

SANDWELL CHURCHES LINK

England & Wales · Charity number 1167003

Details

Other names	SCL
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-05-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	SCL c/o Wesley Methodist Church High Street West Bromwich West Midlands B70 8ND
Phone	07745679893
Email	ceo@sandwellchurcheslink.org.uk
Website	sandwellchurcheslink.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS (THE "OBJECTS") ARE THE PROMOTION OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WITHIN SANDWELL AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS (THE AREA OF BENEFIT) IN PARTICULAR BY BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH WORK WITHIN A CHRISTIAN ETHOS TO PREVENT AND RELIEVE POVERTY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, ADVICE, SUPPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION.FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS CLAUSE, "THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR" MEANS CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS: "CHARITIES" ARE ORGANISATIONS, WHICH ARE ESTABLISHED FOR EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES."VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS" ARE INDEPENDENT ORGANISATIONS, WHICH ARE ESTABLISHED FOR PURPOSES THAT ADD VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, OR A SIGNIFICANT SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY, AND WHICH ARE NOT PERMITTED BY THEIR CONSTITUTION TO MAKE A PROFIT FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION. VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS DO NOT INCLUDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR OTHER STATUTORY AUTHORITIES.

Activities: SCL equips churches to connect with their local communities and take action to reduce homelessness, food poverty, financial exclusion and social isolation by:facilitating an anti-poverty movement;developing creative responses to poverty;enabling strong partnerships;encouraging people of

faith to listen to their communities and respond as part of their Christian discipleship.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Sandwell

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£120,585	£90,795	-	-
2023-12-31	£128,330	£74,972	-	-
2022-12-31	£69,702	£75,091	-	-
2021-12-31	£28,325	£36,686	-	-
2020-12-31	£52,482	£28,975	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Elizabeth Mary Farley	Chair	2020-11-23
Bev Thomas		2018-03-15
HAZEL MARGARET BLOXHAM		2016-05-09
Rev JON PHILIP GRANT		2017-02-27
Rev Oniyide Oludayomi		2023-01-01
Trevor Palfreyman		2020-11-23

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

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The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st December 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name:	Sandwell Churches Link
Charity registration number:	1167003
Registered address:	Wesley Methodist Church 291 High Street West Bromwich B70 8ND
Trustees:	Mrs. Hazel Bloxham Rev. Bev Thomas Mrs. Esther Spence Rev. Jon Grant Ms. Elizabeth Farley Mr. Trevor Palfreyman Pastor. Niyi Oludayomi Dr. David Jarrett
Chief Executive Officer:	Mr. James Lynch
Independent Examiner:	Mr. Eric Moore 2, Orchard Way Great Barr Birmingham B43 6PN
Principal Bankers:	Lloyds Bank Ltd.

CHARITY STATUS

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered in 2016

AIMS AND PURPOSE

The objects of Sandwell Churches Link are to:

- *Play a key strategic role in reducing poverty in all its forms in Sandwell, including homelessness, food poverty, financial exclusion, and loneliness.*
- *Help local churches rooted in neighbourhoods to connect with the wider community including other faiths, businesses, voluntary and community groups and public sector organisations*
- *Help local churches to connect with each other in collaborative learning, shared resources and combined social action*
- *Support churches by offering training, to enable them to use an asset-based approach to working with their local communities.*

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Sandwell Churches Link (SCL) is a small charity, with a bold mission to work together to help end poverty in Sandwell. The charity operates with an extensive network of partners all of whom share this mission. Our partnerships start with churches of all denominations but also extends to other-faith groups and community organisations with no particular faith connection.

During 2024, the core activities of Sandwell Churches' Link were continuing to:

- Develop the Sandwell Church Network, in each of the 6 towns.
- Develop of the Sandwell Clothing Bank Project.
- Support 'Places of Welcome' and 'Warm Spaces' initiatives.
- Provide support and innovation to the Sandwell Food Power Network, through a network of Foodbanks, Pantries and Community Meals.
- Work with local churches on effective community engagement and outreach through the 'Opening New Doors' project.
- Tackle financial exclusion, through the expansion of CAP Debt provision across the 6-towns of Sandwell.
- Pioneer the development of Community Hubs across the borough.
- Help churches and community groups to communicate more effectively with their neighbourhoods and local networks.

