking Sandwell and other local and national organisations each Foodbank session. Advice and signposting leaflets are provided to each client and are updated monthly. There is also a telephone service for additional signposting. We have subsequently seen an increase in clients who would normally self-refer attending with vouchers and receiving benefits reviews, budgeting, and income maximisation advice etc. and needing less long-term support from us.

We have continued to operate a pre-packed only service and to provide a range of personal care and household cleaning items, fresh fruit, and vegetables, and fresh bread and bakery items donated by Warburtons. We also provide specific pre-packed parcels for homeless, vegetarian, and Halal Foodbank users and have these available each session. Smethwick Foodbank operates a 'donations day' each Wednesday where Holy Trinity Church is open for donations from the local community and corporate and business donors.

We have again increased the number of Referral Agencies, focusing on local services that are providing face-to-face provision, including all doctor's surgeries and schools within Smethwick, and a wide range of local charities, including refugee support charities and those offering debt and addiction support, and those supporting the elderly. It is vital to work in partnership with our referral agencies to ensure that the full spectrum of advice and support is offered to our neighbours in financial hardship.

Training has been a priority in the last twelve months, with volunteers and staff accessing an unprecedented level of training and support. We have trained staff and volunteers in Safeguarding, Manual Handling, Health and Safety and Allergen Training.

Going forwards, the focus is again on maintaining funding; working in partnership with Sandwell Council in their new food distribution hub for foodbanks and pantries; developing our strategic goals; developing the training and support we offer to all volunteers, regardless of needs; and in ensuring that clients continue to receive timely help and avoid long term Foodbank use where possible.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick Food Pantry 2025

Your Local Pantry Smethwick is a member of the Your Local Pantry network and operates as a longer-term and sustainable option for addressing food poverty within the local area. It operates as a member-led neighbourhood hub that provides low-cost, quality food to its members, as well as being a springboard into other community initiatives and support services, for a cost of just £6 per week. The Pantry has been able to help members save an average of £33.96 per week on their grocery bill, plus free fresh fruit and vegetables and personal hygiene products which are provided in addition to their main shopping.

Over the past twelve months, members have struggled with the cost-of-living crisis and the rising cost of energy bills. Members have continued to report that they were not using their conventional gas cookers to make hot meals as they were worried about their utility bills; we continued to provide air fryers and slow cookers to new members and we again offered 'Don't Waste Food' cookery classes and demonstrations for Pantry members to share innovative and low cost ways of using fresh produce and typical items that could be purchased at the Pantry, along with healthy tinned produce.

Tenderstem Broccoli, who are a partner of Action Against Hunger, continue to support Your Local Pantry Smethwick which has enabled us to maintain the increased opening hours of the Pantry to Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday. Because of this, the waiting list has significantly come down from 120 to 13 and we have been able to accommodate direct referrals from the Foodbank and other partners.

We have built good working relationships with PRL@Sainsbury's where we have a local donation point. We provide a 'wish list' of scarce items and donors are generous in their response. Smethwick Pantry is working closely with a local independent Supermarket and now has a donation point in their premises which is collected weekly. These relationships help maintain the sustainability of the Pantry.

This year the pantry has been concentrating on providing members with healthy nutritious food and culture awareness food. This year we have added on our portal more members from ethnic minority backgrounds whose dietary needs are halal or kosher food. Also having staple foods like lentils for members from the south Indian community has been a real success.

Members quotes:

"I do not know when we had halal chicken food, my children were soooo happy that I cried!!"

"I cannot afford lentils, but your cooking tips and time saving ideas have really helped us, we would be lost without you."

"Thank you for your cooking recipe ideas for halal food, we really eat well now."

"If I didn't get any halal meat from you I would have resorted to eating non-halal as I was so desperate."

Towards the end of 2024, we partnered with St Mary's Church in Bearwood to set up a new Your Local Pantry to serve the community of Bearwood. The Pantry opened with 15 members in December 2024 and has since doubled its weekly member visits and has built a team of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers and supporters. The Pantry takes place at the same time on Mondays as the St Mary's drop in café 'The Watering Can' and also enables members to access support services such as The Cost-of-Living-Team (COLT) and Citizen's Advice, while they are picking up their Pantry shop.

Church Network

Meeting monthly for prayers, encouragement, having a moan(!) is becoming a habit again! Church Leaders are encouraged to look beyond their own responsibilities and begin to dream dreams for the future of our work together. New friendships and partnerships are being established, and it is from these new foundations that future ministry and ideas will flow for each of us as we learn from the Holy Spirit through one another. Crucially, we hear what others are doing or not doing and take advantage to learn afresh.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As churches we have an opportunity to offer leadership in our local community in areas such as climate change, community cohesion, welcoming of newly arrived people and setting the tone and manner for that as we seek to live the gospel we try to live by. We do this not over against another but by celebrating difference and working to make the public space we inhabit a safe and creative space for all.

Our collective thank you goes to Hannah Girling, Trustee responsible for the Church Network, who is energising us all and making sure we are on time and in the right church every month! Thanks, Hannah, for the continued blessing you are to us all!

Public benefit

Smethwick Church Action Network (CAN) aims to serve our neighbours in times of crisis and help facilitate a transition from being a place of need, to one of opportunity, hope, and self-sufficiency. Smethwick CAN started out as a grassroots network of churches who gathered in 2011 with the aim of supporting those in the local community who were experiencing food poverty. From this, Smethwick Foodbank (part of the national Trussell Trust network) was launched. Sadly, our Foodbank is now busier than ever, with this trend only set to continue as the cost-of-living crisis and aftermath of the pandemic take their toll. In 2014 Smethwick CAN became a registered charity and since then the churches have launched numerous other projects. We currently run a Community Pantry in Smethwick Library as well as aiding local churches to expand and develop their community activities. The churches in the network host a variety of coffee mornings, children and youth activities, Places of Welcome and community lunches. We collaborate closely with numerous partner organisations and, with thanks to funding from SCVO, have expanded our information and signposting hubs at both Foodbank and Pantry, to include a wide range of advice and support partners. We would love to see a day when there is no need for Foodbanks and are actively looking at ways we can support our neighbours out of places of crisis and food poverty and into places where they can thrive.

Volunteers

We continue to work closely with the Birmingham Youth Offending Team (BYOT) offering our in-house training to Parolee volunteers completing their reparation orders. This training includes Manual Handling, Safeguarding, and occasionally Level 2 Food Hygiene. In addition, we have worked with BYOT to develop an accredited, very basic communication skills course that aligns with the existing training delivered by BYOT. This will further improve the chances for Parolees finding work in the future.

Allowing Parolees to volunteer with us has provided an opportunity to see the positive effect of working with us has on their outlook and behaviour. There is something about the welcome and support they receive here, along with the fact that they are helping others who are in a worse situation than they are themselves, that leads to real personal change in these young people. This has also been acknowledged and is valued by BYOT.

The Volunteer Co-ordinator has provided formal and informal support to all volunteers over the last year at both project venues. The informal support offers the chance to give positive feedback, identify any low-level concerns that can be addressed 'in the moment' and identify any learning needs.

More formal support has been offered where people have become stressed either due to their own life events or to stress related to their volunteering role. The use of the Reflection Tool introduced last year has proved effective in helping individuals to discuss their distress and identify what coping mechanisms work for them. The tool is now offered for personal use as part of the Basic Safeguarding training.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Recruitment

As ever, over the last year we have lost some volunteers but gained others. We continue to attract potential new volunteers from the local community with a wide variety of skills and experience.

Stage of Recruitment	No.	Comments
Expressed an interest	68	All who rang or emailed expressing a wish to volunteer
Number we declined	11	All who were not eligible to become a volunteer at SCAN
Completed applications reviewed	39	All completed applications received
Number fully recruited	13	All who completed the full recruitment process
Number who volunteered	12	All who carried out at least 1 session as a volunteer.

Additional statistics

Percentage of all applicants who expressed an interest in volunteering who became volunteers - 17.6%

Percentage of applicants who expressed an interest in volunteering minus inappropriate applications - 21.0%

Reasons for declined applications:

1. Under 17yrs old
2. Being on the Sex Offenders Register & barred from working around children
3. Mental Health Condition causing inappropriate behaviour
4. Inappropriate application, asking for a health care placement
5. Proof of dishonesty
6. Inadequate references
7. Volunteer Co-ordinators lack of capacity to support, i.e. several applications at the same time from people with additional needs

Reasons for leaving in descending order:

1. Declined a DBS check
2. Inadequate references
3. To commence full time education
4. To start a new job
5. Moved to a new area

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Smethwick Foodbank

Over the 12-month period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 we provided 5101 emergency food parcels (5796 in 2023-2024) providing over 45,909 meals for people in crisis. Through funding from Harborne Parish Lands Charity, the Eveson Trust, Turner Trust, the Alex Ferry Foundation, St Mary's Mission Giving Group, Trusthouse Charitable Foundation and The Trussell Trust, we were able to maintain our part-time staff team to include a Foodbank Co-ordinator (18), Warehouse Coordinator (12), Warehouse Assistant (5), and an Administrator (15), as well as shared staff with the Pantry and other projects of a Lead Project Manager, Financial Administrator and cross-project Warehouse Assistant.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

We continue to be supported by a fantastic team of dedicated volunteers, including some volunteers who have aided since the Foodbank opened in 2012. Despite the unanticipated cost of living crisis that has followed the Pandemic, and the ongoing need for our services, we were able to keep up with the demand, including fresh bread and other bakery items (donated by Warburtons), hygiene and personal care items (supported by Bloody Good Period and Beauty Bank). We have increased our volunteer team and our signposting and support services to those in financial crisis. We worked with over 100 partner referral agencies and continue to work with partners such as Citizen's Advice, Brushstrokes, Help Through Hardship, Local Welfare Provision and The Community Offer to provide support to people experiencing a range of issues including redundancy, unemployment, benefit delays, domestic violence, and addiction.

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick

The Pantry continues to provide support with new members signing up weekly; we have extended our opening times by opening an additional afternoon each week and have increased membership, with plans to increase this further. We have worked in partnership with Smethwick Library to create an information and signposting hub during Pantry's opening hours. This has included Citizen's Advice, mental health support and local children's centre services.

As a charity, two of our core values are to be inclusive and accepting, and therefore we are passionate about ensuring not only the quality and standards of the food we provide, but to offer a ray of hope to those who are in financial crisis.

Case Study: A pantry member with 9 children who has lost income due to a change in her eligibility for certain benefits was having to borrow money to pay her £6 pantry membership fee. As well as providing a referral to Citizen's Advice, we were able to provide free nappies, sanitary products and baby food to the member to help reduce the burden on her income.

Church Network

The churches that had funding to develop their kitchen spaces last year have now been able to reopen previous community initiatives as well as start new ones, for example, a 'chatty cafe' to support those learning English; a community youth group that involves the young people cooking and eating together; stay and play sessions that include family cooking time; Places of Welcome and coffee mornings. A Renew Wellbeing Café at one of the churches in our network has now been open for over a year and is successfully welcoming members of the local community in need of support and friendship.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025 shows incoming resources totalling £150,081 (2024: £187,980) and resources expended totalling £169,888 (2024: £190,388), generating net outgoing resources of £19,807 (2024: net outgoing resources of £2,408).

The charity's balance sheet is recording total net assets of £79,598 as at 31 March 2025 (2024: £99,405).

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

FUTURE PLANS

Like all organisations, the Pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis has continued to have a major impact on our services, with demand continuing to be at all-time high. This is a trend that unfortunately is likely to continue. As we look to the future, our aim is to continue to focus on supporting people to move from crisis to self-sufficiency, whilst also being realistic about our own limitations and a desire to do all things well. Although much has been achieved in this area over the past 12 months, going into the new financial year we are planning to focus on:

- Continuing to develop a sustainable funding strategy, not only with grant applications but deepening our relationships with local organisations, for example surplus food donations, corporate support (including our partnership with Action Against Hunger) and exploring how we can share resources with other local charities and partners, including being a lead organisation in the Sandwell-wide distribution hub for Foodbanks and Pantries which opens later this year.

- As a grassroots organisation, the relationship between the charity and associated churches has been one that has grown and developed organically over the course of the charity's existence. As a result of the work that began in March 2022 to consider the question of "What makes a church a Smethwick CAN Church?", a more formalised membership statement that churches can sign up to has been created, with the focus being on partnership work and on proactively seeking opportunities to collaborate. This collaborative work culminated in a celebratory event in October 2023. The church leaders' gathering will remain open to all church leaders, whether members or not.

- Further increase the opening hours for Pantry to be able to increase the number of members that we can welcome on weekly basis, with a particular focus on direct referrals from the Foodbank.

- Energy advice services will begin attending Pantry sessions in the summer of 2024.

- Focus on increasing the cultural diversity of food on offer at the Pantry to ensure that it reflects the multi-cultural needs and backgrounds of our members.

- Continued development and integration of signposting and information hubs at both Foodbank and Pantry, including further exploration of advocacy services and how we can better support people to advocate for themselves in times of crisis.

- Formation of a steering group for both Pantry and Foodbank, comprising of trustees, staff, volunteers, donors, and service users to ensure those with lived experience remain at the heart of all we do, and their voices are heard at all levels of decision making.

- We are continuing to explore longer term bids for both core and additional costs, and also more sustainable mixed models of fundraising.

- To further develop the impact and scope of our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to ensure volunteers of all needs and abilities are well supported and their voices are heard at all operational and strategic levels. In 2024-25 there will be a focus on recruiting and supporting volunteers with additional needs, both at Foodbank and Pantry, as well as at projects within the church network.

- In addition, we are looking at developing our volunteering offer through seeking accreditation for all volunteer training, sourcing new avenues from which to recruit new volunteers and further developing collaboration working with Youth Offending Services to provide a wider variety of placements for young people (e.g. at the Community Orchard). Alongside this development we are hoping to begin the process towards Investing in Volunteers Quality Standards accreditation, however this is dependent on securing funding.?

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
CE002343 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1157993

Registered office
Holy Trinity Community Office
Church Hill Street
Smethwick
West Midlands
B67 7AH

Trustees
D R Gould
N M Ross
W Dyke
K J Peniket
J R Crewes (resigned 31.3.25)
J Cannings
S J Bentham
H Girling
G D Brown

Company Secretary
W Dyke

Independent Examiner
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24/10/2025..... and signed on its behalf by:


.....
~~D R Gould~~ - Trustee
N M Ross

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Smethwick Church Action Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



James Cruse FCA, FCCA

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Date: 24/10/2025

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and grants		34,924	101,547	136,471	176,507
Other trading activities	2	<u>13,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,610</u>	<u>11,473</u>
Total		<u>48,534</u>	<u>101,547</u>	<u>150,081</u>	<u>187,980</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		63,112	93,318	156,430	171,128
Support costs		9,108	786	9,894	16,464
Governance costs		<u>3,537</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>3,564</u>	<u>2,796</u>
Total		<u>75,757</u>	<u>94,131</u>	<u>169,888</u>	<u>190,388</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(27,223)	7,416	(19,807)	(2,408)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>70,175</u>	<u>29,230</u>	<u>99,405</u>	<u>101,813</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>42,952</u>	<u>36,646</u>	<u>79,598</u>	<u>99,405</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	3,053	-	3,053	5,014
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	-	-	-	79
Cash at bank and in hand		44,211	36,643	80,854	99,790
		44,211	36,643	80,854	99,869
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,309)	-	(4,309)	(5,478)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		39,902	36,643	76,545	94,391
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		42,955	36,643	79,598	99,405
NET ASSETS		42,955	36,643	79,598	99,405
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				42,955	70,175
Restricted funds				36,643	29,230
TOTAL FUNDS				79,598	99,405

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

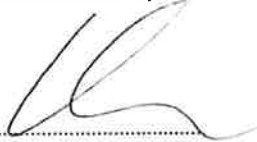
The notes form part of these financial statements

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2025

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24/10/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



D.R. Gould - Trustee

Read Nick Rose : Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

PENSION COSTS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Shop income	<u>13,610</u>	<u>11,473</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiners fees	2,340	1,800
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>2,365</u>	<u>2,291</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
Employees		

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2024	1,518	6,256	3,117	10,891
Additions	-	-	404	404
At 31 March 2025	1,518	6,256	3,521	11,295
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2024	755	3,556	1,566	5,877
Charge for year	303	1,251	811	2,365
At 31 March 2025	1,058	4,807	2,377	8,242
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2025	460	1,449	1,144	3,053
At 31 March 2024	763	2,700	1,551	5,014

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	-	79

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Social security and other taxes	289	283
Other creditors	170	173
Credit card	1,510	3,222
Accrued expenses	2,340	1,800
	4,309	5,478

