TOGETHER LEICESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1175357

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	10929716
Registered	2017-10-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	7 Peacock Lane Leicester LE1 5PZ
Phone	07894231800
Email	admin@togetherleicester.org.uk
Website	https://togetherleicester.org.uk/

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITYS OBJECTS ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC:-3.1 TO PROMOTE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CHRISTIAN BASED CHARITIES IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THEIR OBJECTS OR ANY ONE OF THEM, MAINLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, ADVICE, SUPPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION; AND3.2 THE RELIEF OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, EITHER GENERALLY OR INDIVIDUALLY, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF GRANTS, GOODS OR SERVICES.

Activities: Building partnerships between churches, statutory authorities, charities and other organisations to enable transformation and positive change within local communities. Tackling food poverty, isolation, mental health and homelessness

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£75,799	£72,940	-	-
2023-12-31	£75,939	£55,452	-	-
2022-12-31	£55,249	£70,266	-	-
2021-12-31	£69,518	£115,099	-	-
2020-12-31	£116,301	£41,808	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Florence Hazel Gildea		2022-08-17
Madeleine Valerie Wang		2019-12-02
Moirah Tauya		2024-09-05
REVEREND CANON ALISON MARY ADAMS		2017-08-23
Venerable Richard John Trethewey		2026-01-15

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TOGETHER LEICESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1175357

Accounts

TOGETHER LEICESTER

THE DIOCESE OF LEICESTER AND CUF WORKING TOGETHER

Annual report and accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2024

Registered charity number 1175357
Company number 10929716

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2024

Trustees, Officers, and Advisors

Trustees

* The Revd Canon Alison Adams	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, also Company Secretary)
^Ayodeji Eyitayo	(Appointed 10th December 2020, resigned 5th September 2024)
* Florence Gildea	(Appointed 17th August 2022)
^Ashiedu Joel	(Appointed 10th December 2020, resigned 5th September 2024)
^ Moirah Tauya	(Appointed 5th September 2024)
* Mrs Madeleine Wang	(Appointed 14th November 2019)
# Revd Dr Thomas Wilson	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, Chair from 29th June 2018)
# The Venerable Richard Worsfold	(appointed 18th May 2023)

* Diocese of Leicester trustee # Church Urban Fund trustee
^ Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour trustee

Staff
Ms Rebecca Pawley, resigned 27th December 2024

Registered Office
St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane
Leicester, LE1 5PZ

Independent Examiner
Gary Brown
Trustee and Non-Executive Director
Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance
7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ

Bank
Barclays Bank
1-3 Haymarket Towers, Humberstone Gate
Leicester, LE1 1WA

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2024

The Trustees present their Trustees' report together with the independently examined financial statements of Together Leicester (the charity) for the period 1st January to 31st December 2024. This is our seventh report and accounts.

The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1. Establishment and Objectives

The charity's memorandum and articles were incorporated on 23rd August 2017 and the charity was registered on 25th October 2017. The charity commenced its activities on 27th August 2017.

The charity's objects are for the benefit of the public are:

1. To promote the efficiency and effectiveness of Christian based charities in the furtherance of their objects or any one of them, mainly but not exclusively, by the provision of information, advice, support and infrastructure provision; and
2. The relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, through the provision of grants, goods or services.

The activities of the charity are therefore

1. Building partnerships between churches, statutory authorities, charities and other organisations to enable transformation and positive change within local communities.
2. Tackling food poverty, isolation, mental health and homelessness.

The Trustees understand that Together Leicester exists because we believe Christ present among the marginalized to be God's agent for renewal and flourishing in Leicestershire.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Together Leicester, registered charity number 1175357, was established as a partnership between the Church Urban Fund and the Diocese of Leicester

Membership of the Charity is restricted to organisations willing and able to assent to the Objects of the organisation and able to offer a sufficient stake in its operation. There are currently three member organisations: the Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour Parish, the Church Urban Fund and the Anglican Diocese of Leicester.

The Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour Parish has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Church Urban Fund has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Diocese of Leicester has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Trustees of the Charity must all be confirmed in office by vote at the annual general meeting and the normal term of office is 5 years.

New trustees are inducted and trained by the Chair of Trustees with support from the Partnerships Manager at CUF.

The Trustees currently meet four times per year. Day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the staff, who are line managed by Alison Adams (the Line Manager).

Periodic three-way meetings between the Chair of Trustees, Line Manager and staff ensures the smooth running of the charity.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on advancement of religion. Public benefit is demonstrated most clearly in the advice and support made freely available to churches, as well as in the Charity's role in social action and community engagement in both Leicester and Leicestershire.

The Trustees received regular detailed reports from the staff on the Charity's work.

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and have taken steps to mitigate them. Currently, the major risks include the non - renewal of significant grants and risk to the Charity's public reputation.

3. Together Leicester's Achievements

Leicester's Homelessness Charter
TACKLING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Leicester's Homelessness Charter – Update Report

Leicester Homelessness Charter aims to improve the way organisations and individuals work together to tackle homelessness in the city, and to harness the enthusiasm of those who want to get involved but don't know how. The charter provides a vision, values and principles that can be shared by all of those working to prevent homelessness in the city, and to support those affected by it. It aims to reduce duplication, improve communication between those working with homeless people, and to raise awareness of services and how the public can help.

Led by the Diocese of Leicester and following a series of lively and well-attended workshops, the Charter was launched at Leicester Cathedral in November 2018. Its first signatories were the City Mayor, the Bishop of Leicester, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Dean of Leicester. Many others, including the Lord Lieutenant attended and pledged their support.

The Charter's aims include:

- Ensuring that anyone with no recourse to public funds has access to safe accommodation;
- Increasing the availability of affordable accommodation for those in housing need;
- Tackling rough sleeping to ensure no-one is sleeping on the streets;
- Improving local systems for homeless people through better partnerships and coordination;

- Ensuring the voice of those with lived experience is at the heart of designing services for people who are homeless.

The HOPE Forum

In partnership with local social enterprise, Dear Albert, the Charter has established a lived experience forum called 'HOPE'. The HOPE Forum meetings monthly and seeks to highlight the true nature and scale of homelessness, highlights solutions that work and challenges those that may not be working for those experiencing homelessness. Most importantly, it provides a safe space for people to have their voices heard and their experiences captured. The forum also visits day services across the city to gather views of those who are experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping, who are not able to attend the forum in person. In 2024, some members of the Hope Forum have joined a city-wide steering group to design and deliver some pre-tenancy training for people who are moving into their own property after a period of homelessness.

MyPlace

MyPlace is a fund that aims to support people in Leicester to settle into a new home and support their reintegration into the local community following a period of homelessness. Alongside our partner Dear Albert, we have created MyPlace. Individuals and families recently affected by homelessness can apply for funds to purchase practical items like furniture, travel passes and other essential items to help them to create a settled home environment and make their new house feel like a home. People are also able to access more personalised things which will allow them to build a social network and connect with their new community. In the past twelve months we have awarded gym and leisure passes, IT equipment such as laptops and tablets, as well as bicycles. As part of the support received through MyPlace, beneficiaries are invited to attend the 'HOPE Homelessness Lived Experience Forum' to connect with peers.

Charter Website

As part of the National Lottery funded work, we redesigned and updated the Homelessness Charter website, to ensure it was more useful both for those experiencing homelessness as well as those supporting people experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness Resource Map

With thanks to funding from the Edith Murphy Foundation, the Charter reissued their print and digital Homelessness resource map, which contains information about services in the city along with a city map. This was in response to feedback from people with experience of homelessness finding it difficult to know where to go for support. The maps are distributed across the city and to key partners, such as Leicestershire Police and health services.