During 2024, cost of living continued to rise, and the impact as always, is experienced most acutely by those on the margins of poverty, with the least resources. Consequentially, the need for food banks and pantries has continued to grow, along with the rising need for the provision of clothing and school uniforms. The inability to afford even the basic necessities has resulted in the knock-on effect of many resorting to borrowing money, leading to the added pressure of mounting debts. Against this worrying backdrop SCL has seen the heartening willingness of local churches and other community organisations to step into the gap, despite their own financial shortages, to help those on the margins of their communities.

Sandwell Churches Link has continued to play an important role in helping coordinate, resource and encourage many of these projects, including the operation and development of the Sandwell Clothing Bank, and Sandwell Debt Centre, in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP). Sandwell Churches Link also plays a key role in sharing key information, resources and learning across the borough, working closely with Sandwell Council for Voluntary Service (SCVO) and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and all the main food networks, such as Trussell Trust, Your Local Pantry and Black Country Food Bank who continue to lead on the provision of food in Sandwell.

Sandwell Churches Link is very grateful for the privilege to work with so many great churches and community partners, and to its sponsors who enable us to operate the charity.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income generation

The total income for the year was £120,585 (2023: £128,330), which was generated through voluntary donations, grants, consultancy, and training courses.

Expenditure

Total expenditure was £90,795 (2023: £74,972)

Funds

Overall funds are £101,071 (2023: £71,281) of which £41,031 (2023: £22,283) are restricted funds and £20,000 are designated funds (2023: £20,000)

Reserves policy

The charity holds unrestricted, restricted and designated funds. Transfers can be made from unrestricted to restricted funds to prevent restricted funds from going into deficit. Our overall policy is to hold reserves at a minimum threshold necessary to operate the organisation (not more than 3 months expenditure) or higher when specific projects are being planned for subsequent years. (The charity currently holds £20,000 in designated funds, specifically allocated for this purpose.)

Signed:

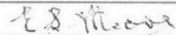
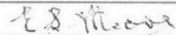
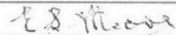
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "EF", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Elizabeth Farley, Chair of Trustees

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Date: 16th May 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

	CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Independent examiner's report on the accounts												
Section A Independent ESandwell Churches Linkxaminer's Report														
Report to the trustees/ members of	Sandwell Churches Link													
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2024	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Charity no (if any)</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">1167003</td> </tr> </table>	Charity no (if any)	1167003										
Charity no (if any)	1167003													
Set out on pages														
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended														
Responsibilities and basis of report	As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.													
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: - accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or - the accounts do not accord with the accounting records I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. <i>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</i>													
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Signed:  </td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Date: 4.3.25 </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Name: Eric Moore </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCA </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Address: 2, Orchard Way, Great Barr </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> BIRMINGHAM </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> B43 6PN </td> </tr> </table>			Signed: 	Date: 4.3.25	Name: Eric Moore		Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCA		Address: 2, Orchard Way, Great Barr		BIRMINGHAM		B43 6PN	
Signed: 	Date: 4.3.25													
Name: Eric Moore														
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCA														
Address: 2, Orchard Way, Great Barr														
BIRMINGHAM														
B43 6PN														

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the accounting period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

	Note s	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
Income	1	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants, Donations & Legacies		26,756	92,090	118,846	27,720	97,639	125,359
Income from Charitable Activities		1,015	724	1,739	1,690	1,281	2,971
Total Incoming Resources		27,771	92,814	120,585	29,410	98,920	128,330
Expenditure	2						
Raising Funds				4,901			
Charitable Activities				85,894			
Support Costs							
Total expenditure				90,795			74,972
Income/Expenditure				29,790			53,358
Balance B/fwd				71,281			17,923
Balance C/Fwd				101,071			72,281