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	60,632	(27,220)	33,412
Pantry Membership	<u>9,543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,543</u>
	70,175	(27,220)	42,955
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust	2,250	(2,250)	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	6,404	(5,056)	1,348
Harborne Parish Lands	-	656	656
Sandwell MBC Pantry	3,863	675	4,538
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	2,443	(2,443)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	2,037	(2,037)	-
National Grid Community Matters Fund	192	(192)	-
TFL Community Fund	41	(41)	-
Turner Trust	2,000	(2,000)	-
The Eveson Trust	10,000	(10,000)	-
Metal Closures	-	1,544	1,544
National Lottery	-	10,000	10,000
SCVo St Marys	-	1,076	1,076
St Marys	-	1,701	1,701
Trust House	-	7,358	7,358
TT Sustainability Grant	<u>-</u>	<u>8,422</u>	<u>8,422</u>
	29,230	7,413	36,643
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>99,405</u>	<u>(19,807)</u>	<u>79,598</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	48,534	(75,754)	(27,220)
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust	-	(2,250)	(2,250)
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	20,250	(25,306)	(5,056)
Harborne Parish Lands	17,077	(16,421)	656
Sandwell MBC Pantry	5,501	(4,826)	675
Tesco Groundworks	363	(363)	-
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	-	(2,443)	(2,443)
Tenderstem Broccoli	5,834	(5,834)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	(2,037)	(2,037)
National Grid Community Matters Fund	-	(192)	(192)
TFL Community Fund	-	(41)	(41)
Turner Trust	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
Dulverton Trust Fund	4,928	(4,928)	-
Warburtons Community Fund	400	(400)	-
The Eveson Trust	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Metal Closures	1,630	(86)	1,544
National Lottery	10,000	-	10,000
SCVo St Marys	1,600	(524)	1,076
St Marys	2,559	(858)	1,701
Trust House	9,680	(2,322)	7,358
TT Sustainability Grant	20,425	(12,003)	8,422
Woodward	1,000	(1,000)	-
WVCA	300	(300)	-
	<u>101,547</u>	<u>(94,134)</u>	<u>7,413</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>150,081</u>	<u>(169,888)</u>	<u>(19,807)</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	41,158	19,474	60,632
Pantry Membership	<u>13,122</u>	<u>(3,579)</u>	<u>9,543</u>
	54,280	15,895	70,175
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	2,250	-	2,250
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	7,506	(1,102)	6,404
Awards 4 All	1,948	(1,948)	-
EPIC fund 2	13,903	(13,903)	-
Harborne Parish Lands	3,405	(3,405)	-
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	6,393	(6,393)	-
Sandwell MBC Pantry	239	3,624	3,863
Tesco Groundworks	1,540	(1,540)	-
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	10,349	(7,906)	2,443
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	2,037	2,037
National Grid Community Matters Fund	-	192	192
TFL Community Fund	-	41	41
Turner Trust	-	2,000	2,000
The Eveson Trust	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>47,533</u>	<u>(18,303)</u>	<u>29,230</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>101,813</u>	<u>(2,408)</u>	<u>99,405</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	42,392	(22,918)	19,474
Pantry Membership	<u>11,472</u>	<u>(15,051)</u>	<u>(3,579)</u>
	53,864	(37,969)	15,895
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	9,000	(9,000)	-
Local Giving Magic Grants	500	(500)	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	47,500	(48,602)	(1,102)
Awards 4 All	-	(1,948)	(1,948)
EPIC fund 2	-	(13,903)	(13,903)
Harborne Parish Lands	21,423	(24,828)	(3,405)
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	-	(6,393)	(6,393)
Sandwell MBC Pantry	7,960	(4,336)	3,624
Tesco Groundworks	3,452	(4,992)	(1,540)
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	-	(7,906)	(7,906)
Tenderstem Broccoli	5,000	(5,000)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	2,500	(463)	2,037
National Grid Community Matters Fund	6,497	(6,305)	192
TFL Community Fund	9,948	(9,907)	41
Turner Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Dulverton Trust Fund	4,436	(4,436)	-
The Harry Payne Fund	1,500	(1,500)	-
Heart of England Community Foundation	2,000	(2,000)	-
Warburtons Community Fund	400	(400)	-
The Eveson Trust	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>134,116</u>	<u>(152,419)</u>	<u>(18,303)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>187,980</u>	<u>(190,388)</u>	<u>(2,408)</u>

Unrestricted - General Funds

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for any particular purpose.

Designated - Pantry Membership Funds

This fund contains traded income from money paid weekly by Pantry members, and occasional donations to Your Local Pantry Smethwick.

Restricted - Alex Ferry

This is a grant from the Alex Ferry foundation for Lead Project Manager salary costs from April to September 2024, and for rucksacks of equipment and clothing for homeless Foodbank clients.

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - Dulverton

This is a grant from the Heart of England Birmingham and Black Country Communities Fund in conjunction with the Dulverton Trust for Pantry food costs.

Restricted - Eveson

This is a grant from the Eveson Trust towards staff costs from April 2024 to March 2025.

Restricted - Harborne Parish Lands Charity

This is a grant towards Foodbank staff costs from July 2024 to June 2025.

Restricted - Metal Closures Limited

This is a grant from Metal Closures Limited Staff Welfare Fund for food hygiene training and laptops.

Restricted - National Grid

This is a grant from National Grid Community Matters Fund for foodbank staff costs, warm home packs for foodbank clients, and additional heating costs.

Restricted - National Lottery

This is a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund for Foodbank Coordinator and Foodbank Administrator salary costs April to September 2025.

Restricted - SCVO via St Marys

This is a grant from Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations for Foodbank Manager and Finance Administrator salary costs, in respect of assistance given in the setup and management of Bearwood Pantry.

Restricted - Sandwell MBC (Foodbank)

This is ongoing funding from Sandwell MBC specifically designated for food costs and carrier bags for use within our Foodbank project.

Restricted - Sandwell MBC (Pantry)

This is a grant from the Household Support Fund for food for members of Your Local Pantry Smethwick.

Restricted - St Mary's Mission Giving Group

This is a grant from St Mary's Church Bearwood, for Foodbank Coordinator salary costs from December 2024 to November 2025.

Restricted - Tenderstem Broccoli

This is a grant from Action against Hunger in conjunction with Tenderstem Broccoli to support Your Local Pantry Smethwick with staffing costs, winter warmer hampers, and additional culturally appropriate foods (eg: halal food, vegetarian food).

Restricted - Tesco Groundworks

These are ongoing small grants from Tesco for the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables for Foodbank users.

Restricted - TFL Community Fund

This was a grant for Foodbank staff costs from January to March 2024.

Restricted - Trusthouse

This is a grant from Trusthouse Charitable Foundation for rent costs and Volunteer Coordinator salary costs from January to December 2025.

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - TT Sustainability Grant

This is a Trussell Trust grant of £20,000 for Foodbank food costs.

Restricted - TT Strategic Facilities Grant

This funding is a Trussell Trust grant towards the cost of rent costs from July 2021 to June 2025, and foodbank shelving.

Restricted - TT Winter Support Grant

This is a Trussell Trust grant designated to additional staffing costs, food costs, and slow cookers for foodbank clients. An underspend was allocated to rental costs.

Restricted - Turner Trust

This is a grant towards core costs, which has been internally allocated to Warehouse Administrator salary costs from April to June 2024.

Restricted - Warburtons

This is a small grant from Warburtons for Foodbank Coordinator salary costs from January to February 2025.

Restricted - Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action

This is a payment from WVCA for Volunteer Coordinator salary costs, in respect to NHS Integrated Care Board research carried out in June-July 2024.

Restricted - Woodward

This is a grant from Woodward Charitable Trust for rental costs.

Designated Corporate Donations

These are corporate donations for our general funds, which have been internally designated to cover particular funding needs:

Richardson Brothers - £3,000 - designated to Foodbank Administrator salary costs from April to July 2024.

Enfinium - £6,000 - designated to Lead Project Manager salary costs from April to September 2024.

ASDA Foundation - £1,000 - designated to Foodbank food costs from October to December 2024.

Richardson Brothers - £3,000 - designated to Foodbank Administrator salary costs from December 2024 to March 2025.

Cole Charitable Trust - £1,500 - designated to Volunteer Coordinator salary costs from January to June 2025.

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE002343 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157993

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2023: leaving behind the Covid pandemic, but not its aftermath in the community that is Smethwick. Partner agencies struggling to re-establish their services, recruit staff and face the new reality that is 2023.

Behind every bag of food that is handed out at Smethwick Foodbank and every customer welcomed at Your Local Pantry Smethwick, there is a huge team of people that most people don't see. There are the people spotting need, perhaps a teacher seeing a child who is hungry, a community midwife seeing empty shelves when they visit, a neighbour who offers support. In these and many other situations the story begins of an individual or family who are going to bed hungry but who do not need to.

Smethwick CAN: it's a people thing.

There are the twenty-seven volunteers who turn up every week ready to serve the most vulnerable in their community. Alongside them are the teams from Birmingham Youth Offending Service and Crockett's Community Primary School who come in every week to assist in the warehouse. There are the partner agencies who work directly with us. There are the funders who make possible all we do. Then there is the team of outstanding part-time staff. Finally, there are the trustees of Smethwick CAN who have responsibility for the oversight of all that is done by this amazing team of people.

Smethwick CAN, it's a people thing.

All of these people come together to serve the people who come to Pantry and Foodbank. These are the people that Smethwick CAN exists for. My dream continues that nobody needs to go to bed hungry in Smethwick. The people of Smethwick serving the people of Smethwick.

Smethwick CAN, it's a people thing.

With thanks to all who make Smethwick CAN possible

Revd David Gould

Chair of Trustees, Smethwick CAN

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Smethwick Church Action Network is a grassroots organisation that seeks to support our neighbours in times of crisis and walk with them to a place of hope and self-sufficiency. Smethwick CAN is an asset-based community organisation, grown from the premise that we can achieve much more together than we ever could in isolation. We have an established foodbank, community pantry, signposting, and volunteering services, as well as supporting the churches in the network to develop their own social action projects and initiatives.

How we go about our work is as important for us as the work itself. Therefore, all our endeavours are underpinned by an ethos that we are always stronger working together.

Smethwick Church Action Network has a set of **12 Core Values** that underpin how we work:

*** Collaborative and Partnering** We work together as a group of churches, partnering with local initiative and resources to signpost our neighbours to additional support within the community.

*** Inclusive and Accepting** Anyone is welcome to come and serve or be served regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

*** Intentional and Responsive** To love our neighbours and community well, we need to be watchful of the needs and intentional about how we respond: stewarding our resources to where they are needed and wanted

*** Integrity and Excellence** We want to deliver high quality projects with transparency. This includes the food we provide (high quality and healthy), the way we recruit and treat our team (safeguarding and staff care), the way we treat our neighbours and colleagues (with dignity and respect) and the way we handle our finances; as we steward ALL aspects of what God has entrusted to us in a responsible way.

*** Advocacy and Empowering** We want to pay attention to the ideas, dreams and voices within our neighbourhood as well as speaking up for those who don't have a voice through advocacy, while also working to empower them to have one through campaigning and seeking change at a structural and governmental level.

*** Prayerful and Motivated by the Love of Christ** All our work is done in prayer because we believe God loves Smethwick and wants to see our neighbours and our community flourish.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Smethwick Foodbank

The demand on Smethwick Foodbank has increased over the past 12 months due to the Cost-of-Living crisis, rise in fuel prices and other factors affecting the local community. The demand had remained very consistent since the steep increase in April 2020, however, demand increased sharply in September 2023, and overall, 483 parcels have been given out on average each month during the last financial year, compared with an average of 427 parcels being given out each month, in both 2021/22 and 2022/23 (as a comparison, 190 parcels per month were given out in 2019/20).

The main causes of crisis throughout the year have been the rising cost of essentials, the ongoing impact of a physical or mental health condition, and insecure housing, a change from previous years where having no recourse to public funds and benefit delays were common reasons for referral.

In the last twelve months there has been a shift in the household structure of people requiring Foodbank support: currently, 36% of people accessing the Foodbank are families (with 16% of these being single parent households), down from 48% last year; 61% are single; 3% are couples. The biggest increase has been in the number of single people accessing our services as support for families has been a priority in Sandwell over the last few years which has consequently reduced the number of families who need emergency foodbank support, for example in the provision of food and vouchers for during school holidays for children who receive free school meals.

As in previous years, 60% of Foodbank users are from the four Smethwick wards, with residents of the remainder of Sandwell and of Birmingham each making up around 20% of users each month. To address the needs of clients accessing Foodbank and not seeking additional help for their monetary crisis, we have successfully implemented a variety of strategies to encourage clients to seek help from other organisations. Each Foodbank session, we host a Signposting Hub with representatives from The Cost of Living Team (COLT), Citizen's Advice, Healthy Minds Sandwell, Action for Children and Sandwell Community Offer and other local and national organisations. Advice and signposting leaflets are provided to each client and are updated monthly. There is also a telephone service for additional signposting. We have subsequently seen an increase in clients who would normally self-refer attending with vouchers and receiving benefits reviews, budgeting, and income maximisation advice etc. and therefore needing less long-term support from us.

We have continued to operate a pre-packed only service and to provide a range of personal care and household cleaning items, fresh fruit, and vegetables from Fareshare and other providers, and fresh bread and bakery items donated by both Warburtons and Marks and Spencer. We also provide specific pre-packed parcels for homeless and vegetarian / Halal Foodbank users and have these available each session. Smethwick Foodbank operates a 'donations day' each Wednesday where Holy Trinity Church is open for donations from the local community and corporate and business donors.

We have again increased the number of Referral Agencies, focusing on local services that are providing face-to-face provision, including all doctor's surgeries and schools within Smethwick, and a wide range of local charities, including refugee support charities and those offering debt and addiction support. It is vital to work in partnership with our referral agencies to ensure that the full spectrum of advice and support is offered to our neighbours in financial hardship.

Training has been a priority in the last twelve months, with volunteers and staff accessing an unprecedented level of training and support. We have trained staff and volunteers in Emergency First Aid at Work, Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Manual Handling and Allergen Training.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Going forwards, the focus is again on maintaining funding; working in partnership with Sandwell Council in their new food distribution hub for foodbanks and pantries; developing our strategic goals; developing the training and support we offer to all volunteers, regardless of needs; and in ensuring that clients continue to receive timely help and avoid long term Foodbank use where possible.

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick Food Pantry

Your Local Pantry Smethwick is a member of the Your Local Pantry network and operates as a longer-term and sustainable option for addressing food poverty within the local area. It operates as a member-led neighbourhood hub that provides low-cost, quality food to its members, as well as being a springboard into other community initiatives and support services. The pantry has been able to support members with access to high quality fresh food saving an average of £33.96 per week on a grocery bill, plus free fruit and vegetables which are provided in addition to their main shopping.

Members have struggled with the cost-of-living crisis and the rising cost of energy bills. Members reported that they were not using their conventional gas cookers to make hot meals as they were worried about their utility bills; they were not using their free vegetables and in some cases were throwing them away. As a pantry team, we wanted to find creative ways to overcome these hurdles.

The aim for this year was to help pantry members to utilise all of the produce sold at the pantry and in the summer, we launched the project 'Don't Waste Food'. We ran cooking classes with demonstrations of how the fresh produce could be cooked and made into wholesome meals without the need for lengthy cooking in an oven. The meals were cooked using slow cookers and air fryers so that they could be more cost effective. Research confirmed that it costs only 13p to cook a hot, healthy and nutritious meal in a slow cooker and just 18p in an air fryer. The cookery classes were a great success but most members did not own a slow cooker nor an air fryer, so we secured funding to purchase both of these for pantry members and these were distributed in the winter months to members who are now benefiting from these items.

Tenderstem Broccoli, who are a partner of Action Against Hunger, continue to support Your Local Pantry Smethwick, which has enabled us to extend the opening hours of the pantry to Tuesday afternoons in addition to the main pantry day of Wednesday. Because of this, the waiting list has significantly come down from 120 to 13 and we have been able to accommodate direct referrals from the Foodbank.

We have built good working relationships with PRL@Sainsbury's where we have a local donation point. We provide a 'wish list' of scarce items and donors are generous in their response. Smethwick Pantry is also working closely with a local independent Supermarket and now has a donation point in their premises which is collected weekly. These relationships help maintain the sustainability of the Pantry.

Currently we have 74 members signed up as pantry members. In the 2023/2024 financial year we had a total of 2,049 individual member visits. Smethwick Pantry is more than a pantry, it is about connecting people and helping them build a brighter future.