GIVE Leicester Campaign

The Charter has also seen the establishment of Give Leicester donation points around the city, in partnership with BID Leicester and Leicester City Council. The initiative, which has raised over £50,000 so far, means that instead of giving cash to people begging on the street, the public can donate straight to one of the agencies giving the best help to people experiencing homelessness. This last winter 100% of funds donated went to support programmes run by Help the Homeless Leicester.

Prison Housing & Homelessness Pathway

Suitable accommodation backed up with ongoing support and signposting is vital for the successful resettlement of offenders within the Community. In response to local data and

feedback, the Charter has established a Prison Pathway Steering group. The steering group reviews current ways of working across agencies and sectors and pathway protocols, identifies gaps and further opportunities for improvement. Together, we are gathering and coordinating the correct people, at the correct level, of the correct organisations to plan strategically, effect the change required and ensure insofar as possible, an alignment of organisational priorities.

Families in temporary accommodation

In Dec 2024 we convened a summit meeting of many different organisations to explore the issues surrounding families in temporary accommodation, what their needs are and how these needs might be addressed. This is the start of an ongoing workstream for 2025.

John Lewis Networking Meetings

The Charter continues to host a monthly networking meeting in the John Lewis Community Space. In 2024, we brought together a wide range of different agencies, as well as working closely with the local authority to deliver periodic updates from the Director of Housing, Chris Burgin. In addition, we brought in guest speakers from the National Lottery, Hepatitis C Trust and The Shaw Trust.

Fundraising

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Fundraising

In 2024, we partnered again with national homelessness charity CEO Sleepout for their first Leicester event at Mattioli Woods Stadium. The event raised over £40,000, £12,000 of which was donated to the Hope Forum.

4. Financial Review

Together Leicester's activity in 2024 has been funded through income primarily from the National Lottery, a grant from the Edith Murphy Trust and a sponsored CEO sleepout.

Total income for the year was £75,799.00.

The net result of the period was a surplus of £2,859.02.

The charity remains in a healthy financial position and continues to maintain a contingency reserve of £15,000. This sum is the equivalent to the cost of three months operation and is held in reserve so that the trustees can responsibly wind up the charity should that become necessary.

The remaining £62,524.44 is designated for operational activities.

Restricted funds are as follows:

Lottery	£1,3530
MyPlace	£9,974
Hope Forum	£12,302
Edith Murphy underspend	£1,300
Edith Murphy grant	£10,000
TOTAL:	**£45,886**

5. Future Plans

In 2025 there are several areas that require particular attention from Trustees. Of particular concern are:

- The need to maintain long-term financial viability for the charity.
- Development of the work in support of the Homelessness Charter, including completion of a three-year grant from the National Lottery and next steps beyond the period of funded activity.

6. Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with all relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that:

- So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Tom Wilson

8th May 2025

Independent examiner's report on Together Leicester

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Together Leicester for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').
The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- Follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Gary Brown

Statement of Financial Activities

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Actual YTD	Restricted Actual YTD	Total
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Fundraising income	22302.00		22302.00
Homelessness charter related	53497.00		53497.00
TOTAL INCOME		0.00	75799.00
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs	37492.02		37492.02
Programme Costs (costs directly related to programme activities)	31599.52		31592.52
Office and Admin Costs			
Staff expenses	870.30		870.30
Professional Fees	1999.61		1999.61
Other (T&S, facilities, IT, etc)	1018.53		1018.53
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**72939.98**	**0.00**	**72939.98**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) to date	2859.02	0.00	2859.02
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Balance b/f at 1 January 2024	74665.42		
Balance c/f at 31 December 2024		-	**77524.44**

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2023

		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			0
CURRENT ASSETS			
	Debtors	0	
	Cash at Bank	77524.44	
	Total Current Assets	77524.44	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		0	
	Net Current Assets		77524.44
TOTAL NET ASSETS			77524.44
FUNDS			
	Unrestricted funds		62524.44
	Restricted funds		15000.00
TOTAL FUNDS			74524.44

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

For the period ending 31st December 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions of the Act.

Signed on 8th May 2025

Tom Wilson

Trustee

Trustee

TOGETHER LEICESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1175357

Accounts

TOGETHER LEICESTER

THE DIOCESE OF LEICESTER AND CUF WORKING TOGETHER

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# The Revd Canon Karen Rooms	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, resigned 6th March 2023)
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# Revd Dr Thomas Wilson	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, Chair from 29th June 2018)
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Staff
Ms Rebecca Pawley

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1. Establishment and Objectives

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The charity's objects are for the benefit of the public are:

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1. Building partnerships between churches, statutory authorities, charities and other organisations to enable transformation and positive change within local communities.
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The Trustees understand that Together Leicester exists because we believe Christ present among the marginalized to be God's agent for renewal and flourishing in Leicestershire.

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Together Leicester, registered charity number 1175357, was established as a partnership between the Church Urban Fund and the Diocese of Leicester

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New trustees are inducted and trained by the Chair of Trustees with support from the Partnerships Manager at CUF.

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The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and have taken steps to mitigate them. Currently, the major risks include the non - renewal of significant grants and risk to the Charity's public reputation.

3. Together Leicester's Achievements

Leicester's Homelessness Charter
TACKLING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Leicester's Homelessness Charter – Update Report

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Led by the Diocese of Leicester and following a series of lively and well-attended workshops, the Charter was launched at Leicester Cathedral back in November 2018. Its first signatories were the City Mayor, the Bishop of Leicester, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Dean of Leicester. Many others, including the Lord Lieutenant attended and pledged their support.

The Charter's aims include:

- Ensuring that anyone with no recourse to public funds has access to safe accommodation;
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- Tackling rough sleeping to ensure no-one is sleeping on the streets;
- Improving local systems for homeless people through better partnerships and coordination;

- Ensuring the voice of those with lived experience is at the heart of designing services for people who are homeless.

The HOPE Forum

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Homelessness Resource Map

With thanks to funding from the Edith Murphy Foundation, the Charter designed a pocket-sized Homelessness resource map, which contains information about services in the city along with a city map. This was in response to feedback from people with experience of homelessness finding it difficult to know where to go for support. The maps have been distributed across the city and to key partners, such as Leicestershire Police and health services.

GIVE Leicester Campaign

The Charter has also seen the establishment of Give Leicester donation points around the city, in partnership with BID Leicester and Leicester City Council. The initiative, which has raised over £50,000 so far, means that instead of giving cash to people begging on the street, the public can donate straight to one of the agencies giving the best help to people experiencing homelessness. This winter 100% of funds donated will go to support programmes run by Help the Homeless Leicester.

Prison Housing & Homelessness Pathway

Suitable accommodation is vital for the successful resettlement of offenders within the Community. In response to local data and feedback, the Charter has established a Prison Pathway Steering group. The steering group reviews current ways of working across agencies and sectors and pathway protocols, identifies gaps and further opportunities for improvement. Together, we will gather and coordinate the correct people, at the correct

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Fundraising

In 2023, we partnered with national homelessness charity CEO Sleepout for their first Leicester event at Mattioli Woods Stadium. The event raised over £40,000, £17,000 of which was donated to the MyPlace fund.

4. Financial Review

Together Leicester's activity in 2023 has been funded through income primarily from the National Lottery, a grant from the Edith Murphy Trust and a sponsored CEO sleepout.

Total income for the year was £75,939.33.

The net result of the period was a surplus of £20,487.00.