Ms. Elizabeth Farley, Chair of Trustees
ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Signed:



Date: 16th May 2025

1. ANALYSIS of INCOME for 2023/2024

INCOME				2024					2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Totals		Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Totals
Grants & Donations	£	£		£		£	£		£
Walter Stanley Trust	£25,000	£14,000		£39,000	WST	£25,000	£14,000	£20,000	£59,000
National Lottery		£60,000		£60,000	Nat Lot		£9,500		£9,500
ACTS435		£1,945		£1,945	Benefact		£21,660		£21,660
Churches	£250	£14,800		£15,050	Churches		£7,219		£7,219
Donations	£1,506	£1,345		£2,851	Donations	£620	£2,324		£2,944
Charitable activities	£1,015	£724		£1,739	Charitable acts	£1,690	£1,281		£2,971
					Sandwell MBC		£12,000		£12,000
					Other grants	£2,100	£10,936		£13,036
	£27,771	£92,814		£120,585		£29,410	£78,920	£20,000	£128,330
B fwd from 2023	£28,998	£22,283	£20,000	£71,281					£17,923
Expenditure									
(see over)	£16,729	£74,066							£74,972
Balance at the bank	£40,040	£41,031	£20,000	£101,071					£71,281

2. ANALYSIS of EXPENDITURE for 2023/2024

	Total Expenses	Total Expenses
	2024	2023
	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds	£4,501.00	£2,838.00
Website and Promotion	£400.00	£115.00
Total expenditure on raising funds	£4,901.00	£2,953.00
Charitable Activities		
Employee Salaries	49,316	46,746
Sessional Workers Costs	2,278	
Office Rental	1,250	1,275
Training Courses	500	679
Events	630	
Promotional Filming	1,100	433
IT and Comms	1,386	252
Legal and Insurance	739	527
Travel and other Expenses	9,363	2,930
Partner Project Support	19,332	19,177
Total Charitable Activities	85,894	72,019
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	90,795	74,972

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FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st December 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Charity registration number:	1167003
Registered address:	Wesley Methodist Church 291 High Street West Bromwich B70 8ND
Trustees:	Mrs. Hazel Bloxham Rev. Bev Thomas Mrs. Esther Spence Rev. Jon Grant Ms. Elizabeth Farley Mr. Trevor Palfreyman Pastor. Niyi Oludayomi Dr. David Jarrett
Chief Executive Officer:	Mr. James Lynch
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- *Help local churches to connect with each other in collaborative learning, shared resources and combined social action*
- *Support churches by offering training, to enable them to use an asset-based approach to working with their local communities.*

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Sandwell Churches Link is a small charity, with a bold mission to work together to help end poverty in Sandwell. The charity operates with an extensive network of partners all of whom share this mission. Our partnerships start with churches of all denominations, but also extends to other-faith groups and community organisations with no particular faith connection.

During 2023, the core activities of Sandwell Churches' Link were continuing to:

- Develop the Sandwell Church Network, in each of the 6 towns
- Develop of the Sandwell Clothing Bank Project
- Support 'Places of Welcome' initiative
- Support the 'Warm Spaces' initiative with church and community partners
- Provide support and innovation to the Sandwell Food Power Network
- Work with 45 churches on effective community engagement through the 'Opening New Doors' project.
- Tackle financial exclusion, through the expansion of CAP Debt provision
- Pioneer the development of Community Hubs across the borough

Throughout 2023 Sandwell Churches Link continued to work closely in partnership with 'Strengthening Communities' (Lichfield Diocese) and Thrive Together (Birmingham Diocese)

During 2023 the need for food banks and food pantries has continued to grow, along with the increasing necessity for clothing and uniform provision. This demonstrates both the continuing needs across the communities, and the preparedness of churches and other community organisations to step into the gap, to help those on the margins of society. Sandwell Churches Link has continued to play an important role in helping coordinate these projects, including playing the lead role in the establishment of the Sandwell Clothing Bank. Sandwell Churches Link also plays a key role in sharing key information, resources and learning across the borough, working closely with Sandwell Council for Voluntary Service (SCVO). We also work alongside Sandwell Council and all the main food networks, such as Trussell Trust, Your Local Pantry and Black Country Food Bank who continue to lead on the provision of food in Sandwell.