Church Network

Meeting monthly for prayers, encouragement and having a moan(!) is becoming a habit again! Church Leaders are encouraged to look beyond their own responsibilities and begin to dream dreams for the future of our work together. New friendships and partnerships are being established and it is from these new foundations that future ministry and ideas will flow.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As churches we have an opportunity to offer leadership in our local community in areas such as climate change, community cohesion, welcoming of newly arrived people and setting the tone and manner for that as we seek to live the gospel we try to live by.

We give thanks for the work of Hannah Girling, Trustee responsible for the Church Network, who is energising us all and making sure we are on time and in the right church every month! Thanks Hannah!

Community Sponsorship

Smethwick CAN is no longer the lead sponsor of the Smethwick Community Sponsorship group, however we are still providing advice and support, including organising volunteering opportunities for a member of the sponsored family. Part of the Home Office scheme, the project aims to house and support a newly arrived family in the UK. With funds provided by Solihull Methodist Church, the group were successful in obtaining a house and welcomed a family in September 2022. With support from a dedicated group of volunteers from varying churches and community groups, the family are now thriving and accessing both national and community-based support services including health, education, ESOL classes, as well as recreational activities, including local parks and community green spaces.

Public benefit

Smethwick Church Action Network (CAN) aims to serve our neighbours in times of crisis and help facilitate a transition from being a place of need, to one of opportunity, hope, and self-sufficiency. Smethwick CAN started out as a grassroots network of churches who gathered in 2011 with the aim of supporting those in the local community who were experiencing food poverty. From this, Smethwick Foodbank (part of the national Trussell Trust network) was launched. Sadly, our Foodbank is now busier than ever, with this trend only set to continue as the cost-of-living crisis and aftermath of the pandemic take their toll. In 2014 Smethwick CAN became a registered charity and since then the churches have launched numerous other projects. We currently run a Community Pantry in Smethwick Library as well as aiding local churches to expand and develop their community activities. The churches in the network host a variety of coffee mornings, children and youth activities, Places of Welcome and community lunches. We collaborate closely with numerous partner organisations and, with thanks to funding from SCVO, have expanded our information and signposting hubs at both Foodbank and Pantry, to include a wide range of advice and support partners. We would love to see a day when there is no need for Foodbanks and are actively looking at ways we can support our neighbours out of places of crisis and food poverty and into places where they can thrive.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers

We have further developed our existing relationship with the Birmingham Youth Offending team by including a formal volunteer recruitment process for their clients, giving them practice in the skills required when applying for jobs. We also include them in Safeguarding and Manual Handling training, giving them certificates that can add to their CV. We have had very positive feedback from the parolees post-placement reviews, particularly about how welcomed and valued they felt whilst with us. Also this year, we were asked to provide references for parolees attending court hearings, detailing any progress they have made in their learning and development.

We have been able to extend limited support to adults recently released from prison on parole, and have made links with Released to Change, a local charity that supports adult men released from prison, who are trying to build a new life in the community. On two occasions this year we had applications from two such men, who due to the limits of their parole, were unable to volunteer with us, but we were able to introduce them to Release to Change who help them look for more suitable volunteering roles and offer them mentorship to help with other concerns they may have.

This year we have started working in partnership with the Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Team (SAFAL). We have been working together to develop volunteering opportunities for adults with Learning or Physical difficulties, with one person actively volunteering and three others going through an extended recruitment process to ensure they have the right support to become a volunteer with us. This can be a time-consuming process as it requires multiple visits or meetings with the potential volunteer, their families and SAFAL, followed by robust support planning and risk assessment to ensure a successful and supportive placement.

It has been widely acknowledged that volunteering in a Foodbank or Food Pantry can be emotional and stressful, therefore the Volunteer Co-ordinator has continued to provide formal and informal opportunities to 'check in' with all volunteers and support where needed.

A reflection template has been developed and has been offered following any distressing incident that has caused concerns. This can be used with an individual or a group and is facilitated by the Volunteer Co-ordinator. It has proved to be very effective in helping volunteers overcome their emotional distress.

It has also been shared with two other local charities who expressed an interest in what we do here to support volunteers.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Recruitment

Stage of Recruitment	No.	Comments
Expressed an interest	69	All who rang or emailed expressing a wish to volunteer
Number we declined	5	All who were not eligible to become a volunteer at SCAN
Completed applications reviewed	36	All completed applications received
Number fully recruited	20	All who completed the full recruitment process
Number who volunteered	17	All who carried out at least 1 session as a volunteer.

The above figures show that of all the requests we have to volunteer, 29% resulted in actual volunteers across SCAN's projects. It is difficult to compare these figures to the National Council for Voluntary Organisation data as it does not collate figures showing percentage of enquiries resulting in successful recruitment of volunteers. However, on discussion with other local charities and the Sandwell Council Voluntary Organisation, 29% recruitment rate from initial enquiries to actual volunteering is considered a very good outcome.

Reasons for leaving in descending order:

1. Declined a DBS check
2. Inadequate references
3. To commence full time education
4. To start a new job
5. Moved to a new area

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Smethwick Foodbank

Over the 12-month period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2024 we provided 5796 emergency food parcels (5,121 in 2022-2023) providing over 123,000 meals for people in crisis. Through funding from the Esmée Fairbairne Foundation (SCVO / Epic), Harborne Parish Lands Charity, Awards for All, Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, TFL Community Fund, The National Grid Community Fund and The Trussell Trust, we were able to maintain our part-time staff team to include a Foodbank Manager, Warehouse Coordinator, Warehouse Assistant, a Signposting and Volunteer Co-ordinator and an Administrator.

We continue to be supported by a fantastic team of dedicated volunteers, including some volunteers who have helped since the Foodbank opened in 2012. Despite the unanticipated cost of living crisis that has followed the Pandemic, and the ongoing need for our services, we were able to keep up with the demand, including providing fresh fruit and vegetables to supplement our food parcels through twice-weekly deliveries from Fareshare. We have increased our volunteer team and our signposting and support services to those in financial crisis. We worked with over 100 partner referral agencies and continue to work with partners such as Citizen's Advice, Brushstrokes, Help Through Hardship, Local Welfare Provision and The Community Offer to provide support to people experiencing a range of issues including redundancy, unemployment, benefit delays, domestic violence, and addiction.

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick

The Pantry continues to provide support with new members signing up weekly; we have extended our opening times by opening an additional afternoon each week and have increased membership, with plans to increase this further. We have worked in partnership with Smethwick Library to create an information and signposting hub during Pantry opening hours. This has included Citizen's Advice, mental health support and local children's centre services.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As a charity, two of our core values are to be inclusive and accepting, and therefore we are passionate about ensuring not only the quality and standards of the food we provide, but to offer a ray of hope to those who are in financial crisis.

Case Study: a pantry member with 9 children who has lost income due to a change in her eligibility for certain benefits was having to borrow money to pay her £6 pantry membership fee. As well as providing a referral to Citizen's Advice, we were able to provide free nappies, sanitary products and baby food to the member to help reduce the burden on her income.

The pantry always goes above and beyond to support our community when in need.

Church Network

The churches that had funding to develop their kitchen spaces last year have now been able to reopen previous community initiatives as well as start new ones, for example, a 'chatty cafe' to support those learning English; a community youth group that involves the young people cooking and eating together; stay and play sessions that include family cooking time; Places of Welcome and coffee mornings. A Renew Wellbeing Café at one of the churches in our network has now been open for over a year and is successfully welcoming members of the local community in need of support and friendship.

Community Sponsorship

The Community Sponsorship group welcomed their first family in September 2022, throughout the whole of the last year, this has been a wonderful opportunity for members of varying churches and communities to come together and support the family as they settle to life in the UK. Even though we are no longer the lead organisation, Smethwick CAN have helped by supporting them to access health services and to complete financial applications; assisting with access to schools and provision of school uniform, and attending school parents' evenings, as well as providing volunteering opportunities to a member of the family. In addition, the volunteers have provided a safe and consistent befriending base and enabled the family to access local community support e.g. finding a welcoming place to worship, connecting them with other families from the same cultural background, introducing and supporting them to use public transport, and accompanying them to stay and play groups and ESOL services. Currently the volunteers are helping the family develop their own hobbies and interests and continue to improve their English language skills.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024 shows incoming resources totalling £187,980 (2023: £199,389) and resources expended totalling £190,388 (2023: £147,630), generating net outgoing resources of £2,408 (2023: net incoming resources of £51,759).

The charity's balance sheet is recording total net assets of £99,405 as at 31 March 2024 (2023: £101,813).

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

FUTURE PLANS

Like all organisations, the Pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis has continued to have had a major impact on our services, with demand continuing to be at all-time high. This is a trend that unfortunately is only going to continue. As we look to the future, our aim is to continue to focus on supporting people to move from crisis to self-sufficiency, whilst also being realistic about our own limitations and a desire to do all things well. Although much has been achieved in this area over the past 12 months, going into the new financial year we are planning to focus on:

- Continuing to develop a sustainable funding strategy, not only with grant applications but deepening our relationships with local organisations, for example surplus food donations, corporate support (including our partnership with Action Against Hunger) and exploring how we can share resources with other local charities and partners, including being a lead organisation in the Sandwell-wide distribution hub for Foodbanks and Pantries which opens later this year.
- As a grassroots organisation, the relationship between the charity and associated churches has been one that has grown and developed organically over the course of the charity's existence. As a result of the work that began in March 2022 to consider the question of 'What makes a church a Smethwick CAN Church?', a more formalised membership statement that churches can sign up to has been created, with the focus being on partnership work and on proactively seeking opportunities to collaborate. This collaborative work culminated in a celebratory event in October 2023. The church leaders' gathering will remain open to all church leaders, whether members or not.
- Further increase the opening hours for Pantry to be able to increase the number of members that we can welcome on weekly basis, with a particular focus on direct referrals from the Foodbank.
- Energy advice services will begin attending Pantry sessions in the summer of 2024.
- Focus on increasing the cultural diversity of food on offer at the Pantry to ensure that it reflects the multi-cultural needs and backgrounds of our members.
- Continued development and integration of signposting and information hubs at both Foodbank and Pantry, including further exploration of advocacy services and how we can better support people to advocate for themselves in times of crisis.
- Formation of a steering group for both Pantry and Foodbank, comprising of trustees, staff, volunteers, donors, and service users to ensure those with lived experience remain at the heart of all we do, and their voices are heard at all levels of decision making.
- We are continuing to explore longer term bids for both core and additional costs and more sustainable mixed models of fundraising.
- To further develop the impact and scope of our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to ensure volunteers of all needs and abilities are well supported and their voices are heard at all operational and strategic levels. In 2024-25 there will be a focus on recruiting and supporting volunteers with additional needs, both at Foodbank and Pantry, as well as at projects within the church network.
- In addition, we are looking at developing our volunteering offer through seeking accreditation for all volunteer training. We are also sourcing new avenues from which to recruit new volunteers and further developing our collaboration working with Birmingham Youth Offending Services to provide a wider variety of placements for young people (e.g. at the Community Orchard). We are additionally hoping to begin the process towards Investing in Volunteers Quality Standards accreditation, however this is dependent on funding.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

CE002343 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1157993

Registered office

Holy Trinity Community Office
Church Hill Street
Smethwick
West Midlands
B67 7AH

Trustees

D R Gould
N M Ross
W Dyke
K J Peniket
J R Crewes
J Cannings
S J Bentham
H Girling
G D Brown

Company Secretary

W Dyke

Independent Examiner

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10/09/2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
D R Gould - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Smethwick Church Action Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



James Cruse ACA, FCCA

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Date: 10/09/2024.....

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and grants		42,391	134,116	176,507	190,149
Other trading activities	2	11,473	-	11,473	9,240
Total		53,864	134,116	187,980	199,389
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		23,839	147,289	171,128	131,769
Support costs		11,360	5,104	16,464	13,218
Governance costs		2,769	27	2,796	2,643
Total		37,968	152,420	190,388	147,630
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		15,896	(18,304)	(2,408)	51,759
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		54,280	47,533	101,813	50,054
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		70,176	29,229	99,405	101,813

The notes form part of these financial statements

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	5,014	-	5,014	7,065
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	79	-	79	544
Cash at bank and in hand		70,560	29,230	99,790	98,893
		70,639	29,230	99,869	99,437
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(5,478)	-	(5,478)	(4,689)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		65,161	29,230	94,391	94,748
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		70,175	29,230	99,405	101,813
NET ASSETS		70,175	29,230	99,405	101,813
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				70,175	54,280
Restricted funds				29,230	47,533
TOTAL FUNDS				99,405	101,813

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10/09/2024..... and were signed on its behalf by:



D R Gould - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	25% on cost

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

PENSION COSTS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Shop income	<u>11,473</u>	<u>9,240</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examiners fees	1,800	1,800
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	996	843
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>2,291</u>	<u>2,436</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	9	9
Employees	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2023	1,518	6,256	2,877	10,651
Additions	-	-	240	240
At 31 March 2024	1,518	6,256	3,117	10,891
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2023	451	2,304	831	3,586
Charge for year	304	1,252	735	2,291
At 31 March 2024	755	3,556	1,566	5,877
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2024	763	2,700	1,551	5,014
At 31 March 2023	1,067	3,952	2,046	7,065

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	79	544

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Social security and other taxes	283	-
Other creditors	173	-
Credit card	3,222	2,889
Accrued expenses	1,800	1,800
	5,478	4,689

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	41,158	19,474	60,632
Pantry Membership	13,122	(3,579)	9,543
	<u>54,280</u>	<u>15,895</u>	<u>70,175</u>
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	2,250	-	2,250
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	7,506	(1,102)	6,404
Awards 4 All	1,948	(1,948)	-
EPIC fund 2	13,903	(13,903)	-
Harborne Parish Lands	3,405	(3,405)	-
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	6,393	(6,393)	-
Sandwell MBC Pantry	239	3,624	3,863
Tesco Groundworks	1,540	(1,540)	-
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	10,349	(7,906)	2,443
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	2,037	2,037
National Grid Community Matters Fund	-	192	192
TFL Community Fund	-	41	41
Turner Trust	-	2,000	2,000
The Eveson Trust	-	10,000	10,000
	<u>47,533</u>	<u>(18,303)</u>	<u>29,230</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>101,813</u>	<u>(2,408)</u>	<u>99,405</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	42,392	(22,918)	19,474
Pantry Membership	11,472	(15,051)	(3,579)
	<u>53,864</u>	<u>(37,969)</u>	<u>15,895</u>
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	9,000	(9,000)	-
Local Giving Magic Grants	500	(500)	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	47,500	(48,602)	(1,102)
Awards 4 All	-	(1,948)	(1,948)
EPIC fund 2	-	(13,903)	(13,903)
Harborne Parish Lands	21,423	(24,828)	(3,405)
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	-	(6,393)	(6,393)
Sandwell MBC Pantry	7,960	(4,336)	3,624
Tesco Groundworks	3,452	(4,992)	(1,540)
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	-	(7,906)	(7,906)
Tenderstem Broccoli	5,000	(5,000)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	2,500	(463)	2,037
National Grid Community Matters Fund	6,497	(6,305)	192
TFL Community Fund	9,948	(9,907)	41
Turner Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Dulverton Trust Fund	4,436	(4,436)	-
The Harry Payne Fund	1,500	(1,500)	-
Heart of England Community Foundation	2,000	(2,000)	-
Warburtons Community Fund	400	(400)	-
The Eveson Trust	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>134,116</u>	<u>(152,419)</u>	<u>(18,303)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>187,980</u>	<u>(190,388)</u>	<u>(2,408)</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	27,365	15,710	(1,917)	41,158
Pantry Membership	4,712	4,551	3,859	13,122
	<u>32,077</u>	<u>20,261</u>	<u>1,942</u>	<u>54,280</u>
Restricted funds				
Epic Fund	1,800	(1,800)	-	-
Covid 19 Response	123	(123)	-	-
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	608	(608)	-	-
All Churches Trust	7,701	(7,701)	-	-
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	2,250	-	-	2,250
VINCI UK Foundation	2,875	(600)	(2,275)	-
Action Against Hunger	161	(161)	-	-
Community Sponsorship	2,128	(2,128)	-	-
Faithful Neighbourhoods	328	(328)	-	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	3	7,064	439	7,506
Awards 4 All	-	1,948	-	1,948
EPIC fund 2	-	13,903	-	13,903
Harborne Parish Lands	-	3,449	(44)	3,405
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	-	6,349	44	6,393
Sandwell MBC Pantry	-	239	-	239
Tesco Groundworks	-	1,540	-	1,540
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	-	10,349	-	10,349
Sainsbury Neighbourly	-	(1)	1	-
Tenderstem Broccoli	-	97	(97)	-
Western Power Distribution	-	10	(10)	-
	<u>17,977</u>	<u>31,498</u>	<u>(1,942)</u>	<u>47,533</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>50,054</u>	<u>51,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,813</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	44,274	(28,564)	15,710
Pantry Membership	11,219	(6,668)	4,551
	<u>55,493</u>	<u>(35,232)</u>	<u>20,261</u>
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	-	(1,800)	(1,800)
Covid 19 Response	-	(123)	(123)
Grantham Yorke	1,000	(1,000)	-
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	-	(608)	(608)
All Churches Trust	-	(7,701)	(7,701)
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	9,000	(9,000)	-
VINCI UK Foundation	-	(600)	(600)
Action Against Hunger	-	(161)	(161)
Local Giving Magic Grants	500	(500)	-
Community Sponsorship	7,532	(9,660)	(2,128)
Faithful Neighbourhoods	-	(328)	(328)
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	31,000	(23,936)	7,064
Awards 4 All	8,600	(6,652)	1,948
EPIC fund 2	35,559	(21,656)	13,903
Harborne Parish Lands	7,141	(3,692)	3,449
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	10,740	(4,391)	6,349
Sandwell MBC Pantry	2,536	(2,297)	239
Tesco Groundworks	2,589	(1,049)	1,540
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	13,999	(3,650)	10,349
Sainsbury Neighbourly	500	(501)	(1)
Tenderstem Broccoli	10,700	(10,603)	97
Western Power Distribution	2,500	(2,490)	10
	<u>143,896</u>	<u>(112,398)</u>	<u>31,498</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>199,389</u>	<u>(147,630)</u>	<u>51,759</u>

Unrestricted - General Funds

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for any particular purpose.