The charity remains in a healthy financial position and continues to maintain a contingency reserve of £12,000. This sum is the equivalent to the cost of three months operation and is held in reserve so that the trustees can responsibly wind up the charity should that become necessary.

The remaining £ is designated for operational activities.

5. Future Plans

In 2024 there are several areas that require particular attention from Trustees. Of particular concern are:

- The need to maintain long-term financial viability for the charity.
- Development of the work in support of the Homelessness Charter in line with a three-year grant from the National Lottery.

6. Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with all relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that:

- So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Tom Wilson Richard Warsfold

2nd May 2024

Independent examiner's report on Together Leicester

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Together Leicester for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').
The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- Follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Gary Brown

Statement of Financial Activities

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Actual YTD	Restricted Actual YTD	Total
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Fundraising income	17298.25		17298.25
Homelessness charter related	53641.00		53641.00
Shire grant	5000.00		5000.00
Bank loyalty reward	0.08		0.08
TOTAL INCOME	75939.33	0.00	75939.33
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs	34907.76		34907.76
Programme Costs (costs directly related to programme activities)	18621.85		18621.85
Office and Admin Costs			
Staff expenses	1201.35		1201.35
Professional Fees	721.37		721.37
Other (T&S, facilities, IT, etc)	0		0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**55452.33**	**0.00**	**55452.33**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) to date	20487.00	0.00	20487.00
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Balance b/f at 1 January 2023	54178.42		
Balance c/f at 31 December 2023		-	**74665.42**

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2023

		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			0
CURRENT ASSETS			
	Debtors	0	
	Cash at Bank	74665.42	
	Total Current Assets	74665.42	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		0	
	Net Current Assets		74665.42
TOTAL NET ASSETS			74665.42
FUNDS			
	Unrestricted funds		62665.42
	Restricted funds		12000.00
TOTAL FUNDS			74665.42

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

For the period ending 31st December 2023, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions of the Act.

Signed on 2nd May 2024

Tom Wilson

Trustee

Richard Warfield

Trustee

TOGETHER LEICESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1175357

Accounts

TOGETHER LEICESTER

THE DIOCESE OF LEICESTER
AND CUF WORKING TOGETHER

Annual report and accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022

Registered charity number 1175357
Company number 10929716

Trustees, Officers, and Advisors

Trustees

* The Revd Canon Alison Adams	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, also Company Secretary)
# Dawn Cummins	(Appointed 6th February 2020, resigned 15th August 2022)
^Ayodeji Eyitayo	(Appointed 10th December 2020)
* Florence Gildea	(Appointed 17th August 2022)
^Ashiedu Joel	(Appointed 10th December 2020)
# The Revd Canon Karen Rooms	(Appointed 23rd August 2017)
* Mrs Madeleine Wang	(Appointed 14th November 2019)
# Revd Dr Thomas Wilson	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, Chair from 29th June 2018)

* Diocese of Leicester trustee # Church Urban Fund trustee
^ Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour trustee

Staff
Ms Rebecca Pawley
Ms Elaine Smith

Registered Office
St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane
Leicester
LE1 5PZ

Independent Examiner
Gary Brown
Trustee and Non-Executive Director
Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance
7 Peacock Lane
Leicester, LE1 5PZ

Bank
Barclays Bank
1-3 Haymarket Towers
Humberstone Gate
Leicester, LE1 1WA

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022

The Trustees present their Trustees' report together with the independently examined financial statements of Together Leicester (the charity) for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022. This is our fifth report and accounts.

The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1. Establishment and Objectives

The charity's memorandum and articles were incorporated on 23rd August 2017 and the charity was registered on 25th October 2017. The charity commenced its activities on 27th August 2017.

The charity's objects are for the benefit of the public are:

1. To promote the efficiency and effectiveness of Christian based charities in the furtherance of their objects or any one of them, mainly but not exclusively, by the provision of information, advice, support and infrastructure provision; and
2. The relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, through the provision of grants, goods or services.

The activities of the charity are therefore

1. Building partnerships between churches, statutory authorities, charities and other organisations to enable transformation and positive change within local communities.
2. Tackling food poverty, isolation, mental health and homelessness.

The Trustees understand that Together Leicester exists because we believe Christ present among the marginalized to be God's agent for renewal and flourishing in Leicestershire.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Together Leicester, registered charity number 1175357, was established as a partnership between the Church Urban Fund and the Diocese of Leicester

Membership of the Charity is restricted to organisations willing and able to assent to the Objects of the organisation and able to offer a sufficient stake in its operation. There are currently three member organisations: the Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour Parish, the Church Urban Fund and the Anglican Diocese of Leicester.

The Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour Parish has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Church Urban Fund has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Diocese of Leicester has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Trustees of the Charity must all be confirmed in office by vote at the annual general meeting and the normal term of office is 5 years.

New trustees are inducted and trained by the Chair of Trustees with support from the Partnerships Manager at CUF.

The Trustees currently meet four times per year. Day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the staff, who are line managed by Alison Adams (the Line Manager).

Periodic three-way meetings between the Chair of Trustees, Line Manager and staff ensures the smooth running of the charity.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on advancement of religion. Public benefit is demonstrated most clearly in the advice and support made freely available to churches, as well as in the Charity's role in social action and community engagement in both Leicester and Leicestershire.

The Trustees received regular detailed reports from the staff on the Charity's work.

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and have taken steps to mitigate them. Currently, the major risks include the non - renewal of significant grants and risk to the Charity's public reputation.

3. Together Leicester's Achievements

Report from Elaine Smith

2022 has been a roller-coaster year for Together Leicester in many ways. We started the year promoting and developing Community Kitchens. There was plenty of interest in this from both charities and churches, and the Leicestershire County Council worked collaboratively with us on this, information sharing and highlighting areas the council were finding it hard to reach.

We created a database of all the community kitchens we could find in Leicester and Leicestershire and broke it down into deanery areas. This enabled us as a church to see what was already in and around our parishes, but more importantly – what was missing. We then contacted local churches to see if any were interested in Community Kitchens and arranged visits to discuss possible future plans. We have supported 18 churches towards this goal this year.

For those who felt their church was not ready to run a Community Kitchen, we encouraged them to sign up as a Warm Welcome Space; out of the 72 warm spaces registered in Leicestershire 1 in 4 were Church of England churches, mostly in rural parishes. I would like to see Near Neighbours link up with these churches and continue the work started, under the Places of Welcome banner later in the New Year.

We have added a 'give as you live' link to our Facebook page; we also had a Facebook birthday donation pledge. Funding applications were sent to numerous charitable organisations, sadly we are yet to qualify.

Successes:

Paul Allen and colleagues ran an event in Hinckley on All Saints Day, cooking and distributing hot soup and bread and bags of groceries and toiletries to those in need, with the generous help

of the local Salvation Army and Major Carol Evans. The Redeemed Christian Church of God in Loughborough received £5,000 from the County Council to run a breakfast kitchen on a Saturday morning. St Catherine's Houghton run a monthly Lunch Break in the village hall. Our two Community Pantries are still active and serving even more families than last year and we helped the Hope Centre in Melton Mowbray to connect to 'Your Local Pantry' as they planned to expand their services. Belgrave Pantry now has a community café running alongside the Pantry, and Wesley hall has a Community allotment planned to supplement fresh foods for the Food Bank. Some of our churches are providing Mini Community pantries/Community cupboards, like Ben at St Cuthbert's 'give, take, swap' bookcase pantry, or growing for good mini community allotments growing salad crops to give away, like at St Chad's.