During 2023, Sandwell Churches Link began a new venture to aid in the provision of Debt Advice throughout Sandwell, in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and Kings Community Church in Oldbury. The project now offers support to West Bromwich residents as well as Oldbury and Smethwick.

Sandwell Churches Link is very grateful for the privilege to work with so many great churches and community partners, and to its sponsors who enable us to operate the charity.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income generation

The total income for the year was £128,330 (2022: £69,702) which was generated through voluntary donations, grants, consultancy, and training courses.

Expenditure

Total expenditures were £74,972 (2021: £68,692)

Funds

Overall funds are £71,281 (2022: £17,923) of which £41,681 are restricted funds (2022: £7,923)

Reserves policy

The charity holds unrestricted and restricted funds. Transfers are made from unrestricted to restricted funds to prevent restricted funds from going into deficit. Our overall policy is to hold reserves at a minimum threshold necessary to operate the organisation (not more than 3 months expenditure) or higher when specific projects are being planned for subsequent years. (The charity currently holds £20,000 in reserve, specifically allocated for this purpose.)

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Grant'.

Rev. Jon Grant as Chair of Trustees

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Date: 10th June 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent ESandwell Churches Linkexaminer's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Sandwell Churches Link

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1167003

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Eric Moore

Date:

21.2.24

Name:

Eric Moore

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCA

Address:

2, Orchard Way, Great Barr

BIRMINGHAM

B43 6PN

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

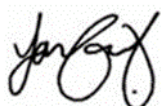
For the accounting period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
Income	1	£	£	£	£
Voluntary income		29,600	96,914	126,514	69,381
Charitable activities		-	1,816	1,816	321
Total Income		29,600	98,730	128,330	69,702
Expenditure	2				
Raising funds				2,838	100
Charitable activities				72,019	68,592
Total Expenses				74,972	75,091
Net Income/Expenditure				53,358	(5,389)
Funds brought forward				17,923	23,312
Balance				71,281	17,923

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Rev. Jon Grant as Chair of Trustees

Signed:



Date: May 2024

1. ANALYSIS of INCOME for 2022/2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds (2023)	Total Funds (2022)
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income				
Church Support	2,500	-	2,500	-
Charity Donations	-	4,099	4,099	113
Grants	27,100	92,815	119,415	69,268
Total Voluntary Income	29,600	96,914	126,514	69,381
Charitable Activities				
Consultancy	-	1,535	1,535	-
Training Courses	-	281	281	321
TOTAL INCOME	29,600	98,730	128,330	69,702

2. ANALYSIS of EXPENDITURE for 2022/2023

	Total Expenses (2023)	Total Expenses (2022)
	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds	2,838	-
Website and Promotion	115	100
Total expenditure on raising funds	2,953	100
Charitable Activities		
Employee Salaries	46,746	32,736
Sessional Workers Costs	-	12,206
Office Rental	1,275	975
Training Courses	679	3,600
Events		120
Promotional Filming	433	1,467
IT and Comms	252	1,233
Legal and Insurance	527	544
Travel and other Expenses	2,930	3,049
Partner Project Support	19,177	19,061
Total Charitable Activities	72,019	75,091
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	74,972	75,091

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FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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- *Support churches by offering training, to enable them to use an asset-based approach to working with their local communities.*

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

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During 2022, the core activities of Sandwell Churches' Link were:

- Developing the Sandwell Church Network, in each of the 6 towns
- Supporting 'Places of Welcome' initiative
- Pioneering the 'Warm Spaces' initiative with church and community partners
- Providing support and innovation to the Sandwell Food Power Network
- Working with 40 churches on effective community engagement through the 'Opening New Doors' project.
- Tackling Financial Exclusion
- Pioneering the development of Community Hubs across the borough

Throughout 2022 Sandwell Churches Link continued to work closely in partnership with Transforming Communities Together (Lichfield Diocese) and Thrive Together (Birmingham Diocese)

In 2022 Sandwell Churches' Link worked in partnership with Sandwell Council and Nurture Development to facilitate a further series of Asset Based Community Development workshops, and an 8-week Discovering ABCD Course, which was attended by 22 local partners from churches and community groups.