Designated - Pantry Membership Funds

This fund contains traded income from money paid weekly by Pantry members, and occasional donations to Your Local Pantry Smethwick.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Designated - Corporate Donations

These are corporate donations for our general funds, which have been internally designated to cover particular funding needs:

Arnold Clark: £2,000 - designated to Pantry Manager salary costs from January to March 2024

Richardson Brothers: £3,000 - designated to Foodbank Administrator salary costs from April to September 2024.

Enfinium: £6,000 - designated to Foodbank Manager salary costs from April to September 2024.

Restricted - TT Strategic Facilities Grant

This funding is a Trussell Trust grant towards the cost of premises rental from July 2021 to June 2024, and foodbank shelving.

Restricted - Sandwell MBC (Foodbank)

This is ongoing funding from Sandwell MBC specifically designated for food costs and carrier bags for use within our foodbank project.

Restricted - Awards 4 All (National Lottery)

This is a grant from the National Lottery Community fund covering Foodbank Administrator salary costs from June 2022 to June 2023.

Restricted - Magic Grants

This is a small grant from Local Giving for Your Local Pantry Smethwick for frozen food.

Restricted - Epic Fund (2)

This funding is a grant from Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) designated to staff costs, refreshments for meetings, and training.

Restricted - Harborne Parish Land Charity

This is a grant towards Foodbank staff costs from January to December 2023.

Restricted - Julia & Hans Rausing Trust

This is a grant towards Foodbank salary costs from January to June 2023.

Restricted - Sandwell MBC (Pantry)

This is a grant from the Household Support Fund for food for members of Your Local Pantry Smethwick, and a further grant for Pantry members to be given slow cookers and air fryers.

Restricted - Tenderstem Broccoli

This is a grant from Action against Hunger in conjunction with Tenderstem Broccoli to support Your Local Pantry Smethwick with staffing costs, food costs and other specified costs as per the grant agreement.

Restricted - Tesco Groundworks

These are ongoing grants from Tesco for the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables for foodbank users.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - Trussell Trust Winter Support Grant

This is a Trussell Trust grant designated to additional staffing costs, food costs, and slow cookers for foodbank clients. An underspend was allocated to rental costs.

Restricted - Alex Ferry Foundation

This is a grant from the Alex Ferry foundation for Foodbank Manager salary costs from April to September 2024, and for rucksacks of equipment and clothing for homeless Foodbank clients.

Restricted - National Grid Community Matters Fund

This is a grant from National Grid Community Matters Fund for foodbank staff costs, warm home packs for foodbank clients, and additional heating costs.

Restricted - TFL Community Fund

This was a grant for Foodbank staff costs from January to March 2024.

Restricted - Turner Trust

This is a grant towards core costs, which has been internally allocated to Warehouse Administrator salary costs from April to June 2024.

Restricted - The Eveson Trust

This is a grant towards staff costs from April 2024 to March 2025.

Restricted - Dulverton Trust Fund

This is a grant from the Heart of England Birmingham and Black Country Communities Fund in conjunction with the Dulverton Trust for Pantry Manager salary costs from August 2023 to February 2024, and Pantry food costs.

Restricted - The Harry Payne Fund

This is a grant for additional heating costs, and equipment for foodbank.

Restricted - Heart of England Community Foundation

This is a grant for Your Local Pantry Smethwick for additional food stocks.

Restricted - Warburtons Community Fund

This is a small grant from Warburtons for Your Local Pantry Smethwick for frozen food.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE002343 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157993

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
FOR
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Smethwick Church Action Network is a grassroots organisation that seeks to support our neighbours in times of crisis and walk with them to a place of hope and self-sufficiency. Smethwick CAN is an asset-based community organisation, grown from the premise that we can achieve much more together than we ever could in isolation. We have an established foodbank, community pantry, signposting, and volunteering services, as well as supporting the churches in the network to develop their own social action projects and initiatives including being the lead organisation for the local community sponsorship group.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

How we go about our work is as important for us as the work itself. Therefore, all our endeavours are underpinned by an ethos that we are always stronger working together.

Smethwick Church Action Network has a set of **12 Core Values** that underpin how we work:

- **Collaborative and Partnering** (we work together as a group of churches, partnering with local initiative and resources to signpost our neighbours to additional support within the community).
- **Inclusive and Accepting** (anyone is welcome to come and serve or be served regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation).
- **Intentional and Responsive** (To love our neighbours and community well, we need to be watchful of the needs and intentional about how we respond: stewarding our resources to where they are needed and wanted).
- **Integrity and Excellence** (We want to deliver high quality projects with transparency. This includes the food we provide (high quality and healthy), the way we recruit and treat our team (safeguarding and staff care), the way we treat our neighbours and colleagues (with dignity and respect) and the way we handle our finances; as we steward ALL aspects of what God has entrusted to us in a responsible way).
- **Advocacy and Empowering** (We want to pay attention to the ideas, dreams and voices within our neighbourhood as well as speaking up for those who don't have a voice through advocacy, while also working to empower them to have one through campaigning and seeking change at a structural and governmental level).
- **Prayerful and Motivated by the Love of Christ** (All our work is done in prayer because we believe God loves Smethwick and wants to see our neighbours and our community flourish).

Smethwick Foodbank

The demand on Smethwick Foodbank has remained very consistent since the steep increase in demand in April 2020, with an average of 427 parcels being given out each month, in both 2021/22 and 2022/23. (As a comparison, 190 parcels per month were given out in 2019/20). The main causes of crisis throughout the year have remained low income, no recourse to public funds and benefit delays. In the last twelve months there has been a shift in the household structure of people requiring Foodbank support: currently, 48% of people accessing the Foodbank are families (with 16% of these being single parent households), down from 61% last year; 41% are single; 11% are couples. The biggest increase has been in the number of single people accessing our services as support for families has been a priority in Sandwell this year and has consequently reduced the number of families that need emergency foodbank support.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As in previous years, 60% of Foodbank users are from the four Smethwick wards, with residents of the remainder of Sandwell and of Birmingham each making up around 20% of users each month. To address the needs of clients accessing Foodbank and not seeking additional help for their monetary crisis, we have successfully implemented a variety of strategies to encourage clients to seek help from other organisations. We host a Signposting Hub with representatives from Citizen's Advice, Healthy Minds Sandwell, Action for Children and Sandwell Community Offer and other local and national organisations each Foodbank session. Advice and signposting leaflets are provided to each client and are updated monthly. There is also a telephone service for additional signposting. We have subsequently seen an increase in clients who would normally self-refer attending with vouchers and receiving benefits reviews, budgeting, and income maximisation advice etc. and needing less long-term support from us.

We have continued to operate a pre-packed only service and to provide a range of personal care and household cleaning items, fresh fruit, and vegetables from Fareshare, and fresh bread and bakery items donated by both Warburtons and Marks and Spencer. We also provide specific pre-packed parcels for homeless and vegetarian / Halal Foodbank users and have these available each session. Smethwick Foodbank operates a 'donations day' each Wednesday where Holy Trinity Church is open for donations from the local community and corporate and business donors.

We have increased the number of Referral Agencies, focusing on local services that are providing face-to-face provision, including all doctor's surgeries and schools within Smethwick, and a wide range of local charities, including refugee support charities that have been created in response to the war in Ukraine. It is vital to work in partnership with our referral agencies to ensure that the full spectrum of advice and support is offered to our neighbours in financial hardship.

Meet and Greet volunteers have completed Budgeting and Signposting training from Citizen's Advice and most warehouse volunteers have completed Safeguarding training, Health and Safety Level 2 and Food Hygiene Level 2, courtesy of a Volunteer Grant from The Trussell Trust. We have also trained staff and volunteers in Emergency First Aid at Work. Going forwards, the focus is on maintaining funding; developing our strategic goals; developing the training and support we offer to volunteers; and in ensuring that clients receive timely help and avoid long term Foodbank use where possible.

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick Food Pantry

The pantry has been able to support members with access to high quality fresh food saving an average of £26.50 per week on a grocery bill. We have utilised our volunteer and member skills to create a recipe book and provide "Meal Deal" ideas to make the most of a regular Pantry shopping basket.

In November 2022 we opened the Café /signposting hub for members to utilise. This has been a big success and we have great networking relationships with services that support our members. We are fortunate to have representatives from water, utility companies, CAB, Safer streets and community navigators whom attend regularly, enabling pantry members to gain direct access to these services in a timely manner.

The pantry management has built good networking relationships with PRL @ Sainsbury's management. We provide a wish list of scarce items and donors are generous in their response. Smethwick Pantry is working closely with STAR Supermarket and now has a donation point in their premises which is collected weekly. These relationships help maintain the sustainability of the Pantry.

Currently we have 67 members signed up and operate from 10.00am -14:45 pm every Wednesday. In the 2022/2023 financial year we had a total of 2,199 individual member visits. The waiting list for Pantry membership is growing in these unprecedented times and we are looking to extend our opening hours on a Wednesday as well as an additional session on Tuesday afternoon. Smethwick Pantry is more than a pantry, it is connecting people and helping them build brighter futures.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Church Network

As churches in the network reopened after the Covid-19 Pandemic, Smethwick CAN was able to restart the church leaders' gatherings from January 2022. There is a recognition amongst the churches that the need to work together is stronger than ever, and there has been a renewed commitment to this from the churches involved. Some of the churches have also seen new leadership who are keen to join and collaborate. Smethwick CAN has been supporting the churches in exploring what they have to offer their local community, particularly in terms of buildings. With funding from Action Against Hunger, we have been able to support the rejuvenation of three of the church kitchens, allowing these buildings to be used more fruitfully.

The church leader's gathering has been a welcome monthly event with new churches joining us. Topics explored have included sustainability for churches as they struggle to manage rising energy bills; opening of Warm Spaces and Places of Welcome; opportunities to collaborate, including supporting one church with the development of its Community Orchard; supporting and developing work within our local schools; considering how the churches should respond to climate change and sharing resources on best practice, as well as the use of online opportunities.

Bakery

The Bearwood Community Bakery is a participant-led social enterprise that offers opportunities for those in our community currently not able to work due to immigration status or other reasons. The Bakery offers the group of women a chance to interact with other people in the community, gain the skills of how to run a bakery and to develop their personal skills. The Bakery enables the bakers to sell their bread to members of the community, which encourages social interaction and offers the chance to come together in a place where everyone is welcome. Smethwick CAN was one of the founding partners of this project and we continue to support and promote the bakery locally. The day-to-day operations and overall management of the project is now run by Bearwood Community Hub CIC.

Community Sponsorship

Smethwick CAN is the lead sponsor of the Smethwick Community Sponsorship group. Part of the Home Office scheme, the project aims to house and support a newly arrived family in the UK. With funds provided by Solihull Methodist Church, the group have been successful in obtaining a house and welcomed a family in September 2022. With support from a dedicated group of volunteers from varying churches and community groups, the family are now thriving and accessing both national and community-based support services including health, education, ESOL classes, as well as recreational activities, including local parks and community green spaces.

Public benefit

Smethwick Church Action Network (CAN) aims to serve our neighbours in times of crisis and help facilitate a transition from being a place of need, to one of opportunity, hope, and self-sufficiency. Smethwick CAN started out as a grassroots network of churches who gathered in 2011 with the aim of supporting those in the local community who were experiencing food poverty. From this, Smethwick Foodbank (part of the national Trussell Trust network) was launched. Sadly, our Foodbank is now busier than ever, with this trend only set to continue as the cost-of-living crisis and aftermath of the pandemic take their toll. In 2014 Smethwick CAN became a registered charity and since then the churches have launched numerous other projects. We currently run a Community Pantry in Smethwick Library as well as being the lead sponsor organisation for the Smethwick Community Sponsorship group. The churches in the network also host a variety of coffee mornings, children and youth activities, Places of Welcome and community lunches. We collaborate closely with numerous partner organisations and, with thanks to funding from SCVO, have developed information and signposting hubs at both Foodbank and Pantry over the past 12 months. We would love to see a day when there is no need for Foodbanks and are actively looking at ways, we can support our neighbours out of places of crisis and food poverty and into places where they can thrive.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers

In line with our aims and objectives, we aspire to take an asset based, community development approach to the recruitment and support of our volunteers, but this has been challenging due to the significant amount of time and effort it requires, from staff whose main role is not managing volunteers.

In October 2023 we were able to introduce the role of a Volunteer Coordinator for 15 hours a week, releasing other key staff to concentrate on their core roles.

In the six months since their appointment, all documents relating to volunteer recruitment, training and support have been reviewed and updated. This was felt to be particularly important as the management and support of volunteers are fundamental to the provision of our services. Subsequently, our Volunteer Policy was rewritten to reflect the latest statutory and legal requirements.

Having this dedicated role has enabled wider engagement with local community groups to encourage recruitment of volunteers with a diverse range of ability, whilst effectively supporting their health and social needs. This highly individualised, one-to-one support fosters personal development and achievement and helps us ensure volunteer voices are heard at all levels of our organisation, especially those volunteers with real-life experience of living in poverty.

In October 2022 we began electronically recording all initial volunteering enquiries which has helped identify any obstacles to volunteering and gives us real time data that enables us to give more accurate information to potential funders.

We have also been able to extend our work with outside organisations to widen our search for volunteers such as:

- Local primary and secondary schools
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Birmingham Reparative Justice (Youth Offending Service)
- Ideal for All (Job Club)
- Pegasus Housing Association
- Cygnet House (Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit)
- Stoney Lane Centre for Learning Disabilities
- Corporate volunteers from:
 - o HSBC,
 - o Asda,
 - o Axis Europe PLC
 - o Barclays Bank
 - o Nat West Bank
 - o Utilita

We have continued to develop and strengthen our working relationship with local grassroots groups listed below, not only to develop a cohesive network of support for our more disadvantaged neighbours, but to help smaller charities with their recruitment of volunteers. Some of these are listed below:

- Bearwood Street Collections
- New Beginnings
- The Birthday Project
- Conversation Café
- Common Ground Community Orchard

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Bearwood Action for Refugees

We have increased the number of donation points, particularly with Tesco and Sainsbury Supermarkets, which are still collected by volunteers and delivered to the relevant project.

In total, we had 34 volunteers providing a total of 4878 hours of volunteering support in the year April 2022 to March 2023. In addition, we have a team of community-based donors and donation collectors that collect donations from others who live on their road. Although we do not count this in our 'official' volunteer numbers or hours, it is important to recognise that without these people and their tireless commitment to our work, what we do simply wouldn't be possible. Also not included in these figures are the hours of volunteering provided by the youths mentored by the Restorative Justice Team.

As well as the quantitative volunteer data, this year we have been able to collect more qualitative information direct from our volunteers. They have been quite vocal about their experience of becoming a volunteer and how it has affected their lives.