Future work:

- We have a database of all the **Dementia friendly activities** we could find for our County, again to see where they are and to identify places where there are gaps that the church may be able to serve. Contact Alison Adams if you are interested and would like a copy.
- We also felt that in the present political and socio-financial landscape that we find ourselves in, there will be need for **free debt advice** – Alison has been laying the foundations for this work, and we have been making lists of debt advice charities and website that may help, passing it out to church leaders.
- We would love to work with Renew Wellbing and Linking Lives as we aim to challenge isolation and loneliness in our parishes.
- Re-look at the Poverty Truth Commission report for Leicester 'How do you get by? Bishops Commission on Poverty' as it nears its tenth year since publication – especially in relation to the pandemic and recession. Is life better or worse than 2015?

All the work undertaken in the last year has been correlated into a **Together Leicester Tool Kit** so that the work begun by us can be taken out into our parishes where it can flourish. If you would like a copy, contact Alison Adams. It contains links to key reports and documents we found useful, information on food provision, information on setting up a Community Kitchen/Pantry, Dementia services in our Diocese, Warm Spaces and Places of Welcome, as well as some of the proforma and information sheets that we have created.

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022

Report from Rebecca Pawley on behalf of Leicester's Homelessness Charter

Leicester's Homelessness Charter
TACKLING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Leicester Homelessness Charter aims to improve the way organisations and individuals work together to tackle homelessness in the city, and to harness the enthusiasm of those who want to get involved but don't know how. The charter provides a vision, values and principles that can be shared by all of those working to prevent homelessness in the city, and to support those affected by it. It aims to reduce duplication, improve communication between those working with homeless people, and to raise awareness of services and how the public can help.

Led by the Diocese of Leicester and following a series of lively and well-attended workshops, the Charter was launched at Leicester Cathedral back in November 2018. Its first signatories were the City Mayor, the Bishop of Leicester, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Dean of Leicester. Many others, including the Lord Lieutenant attended and also pledged their support.

The Charter's aims include:

- Ensuring that anyone with no recourse to public funds has access to safe accommodation;
- Increasing the availability of affordable accommodation for those in housing need;
- Tackling rough sleeping to ensure no-one is sleeping on the streets;
- Improving local systems for homeless people through better partnerships and coordination;
- Ensuring the voice of those with lived experience is at the heart of designing services for people who are homeless.

The HOPE Forum

A key achievement of the Charter has been setting up and coordinating of a group of people with lived experience of homelessness, called the HOPE Forum which is able to influence all the Charter partners organisations. They meet monthly with invited commissioners from the city council so that their experiences can inform how services (such as substance misuse and the Dawn Centre - the council's emergency hostel, for example) are designed and delivered.

Importantly, 20 members of the forum also submitted written testimonies of their experience of homelessness to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ending Homelessness, and one member went to Parliament to give evidence in person - so the Charter is credited at the end of the report from that inquiry crisis-appgeh-report-on-ending-rough-sleeping-by-2024.pdf

One member of the HOPE Forum has also been selected to oversee the administration of the MyPlace Fund, which is designed to assist people who have moved out of homelessness and into secure accommodation. To date, the MyPlace Fund has also supported over 20 people with small grants for swim and gym memberships, art materials, garden supplies, tablets and bicycles.

GIVE Leicester Campaign

The Charter has also seen the establishment of Give Leicester donation points around the city, in partnership with BID Leicester. The initiative means that instead of giving cash to people begging on the street, the general public can donate straight to one of the agencies giving the best help to people experiencing homelessness. This winter 100% of funds donated will go to support programmes run by The Bridge Homelessness to Hope, aiming to achieve long-lasting change for vulnerable people in our community. Overall, £35,000 has been raised so far, funds for work which has supported organisations whose work has included helping a dozen people into secure accommodation in that time and providing more than 1,000 nights of emergency shelter, more than 3,000 meals for rough sleepers. The GIVE Leicester campaign was given an award for innovation in social responsibility at the Annual Giving Day Awards in November 2022.

Leicester Homelessness Charter Partners Reflect Four Years On

In November 2022, the Charter held a successful event at the University of Leicester to reflect on the past four years of Leicester's Homelessness Charter. Speakers included Bishop Martyn Snow, Canon Alison Adams, Chair of the Homelessness Charter, Sir Peter Soulsby Leicester City Mayor and members of the HOPE Forum, who shared their lived experiences of homelessness.

Partner organisations, businesses, charities and agencies reflected on progress made during the four years of the charter and looked to future challenges faced in Leicester, including the lack of sufficient appropriate housing.

Revd Canon Alison Adams, from Leicester Cathedral, is Chair of the Charter's Management Group, and said: "Developments during these first few years have included more collaboration, liaison and joined up thinking. The ongoing partnership working has also enabled the recruitment of a Project Coordinator for the Homelessness Charter, Rebecca Pawley, who can be contacted on rebecca.pawley@togetherleicester.org.uk or 07894 231 800."

Just as a reminder, as well as donating to one of the many Give Leicester card swipe points around the city, if you see someone sleeping rough on the streets, you can help by making a referral to https://www.streetlink.org.uk/ via their social media channels or by calling 0300 500 0914 so that local support services can help them.

4. Financial Review

Together Leicester's activity in 2022 has been funded through income from a variety of sources, including but not limited to the National Lottery and the Leicestershire County Council.

Total income for the year was £55,294.47.

The net result of the period was a deficit of £14,971.32. This is primarily because of trustees' decision to extend a staff member's contract by six months while we sought further funding. The charity remains in a healthy financial position and continues to maintain a contingency reserve of £10,000. This sum is the equivalent to the cost of three months operation and is held in reserve so that the trustees can responsibly wind up the charity should that become necessary.

The remaining £44,178.42 is designated for operational activities.

5. Future Plans

In 2023 there are several areas that require particular attention from Trustees. Of particular concern are:

- The need to maintain long-term financial viability for the charity.
- Development of the work in support of the Homelessness Charter in line with a three-year grant from the National Lottery.

6. Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with all relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of

the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

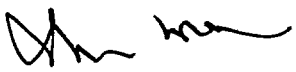
The trustees confirm that:

- So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

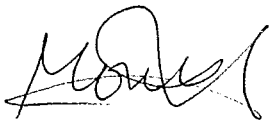
The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



18th May 2023



Independent examiner's report on Together Leicester

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Together Leicester for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').
The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- Follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Gary Brown

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Actual YTD	Restricted Actual YTD	Total
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Fundraising income	439.30		439.30
Homelessness charter related	54855.00		54855.00
Shire grant	0		0
Bank loyalty reward	0.17		0.17
TOTAL INCOME	55294.47	0.00	55249.47
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs	44164.12		44164.12
Programme Costs (costs directly related to programme activities)	23472.18		23472.18
Office and Admin Costs			
Staff expenses	373.05		373.05
Professional Fees	1115.21		1115.21
Other (T&S, facilities, IT, etc)	1141.23		1141.23
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**70265.79**	**0.00**	**70265.79**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) to date	-14971.32	0.00	-14971.32
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Balance b/f at 1 January 2022	69149.74		
Balance c/f at 31 December 2022		-	**54178.42**

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2021

		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			0
CURRENT ASSETS			
	Debtors	0	
	Cash at Bank	54178.42	
	Total Current Assets	54178.42	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		0	
	Net Current Assets		54178.42
TOTAL NET ASSETS			54178.42
FUNDS			
	Unrestricted funds		44178.42
	Restricted funds		10000.00
TOTAL FUNDS			54178.42

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

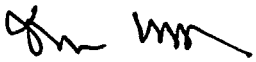
For the period ending 31st December 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

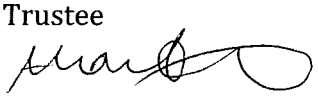
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions of the Act.

