

**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**

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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

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**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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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  
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**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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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.

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

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**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**

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**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 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and grants		46,253	143,896	190,149	140,279
Other trading activities	2	9,240	-	9,240	-
<b>Total</b>		<u>55,493</u>	<u>143,896</u>	<u>199,389</u>	<u>140,279</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
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
<b>Total</b>		<u>35,231</u>	<u>112,399</u>	<u>147,630</u>	<u>170,243</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>20,262</b>	<b>31,497</b>	<b>51,759</b>	<b>(29,964)</b>
Transfers between funds	9	1,942	(1,942)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>22,204</b>	<b>29,555</b>	<b>51,759</b>	<b>(29,964)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		32,077	17,977	50,054	80,018
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<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 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	6	6,290	775	7,065	8,001
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
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
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	25,160	(29,849)	(4,689)	(5,569)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		47,990	46,758	94,748	42,053
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		54,280	47,533	101,813	50,054
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		54,280	47,533	101,813	50,054
<b>FUNDS</b>	9				
Unrestricted funds				54,280	32,077
Restricted funds				47,533	17,977
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				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

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- 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**

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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

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

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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**

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**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**

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

**3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

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

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Independent examiners fees	<b>1,800</b>	1,800
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit work	<b>843</b>	1,296
Depreciation - owned assets	<u><b>2,436</b></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 £
<b>COST</b>				
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>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
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>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
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
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
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>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	44,274	(28,564)	15,710
Pantry Membership	<u>11,219</u>	<u>(6,668)</u>	<u>4,551</u>
	55,493	(35,232)	20,261
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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	<u>2,500</u>	<u>(2,490)</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>143,896</u>	<u>(112,398)</u>	<u>31,498</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
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
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
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
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
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	<u>8,940</u>	<u>(4,228)</u>	<u>4,712</u>
	73,120	(104,532)	(31,412)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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	<u>540</u>	<u>(540)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>67,159</u>	<u>(65,711)</u>	<u>1,448</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>140,279</u></u>	<u><u>(170,243)</u></u>	<u><u>(29,964)</u></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.