One of our foodbank volunteers was interviewed as part of Sandwell Council's Volunteer Week celebrations, which is available via the link below:

<https://youtube/TEhQp5sujyA>

Other examples of the positive impact of becoming a volunteer are listed below:

1. A 17 year old boy with learning difficulties and limited external social interactions who lacked confidence and was very anxious joined our warehouse volunteers. During his 18months of volunteering in a supportive and friendly team, he has thrived with his growing confidence showing in all aspects of his personality. He is now in college studying social sciences as he states helping people who come to the Foodbank has helped him understand he wants to build a career in social care, helping others in need. He still volunteers with us during the holidays.

2. A middle-aged lady who became deaf some few years ago. She used to work in a factory but was made redundant and had been unable to find any paid or voluntary work. The Volunteer Coordinator met her at Ideal for All where she was attending a job club. She is a very good lip reader but not so good at sign language skills, which deterred her from interacting with other deaf people. She had lost all confidence in herself after having been rejected multiple times, but with a carefully planned, mutually agreed induction support plan she was able to start volunteering at our Local Food Pantry. After 6 months she is meeting and greeting members and escorting them round the shop. She has also gained the confidence to begin sign language classes again, and is teaching the other volunteers and members key words and phrases in British sign language.

3. A 19 year old autistic gentleman met through Ideal for All, who had significant mental health needs. He became very anxious when meeting new people and overwhelmed when in a room with several people. He struggled to make conversation, avoiding eye contact and maintaining his own physical space was extremely important to him. He could answer direct questions and was able to make his needs known. We were able to offer him times to volunteer with minimal numbers of people around and had his permission to explain his needs to other volunteers and employees. In conjunction with the Food Bank and Warehouse managers, we agreed a plan of support and arranged for an escape room should he start to feel overwhelmed, plus a designated person to support him was arranged for each session he attended.

4. We began working with Birmingham Youth Justice team 9 months ago. The comments in *italics* below are extracts from the managers' assessment of the impact of this project.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The feedback from the young people who have completed their reparation on this project has been very positive and some young people have also gone on to say they would like to volunteer in the future at this venue. Some of the comments they made are as follows;

"I found this experience very humbling now knowing how people who are employed are currently struggling"

"I found the volunteers and staff very supportive"

"I felt I was making a positive contribution to society"

"The church are doing a good job helping people and I felt honoured being part of this"

" This was a very humbling experience for me and I need to change"

From my point of view, both staff and volunteers on the project show an exceptional level of empathy and understand when working alongside these young people and this clearly manifests itself in how all young people respond both to them and the service users. It has also been highlighted from feedback given to Birmingham Youth Offending Service, that all young people who attend this project clearly enjoy the experience and have stated that this would be something which they would like to do again in the future. The staff and management exhibit a very high level of professionalism and compassion whilst working and serving the public. We will be looking into working alongside the management team in the future to develop projects which would benefit the young people with whom we work and the community at large.

SCAN is looking forward to developing volunteer opportunities further in 2023-24.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Smethwick Foodbank

Over the 12-month period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 we provided 5121 emergency food parcels providing over 118,000 meals for people in crisis. Through funding from the Esmee Fairbairne Foundation (SCVO / Epic), Harborne Parish Lands Charity, Awards for All, Julia and Hans Rausing Trust and The Trussell Trust, we were able to maintain our part-time staff team to include a Foodbank Manager (15), Warehouse Coordinator (12), Warehouse Assistant (5), a Signposting and Volunteer Co-ordinator (18) and an Administrator (15). We continue to be supported by a fantastic team of dedicated volunteers, including some volunteers who have aided since the Foodbank opened in 2012. Despite the unanticipated cost of living crisis that has followed the Pandemic, and the ongoing need for our services, we were able to keep up with the demand, including providing fresh fruit and vegetables to supplement our food parcels through twice-weekly deliveries from Fareshare (we have paid for this service from January 2022). We have increased our volunteer team and our signposting and support services to those in financial crisis. We worked with over 70 partner referral agencies and continue to work with partners such as Citizen's Advice, Brushstrokes, Help Through Hardship, Local Welfare Provision and The Community Offer to provide support to people experiencing a range of issues including redundancy, unemployment, benefit delays, domestic violence, and addiction.

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick

The Pantry continues to provide support with new members signing up weekly. We are also working in partnership with the Smethwick Library to create an information/ signposting hub during Pantry opening hours. This has included CAB, mental health support and local children's centre services. There is also an opportunity for energy advice services to start attending in the next few months. Over the coming months we are focusing on increasing the diversity of food on offer to ensure that it reflects the multi-cultural needs and backgrounds of our members. As a charity, two of our core values are to be inclusive and accepting, and therefore we are passionate about ensuring not only the quality and standards of food given out, but enabling those for whom English is not their primary language to access this support. Recently, an Indian couple in need of this service were able to access pantry because of having a Punjabi speaker present. Another area of development is a closer working relationship between the Pantry and the Foodbank. Since the Pantry relocated to the library, the two projects can work much closer together with approximately 60-70% of pantry members being either current or previous Foodbank users.

Church Network

Thanks to funding through Action Against Hunger, the churches have been able to develop their kitchen spaces and are able to reopen previous community initiatives as well as start new ones, for example, a 'chatty cafe' to support those learning English; a community youth group that involves the young people cooking and eating together; stay and play sessions that include family cooking time; Places of Welcome and coffee mornings. We are currently exploring funding opportunities to support another church with developing the kitchen in its community centre. A Renew Wellbeing Cafe has also opened at one of the churches, following delays due to the pandemic.

Community Sponsorship

The Community Sponsorship group welcomed their first family in September 2022. This has been a wonderful opportunity for members of varying churches and communities to come together and support the family as they settle to life in the UK. This has included supporting them to access health services and to complete financial applications; assisting with access to schools and provision of school uniform, and attending school parents' evenings. In addition, the volunteers have provided a safe and consistent befriending base and enabled the family to access local community support e.g., finding a welcoming place to worship, connecting them with other families from the same cultural background, introducing and supporting them to use public transport, and accompanying them to stay and play groups and ESOL services. Currently the volunteers are helping the family to get the garden 'summer ready' and finding ways that family members can access work and volunteering opportunities as well as developing their own hobbies and interests.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities shows total incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2023 of £199,389 (2022: £140,279) and total resources expended of £147,630 (2022: £170,243) thereby realising an overall surplus for the year of £51,759 (2022: deficit of £29,964).

As a result, closing net assets as at 31 March 2023 total £101,813 (2022: £50,054) which includes an amount of £47,532 (2022: £15,846) in respect of restricted funds.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources of the charity are donations from both individuals and other organisations.

Reserves policy

The charity's reserves policy aims to secure three to six months of running costs within the general free reserves to ensure ongoing sustainability. At present the charity is holding reserves of approximately 5 months which is deemed sufficient.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

FUTURE PLANS

Like all organisations, the Pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis has had a major impact on our services, with demand at an all-time high. This is a trend that unfortunately is only going to continue. As we look to the future, our aim is to continue to focus on supporting people to move from crisis to self-sufficiency, whilst also being realistic about our own limitations and a desire to do all things well. Although much has been achieved in this area over the past 12 months, going into the new financial year we are planning to focus on:

- Continuing to develop a sustainable funding strategy, not only with grant applications but deepening our relationships with local organisations, for example surplus food donations, corporate support (including our partnership with Action Against Hunger) and exploring how we can share resources with other local charities and partners.

As a grassroots organisation, the relationship between the charity and associated churches has been one that has grown and developed organically over the course of the charity's existence. When considering future and succession planning at an away day in March 2023, the trustees and senior staff began to consider the question of what makes a church a 'Smethwick CAN Church'? Following this, work has commenced on a more formalised membership statement that churches can sign up to, with the focus being on partnership work and on proactively seeking opportunities to collaborate. It is hoped for this work to be completed and shared at an event in October 2023. The church leader's gathering will remain open to all church leaders, whether members or not.

- Increasing the opening hours for pantry for us to be able to increase the number of members we can welcome.

- Continued development and integration of signposting and information hub at both foodbank and pantry, including exploring the engagement of advocacy services and how we can better support people to advocate for themselves in times of crisis.

- Formation of a steering group for both pantry and foodbank, comprising of trustees, staff, volunteers, donors, and service users to ensure those with lived experience remain at the heart of all we do, and their voices are heard at all levels of decision making.

- Community Sponsorship - support the existing family to move towards independence and explore the development and potential of a longer-term strategy including how the learning from this piece of work can support and enhance other services and provisions.

- Our funding is secure until the end of the financial year; we are now looking at longer term bids and also more sustainable mixed models of fundraising.

- To further develop the impact and scope of our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to ensure volunteers are well supported and their voices are heard at all operational and strategic levels, with a focus on the Pantry and projects within the church network. In addition, we are looking at developing our volunteering offer through seeking accreditation for all volunteer training, sourcing new avenues from which to recruit new volunteers and further developing collaboration working with Youth Offending Services to provide a wider variety of placements for young people (e.g., Community Orchard). Alongside this development we are hoping to begin the process towards Investing in Volunteers Quality Standards accreditation (funding dependent).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 24 July 2014.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

1. Trustees are welcome to invite people known to them to consider being a Trustee, generally those who are in positions of authority and responsibility within the church network within Smethwick;
2. Interested parties meet with the Chair of trustees to prepare a submission for Trustees. The Chair does not exercise a view;
3. A digest is prepared for Trustees who are invited to vote on the Trustee proposed;
4. New Trustees are welcomed to the board of Trustees and their details sent to the Charity Commission.

Induction and training of new trustees

1. New Trustees are cleared for Safeguarding purposes;
2. New Trustees are introduced to the lead staff of Smethwick CAN and their new colleague trustees;
3. New Trustees are provided with copies of the policies;
4. New Trustees are invited to take a particular interest in a part of Smethwick CAN and get to know it in detail.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

CE002343 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1157993

Registered office

Holy Trinity Community Office
Church Hill Street
Smethwick
West Midlands
B67 7AH

Trustees

D R Gould
J Lynch (resigned 21.3.23)
N M Ross
W Dyke
K J Peniket
J R Crewes
J Cannings
S J Bentham
H Girling (appointed 21.3.23)
G D Brown (appointed 21.3.23)

Company Secretary

W Dyke

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
D R Gould - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Smethwick Church Action Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



James Cruse, ACA, FCCA

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Date: 30 June 2023

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and grants		46,253	143,896	190,149	140,279
Other trading activities	2	9,240	-	9,240	-
Total		<u>55,493</u>	<u>143,896</u>	<u>199,389</u>	<u>140,279</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		21,000	104,101	125,101	150,147
Support costs		11,615	8,271	19,886	17,000
Governance costs		2,616	27	2,643	3,096
Total		<u>35,231</u>	<u>112,399</u>	<u>147,630</u>	<u>170,243</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		20,262	31,497	51,759	(29,964)
Transfers between funds	9	1,942	(1,942)	-	-
Net movement in funds		22,204	29,555	51,759	(29,964)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		32,077	17,977	50,054	80,018
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>54,281</u>	<u>47,532</u>	<u>101,813</u>	<u>50,054</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	6,290	775	7,065	8,001
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	544	-	544	-
Cash at bank and in hand		22,286	76,607	98,893	47,622
		22,830	76,607	99,437	47,622
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	25,160	(29,849)	(4,689)	(5,569)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		47,990	46,758	94,748	42,053
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		54,280	47,533	101,813	50,054
NET ASSETS		54,280	47,533	101,813	50,054
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				54,280	32,077
Restricted funds				47,533	17,977
TOTAL FUNDS				101,813	50,054

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 30 June 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
D R Gould - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

FUND ACCOUNTING

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

PENSION COSTS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Shop income	<u>9,240</u>	<u>-</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examiners fees	1,800	1,800
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit work	843	1,296
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>2,436</u>	<u>1,620</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees during the year was 9 (2022: 9).

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2022	1,518	7,643	1,826	10,987
Additions	-	-	1,500	1,500
Disposals	-	(1,387)	(449)	(1,836)
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,518</u>	<u>6,256</u>	<u>2,877</u>	<u>10,651</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2022	147	2,248	591	2,986
Charge for year	304	1,443	689	2,436
Eliminated on disposal	-	(1,387)	(449)	(1,836)
At 31 March 2023	<u>451</u>	<u>2,304</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>3,586</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,067</u>	<u>3,952</u>	<u>2,046</u>	<u>7,065</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,371</u>	<u>5,395</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>8,001</u>

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	<u>544</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	-	155
Credit card	2,889	3,614
Accrued expenses	1,800	1,800
	<u>4,689</u>	<u>5,569</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	27,365	15,710	(1,917)	41,158
Pantry Membership	4,712	4,551	3,859	13,122
	<u>32,077</u>	<u>20,261</u>	<u>1,942</u>	<u>54,280</u>
Restricted funds				
Epic Fund	1,800	(1,800)	-	-
Covid 19 Response	123	(123)	-	-
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	608	(608)	-	-
All Churches Trust	7,701	(7,701)	-	-
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	2,250	-	-	2,250
VINCI UK Foundation	2,875	(600)	(2,275)	-
Action Against Hunger	161	(161)	-	-
Community Sponsorship	2,128	(2,128)	-	-
Faithful Neighbourhoods	328	(328)	-	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	3	7,064	439	7,506
Awards 4 All	-	1,948	-	1,948
EPIC fund 2	-	13,903	-	13,903
Harborne Parish Lands	-	3,449	(44)	3,405
Rausing	-	6,349	44	6,393
Sandwell MBC Pantry	-	239	-	239
Tesco Groundworks	-	1,540	-	1,540
TT Winter support grant	-	10,349	-	10,349
Sainsbury Neighbourly	-	(1)	1	-
Tenderstem Broccoli	-	97	(97)	-
Western Power Distribution	-	10	(10)	-
	<u>17,977</u>	<u>31,498</u>	<u>(1,942)</u>	<u>47,533</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>50,054</u>	<u>51,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,813</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	44,274	(28,564)	15,710
Pantry Membership	11,219	(6,668)	4,551
	55,493	(35,232)	20,261
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	-	(1,800)	(1,800)
Covid 19 Response	-	(123)	(123)
Grantham Yorke	1,000	(1,000)	-
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	-	(608)	(608)
All Churches Trust	-	(7,701)	(7,701)
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	9,000	(9,000)	-
VINCI UK Foundation	-	(600)	(600)
Action Against Hunger	-	(161)	(161)
Local Giving Magic Grants	500	(500)	-
Community Sponsorship	7,532	(9,660)	(2,128)
Faithful Neighbourhoods	-	(328)	(328)
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	31,000	(23,936)	7,064
Awards 4 All	8,600	(6,652)	1,948
EPIC fund 2	35,559	(21,656)	13,903
Harborne Parish Lands	7,141	(3,692)	3,449
Rausing	10,740	(4,391)	6,349
Sandwell MBC Pantry	2,536	(2,297)	239
Tesco Groundworks	2,589	(1,049)	1,540
TT Winter support grant	13,999	(3,650)	10,349
Sainsbury Neighbourly	500	(501)	(1)
Tenderstem Broccoli	10,700	(10,603)	97
Western Power Distribution	2,500	(2,490)	10
	143,896	(112,398)	31,498
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>199,389</u>	<u>(147,630)</u>	<u>51,759</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	23,913	(19,631)	23,083	27,365
Peaced Together	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	3,161	(3,161)	-	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	12,471	(12,468)	(3)	-
Christmas Meal	1,300	-	(1,300)	-
Community Sponsorship	500	1,628	(2,128)	-
Faithful Neighbourhoods	1,137	(492)	(645)	-
Pantry Membership	-	4,712	-	4,712
	44,482	(31,412)	19,007	32,077
Restricted funds				
Epic Fund	15,345	(13,545)	-	1,800
Trussell Trust	56	8,274	(8,330)	-
Catalyst Social Action Fund	3,661	-	(3,661)	-
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	4,687	(4,687)	-	-
Covid 19 Response	754	(631)	-	123
Grantham Yorke	1,076	1,655	(2,731)	-
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	1,270	(1,170)	(100)	-
Homeless and Family Support	4,684	-	(4,684)	-
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	1,708	(1,100)	-	608
Trussell Trust Emergency	2,295	(2,295)	-	-
Furlough Reimbursement	-	428	(428)	-
All Churches Trust	-	7,701	-	7,701
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	-	2,250	-	2,250
VINCI UK Foundation	-	2,875	-	2,875
Action Against Hunger	-	1,693	(1,532)	161
Community Sponsorship	-	-	2,128	2,128
Faithful Neighbourhoods	-	-	328	328
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	-	-	3	3
	35,536	1,448	(19,007)	17,977
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>80,018</u>	<u>(29,964)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,054</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,893	(34,524)	(19,631)
Peaced Together	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	-	(3,161)	(3,161)
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	46,769	(59,237)	(12,468)
Community Sponsorship	2,000	(372)	1,628
Faithful Neighbourhoods	518	(1,010)	(492)
Pantry Membership	8,940	(4,228)	4,712
	73,120	(104,532)	(31,412)
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	-	(13,545)	(13,545)
Trussell Trust	11,963	(3,689)	8,274
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	-	(4,687)	(4,687)
Covid 19 Response	-	(631)	(631)
Grantham Yorke	2,000	(345)	1,655
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	-	(1,170)	(1,170)
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	-	(1,100)	(1,100)
Trussell Trust Emergency	-	(2,295)	(2,295)
Furlough Reimbursement	2,436	(2,008)	428
All Churches Trust	13,700	(5,999)	7,701
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	13,020	(10,770)	2,250
VINCI UK Foundation	3,000	(125)	2,875
Action Against Hunger	20,000	(18,307)	1,693
Local Giving Magic Grants	500	(500)	-
Trussell Trust Volunteer Development Grant	540	(540)	-
	67,159	(65,711)	1,448
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>140,279</u>	<u>(170,243)</u>	<u>(29,964)</u>

Unrestricted - General Funds

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for any particular purpose.