Signed on 18th May 2023



Trustee

Trustee



TOGETHER LEICESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1175357

Accounts

TOGETHER LEICESTER

THE DIOCESE OF LEICESTER
AND CUF WORKING TOGETHER

Annual report and accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2021

Registered charity number 1175357
Company number 10929716

Trustees, Officers, and Advisors

Trustees

* The Revd Canon Alison Adams	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, also Company Secretary)
# Dawn Cummins	(Appointed 6th February 2020)
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# Revd Dr Thomas Wilson	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, Chair from 29th June 2018)

* Diocese of Leicester trustee
# Church Urban Fund trustee
^ Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour trustee

Development Worker
Miss Sîan Rigby (resigned 5th November 2021)

Registered Office
St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane
Leicester
LE1 5PZ

Independent Examiner
Gary Brown
Trustee and Non-Executive Director
Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance
7 Peacock Lane
Leicester
LE1 5PZ

Bank
Barclays Bank
1-3 Haymarket Towers
Humberstone Gate
Leicester
LE1 1WA

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2021

The Trustees present their Trustees' report together with the independently examined financial statements of Together Leicester (the charity) for the period 1st January to 31st December 2021. This is our fourth report and accounts.

The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1. Establishment and Objectives

The charity's memorandum and articles were incorporated on 23rd August 2017 and the charity was registered on 25th October 2017. The charity commenced its activities on 27th August 2017.

The charity's objects are for the benefit of the public are:

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The activities of the charity are therefore

1. Building partnerships between churches, statutory authorities, charities and other organisations to enable transformation and positive change within local communities.
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The Trustees understand that Together Leicester exists because we believe Christ present among the marginalized to be God's agent for renewal and flourishing in Leicestershire.

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The Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour Parish has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Church Urban Fund has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

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The Trustees of the Charity must all be confirmed in office by vote at the annual general meeting and the normal term of office is 5 years.

New trustees are inducted and trained by the Chair of Trustees with support from the Partnerships Manager at CUF.

The Trustees currently meet four times per year. Day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Development Worker, who is line managed by Alison Adams (the Line Manager).

A regular three-way meeting between the Chair of Trustees, Line Manager and Development Worker ensures the smooth running of the charity.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on advancement of religion. Public benefit is demonstrated most clearly in the advice and support made freely available to churches, as well as in the Charity's role in social action and community engagement in both Leicester and Leicestershire.

The Trustees received regular detailed reports from the Development Worker on the Charity's work.

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and have taken steps to mitigate them. Currently, the major risks include the non - renewal of significant grants and risk to the Charity's public reputation.

3. Together Leicester's Achievements

The work in 2021 focussed on the following areas:

3.1 Together in Hope

Facilitated community listening & action planning under the banner of Together in Hope Leicestershire: a project funded by the National Lottery, working with three organisations: St Denys, Ibstock; Christ Church Coalville and the City of Favour Parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. Having conducted some community listening, each congregation developed a programme of targeted outreach to support and equip those in their locality to flourish during the ongoing covid pandemic.

3.2 Cook and Eat hubs

Volunteer-run Cook & Eat hubs: the delivery of this National Lottery funded project was delayed by the onset of Covid-19 in March 2020. We were fortunate to train volunteers from Christ Church Thurnby Lodge, Leicester Mammas and Active Wesley Hall in teaching healthy cooking to those on limited budgets. As part of the grant, we equipped each organisation with the resources they need to continue delivering the sessions.

3.3 Homelessness Charter

Together Leicester was the employer for Eilidh Stringer, a staff member seconded from Action Homeless, who worked for six months strengthening the communications and inter-organisational connections of the Homelessness Charter. Highlights included the development of a new website for the charter, significant research into the lived experience of the homeless, focusing especially on those with no recourse to public funds and receiving a substantial grant that can be disbursed to individuals with particular needs as a result of becoming homeless.

3.4 Food pantries and community cafés

As a result of generous funding from the Albert Gubay Foundation, Together Leicester has been working with three churches: All Saints Belgrave, Wesley Hall, and Holy Apostles Leicester, with a view to setting up Food Pantries in each location. At the close of 2021, two of the organisations were close to opening their pantries for business and the third had concluded that a community café would be a more appropriate model for their context. It is anticipated that this project will be completed early in 2022.

4. Financial Review

Together Leicester's activity in 2021 has been funded through income from a variety of sources, including but not limited to the National Lottery and the Albert Gubay Foundation.

Total income for the year was £69,517.57.

The net result of the period was a deficit of £45,581.56. This is primarily because of spending funds received previously during 2021. The charity remains in a healthy financial position and continues to maintain a contingency reserve of £10,000. This sum is the equivalent to the cost of three months operation, and is held in reserve so that the trustees can responsibly wind up the charity should that become necessary.

The remaining £59,149.74 is designated for operational activities.

5. Future Plans

Heading into 2022 there are several areas that require particular attention from Trustees. Of particular concern are:

- The need to maintain long-term financial viability for the charity.
- Continued expansion of work in food security, focusing initially on delivery of a grant for Leicestershire County Council.
- Development of the work in support of the Homelessness Charter in line with a three-year grant from the National Lottery.

6. Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);

- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with all relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that:

- So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

5th May 2022

Independent examiner's report on Together Leicester

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Together Leicester for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').
The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- Follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Gary Brown

Statement of Financial Activities

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Actual YTD	Restricted Actual YTD	Total
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Fundraising income	3512.34		3512.34
Homelessness charter related	26000.00		26000.00
CUF (Gubay grant)	30003.84		30003.84
Shire grant	10000.00		10000.00
Bank loyalty reward	1.39		1.39
TOTAL INCOME	69517.57	0.00	69517.57
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs	38595.82		
Programme Costs (costs directly related to programme activities)	73992.11		73992.11
Office and Admin Costs			
Accommodation	352.80		352.80
Professional Fees	1206.52		1206.52
Other (T&S, facilities, IT, etc)	951.88		951.88
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**115099.13**	**0.00**	**76503.31**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) to date	-45581.56	0.00	-45581.56
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Balance b/f at 1 January 2021	114731.30		114731.30
Balance c/f at 31 December 2021		-	**69149.74**

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2021

		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			468
CURRENT ASSETS			
	Debtors	517.00	
	Cash at Bank	69,149.74	
	Total Current Assets	69,666.74	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		193.08	
	Net Current Assets		69,473.66
TOTAL NET ASSETS			69,941.66
FUNDS			
	Unrestricted funds		59,941.66
	Restricted funds		10,000.00
TOTAL FUNDS			69,941.66

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2021

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

For the period ending 31 December 2012, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions of the Act.

Signed on 5th May 2022

Trustee

Trustee

TOGETHER LEICESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1175357

Accounts

TOGETHER LEICESTER

THE DIOCESE OF LEICESTER
AND CUF WORKING TOGETHER

Annual report and accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020

Registered charity number 1175357
Company number 10929716

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020

Trustees, Officers and Advisors

Trustees

* The Revd Canon Alison Adams	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, also Company Secretary)
# Mrs Sibylle Batten	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, resigned 6th February 2020)
# Dawn Cummins	(Appointed 6th February 2020)
^Ayodeji Eyitayo	(Appointed 10th December 2020)
^Ashiedu Joel	(Appointed 10th December 2020)
* The Revd Canon Karen Rooms	(Appointed 23rd August 2017)
* Mrs Madeleine Wang	(Appointed 14th November 2019)
# Revd Dr Thomas Wilson	(Appointed 23rd August 2017, Chair from 29th June 2018)

* Diocese of Leicester trustee
# Church Urban Fund trustee
^ Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour trustee

Development Worker
Miss Siân Rigby

Registered Office
St Martins House
7 Peacock Lane
Leicester. LE1 5PZ.