During 2022 more new food banks and Pantries have sprung up, which reflects both the continuing needs across the communities, and the preparedness of churches and other community organisations to step into the gap. Sandwell Churches Link has continued to play an important role in helping coordinate these projects and helping to share information, resources and learning across the borough. We work alongside Sandwell Council and all the main food networks based in Sandwell, or who deliver services in Sandwell.

Sandwell Churches Link is very grateful for the privilege to work with so many great churches and community partners, and to its sponsors who enable us to operate the charity.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income generation

The total income for the year was £69,702 (2021: £28,325) which was generated through voluntary donations, grants, and training courses.

Expenditure

Total expenditures were £75,091 (2021: £36,686)

Funds

Overall funds are £17,923 (2021: £23,312) of which restricted funds are £0 (2021: £0)

Reserves policy

The charity holds unrestricted and restricted funds. Restricted funds are held for particular reasons and are usually spent within the financial year. Our overall policy for unrestricted funds is to hold reserves at a minimum threshold necessary to operate the organisation (not more than 3 months expenditure) or higher when specific projects are being planned for subsequent years.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Rev. Jon Grant as Chair of Trustees

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Grant'.

Date: June 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

	CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Independent examiner's report on the accounts
Section A Independent Examiner's Report		
Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Sandwell Churches Link	
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2022	Charity no (if any) 1167003
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020		
Responsibilities and basis of report	As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.	
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: - accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or - the accounts do not accord with the accounting records I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. <i>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</i>	
Signed: [Signature] Date: 8.3.23,		
Name: ERIC MOORE		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FCA	
Address:	2 Orchard Way Buck Barr Birmingham B43 6PN	

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the accounting period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Income	1	£	£	£	£
Voluntary income		50,320	19,061	69,381	28,325
Charitable activities		321	-	321	-
Total Income		50,641	19,061	69,702	28,325
Expenditure	2				
Raising funds				100	100
Charitable activities				68,592	36,586
Total Expenses				75,091	36,686
Net Income/Expenditure				(5,389)	(8,360)
Funds brought forward				23,312	31,672
Balance				17,923	23,312

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Rev. Jon Grant as Chair of Trustees

Signed:



Date: June 2023

1. ANALYSIS of INCOME for 2021/2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds (2022)	Total Funds (2021)
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income				
Charity Donations	113	-	113	-
Grants	50,207	19,061	69,268	28,325
Total Voluntary Income	50,320	19,061	69,381	28,325
Charitable Activities				
Training Courses	321	-	321	
TOTAL INCOME	50,641	19,061	69,702	28,325

2. ANALYSIS of EXPENDITURE for 2021/2022

	Total Expenses (2022)	Total Expenses (2021)
	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-
Website and Promotion	100	100
Total expenditure on raising funds	100	100
Charitable Activities		
Employee Salaries	32,736	28,571
Sessional Workers Costs	12,206	3,791
Office Rental	975	1,075
Training Courses	3,600	
Events	120	25
Promotional Filming	1,467	632
IT and Comms	1,233	
Legal and Insurance	544	552
HR Support	-	727
Travel and other Expenses	3,049	1,213
Partner Project Support	19,061	-
Total Charitable Activities	75,091	36,686
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	75,091	36,686

Accounts



Chairs Annual Report

2022

Sandwell Churches Link is a small charity, but we have a bold mission to work together to help end poverty in Sandwell. We operate with a network of amazing partners all of whom are dedicated to this mission. Our partnerships start with churches of all denominations, but also extends to other-faith groups and community organisations with no particular faith connection.