Designated - Foodbank Funds

This fund contains donations and grants designated to Smethwick Foodbank general use.

Designated - Pantry Membership Funds

This fund contains traded income from money paid weekly by Pantry members, and occasional donations to Your Local Pantry Smethwick.

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - Action against Hunger

This funding is a grant to support 4 food projects and build sustainable food poverty responses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Restricted - Allchurches Trust/Benefact Trust

This funding is a grant provided under the Hope Beyond programme to enable churches and Christian charities to meet the challenging needs within their communities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Restricted - Awards 4 All (National Lottery)

This is a grant from the National Lottery Community fund covering Foodbank Administrator salary costs from June 2022 to June 2023.

Restricted - Epic Fund (1)

This funding is a grant from Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and Esmee Fairbairn to develop a co-ordinated approach across Smethwick to reduce food poverty whilst also creating food related activities that build a sense of community and encourage future social enterprise and/or community owned businesses.

Restricted - Epic Fund (2)

This funding is a grant from Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) designated to staff costs, refreshments for meetings, and training.

Restricted - Faithful Neighbourhoods

These are allocated funds specifically to provide practical support around Covid-19 adaptations that allow Smethwick Foodbank to provide a safer service during the pandemic.

Restricted - Grantham Yorke

This is a grant for Foodbank specifically to provide provision of food/toiletries for those under the age of 25 years.

Restricted - Harborne Parish Land Charity

This is a grant towards Foodbank salary costs during 2023.

Restricted - Lottery Community Fund

This is a grant from National Lottery Community Fund to cover additional salary costs, room hire and training costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Restricted - Magic Grants

This is a grant from Local Giving for Foodbank specifically for homeless packs.

Restricted - Julia & Hans Rausing Trust

This is a grant towards Foodbank salary costs from January to June 2023.

Restricted - Sainsbury's Neighbourly Fund

This is a grant for Your Local Pantry Smethwick to cover food costs and cleaning products.

Restricted - Sandwell MBC (Foodbank)

This is ongoing funding from Sandwell MBC specifically designated for food costs and carrier bags for use within our foodbank project.

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - Sandwell MBC (Pantry)

This is a one off grant from the Household Support Fund for food for members of Your Local Pantry Smethwick.

Restricted - SCVO Vision Community Bakery

This grant from Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) is being used to set up a community bakery in partnership with Bearwood Community Hub and Mothership.

Restricted - Tenderstem Broccoli

This is a grant from Action against Hunger in conjunction with Tenderstem broccoli to support Your Local Pantry Smethwick with staffing costs, food costs and other specified costs as per the grant agreement.

Restricted - Tesco Groundworks

These are ongoing grants from Tesco for the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables for foodbank users.

Restricted - TT Strategic Facilities Grant

This funding is a Trussell Trust grant towards the cost of premises rental from July 2021 to June 2023, and foodbank shelving.

Restricted - TT Winter Support Grant

This is a Trussell Trust grant designated for additional staff costs and food costs.

Restricted - Vinci Foundation

This funding is a grant towards the purchase of laptops and lockable cupboards.

Restricted - Western Power Distribution

This is a grant funding our Holiday Hunger Project, to provide 'Child-Friendly' food and non-food items for families accessing both Smethwick Pantry and Your Local Pantry Smethwick in July and August 2022.

Restricted - Community Sponsorship

This fund is a restricted donation from Solihull Methodist Church for supporting families from overseas and receiving support from Smethwick Community Sponsorship Group with issues such as housing, education, health, etc.

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

11. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is under the control of the trustees.

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE002343 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157993

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
FOR
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

**J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH**

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Foreword

2021-2022 has been a unique year for us all. For Smethwick CAN it has been a year of recovery post pandemic, transformation and consolidation. All this made possible by the hard work and dedication of staff and trustees.

Staff who have been with us many years have gone forward to new challenges. They are missed, but at the same time new trustees, colleagues - volunteers and paid staff, have enabled a new team to be created.

I am conscious that the scale of the task facing Smethwick CAN remains considerable but so are the resources that have been entrusted to us, financially and in people and goodwill.

The much stronger financial monitoring and HR frameworks now in place and the Pathfinder status with Trussell Trust have only been realised through a huge amount of hard work. Do not let the shortfall shown in the accounts disguise the radical transformation in this organisation. Late arriving grants cannot obscure the vibrant, vigorous and forward-looking church and community engaged action network that is delivering hope, support, much needed food and a better future for the people of Smethwick.

Finally, my thanks to all those who by their prayers and giving, small and large, make possible the work of Smethwick CAN. Many of us will remember the day a family arrived at the Foodbank. It was their little boy's birthday. He had decided to forgo his birthday party with friends and the equivalent cost was spent on food donation to the Foodbank.

Thanks be to God.



Revd David Gould

Chair of Trustees: Smethwick Church Action Network

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Smethwick CAN works with local communities to tackle poverty, build community, increase aspiration and support the most vulnerable. We provide a wide range of services through local churches and community groups including places of welcome to build community; supporting people towards work and social enterprise to increase aspiration; and provide crisis relief to support the most vulnerable.

Significant activities

Smethwick Foodbank

The demand on Smethwick Foodbank has remained very consistent since the steep increase in demand in April 2020, with an average of 427 parcels being given out each month, down from 470 in 2020/21. (As a point of contrast, in 2019/20, 190 parcels per month were given out).

The main causes of crisis throughout the year have remained low income, no recourse to public funds and benefit delays. 61% of people accessing the Foodbank are families (of which 16% are single parent households); 27% are single; 12% are couples. 60% of Foodbank users are from the four Smethwick wards, with residents of the remainder of Sandwell and of Birmingham each making up around 20% of users each month. This is unchanged from the previous year.

- To address clients accessing Foodbank and not seeking additional help for their monetary crisis, we have been trialling a variety of strategies to encourage clients to seek help from other organisations in addition to the food they receive here. We have returned to previous restrictions regarding the number of 'Emergency' vouchers that we will issue at the door, reducing these to a maximum of 3 per client in each 3-month period; we have seen an increase in clients who would normally self-refer attending with vouchers and receiving benefits reviews, budgeting, and income maximisation advice etc and needing less long-term support from us.

- We have continued to operate a pre-packed only service, operating the Foodbank from outside the front doors of the church. We have offered as full a signposting service as possible, despite the limited services that have been available, particularly during each lockdown, and have had representatives from Citizen's Advice, Steps to Work, Action for Children and the Community Offer here at least weekly. Advice and signposting leaflets are provided to each client and are updated monthly, along with a telephone service for additional signposting. In line with many other local and national Foodbanks, we have decided to maintain our Covid measures of mask wearing, social distancing and offering an outdoor-only service to maintain the safety of our staff, volunteers, and Foodbank users.

- We continue to provide a range of personal care and household cleaning items, fresh fruit, and vegetables from Fareshare, and fresh bread and bakery items donated by Marks and Spencer each Friday. We also provide specific pre-packed parcels for homeless and vegetarian / Halal Foodbank users and have these available each session.

- Smethwick Foodbank still operates a 'donations day' each Wednesday where Holy Trinity Church is open for donations from the local community, with around 47% of all our donations coming from the Bearwood Street Collections, with streets continuing to do weekly collections.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- We have been an issuer of Covid Testing Kits for Public Health England since summer 2021 and are still offering test kits free of charge to staff, volunteers and on request from Foodbank users.
- We have begun the Pathfinder Programme with The Trussell Trust (although we are still awaiting the first grant payment) and staff have attended online training sessions on Participation and Inclusion; additionally, staff recently attended their three-day Pathfinder conference and has come back with many ideas on how to help our Foodbank clients receive financial help and how to best meet the needs of Foodbank users.
- We have increased the number of Referral Agencies now that local services are providing face-to-face provision, including all doctor's surgeries and schools within Smethwick, and all the charities.
- All Meet and Greet volunteers have completed Budgeting and Signposting training from Citizen's Advice and most warehouse volunteers have completed Health and Safety Level 2 and Food Hygiene Level 2, courtesy of a Volunteer Grant from The Trussell Trust. Going forwards, the focus is on maintaining funding; developing our strategic goals in line with the Pathfinder programme; developing the support we offer to volunteers; and in ensuring that clients receive timely help and avoid long term Foodbank use where possible.

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick

Food Pantry has been able to support over 120 members with access to high quality fresh food with the opportunity to save an average of £15 per week on a grocery bill. We have utilised our volunteer and member skills to create a recipe book and provide "Meal Deal" ideas to make the most of a regular Pantry shopping basket.

During the Pandemic, the Pantry operated out of a large church hall to allow for greater social distancing and promoted an appointment system so that all our members felt safe. From October we have been back in our original venue of the library but have been given a much larger area than our original space. We have also taken on a new reception space area where we can introduce other support organisations and hope in the future to be able to provide a refreshment area once Covid cases start to fall and more volunteers are recruited or return.

We have also promoted the Your Local Pantry project across other parts of our Borough with at least four pantries now operating and another two looking to start soon. We are also tracking the Pantry use amongst previous and existing Foodbank users to see if there is a pathway that can be developed that encourages Pantry membership as a means out of a reliance on Foodbanks. This work will be shared with Trussell Trust Network of Foodbanks as part of their own research and learning on a national scale.

Church Network

As churches in the network reopen, Smethwick CAN is looking to restart the church leaders' gatherings from January 2022. There is a recognition amongst the churches that the need to work together is stronger than ever and a renewed commitment to this from the churches involved. Some of the churches have also seen new leadership who are keen to join and collaborate. Smethwick CAN has been supporting the churches in exploring what they have to offer their local community, particularly in terms of buildings. With funding from Action Against Hunger, we have been able to support the rejuvenation of three of the church kitchens, allowing these buildings to be used more fruitfully.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Bakery

The Bearwood Community Bakery is a participant-led social enterprise that offers opportunities for those in our community currently not able to work due to immigration status or other reasons. The Bakery offered the women a chance to interact with other people in the community, gain the skills of how to run a bakery and to develop their personal skills. The Bakery is also the chance for the bakers to sell their bread to members of the community, which encourages social interaction and the chance to come together in a place where everyone is welcome. Smethwick CAN was one of the founding partners of this project and we continue to support and promote. The day-to-day operations and overall management of the project is now Bearwood Community Hub CIC.

Smethwick CAN Grow

The allotment was able to continue operating initially, though on a reduced and limited team. However, following an away day on vision and strategy (attended by trustees and senior staff), it was felt this project no longer fell within the remit of Smethwick CAN's work. Rather than grow and support our own allotment, we have worked alongside other community plot holders who will now grow for Foodbank. The original plot is being maintained by the Allotment Association with food grown being donated to Foodbank.

Through the Action Against hunger funding, we have been able to purchase equipment for both the plots above and an additional community orchard, run by volunteers and led by one of the churches in the network. Not only providing apples for Foodbank, but also enabling local schools to be able to access the space safely and use it as part of their outdoor curriculum.

Community Sponsorship

Smethwick CAN is the lead sponsor of the Smethwick Community Sponsorship group. Part of the home office scheme, the project aims to house and support a newly arrived family in the UK. With funds provided by Solihull Methodist Church, the group have been successful in obtaining a house and will be looking to welcome a family within the next 12 months.

Public benefit

Smethwick Church Action Network (CAN) aims to serve our neighbours in times of crisis and help facilitate a transition from a place of need, to one of opportunity, hope and self-sufficiency.

Smethwick CAN started out as a grassroots network of churches who gathered in 2011 with the aim of supporting those in the local community who were experiencing food poverty. From this Smethwick Foodbank (part of the national Trussell Trust network) was launched. Sadly, our Foodbank is now busier than ever, with this trend only set to continue as the cost-of-living crisis and aftermath of the pandemic begins to have an effect.

In 2014 Smethwick CAN became a registered charity and since then the churches have launched numerous other projects. We currently run a community Pantry in Smethwick Library as well as being a partner of the Bearwood Bakery and the lead sponsor organisation for the Smethwick Community Sponsorship group. The churches in the network also host a variety of coffee mornings, children and youth activities, Places of Welcome and community lunches. We collaborate closely with numerous partner organisations and, with thanks to funding from SCVO, are looking to develop the information and signposting hubs at both Foodbank and Pantry over the coming months.

We would love to see a day when there is no need for Foodbanks and are actively looking at ways we can support our neighbours out of places of crisis and food poverty and into places they can thrive.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers

Shielding and Covid safety rules impacted greatly on the ability of the existing team of volunteers across all the Smethwick CAN projects, with some of the activities losing over 70% of volunteers overnight. Post-covid volunteering has still been a challenge, however, our volunteering base is beginning to grow with businesses also getting involved and offering support. We are currently awaiting further funds from one of our grant partners, which will allow us to hire a Volunteer Coordinator. The creation of this role will mean our volunteers are better supported and help us to ensure their voices are heard and included at all levels of our organisation, especially those volunteers with real-life experience of living in poverty.

Throughout 2021-2022 Smethwick Foodbank had a core team of 20 volunteers, providing the equivalent of 168 volunteering hours each week; additionally, we worked with outside organisations such as local schools, The Prince's Trust, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award to provide work placements for students and had corporate volunteers from HSBC, Asda, and the West Bromwich Building Society. Additionally, our relationships with grassroots groups such as Bearwood Street Collections and Bearwood Action for refugees, continues to grow and encourages volunteering within the local community. We also have donation points in local stores and community venues such as ASDA Cape Hill and Thimblemill Library. These donations are then collected by volunteers and brought to Foodbank on a regular basis.

Your Local Pantry had a core team of 5 volunteers, providing 40 volunteering hours each week. Additional to this, members of the local lion's rotary club volunteer their time regularly to sort through stock and donations. There is a donation point for Pantry in a local Sainsbury's supermarket which is collected weekly by a volunteer.

Smethwick CAN Allotment had 2 volunteers providing between 10 and 20 hours per week.

In total across the projects, we had 27 volunteers providing over 223 hours of volunteering support each week.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Smethwick Foodbank

Over the 12-month period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 we issued 5132 emergency food parcels providing over 152,000 meals for people in crisis.

Through funding from the Asda Foundation and The Trussell Trust, we were able to maintain our part-time staff team to include a Foodbank Manager (22.5), Warehouse Coordinator (12), Warehouse Assistant (5) and an Administrator (15). We continue to be supported by a team of volunteers, including some volunteers who have aided since the Foodbank opened in 2012.

Despite the unanticipated continuation of the pandemic and the ongoing demand on our services, we were able to keep up with the demand, including receiving twice-weekly donations of fresh fruit and vegetables from Fareshare to supplement our food parcels (we then began to pay for this service from January 2022), increasing our volunteer team and our signposting and support services to those in financial crisis.

We worked with over 50 partner referral agencies and continue to work with partners such as Citizen's Advice, Brushstrokes, Help Through Hardship, Local Welfare Provision and The Community Offer to provide support to people experiencing a range of issues including redundancy, unemployment, benefit delays, domestic violence, and addiction.

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick

The Pantry has now moved back to its original site of the library. The Pantry continues to provide support with new members signing up weekly. We are also working in partnership with the library to create an information/ signposting hub during Pantry opening hours. This has included CAB, mental health support and local children's centre services. There is also an opportunity for energy advice services to start attending in the next few months. Over the coming months we are focusing on increasing the diversity of food on offer to ensure that it reflects the multi-cultural needs and backgrounds of our members. We are fortunate to have recruited a new Pantry manager, who is passionate about ensuring not only the quality and standards of food given out but enabling those for whom English is not their primary language to access this support. Recently, an Indian couple in need of this service were able to access Pantry because of having a Punjabi speaker present.