Independent Examiner
Gary Brown
Trustee and Non-Executive Director
Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance
7 Peacock Lane
Leicester, Leicestershire
LE1 5PZ

Bank
Barclays Bank
1-3 Haymarket Towers
Humberstone Gate. Leicester. LE1 1WA

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020

The Trustees present their Trustees' report together with the independently examined financial statements of Together Leicester (the charity) for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020. This is our third report and accounts.

The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1. Establishment and Objectives

The charity's memorandum and articles were incorporated on 23rd August 2017 and the charity was registered on 25th October 2017. The charity commenced its activities on 27th August 2017.

The charity's objects are for the benefit of the public are:

1. To promote the efficiency and effectiveness of Christian based charities in the furtherance of their objects or any one of them, mainly but not exclusively, by the provision of information, advice, support and infrastructure provision; and
2. The relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, through the provision of grants, goods or services.

The activities of the charity are therefore

1. Building partnerships between churches, statutory authorities, charities and other organisations to enable transformation and positive change within local communities.
2. Tackling food poverty, isolation, mental health and homelessness.

The Trustees understand that Together Leicester exists because we believe Christ present among the marginalized to be God's agent for renewal and flourishing in Leicestershire.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Together Leicester, registered charity number 1175357, was established as a partnership between the Church Urban Fund and the Diocese of Leicester

Membership of the Charity is restricted to organisations willing and able to assent to the Objects of the organisation and able to offer a sufficient stake in its operation. There are currently three member organisations: the Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour Parish, the Church Urban Fund and the Anglican Diocese of Leicester.

The Redeemed Christian Church of God City of Favour Parish has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Church Urban Fund has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Diocese of Leicester has the power to appoint 3 trustees.

The Trustees of the Charity must all be confirmed in office by vote at the annual general meeting and the normal term of office is 5 years.

New trustees are inducted and trained by the Chair of Trustees with support from the Partnerships Manager at CUF.

The Trustees currently meet four times per year. Day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Development Worker, who is line managed by Alison Adams (the Line Manager).

A bi-monthly three-way meeting between the Chair of Trustees, Line Manager and Development Worker ensures the smooth running of the charity.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on advancement of religion. Public benefit is demonstrated most clearly in the advice and support made freely available to churches, as well as in the Charity's role in social action and community engagement in both Leicester and Leicestershire.

The Trustees received regular detailed reports from the Development Worker on the Charity's work.

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and have taken steps to mitigate them. Currently, the major risks include the non - renewal of significant grants and risk to the Charity's public reputation.

3. Together Leicester's Achievements

The work in 2020 focussed on the following areas:

1. Facilitated community listening & action planning
    - Together in Hope Leicestershire
    - Reimagining Hospitality
2. Volunteer-run Cook & Eat hubs
3. Initial response to the Covid-19 crisis
4. Developing a long-term response to the Covid-19 pandemic
    - Food poverty
    - Digital inclusion
    - Financial inclusion
    - Flourishing & Wellbeing
5. Broadening the breadth and depth of the organisation's structure

3.1 Facilitated community listening & action planning

Following on from the end of 2019, our Local Celebrations projects, involving facilitated asset-mapping, community listening & skills identification, continued with Coalville & Ravenstone; St Hugh's Market Harborough and Churches Together in Castle Donnington. Each of these groups had a good response to the community listening cards used through the Advent & Christmas seasons in 2019. The work in Castle Donington created strong links between the churches, where there had previously been significant tension between them, and they decided to undertake the Everyday Witness Lent Course together as a Churches Together group. St Hugh's Market Harborough had involvement in this from a large majority in their congregation, through the prayer walks and through the community listening conversations.

3.1.1 Together in Hope Leicestershire

In March the UK went into a national lockdown, which meant that in-person facilitation was not possible. We applied for funding to enable us to take the facilitated community listening online, to enable churches to respond to the needs of their communities arising out of the pandemic. In July, The National Lottery Community Fund granted us £41,355, with £11,000 to replace the reserves lost during the previous months, and £30,355 towards the Together in Hope Leicestershire project. This project was designed to be delivered over Zoom, with 2 initial sessions. The first session invited the church and wider community to come together to share their experiences of the pandemic – What had been positive, what had been challenging, and what their hopes for the future were – and then to share stories/experiences of issues in their local community, which may have been 'new' issues, or long-standing issues highlighted by the pandemic. The second session was an opportunity to begin to develop next steps to the key themes raised in session 1. Participants were invited to choose which themes they cared most about, and, using the breakout room facility, first discussed their 'big dreams' for responding to that theme, 'identifiable aims' and finally, 'concrete next steps', many of which were very small and tentative, but, crucially, achievable, even during the ongoing pandemic and national lockdowns.

It took a long time to garner interest in this work, and agree partnerships with churches. A number of churches felt that this was either too much work for them at a time when their capacity was already stretched by the response to the pandemic, or unnecessary for them at the time due to the relationships and community partnerships they had already established. For example, due to our earlier work with the churches in Castle Donington, relationships had already been formed and developed that enabled an effective response to the Covid-19 crisis, through the foodbank and other such projects. This ongoing response then meant that other relationships were formed with local businesses and institutions, and conversations had already begun to explore how they could continue to work together to respond to needs in their local community. The churches that chose to work with us in the autumn were the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), City of Favour parish, and Christ Church Coalville, with whom we had been doing similar work prior to the pandemic. In November, exploration of potential partnership started with Ibstock & Heather benefice and St Chad's North Evington. Some pre-work was required for St Chad's North Evington, but it was agreed that a Together in Hope project would begin with these 2 groups in January 2021. Due to the limited take-up by November 2020, we obtained permission from TNL for an extension to the project until March 2021.

RCCG City of Favour decided to focus on issues around Maximising Employment Potential within their community, including the challenges around setting up self-owned businesses. The first session was attended by 11 members of City of Favour, and themes raised were around CV writing, job applications and interview preparation with regard to employed work, and business start-up costs and associated grants, and the management of self-owned businesses. In December, it was agreed that Together Leicester would arrange a session on each topic from experienced business owners and facilitators.

Christ Church Coalville were eager to continue the work that had begun in September 2019, despite the ongoing pandemic. The first session was arranged for the beginning of November, and was well attended by representatives from various Leicestershire County Council departments, the social prescribing team in the NW Leicestershire GP Federation, James Street Church, Feed the Need and others. The key themes identified were Health & Wellbeing, Isolation & Mental Health, Life Skills & Networking. Recognising that networking is a necessary part of responding to all the other themes, at the second session in early December

the focus was on the first 3 themes. This session was attended by a broad range of people from local councils and Christ Church. Initial ideas and next steps were agreed around walking and sporting activities for both adults and young people, creating safe spaces and supporting the development of life skills amongst young people. A further follow-up session was agreed for January 2021 to support the refining of these ideas.