During 2022 Sandwell Churches Link was run by a small team, led by our CEO James Lynch, who is employed by the charity on a full-time basis. The charity trustees were Rev. Jon Grant (Chair), Elizabeth Farley (Vice Chair) Hazel Bloxham (Treasurer) and a vastly experienced team of Trustees, responsible for the supervision and governance of Sandwell Churches Link.

During 2022 the work of Sandwell Churches Link was principally funded by the Benefact Trust, The St Peter's Saltley Trust and the Walter Stanley Trust along with several other local Grant Funds.

The Sandwell Churches Link Annual Accounts 2022, audited by Mr Eric Moore, were approved by the Trustees at the Board Meeting held 14th March 2023.

During 2022, the core activities of Sandwell Churches' Link were:

- Developing the Sandwell Church Network, in each of the 6 towns
- Supporting 'Places of Welcome'
- Pioneering the 'Warm Spaces' initiative with church and community partners

- Providing support and innovation to the Sandwell Food Power Network
- Working with 40 churches on effective community engagement through the 'Opening New Doors' project.
- Tackling Financial Exclusion
- Pioneering the development of Community Hubs across the borough

Throughout 2022 Sandwell Churches Link continued to work closely in partnership with Transforming Communities Together (Lichfield Diocese) and Thrive Together (Birmingham Diocese)

In 2022 Sandwell Churches' Link worked in partnership with Sandwell Council and Nurture Development to facilitate a further series of Asset Based Community Development workshops, and an 8-week Discovering ABCD Course, which was attended by 22 local partners from churches and community groups.

During 2022 more new food banks and Pantries have sprung up, which reflects both the continuing needs across the communities, and also the preparedness of churches and other community organisations to step into the gap. Sandwell Churches Link has continued to play an important role in helping coordinate these projects and helping to share information, resources and learning across the borough. We work alongside Sandwell Council and all the main food networks based in Sandwell, or who deliver services in Sandwell.

We are very grateful for the privilege to work with so many great churches and community partners, and to our sponsors who enable us to operate the charity.



Rev. Jon Grant

Chair of Trustees

Sandwell Churches Link

June 2023

Sandwell Churches' Link Accounts for 2021

2021

Receipts

£

Benefact Trust (AllChurches)	
Walter Stanley Trust	10,000
St Peter's Saltley	18,325
SCVO Bounce (SCL)	
SCVO (Projects)	
ABCD course	
Donations	
Total	28,325

Expenditure

Staff Salary	28,571
Rent for office	1,075
Operational Expenses	1,141
Insurance	552
Sessional fees	5,150
Other expenditure	197

Total	36,686	
Surplus / (Deficit)	(8,360)	
Brought forward	31,672	
Balance at	31 Dec 2021	23,312

Registered Office Wesley Methodist Church
291, High Street,
West Bromwich
B70 8ND

Accounts prepared by Hazel Bloxham (Hon Treasurer)

Accounts examined by Eric Moore FCA



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Sandwell Churches Link

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2021

Charity no
(if any) 1167003

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

E. S. Moore

Date:

24.2.22

Name:

ERIC MOORE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCA

Address:

