

ANNUAL REPORT

1st JANUARY 2021 – 31st DECEMBER 2021

OVERVIEW

The Trustees of Shropshire Hope (SH) present this report summarising activities undertaken as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) during the period 1st January to 31st December 2021.

Minutes and Agreed Action Points from meetings of the Organising Team are available for inspection together with further information on finances, although a Statement of Income & Expenditure is provided in Appendix 1.

LEGAL STATUS

On 2nd November 2015 SH was entered into the Register of Charities – number 1164220 – following successful submission of a charitable application.

The principal purpose of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith throughout Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. The CIO may also advance education and relieve poverty and sickness in such other parts of the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit.

A copy of the Constitution is available on request or may be viewed or downloaded from the SH website.

The Trustees term of office will be reviewed in January 2023. The existing Trustees are listed below and their specific roles:

Name	Period of Office	Specific Roles
Leslie James Burke	2 years	Chair
Pauline Dorothy Mack	2 years	Prayer
Douglas Mark Savill	2 years	Worship
Geoffrey Nankivell	2 years	North West Shropshire Co-ordinator

The planning and facilitating of activities during this period was supplemented by additional members of an Organising Team, members of which currently include the Trustees plus:

- Andy Ackroyd: Rural Dean for Shrewsbury and Wrekin CofE Deanery
- Chris Densham: Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Mission Enabler
- Bernard Langford (Treasurer): who is a deacon at the Telford Elim Community Church
- David Matthias: Lead Elder of Barnabas Community Church, Shrewsbury
- Jane Newey (Secretary): Pray for Schools England Co-ordinator

SH is supported by a variety of external advisers representing Christian denominations involved in the county. These include the Anglican Bishop in Shropshire together with senior representatives from Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed churches. We value their wisdom, encouragement and support, both practical and financial, in order to accomplish our mission.

There was an incredible impact from Covid-19 on the charity, as on the wider world. We delivered a number of things online, which, although not as impactful as in person gatherings, still encouraged and supported Christians and Christian leaders across the county.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

OBJECTIVES

The SH Organising Team set out the following objectives for 2021:

- To deliver the postponed, from July 2020, 'Creating Disciple Making Communities' online conference in 2021.
- To continue a monthly online Live Prayer event in support of the county during the Pandemic.
- Support and practically assist wherever possible other prayer initiatives within the county including 'Thy Kingdom Come'.
- Facilitate and provide a spiritual leadership covering to the development of a Prophetic College in Telford & Wrekin.
- To ensure that the charity could survive beyond Covid-19.

ACHIEVEMENTS

2021 Creating Disciple Making Communities online conference.

We held the conference on Monday 12 July, 2021, online using the SH Facebook and YouTube channel as broadcast hosts. Andy Glover assisted by Chris Densham delivered this in a really engaging and informative manner.

The feedback from the conference was really positive, and we enabled people to pose questions on the chat bar while it was happening making it more interactive. The views were 58 people on YouTube, and 243 on Facebook, a total of 301. We were pleased with the level of engagement, making the event really worthwhile.

It allowed us to keep our profile in front of people during such a difficult time, and enabled us still to support many Christian Leaders, and those others who engaged with it.

Online Live Prayer over three months

Over the period January – March 2021, we continued, from 2020, with our online Live Prayer event. We were very mindful of the importance of prayer as we continued through the Pandemic.

1. The first such event was held on Wednesday 6 January. The topic we prayed into was 'The Impact of Lockdown on People,' especially their mental health. Research, and media reports, was indicating the negative impact Covid was having on many people's mental wellbeing; thus we felt that this was a very timely prayer topic.

2. Wednesday 3 February – ‘Connecting with Christ in an Age of Uncertainty.’ As Christians, we ourselves recognize the strength and peace we receive through our relationship with Jesus Christ. As such, we prayed that many more would receive the same benefits.

3. Wednesday 3 March – ‘Looking forward Beyond the Pandemic.’ We were starting to look forward to our July Online Conference, and prayed for that, and the wider recovery after the series of Lockdowns.

In March we felt that we had come to logical break point in our online prayer, and began to prepare for the Online Conference. Interestingly, the level of engagement and reach had expanded over the three months starting with 69 people in January, rising to 263 people in March.

Continuing to Facilitate Other County Christian Projects

In 2021 we continued as a charity to support and enable several other Christian initiatives in Shropshire, including ‘Thy Kingdom Come,’ and the Prophetic College. As with the things already mentioned, these continued in an online manner, and were happy to have our support and encouragement.

These things mentioned in this section fulfil the objectives set out for the year, and ensured that Shropshire Hope continued in the future as a viable and ongoing charity.

RISK MANAGEMENT

A summary of our Risk Management procedures and policies is provided in Appendix 2.

Copies of these documents plus the Privacy Statement & GDPR compliance are available if required on the Shropshire Hope website.