3.1.2 Reimagining Hospitality

As restrictions appeared to begin to lift in August/September 2020, at least in the county, it became clear that there was much confusion over what was permitted and what was safe to do in terms of community-focused hospitality spaces. In partnership with the Leicester Near Neighbours Coordinator, a session starting to explore how these spaces could reimagined to respond to current community needs was developed. This was advertised in the city and to the wider Diocese in September, and received lots of expressions of interest. Due to constant changes in legislation, and the lack of clarity around what was permitted, both sessions run ended up focussing purely on the legislation and what was permitted at the time the sessions were run, rather than exploring questions of responding to community need. After the second session in November, the decision was taken to pause these sessions, due to continual uncertainty around the legislation, and the lack of confidence around reopening community buildings even when permitted.

3.2 Volunteer-Run Cook & Eat hubs

Following Together Leicester's new role as key theme lead for Building Food Security in the Feeding Leicester Steering Group from autumn 2019, plans were developed to explore the potential for a volunteer-run network of Cook & Eat food hubs. Following extensive community listening with a pilot hub, Christchurch Thurnby Lodge, towards the end of 2019, an initial funding bid to The National Lottery Awards for All was submitted in January 2020 to support the development of 3 hubs, in Leicester City, with a qualified volunteer-trainer, funding for basic equipment and some initial food costs. Whilst waiting for the decision on this funding application, links were made with a new project worker at Food for Life, working within the East Midlands to research a more effective and sustainable way to run 'Cook & Eat' courses, which enabled preparations for a pilot hub to begin sooner than expected. We were also privileged to be offered the 2020 Bishops' Lent Appeal to raise money towards this project. This raised £3,376.27, despite many churches' fund-raising events being cancelled due to the pandemic. The Pancake Party, attended by Bishop Guli and supported by the Diocesan Communications team, held in aid of the same project, raised £61.07.

Through our partnership with Food for Life, this pilot hub at Christchurch Thurnby Lodge ran its first session on 4th March, which was well received, and visited by Bishop Guli as part of her Lenten pilgrimage. One more session was able to run on 11th March before Food for Life cancelled all in-person delivery due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Just after the first national lockdown was announced, news was received that Together Leicester had been awarded a grant of £9870 from TNL Awards for All for this project. This was originally intended to have been spent between September-December 2020, but this was not possible due to the ongoing pandemic. Once restrictions have been lifted, we hope to be able to continue this project, and develop it further, in 2021.

3.3 Initial response to the Covid-19 pandemic

At the end of March 2020 we received a serious financial blow with news from CUF nationally that due to their financial difficulties they would be unable to fulfil their funding commitments to us going forward. Combined with the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the impact that has had on the wider charity sector, it was imperative that interim funding be sought to enable Together Leicester to continue its work.

Prior to the pandemic, our model of working was primarily in-person and people-focused, seeking to build relationships with partners, churches and social action projects, and in particular the people who run and represent them, so that pastoral, practical and bespoke support could be offered. Whilst some of this could be offered over telephone and video calls, much of our work was limited both by the restrictions and the crisis-level response that churches and other agencies were focussing on.

In order to prepare for a time when virtual facilitation sessions, and to equip our Development Worker with the necessary skills to deliver this, training was provided through a Diocesan-contact by Penny Pullen from Making Project Work, who has written multiple books on, and has nearly 2 decades of experience in, virtual facilitation.

In April, the government announced funding to support charities affected by the pandemic, to be administered by The National Lottery Community Fund, aimed at charities who deliver outcomes directly within communities. TNL complemented this with funding to support charities which support other organisations who are working directly with communities. Together Leicester applied to this fund for £30,355 to enable a programme of projects working with 5 churches across Leicestershire, supporting them to listen to their local communities and develop a grass-roots, asset based action plan to respond to the needs within those communities. In June, the Bishop of Leicester, De Montfort University and Leicester City Football Club launched a initiative to celebrate the things that bring our communities together, called Together in Hope. To tie the Together Leicester project in with this initiative, our project was named Together in Hope Leicestershire. In July, we were informed that our grant application had been approved, along with a further £11,000 to restore Together Leicester's financial reserves – the total amount received from TNL for the Together in Hope Leicestershire bid was £41,355. More information about the progress of the Together in Hope Leicestershire project is given in section 3.1.1 above.

Separately, we applied to The National Lottery Community Fund Covid-19 Response grant for funding to support the development of Leicester's Homelessness Charter, which Together Leicester and the Diocese of Leicester support as 'neutral' organisations within the partnership. The funding was specifically for a full-time Development Manager to provide much needed support to this city partnership group to enable its work to establish. We were awarded £41,355 in August 2020, and began the recruitment process. The first round was unsuccessful, and so permission was sought for this post to be filled by secondment from a partner organisation. Permission was granted and the second recruitment process was successful. It was agreed that the appointee would begin the Development Manager role in January 2021.

In addition, we were awarded a gift of £1000 from the Ecclesiastical Group's Movement for Good initiative, for which we are very grateful. We applied to another of other sources of funding, including CAF, but were unsuccessful. We continue to look for other sources of funding, particularly for the charity's core costs.

3.4 Developing a long-term response to the Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated long-standing societal issues, highlighted others that were known of but relatively hidden, and caused additional stress for communities and groups already struggling. Together Leicester's future plans are necessarily aligned with a long-term response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences on local communities. As well as continuing to enable churches to listen to the specific needs of their local communities and respond to them, the following 4 issues are key areas of concern which require Together Leicester's focus in the coming year(s), across wider areas and at a strategic & regional level. At a grassroots level, we continued to build links with businesses and charities in key areas of the city and county, to develop our work, using various video-conferencing facilities. Towards the end of the year, an opportunity to begin conversations with the Leicestershire County Council Social Prescribing link team arose, through work with communities in Coalville attended by the North West Leicestershire team.

3.4.1 Food

As mentioned in section 3.2 above, the funding from TNL Awards for All and the 2020 Bishops' Lent Appeal is being held until the volunteer-run Cook & Eat hubs project can recommence. The Covid-19 pandemic significantly exacerbated food poverty in areas where this was already known to be of concern, and also created new areas of Leicester & Leicestershire where food poverty has increased as a direct result of the pandemic and the economic and financial consequences thereof, meaning that new foodbanks were established where previously there had been no direct needs for one, such as Clarendon Park, Leicester, and Kibworth and surrounding villages, Leicestershire.

A number of churches in communities in Leicestershire, both those known to experience multiple deprivation, such as Measham and Coalville, and those where poverty is much more hidden, have expressed interest in working with Together Leicester to develop cooking skills courses for their local communities, which would be an expansion of the work of the Cook & Eat hubs project.

Our Development Worker remains the Key Theme Lead for Building Food Security under the Feeding Britain programme which the Steering Group is following, and working in partnership with strategic-level and grassroots organisations continued to explore with them the role of faith-based organisations within the varying strands of the Steering Group's work, and continues to work in partnership with them to develop a sustainable strategy for providing affordable, local opportunities for people develop cooking confidence, reduce food poverty and provide access to low-cost food, particularly through local churches and church-based organisations.