2 ORCHARD WAY

GREAT BARR

BIRMINGHAM B43 6PN

Accounts



Sandwell Churches Link Annual Report and Audited Accounts

December 2020

Report of Chair of Trustees 2020

1. Induction of Strategic Coordinator: although James Lynch joined SCL in November 2019, his continued induction marked the start of 2020. This led into an exploration of how James would help trustees take SCL forwards, working with existing and new networks of churches and communities. James has worked with trustees and local partners and together we identified some new ways to help churches support communities, looking at resources and talents within local churches.
2. A fresh Business Plan to meet the challenge: trustees commissioned Gareth Brown, a partner with local and national expertise, to work on development of the refreshed business plan. The revised plans have built on our existing work with themed and town networks which help residents to find solutions to financial pressures through debt advice, education support groups; to tackle homelessness through a Community of Practice working together on initiatives like "Housing First"; to promote food sovereignty through local initiatives such as Food Pantries, cafés and lunch groups.
We asked: "what further initiatives could arise if more churches were able to open doors to local communities. Initially, in a climate of Covid19, this seemed a paradox but Covid19 has created a climate for new thinking & new ways of working together.
3. Covid19- more challenges and solutions: just as our work was developing, Covid19 and "lockdown" presented new challenges to us. James had been meeting local churches to explore the new approach and suddenly, Coordinator, trustees, churches and partners, alongside communities were plunged into a new world of lockdown, social distancing, Zoom, remote working and isolation. Churches faced a range of pressures, and responded in very different ways. One of the ways SCL was able to help in this new world was to listen to churches, understand the pressures and feed back our findings from that work. Our study in autumn 2020, "Reflections on Covid19", has helped to establish a new rapport with churches and will inform our future work with partners.
4. Partnerships and Resources: we have built on existing partnerships and with the development of the new business plan have been able to establish new partnerships and new resources, which promise to take our work to a different level. The continuing and additional support from the Walter Stanley Trust enabled us to continue through the most difficult part of 2020. It has paved the way, not only for the growth of our work with churches in West Bromwich, but for our new partnerships with All Churches and St Peter's Trust Saltley. The "Opening New Doors" proposal was accepted for major transformational funding in autumn 2020 and work started at once, using the feedback from the reflections with churches.

5. Personnel, partners and trustees: We have developed a project team of trustees and partners to support the Strategic Coordinator in the development of "Opening New Doors". We welcomed Trevor Palfreyman (recently retired as CEO of Adullam Housing Association) and Elizabeth Farley(Mission Enabler for Black Country Methodist circuit). Trevor has led on the development of our risk register. Esther Spence and Hazel Bloxham have led on the development of new policies. David Gould has taken on the supervision of our Strategic Coordinator, James Lynch. James was furloughed during lockdown and returned in the autumn, working initially from home. Our longstanding advisor from Diocese of Lichfield, Rev Dr David Primrose retired in the autumn. Our thanks to him for all his support for SCL. I would also like to thank all our trustees, our current advisor from THRIVE (Diocese of Birmingham), Fred Rattley, James Lynch, Strategic Coordinator, and all our partners for their work with us and local churches on our 21st century mission to tackle poverty in Sandwell.
6. Message from retiring Chair: During 2020 I notified trustees that I would be resigning as chair at the end of 2020, in preparation for a move to be closer to family. Over the past 8 years, with the support of staff, trustees and advisors SCL has developed as a CIO, created significant partnerships, networks and new initiatives from our work on Just Finance, a Food Action Plan for Sandwell to a Community of Practice on solutions to Homelessness and most recently Opening New Doors, helping churches to look differently at how they use their talents and resources. All involve an asset based approach to work with communities. Our future work must be asset based, in order not just to be sustainable, but to enable communities to take charge. The values of ubuntu are at the heart of what we do- we are interconnected and that is the essence of our being. We support each other because of a core Gospel message to love our neighbour and show love in action. This means enabling people to come together, engage, find solutions and by sharing resources multiply them.

Sandwell Churches' Link Accounts for 2019/20

	2019	2020
Receipts	£	£
CUF	20,000	3,750
Walter Stanley Trust	5,000	10,000
Sustain Alliance	2,500	2,500
Cadbury Trust		5,000
AllChurches		31,232
Total	27,500	52,482
Expenditure		
Coordinator's Salary	26,167	21,277
Rent for office	150	300
Food Power	1,697	4,500
Community of Practice	209	
Coordinator's Expenses	603	971
Other expenditure	720	677
Consultant's fee		1,250
Total	29,546	28,975
Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,046)	23,507
Brought forward	10,211	8,165
Balance at	31 Dec 2019	31 Dec 2020
31,672	8,165	

Registered Office Wesley Methodist Church
291, High Street,
West Bromwich
B70 8ND

Accounts prepared by Hazel Bloxham (Hon Treasurer)

**Accounts examined by Eric Moore FCA 5 February
2021**