FUTURE PLANS

In order to develop our vision for 2022, we met in November 2021 as an organizing team. One of the things that we all felt from our engagement with church leaders, and many involved in the Third Sector, was a level of exhaustion and sometimes, sadly, even of burnout in those who had been incredibly busy and committed through Covid. Our Priorities therefore were based on these deliberations:

- To have conversations with other key leaders to see if our conclusions were appropriate, and if they also agreed with the feeling that 2022 should be a year to allow people the space to recover.
- Continue to meet and plan as an organizing team preparing from 2023 as a year of relaunch.
- Liaise with and support other prayer and/or mission initiatives within the county including Thy Kingdom Come.
- Continue to liaise with the county Denominational Leaders.
- Continue to update the website and encourage churches and other Christian ministries to use it as resource to publicise events.
- Publicise national HOPE Together initiatives and resources through the SH Mailing list, as well as local events.

CONCLUSIONS

The Trustees of Shropshire Hope would like to thank all those who have helped achieve our aim of *"...bringing HOPE to the people of Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin"* during this year. We especially thank the Non-Trustee members of the Organising Team for their contribution and support as well as the Denominational Leaders of the county.

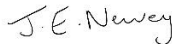
We are grateful to God for His faithfulness and blessing on our activities and look forward to being involved in the further expansion of His Kingdom in the future.

We believe we have undertaken all our legal and statutory responsibilities.

On behalf of the Trustees: 21 October 2022



Leslie Burke
Chair of Trustees



Jane Newey
Secretary

Appendix 1

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Accounting Period: 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

<u>Income</u>	£	£
Total - Donation		20.00
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Website domain renewal	8.34	
Banking error *	<u>43.13</u>	
Total		<u>51.47</u>
DEFICIT carried forward		<u>(31.47)</u>

* These monies were refunded in 2022

FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT as at 31 DECEMBER 2021

Current Assets	£	£
<u>Cash at Bank:</u>		
Opening Balance	1061.50	
less, Deficit for the year	<u>(31.47)</u>	
Closing Balance		1030.03
Current Liabilities: Creditors		<u>0</u>
Net Assets – Unrestricted Funds		<u><u>£1030.03</u></u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2021. The Trustees have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 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.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf 21 October, 2022.



Leslie Burke
Chair of Trustees



Jane Newey
Secretary

Appendix 2

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees believe that all necessary steps have been taken to mitigate risks that could be foreseen, in particular:

Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection

All of the Trustees and members of the Organising Team have undertaken Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks and are able to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. However it would be highly unlikely for anyone acting on behalf of the CIO – Trustees, Organising Team members or volunteers, to be in situations where direct supervision of vulnerable persons would occur.

Privacy Statement and GDPR Compliance

We work closely with the national charity, HOPE Together. As such we follow the national guidelines laid out by them with regard to their Privacy Statement and GDPR compliance. The national HOPE Together Privacy Policy can be found at: www.hopetogether.org.uk/User/PrivacyPolicy.aspx

This is reviewed and updated on a regular basis by them.

Financial Reserves Policy

At this time the Trustees have determined that there is no need to maintain a specific financial reserve. It is our normal policy that all activities undertaken should be self-funded although this may change in the future. We have a number of supporters who would be prepared to underwrite specific activities if required.

Investment Policy

The Trustees have determined that in view of the above there is no requirement to have an Investment Policy for the following reasons:

- All activities are self-funded and would not take place unless sufficient funds were in hand or underwritten in advance
- We do not employ any members of staff so no salaries are at risk
- We do not rent or own property so we have no capital or other associated expenditure

Conflict of Interest Policy

In accordance with the Constitution of the CIO, all Trustees must declare any interest, financial or otherwise, in connection with a purchase, sale or the leasing of property and/or the purchase or leasing of any goods or services that the CIO is considering. Trustees must also declare any interest of an associated person with whom they are connected.

This does not preclude a Trustee or associated person from being paid for the provision of goods or services, but they must abstain from all discussions regarding such transactions which must be recorded in the CIO's Minute Book.

Payments are not made to any Trustee as a result of them acting as a Trustee of the CIO.

Managing Volunteers Policy

The CIO has three primary volunteer roles:

- **Ambassador:** represents the vision of Shropshire Hope to external organisations such as the media; local authorities and other public bodies, charities, businesses and organisations
- **Advocate:** promotes Shropshire Hope in their local church, mobilising support for our activities and encouraging church leaders to engage with the CIO in developing local mission initiatives
- **Associate:** individuals with skills in finance and fundraising; database management; literature design; presenting (e.g. using PowerPoint etc.); PA & AV; video making; website design or are available to help with setting up venues; providing transportation and generally helping with other logistical items

Where appropriate suitable instruction and guidance will be provided to ensure the persons concerned act in the best interests of the CIO.

Complaints Policy

Any complaints received in respect of the CIO will be referred initially to the Organising Team; we will endeavour to resolve the matter within appropriate timescales.

- Verbal complaints made in person or received via telephone conversation will normally be acknowledged by an Organising Team member who in conjunction with the Chair of Trustees will respond accordingly. The complainant may be asked to provide a written summary of the issues involved if further investigation is deemed necessary
- Written complaints will normally be reviewed by the Chair of Trustees and where appropriate referred to the Organising Team for review and resolution

Should resolution not be possible, we will invite the complainant to refer the matter to a member of our Council of Reference for review.

In all cases our desire will be to resolve any issues justly and fairly and as speedily as possible.