Another area of development is a closer working relationship between the Pantry and the Foodbank. Since the Pantry relocated to the library, the two projects can work much closer together with approximately 60% of Pantry members being either current or previous Foodbank users.

Church Network

Thanks to funding through Action Against Hunger, the churches have been able to develop their kitchen spaces and are able to reopen previously community initiatives as well as start new ones for example a 'chatty café' to support those learning English, a community youth group that involves the young people cooking and eating together, stay and play sessions that include family cooking time, places of welcome, coffee mornings. A renew wellbeing café and pay as you feel meals are also hoping to open in the next 12 months.

Bakery

The Bakery social enterprise, running out of Bearwood Community Hub continues to thrive and grow.

The Bakery is a participant-led social enterprise that offers opportunities for those in our community currently not able to work due to immigration status and runs on Mondays and Wednesdays.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The Bakery engaged with ladies that had felt isolated in the community and brought them together to meet each other and gave them the chance to make connections in the community. It gave them the opportunity to step out of their normal routine, to have a social life and connect as a team.

Through the Bakery the women were able to gain a variety of practical skills including baking, financial planning, and the basics of a social enterprise. Furthermore, the women also developed personal skills of leadership, collaboration, and independence. Finally, it also gave the women more insight into how things are done in the UK such as what procedures and policies are necessary for the health and safety regulations.

Smethwick CAN Grow

In 2021 the Smethwick CAN Grow Allotment continued to provide food to Smethwick Foodbank and Your Local Pantry: Smethwick. Due to a strategy change, Smethwick CAN ceased to run its own allotment, instead supporting, and benefitting from those already established and local to us including the Faithful Friends Orchard (led by Holy Trinity Church).

Community Sponsorship

The Community Sponsorship group has secured a house and is now in the process of making it safe whilst completing the necessary paperwork and training to welcome a family.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities shows total incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2022 of £140,279 (2021: £202,482) and total resources expended of £170,243 (2021: £165,337) thereby realising an overall deficit for the year of £29,964 (2021: surplus of £37,145).

As a result, closing net assets as at 31 March 2022 total £50,054 (2021: £80,018) which includes an amount of £15,846 (2021: £35,536) in respect of restricted funds.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources of the charity are donations from both individuals and other organisations.

Reserves policy

The charity's reserves policy aims to secure three to six months of running costs within the general free reserves to ensure ongoing sustainability.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

FUTURE PLANS

Like all organisations, Covid has had a major impact on our services, with demand at an all-time high. Sadly, the cost-of-living crisis means this is a trend that is only going to continue.

The Trustees and lead staff met in September 2021 for an away day. This was primarily to review our aims and objectives as a charity and make decisions about the way forward and how best we can serve our neighbours and community at this time, whilst also being realistic about our own limitations and a desire to do all things well. In addition, our largest two funds were coming to an end and therefore a new financial strategy was needed to move forward.

- We have continued to work closely with Sandwell MBC and have received regular grant payments from them, in addition to advising on the needs on the community and on ways of providing support other than food. We have also provided their Isolation Support parcels to those families who are self-isolating due to Covid 19, receiving £30 per parcel from Sandwell MBC.
- We are reapplying to the SCVO epic fund for salary funding to develop the Foodbank and Pantry services.
- We have been selected by the Trussell Trust to be a part of their pilot Pathfinder program. The aim of the program is to reduce Foodbank use and end the need for Foodbanks. This aligns completely with what was decided at the away day as the focus going forward. Being part of this program not only gives us access to expert advice and peer learning but also to funding streams within The Trussell Trust network.
- We are continuing to develop our relationship to Action Against Hunger and working with them to look at sustainable business support for food projects.
- Having a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to ensure volunteers are well supported and their voices are heard at all operational and strategic levels, with a focus on the Pantry and projects within the church network.
- Some Foodbank administration tasks being carried out by volunteers and our dedicated Foodbank Administrator being then able to focus more on signposting and volunteering within Foodbank.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 24 July 2014.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

1. Trustees are welcome to invite people known to them to consider being a Trustee, generally those who are in positions of authority and responsibility within the church network within Smethwick;
2. Interested parties meet with the Chair of trustees to prepare a submission for Trustees. The Chair does not exercise a view;
3. A digest is prepared for Trustees who are invited to vote on the Trustee proposed;
4. New Trustees are welcomed to the board of Trustees and their details sent to the Charity Commission.

Induction and training of new trustees

1. New Trustees are cleared for Safeguarding purposes;
2. New Trustees are introduced to the lead staff of Smethwick CAN and their new colleague trustees;
3. New Trustees are provided with copies of the policies;
4. New Trustees are invited to take a particular interest in a part of Smethwick CAN and get to know it in detail.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
CE002343 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1157993

Registered office
Holy Trinity Community Office
Church Hill Street
Smethwick
West Midlands
B67 7AH

Trustees
Rev D R Gould
Mr J Lynch
Rev N M Ross
Mrs W Dyke
Mrs K J Peniket
Rev J R Crewes
Mrs J Cannings
Rev P Spence (resigned 31.3.22)
Rev S J Bentham

Independent Examiner
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 19.7.22 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Rev D R Gould - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Smethwick Church Action Network ('the Charity')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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 2011 Act').

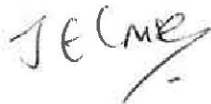
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited under the 2011 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



James Cruse
ACA, FCCA, BSc (Econ) Hons
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Date: 19/07/2022

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		73,120	67,159	140,279	202,482
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		87,076	63,071	150,147	145,232
Support costs		14,358	2,642	17,000	15,605
Governance costs		3,096	-	3,096	4,500
Total		104,530	65,713	170,243	165,337
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(31,410)	1,446	(29,964)	37,145
Transfers between funds	7	19,007	(19,007)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(12,403)	(17,561)	(29,964)	37,145
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		44,482	35,536	80,018	42,873
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		32,079	17,975	50,054	80,018

The notes form part of these financial statements

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	6,926	1,075	8,001	470
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank and in hand		30,720	16,902	47,622	82,313
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(5,569)	-	(5,569)	(2,765)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>25,151</u>	<u>16,902</u>	<u>42,053</u>	<u>79,548</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>32,077</u>	<u>17,977</u>	<u>50,054</u>	<u>80,018</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>32,077</u>	<u>17,977</u>	<u>50,054</u>	<u>80,018</u>
FUNDS	7				
Unrestricted funds				32,077	44,482
Restricted funds				<u>17,977</u>	<u>35,536</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>50,054</u>	<u>80,018</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 19.7.22
and were signed on its behalf by:



Rev D R Gould - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

FUND ACCOUNTING

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

PENSION COSTS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent examiners fees	1,800	1,800
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	1,296	2,700
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>1,620</u>	<u>347</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

4. AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees during the year was 9 (2021: 7).

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2021	-	1,387	449	1,836
Additions	<u>1,518</u>	<u>6,256</u>	<u>1,377</u>	<u>9,151</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,518</u>	<u>7,643</u>	<u>1,826</u>	<u>10,987</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2021	-	918	448	1,366
Charge for year	<u>147</u>	<u>1,330</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>1,620</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>147</u>	<u>2,248</u>	<u>591</u>	<u>2,986</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,371</u>	<u>5,395</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>8,001</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>470</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Social security and other taxes	-	965
Other creditors	155	-
Credit card	3,614	-
Accrued expenses	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>
	<u>5,569</u>	<u>2,765</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	23,913	(19,631)	23,083	27,365
Peaced Together	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	3,161	(3,161)	-	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	12,471	(12,468)	(3)	-
Christmas Meal	1,300	-	(1,300)	-
Community Sponsorship	500	1,628	(2,128)	-
Faithful Neighbourhoods	1,137	(492)	(645)	-
Pantry Membership	-	4,712	-	4,712
	44,482	(31,412)	19,007	32,077
Restricted funds				
Epic Fund	15,345	(13,545)	-	1,800
Trussell Trust	56	8,274	(8,330)	-
Catalyst Social Action Fund	3,661	-	(3,661)	-
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	4,687	(4,687)	-	-
Covid 19 Response	754	(631)	-	123
Grantham Yorke	1,076	1,655	(2,731)	-
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	1,270	(1,170)	(100)	-
Homeless and Family Support	4,684	-	(4,684)	-
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	1,708	(1,100)	-	608
Trussell Trust Emergency	2,295	(2,295)	-	-
Furlough Reimbursement	-	428	(428)	-
All Churches Trust	-	7,701	-	7,701
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	-	2,250	-	2,250
VINCI UK Foundation	-	2,875	-	2,875
Action Against Hunger	-	1,693	(1,532)	161
Community Sponsorship	-	-	2,128	2,128
Faithful Neighbourhoods	-	-	328	328
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	-	-	3	3
	35,536	1,448	(19,007)	17,977
TOTAL FUNDS	80,018	(29,964)	-	50,054

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,893	(34,524)	(19,631)
Peaced Together	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	-	(3,161)	(3,161)
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	46,769	(59,237)	(12,468)
Community Sponsorship	2,000	(372)	1,628
Faithful Neighbourhoods	518	(1,010)	(492)
Pantry Membership	8,940	(4,228)	4,712
	73,120	(104,532)	(31,412)
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	-	(13,545)	(13,545)
Trussell Trust	11,963	(3,689)	8,274
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	-	(4,687)	(4,687)
Covid 19 Response	-	(631)	(631)
Grantham Yorke	2,000	(345)	1,655
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	-	(1,170)	(1,170)
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	-	(1,100)	(1,100)
Trussell Trust Emergency	-	(2,295)	(2,295)
Furlough Reimbursement	2,436	(2,008)	428
All Churches Trust	13,700	(5,999)	7,701
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	13,020	(10,770)	2,250
VINCI UK Foundation	3,000	(125)	2,875
Action Against Hunger	20,000	(18,307)	1,693
Local Giving Magic Grants	500	(500)	-
Trussell Trust Volunteer Development Grant	540	(540)	-
	67,159	(65,711)	1,448
TOTAL FUNDS	140,279	(170,243)	(29,964)

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	9,625	14,288	23,913
Creative English	1,093	(1,093)	-
Peaced Together	2,000	-	2,000
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	3,329	(168)	3,161
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	4,370	8,101	12,471
Christmas Meal	-	1,300	1,300
Community Sponsorship	-	500	500
Faithful Neighbourhoods	-	1,137	1,137
	<u>20,417</u>	<u>24,065</u>	<u>44,482</u>
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	9,201	6,144	15,345
Trussell Trust	5,830	(5,774)	56
Pantry Membership	3,764	(3,764)	-
Catalyst Social Action Fund	3,661	-	3,661
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	-	4,687	4,687
Covid 19 Response	-	754	754
Grantham Yorke	-	1,076	1,076
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	-	1,270	1,270
Homeless and Family Support	-	4,684	4,684
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	-	1,708	1,708
Trussell Trust Emergency	-	2,295	2,295
	<u>22,456</u>	<u>13,080</u>	<u>35,536</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>42,873</u></u>	<u><u>37,145</u></u>	<u><u>80,018</u></u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	39,309	(25,021)	14,288
Creative English	-	(1,093)	(1,093)
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	2,850	(3,018)	(168)
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	56,143	(48,042)	8,101
Christmas Meal	650	650	1,300
Community Sponsorship	500	-	500
Faithful Neighbourhoods	1,552	(415)	1,137
	101,004	(76,939)	24,065
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	41,181	(35,037)	6,144
Trussell Trust	7,154	(12,928)	(5,774)
Pantry Membership	8,884	(12,648)	(3,764)
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	10,588	(5,901)	4,687
Covid 19 Response	8,936	(8,182)	754
Grantham Yorke	2,000	(924)	1,076
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	3,000	(1,730)	1,270
Homeless and Family Support	5,560	(876)	4,684
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	4,460	(2,752)	1,708
SCVO Vision Covid Capacity	2,428	(2,428)	-
Trussell Trust Emergency	4,869	(2,574)	2,295
Trussell Trust Emergency	2,418	(2,418)	-
	101,478	(88,398)	13,080
TOTAL FUNDS	202,482	(165,337)	37,145

Unrestricted - General Fund

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purpose.

Unrestricted Designated - Pantry Membership

This fund represents money paid weekly by Pantry members which is then fed back into Pantry funds as traded income.

Restricted - Epic Fund

This funding is a grant from Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and Esme Fairbairn to develop a co-ordinated approach across Smethwick to reduce Food Poverty whilst also creating food related activities that build a sense of community and encourage future social enterprise and/or community owned businesses.

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - Covid-19 Response

This grant was part of the UK Governments response to Covid-19 and was used to support the additional demands placed on our services.

Restricted - SCVO Vision Community Bakery

This grant from SCVO is being used to set up a Community Bakery in partnership with Bearwood Community Hub and Mothership.

Restricted - All Churches Trust

This funding is a grant provided under the Hope Beyond programme to enable churches and Christian charities to meet the challenging needs within their communities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Restricted - Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)

This funding is a grant towards the cost of premises rental and Foodbank shelving.

Restricted - VINCI UK Foundation

This funding is a grant towards the purchase of laptops and lockable cupboards.

Restricted - Action Against Hunger

This funding is a grant to support 4 food projects and build sustainable food poverty responses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Restricted - Faithful Neighbourhoods

These are allocated funds specifically to provide practical support around Covid-19 adaptations that allow Smethwick Foodbank to provide a safer service during the pandemic.

Restricted - Sandwell MBC Foodbank

This fund is donations that are specifically requested to only support the purchasing of food for use within our foodbank project.

Restricted - Community Sponsorship

This fund is for supporting families from overseas and receiving support from a Community Sponsorship Group with issues such as housing, education, health etc.

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

9. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is under the control of the trustees.

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE002343 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157993

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021
FOR
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Smethwick CAN works with local communities to tackle poverty, build community, increase aspiration and support the most vulnerable. We provide a wide range of services through local churches and community groups including places of welcome to build community; supporting people towards work and social enterprise to increase aspiration; and provide crisis relief to support the most vulnerable.

Public benefit

We continue to provide projects and initiatives that deliver public benefit throughout Smethwick and the wider area and have focused on improving and developing existing projects and on creating short-term projects to address immediate needs. The first twelve months of the Coronavirus pandemic, saw unprecedented need for our services, and the activities undertaken adapted quickly to operate safely with both an increased demand and a reduction in volunteers.

Our focus is on relieving food poverty, financial hardship and social isolation, while partnering with other local and national organisations to provide timely and appropriate support for those in need, whether through debt, homelessness, no recourse to public funds, domestic violence or addiction.

Smethwick Foodbank saw a huge increase in demand in 2020-2021 compared to the previous year and provided food parcels to over 17,000 people, the equivalent of over 153,000 meals, developing and expanding our signposting service to include more local and specialist support. We worked closely with other agencies including Sandwell MBC and LWP, Action for Children and Bearwood Action for Refugees to provide food parcels direct to families in need.

Your Local Pantry Smethwick and Smethwick CAN Café both adapted their services to operate safely throughout the pandemic, each supporting over 60 people per week. Individual projects supported local homeless people and young people and children suffering from anxiety and isolation during the lockdowns. Your Local Pantry Smethwick relocated from Smethwick Library to Raglan Road Christian Centre at the start of the pandemic and maintained providing its service to over 60 members throughout the reporting period. Pantry operates as a Community Food Club to enable its members to access a range of high quality food at a low fixed cost.

Smethwick CAN Café changed its operational model at the start of the pandemic to operate a takeaway service, providing over 70 tasty meals each week to the local community, as well as providing over 500 Christmas meals during December 2020.

Smethwick CAN Grow Community Allotment continued to operate throughout the Pandemic, supplying fresh fruit and vegetables to Cafe, Pantry and Foodbank projects, providing a safe and peaceful place for volunteers to participate over the year.

Though the short-term project Life Connect, 50 homeless packs and support was provided to address the growing issue of rough sleeping and sofa surfing in the local area, as well as providing over 100 Mindfulness Activity packs for children and young people whose parents were accessing the services of Foodbank and Pantry.

Due to the Pandemic, the activities of the Bakery and Community Sponsorship were on hold during this time. ChangeSpaces was closed indefinitely due to Covid restrictions on social distancing.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers

Shielding and Covid safety rules impacted greatly on the ability of the existing team of volunteers across all of the Smethwick CAN projects, with some of the activities losing over 70% of their volunteer base overnight.

