



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

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.

* 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