

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
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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 on10/09/2024..... 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.