Throughout 2020-2021, Smethwick Foodbank had a team of 16 volunteers, providing the equivalent of 168 volunteering hours each week; we worked with outside organisations such as local schools, The Prince's Trust and The Duke of Edinburgh Award to provide work placements for students and had corporate volunteers from Asda, HSBC and The West Bromwich Building Society. Additionally, we have worked alongside initiatives such as the Bearwood Street Network to promote volunteering within the community, including weekly street collections of food donations from the local area.

In 2020-2021, Your Local Pantry Smethwick had a core team of 5 volunteers, providing 40 volunteering hours each week.

In the same period, CAN Café had a team of 3 volunteers, providing 12 volunteer hours per week.

Smethwick CAN Allotment had a team of 3 volunteers, providing 20 volunteer hours per week.

In total across the projects, we had a team of 27 volunteers, providing 240 volunteering hours each week.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Smethwick Foodbank

Over the 12-month period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 we issued 5,612 emergency food parcels providing over 153,000 meals for people in crisis, equating to a 350% increase in demand from 2019/20.

Through funding from the Asda Foundation and The Trussell Trust, we were able to expand our part-time staff team to include a Foodbank Manager (22.5), Warehouse Co-ordinator (16), Warehouse Assistant (5) and an Administrator (15). We continue to be supported by a team of volunteers, including some volunteers who have provided assistance since the Foodbank opened in 2012.

At the end of March 2020, many other local foodbanks had to close due to the loss of volunteers due to having to shield due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We were able to adapt our service quickly and experienced a huge increase in demand that continued throughout the whole reporting period. We set up an emergency phone line and email support to assist those in need of our services and mobilised extensive support from the local community, to ensure that we were able to keep up with the demand, including receiving twice-weekly donations of fresh fruit and vegetables from Fareshare to supplement our food parcels.

We worked with over 50 partner referral agencies and continue to work with partners such as Citizen's Advice, Brushstrokes, Help Through Hardship, Local Welfare Provision and The Community Offer to provide support to people experiencing a range of issues including redundancy, unemployment, benefit delays, domestic violence and addiction.

Your Local Pantry Smethwick

At the start of the Pandemic, Smethwick Library closed its doors and fortunately we were able to relocate safely to operate from Raglan Road Christian Church with only minor disruption to our service. Despite food shortages experienced nationally, we continued to provide a wide range of food to our members, working closely with other agencies and food projects such as Fareshare and Incredible Surplus.

Your Local Pantry Smethwick operates as a Community Food Club giving its members the opportunity to select approximately £20 worth of a variety of fresh, frozen and tinned produce for £4 per week. During 2020/21 we had on average 60 members using the Pantry each week.

Smethwick CAN Grow Community Allotment

The Allotment was able to continue operating throughout the reporting period, though on a reduced and limited team of dedicated volunteers due to shielding and Covid restrictions; it continued to supply fresh fruit and vegetables to the other Smethwick CAN projects and to improve and develop the plot.

Smethwick CAN Café

Smethwick CAN Café changed its operational model at the start of the pandemic to operate a takeaway-only service, providing over 70 tasty meals each week to the local community. In December 2020, over 500 Christmas meals were delivered to local people in financial difficulty, including to residents living in hostels and families identified by local schools and community groups.

Life Connect

Through the short-term project Life Connect, 50 homeless packs and support was provided to address the growing issue of rough sleeping and sofa surfing in the local area, as well as providing over 100 Mindfulness Activity packs for children and young people whose parents were accessing the services of Foodbank and Pantry.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities shows total incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2021 of £202,482 (2020: £116,914) and total resources expended of £165,337 (2020: £98,988) thereby realising an overall surplus for the year of £37,145 (2020: £17,926).

As a result, closing net assets as at 31 March 2021 total £80,018 (2020: £42,873) which includes an amount of £35,536 (2020: £22,456) in respect of restricted funds.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources of the charity are donations from both individuals and other organisations.

Reserves policy

The charity's reserves policy aims to secure three to six months of running costs within the general free reserves to ensure ongoing sustainability.

FUTURE PLANS

Much of the focus of the last 12 months has been responding to the pandemic and the significant increase in demand particularly for emergency provision such as Foodbank. Although we have managed to secure funds to provide the immediate crisis and for some short-term responses in the aftermath of the pandemic, the focus will be shifting towards the longer-term effects of the pandemic with increased debt, higher energy costs, poor mental health and emotional wellbeing and in reconnecting residents to their local community as we come out of lockdowns and isolation.

Our immediate plans to respond to this are threefold: -

1. To restructure our management team so that we can meet the new challenges
2. Develop a strategic partnership with Trussell Trust to look at not just the supply of food parcels but strategies to end local hunger and destitution
3. Trustees, staff and volunteers to work together on a refresh of our strategic plan to encourage collaboration and partnership that enables local churches within the network to be equipped to deal with the new and existing challenges for residents of Smethwick

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 24 July 2014.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

1. Trustees are welcome to invite people known to them to consider being a Trustee, generally those who are in positions of authority and responsibility within the church network within Smethwick;
2. Interested parties meet with the Chair of trustees to prepare a submission for Trustees. The Chair does not exercise a view;
3. A digest is prepared for Trustees who are invited to vote on the Trustee proposed;
4. New Trustees are welcomed to the board of Trustees and their details sent to the Charity Commission.

Induction and training of new trustees

1. New Trustees are cleared for Safeguarding purposes;
2. New Trustees are introduced to the lead staff of Smethwick CAN and their new colleague trustees;
3. New Trustees are provided with copies of the policies;
4. New Trustees are invited to take a particular interest in a part of Smethwick CAN and get to know it in detail.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

CE002343 (England and Wales)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Registered Charity number
1157993

Registered office
Holy Trinity Community Office
Church Hill Street
Smethwick
West Midlands
B67 7AH

Trustees
Rev D R Gould
Mr J Lynch
Rev N M Ross
Mrs W Dyke
Mrs K J Peniket
Rev J R Crewes
Mrs J Cannings
Rev P Spence
Rev S J Bentham

Independent Examiner
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 18 January 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev D R Gould - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Smethwick Church Action Network ('the Charity')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

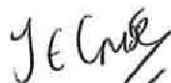
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited under the 2011 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



James Cruse
ACA, FCCA, BSc (Econ) Hons
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

18 January 2022

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		101,004	101,478	202,482	116,914
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		74,566	88,398	162,964	85,262
Other		2,373	-	2,373	13,726
Total		76,939	88,398	165,337	98,988
NET INCOME		24,065	13,080	37,145	17,926
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		20,417	22,456	42,873	24,947
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>44,482</u>	<u>35,536</u>	<u>80,018</u>	<u>42,873</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	470	-	470	817
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank and in hand		46,777	35,536	82,313	44,658
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(2,765)	-	(2,765)	(2,602)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>44,012</u>	<u>35,536</u>	<u>79,548</u>	<u>42,056</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>44,482</u>	<u>35,536</u>	<u>80,018</u>	<u>42,873</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>44,482</u>	<u>35,536</u>	<u>80,018</u>	<u>42,873</u>
FUNDS	7				
Unrestricted funds				44,482	20,417
Restricted funds				<u>35,536</u>	<u>22,456</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>80,018</u>	<u>42,873</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 January 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



Rev D R Gould - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on cost
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent examiners fees	1,800	800
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>347</u>	<u>365</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

4. EMPLOYMENT COSTS AND AVERAGE EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees during the year was 7 (2020: 5).

Included within charitable activities are gross salary costs of £64,685, employers national insurance costs of £2,686 and employers pension costs of £821.

No employees received benefits in excess of £60,000.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	<u>1,387</u>	<u>449</u>	<u>1,836</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2020	571	448	1,019
Charge for year	<u>347</u>	-	<u>347</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>918</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>1,366</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2021	<u>469</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>470</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>816</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>817</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	1,931
Social security and other taxes	965	-
Other creditors	-	(129)
Accrued expenses	<u>1,800</u>	<u>800</u>
	<u>2,765</u>	<u>2,602</u>

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.20	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	9,625	14,288	23,913
Creative English	1,093	(1,093)	-
Peaced Together	2,000	-	2,000
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	3,329	(168)	3,161
Foodbank Food Costs	4,370	8,101	12,471
Christmas Meal	-	1,300	1,300
Community Sponsorship (Refugee Family)	-	500	500
Faithful Neighbourhoods	-	1,137	1,137
	<u>20,417</u>	<u>24,065</u>	<u>44,482</u>
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	9,201	6,144	15,345
Asda Trussell Trust	5,830	(5,774)	56
Barrow Cadbury Pantry	3,764	(3,764)	-
Catalyst Social Action Fund	3,661	-	3,661
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	-	4,687	4,687
Covid 19 Response	-	754	754
Grantham Yorke	-	1,076	1,076
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	-	1,270	1,270
Homeless and Family Support	-	4,684	4,684
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	-	1,708	1,708
Trussell Trust Emergency	-	2,295	2,295
	<u>22,456</u>	<u>13,080</u>	<u>35,536</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>42,873</u>	<u>37,145</u>	<u>80,018</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	39,309	(25,021)	14,288
Creative English	-	(1,093)	(1,093)
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	2,850	(3,018)	(168)
Foodbank Food Costs	56,143	(48,042)	8,101
Christmas Meal	650	650	1,300
Community Sponsorship (Refugee Family)	500	-	500
Faithful Neighbourhoods	1,552	(415)	1,137
	101,004	(76,939)	24,065
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	41,181	(35,037)	6,144
Asda Trussell Trust	7,154	(12,928)	(5,774)
Barrow Cadbury Pantry	8,884	(12,648)	(3,764)
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	10,588	(5,901)	4,687
Covid 19 Response	8,936	(8,182)	754
Grantham Yorke	2,000	(924)	1,076
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	3,000	(1,730)	1,270
Homeless and Family Support	5,560	(876)	4,684
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	4,460	(2,752)	1,708
SCVO Vision Covid Capacity	2,428	(2,428)	-
Trussell Trust Emergency	4,869	(2,574)	2,295
Trussell Trust Emergency	2,418	(2,418)	-
	101,478	(88,398)	13,080
TOTAL FUNDS	202,482	(165,337)	37,145

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	24,947	(50,879)	35,557	9,625
Creative English	-	7,000	(5,907)	1,093
Peaced Together	-	2,000	-	2,000
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	-	3,329	-	3,329
Foodbank Food Costs	-	1	4,369	4,370
	24,947	(38,549)	34,019	20,417
Restricted funds				
Epic Fund	-	38,329	(29,128)	9,201
Asda Trussell Trust	-	14,382	(8,552)	5,830
Barrow Cadbury Pantry	-	3,764	-	3,764
Catalyst Social Action Fund	-	-	3,661	3,661
	-	56,475	(34,019)	22,456
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>24,947</u>	<u>17,926</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,873</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	45,874	(96,753)	(50,879)
Creative English	7,000	-	7,000
Peaced Together	2,000	-	2,000
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	3,329	-	3,329
Foodbank Food Costs	-	1	1
	58,203	(96,752)	(38,549)
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	38,329	-	38,329
Asda Trussell Trust	14,382	-	14,382
Barrow Cadbury Pantry	6,000	(2,236)	3,764
	58,711	(2,236)	56,475
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>116,914</u>	<u>(98,988)</u>	<u>17,926</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	24,947	(36,591)	35,557	23,913
Creative English	-	5,907	(5,907)	-
Peaced Together	-	2,000	-	2,000
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	-	3,161	-	3,161
Foodbank Food Costs	-	8,102	4,369	12,471
Christmas Meal	-	1,300	-	1,300
Community Sponsorship (Refugee Family)	-	500	-	500
Faithful Neighbourhoods	-	1,137	-	1,137
	<u>24,947</u>	<u>(14,484)</u>	<u>34,019</u>	<u>44,482</u>
Restricted funds				
Epic Fund	-	44,473	(29,128)	15,345
Asda Trussell Trust	-	8,608	(8,552)	56
Catalyst Social Action Fund	-	-	3,661	3,661
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	-	4,687	-	4,687
Covid 19 Response	-	754	-	754
Grantham Yorke	-	1,076	-	1,076
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	-	1,270	-	1,270
Homeless and Family Support	-	4,684	-	4,684
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	-	1,708	-	1,708
Trussell Trust Emergency	-	2,295	-	2,295
	<u>-</u>	<u>69,555</u>	<u>(34,019)</u>	<u>35,536</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>24,947</u>	<u>55,071</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,018</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	85,183	(121,774)	(36,591)
Creative English	7,000	(1,093)	5,907
Peaced Together	2,000	-	2,000
ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)	6,179	(3,018)	3,161
Foodbank Food Costs	56,143	(48,041)	8,102
Christmas Meal	650	650	1,300
Community Sponsorship (Refugee Family)	500	-	500
Faithful Neighbourhoods	1,552	(415)	1,137
	159,207	(173,691)	(14,484)
Restricted funds			
Epic Fund	79,510	(35,037)	44,473
Asda Trussell Trust	21,536	(12,928)	8,608
Barrow Cadbury Pantry	14,884	(14,884)	-
CCLORS Life Connect Grant	10,588	(5,901)	4,687
Covid 19 Response	8,936	(8,182)	754
Grantham Yorke	2,000	(924)	1,076
Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)	3,000	(1,730)	1,270
Homeless and Family Support	5,560	(876)	4,684
SCVO Vision Community Bakery	4,460	(2,752)	1,708
SCVO Vision Covid Capacity	2,428	(2,428)	-
Trussell Trust Emergency	4,869	(2,574)	2,295
Trussell Trust Emergency	2,418	(2,418)	-
	160,189	(90,634)	69,555
TOTAL FUNDS	319,396	(264,325)	55,071

Unrestricted - General Fund

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purpose.

Unrestricted Designated - Creative English

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purpose.

Unrestricted Designated - ChangeSpaces (Action City Fund)

This fund is used to support local groups deliver work mainly with asylum seekers and refugees to improve their English skills. We worked with local groups to train them to deliver the programme which uses drama, puppets and games to teach English in real life scenarios to those with very few or no language skills.

Unrestricted Designated - Foodbank Food Costs

This fund is donations that are specifically requested to only support the purchasing of food for use within our foodbank project.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Unrestricted Designated - Christmas Meal

This fund was for donations that were specifically made for providing Christmas Meals in December 2020.

Unrestricted Designated - Community Sponsorship (Refugee Family)

This fund is for supporting a family from Syria who will be moving to Smethwick in 2021 and receiving support from a Community Sponsorship Group with issues such as housing, education, health etc. As the lead organization we are holding the funds for this work.

Unrestricted Designated - Faithful Neighbourhoods

These are allocated funds specifically to provide practical support around Covid-19 adaptations that allow Smethwick Foodbank to provide a safer service during the pandemic.

Restricted - Epic Fund

This funding is a grant from Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and Esmee Fairbairn to develop a co-ordinated approach across Smethwick to reduce Food Poverty whilst also creating food related activities that build a sense of community and encourage future social enterprise and/or community owned businesses.

Restricted - Asda Trussell Trust Grant

This grant awarded by Asda and administered by Trussell Trust is to support staffing and management costs associated with Smethwick Foodbank.

Restricted - Barrow Cadbury Pantry

This grant was awarded to supply equipment for the initial set up of Your Local Pantry Smethwick both in the library and in its temporary home of a local church during the pandemic.

Restricted - CCLORS Life Connect

This grant is supporting us to provide additional responses to Covid-19 for those using our Foodbank and Pantry services. This includes emergency packs for homeless users and wellbeing packs for families.

Restricted - Covid-19 Response

This grant was part of the UK Governments response to Covid-19 and was used to support the additional demands placed on our services.

Restricted - Grantham Yorke

This grant is being used to specifically support children and families using our emergency services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Restricted - Heart of England (Co-op Pantry)

This grant is being used to provide additional food supplies to our Your Local Pantry project and to support us in room hire costs for our temporary accommodation.

Restricted - Homeless and Family Support

This grant from Eveson Charitable Trust is being used to provide additional support to people experiencing homelessness and to support children and families.

Restricted - SCVO Vision Community Bakery

This grant from SCVO is being used to set up a Community Bakery in partnership with Bearwood Community Hub and Mothership.

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - SCVO Vision Covid Capacity

This grant from SCVO was for equipment and materials required to adapt our services for delivery during Covid-19.

Restricted - Trussell Trust Emergency

These grants are being used to support the additional demands placed on our Foodbank project during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.

9. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, the validity of which is dependent upon Smethwick Church Action Network being able to continue to operate and come to terms with the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the present time there are many unknown variables which makes forecasting the future results and impact on the charity challenging.

Covid-19 represents a significant event both during and since the end of the financial period. The impact of this and the countermeasures being taken to suppress it are considered to be non-adjusting post year end events and therefore have not been taken into account in preparing the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021.

10. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is under the control of the trustees.