3.4.2 Digital inclusion

The reliance on digital technology throughout the pandemic, across every section of society, has highlighted in a particular way the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' in relation to this technology. As people have relied on the internet, emails, video-calls and social media for socialising, collective worship, education and work meetings, the following particular aspects of digital 'exclusion' have become apparent:

- Lack of digital skills/confidence
- Poor bandwidth in a geographical area due to topography or lack of infrastructure investment

- Digital poverty – both being unable to afford the necessary devices or number of devices, and being unable to afford and reliably pay for good quality home WiFi/broadband connection

Where people have previously relied on public places such as libraries or community centres to access digital technology (for any of the above reasons), the forced closure of these due to the lockdowns meant that many people were unable to:

- Purchase food and other good online
- Unable to pay for/ top-up credit for essential utilities, particularly gas and electricity.
- Unable/finding it harder to access health services, order repeat prescriptions or see a doctor, nurse, consultant of other medical professional – as many of these services moved to mobile phone apps, and many medical services were delivered online using video-conferencing facilities.
- Access support and advice for debt/money management and benefits
- Accessing banking facilities

Whilst for many of the above services, provisions were made to ensure that all people could access the essentials regardless of digital access, the reality is that many items cost more bought in-person rather than online, the best utility and communications deals and banking rates are available only to those with digital access, and during the Covid-19 pandemic attendance in person was unsafe for those advised to shield, and anxiety-causing for many others, resulting in a reluctance to access essential services, including healthcare. For advice and support services which are often accessed 'late' in general, this additional reluctance has only exacerbated the problem and concerns from both statutory services and third-sector partners.

All of the above has highlighted that enabling digital inclusion across age range, cultures and across wealth/deprivation barriers will be a core part of Together Leicester's long-term response to Covid-19. There are increasing calls for home WiFi to become a 'basic utility', but there remains the challenges of skill, infrastructure and affordability.

Consequently, in the autumn, conversations began with the Diocese of Leicester as to how churches could be encouraged to provide digital support to those in their local communities. Some of these conversations had been happening in deprived communities prior to the pandemic, but the need is now more severe and wide-spread. Conversations are at early stages, but it is clear that Together Leicester will play a key role in supporting the Anglican churches in Leicestershire to serve their local communities in this way, and perhaps in highlighting the urgency and importance of this within Diocesan structures.

3.4.2 Financial inclusion

Due to the combined effect of CUF's financial difficulties and the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, many of the aims around financial inclusion set out in our 2019 Annual Report were impossible to fulfil.
However, the effect of the pandemic has also brought this need into even sharper focus, and many leading debt advice charities are warning of a 'tsunami of debt' to come, particularly once the furlough and other governmental support schemes end.

In early 2020 Together Leicester supported a number of conversations with Churches Together in Coalville as those churches explored how to respond to the already urgent need

for debt advice provision locally, as the nearest debt advice centres were the CAP Debt Centre at Holy Trinity, Ashby-de-la-zouch, and Soar Valley Community Money Advice Centre, operating from Rothley, both of which are a substantial distance from Coalville, difficult or impossible to access via public transport, and not generally advertised within the Coalville area. Involved in these conversations was Nina de Salis Young, from Money Matters CMA, based at Church of the Martyrs, Leicester. A combination of internal and external factors led to a general sense that the CMA model was likely to be the best fit for the Coalville context. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic hit and the national lockdown began, at which point these conversations stopped. In December, we received the exciting and very welcome news that throughout the pandemic work had continued towards setting up a CMA debt centre in Coalville, and Hope67 CMA would be launching in Coalville in January 2021, with support from Money Matters CMA.

Elsewhere, our Secretary, Alison Adams continued to work strategically with statutory agencies and third-sector partners across Leicester & Leicestershire, with the advent of the Social Welfare Cell, seeking to tackle the multiple factors behind financial exclusion and to begin to address the barriers to financial inclusion.

3.4.3 Flourishing & Wellbeing

At the beginning of 2020, we worked closely with the local Near Neighbours Coordinator to promote the Places of Welcome network as a model for community hospitality spaces, running a couple of sessions called "Could your Place of Worship be a Place of Welcome?". We discovered that many churches ran coffee mornings, community cafés or other similar hospitality spaces, often fortnightly or monthly and it was often expressed that opening weekly was beyond their capacities. We further discovered that a number of churches, both in city and county, faced challenges with the accessibility and/or heating of their buildings. Whilst in some communities there were other accessible community facilities available that they could use for the purpose of a hospitality space, this is not the case everywhere, and invariably comes with a charge for hiring the community space.

In response to these multiple challenges, explorations began as to how best to support the wider network of hospitality spaces in communities, to enable them to fulfil their aims more effectively, even if, for reasons relating to buildings or volunteer capacity, they were unable to fulfil the Place of Welcome values.

A couple of church communities began exploring becoming a Place of Welcome for their community – Hope Hamilton, Leicester and St Paul's & St Augustine's Leicester, and St Thomas a Becket, Tugby, Leicestershire. Christchurch Mountsorrel formally joined the network over the 2019-2020 New Year period. Hope Hamilton and Tugby Church both expressed clear intention of opening as a Place of Welcome in March/April 2020. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Hope Hamilton's Place of Welcome was able to meet once, and the Place of Welcome in Tugby has had to postpone its launch. We hope that both of these will be able to open and become established in 2021, and that the other Places of Welcome and broader hospitality network members in city and county can reopen and resume serving their communities as the country rebuilds.

During the summer and autumn, when restrictions were eased slightly (more in the county than the city), we ran a couple of sessions in partnership with Near Neighbours to encourage groups to reimagine their hospitality spaces for the future, but the focus ended up being

mostly about the constantly changing restrictions and permissions. More detail is provided in section 3.1.2 of this report.

Looking ahead to 2021, hospitality spaces will be vital in enabling people to begin to reintegrate into society after so long facing greater isolation and restricted socialising. The negative impact of Covid, the lockdowns and other restrictions on people's mental health and wellbeing has been much discussed in the media, and one of the concerns is that those who were already isolated, anxious and struggled to leave the house may struggle all-the-more due to anxieties around Covid and due to the limited socialisation everyone has been able to do for so long. Therefore, Together Leicester aims to continue working with the Diocesan Mental Health & Wellbeing groups to enable churches to respond specifically to these issues. We will also provide bespoke support to individual churches to reduce the barriers to them reopening their hospitality spaces and other groups –be that limitations of volunteers, the difficulties with risk assessments and an awareness of the up to date restrictions and associated official guidance.

Grief, bereavement and loss of all kinds – relating to death, loss of jobs, relationships and other areas of life is an area that is expected to see a marked increase in need of response. Colleagues in the Together Network have been working on responding to this, and in 2021 we hope to be able to make use of these resources ourselves to support churches in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Finally, the bespoke approach to supporting individual churches to respond to the specific local needs in their areas remains a core part of our work, because the needs and focal points vary so wildly across the different contexts. Where any of the 3 above areas come up we will signpost them to the specific resources and support we have available for them, but we will also work with to address very local concerns and needs.

3.5 Broadening the breadth and depth of the organisation's structure

Following CUF's financial difficulties, they encouraged Joint Venture partners to begin the process of disaggregation. Simultaneously, Together Leicester began the process of broadening and deepening the organisation's trustee board, in order to better reflect the area which we serve and expand the breadth and depth of the skill set of the board. Conversations began with a number of individuals and organisations, including the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), City of Favour parish.

In the autumn, CUF arranged legal support from Anthony Collins Solicitors for JVs as they began the disaggregation process, particularly around amending their Articles of Association. For Together Leicester, this was simple, and involved having 3 member organisations, with equal nomination rights (3 each), rather than 2 member organisations with CUF having the majority of the nomination rights. At an Extraordinary General Meeting on 10th December 2020, the trustees formally adopted the new Articles of Association and welcomed RCCG City of Favour Parish as the third member organisation. At that meeting 2 of their nomination spaces were filled by Ashiedu Joel and Ayodeji Eyitayo.

4. Financial Review

Together Leicester's initial period of activity has been wholly funded through a grant from the Church Urban Fund.

Total income for the year was £116,300.91. Of this, £106,300.91 was income external, and £10000 was from the Church Urban Fund. The vast majority of the income, £94,300.91, was funding restricted to certain projects, which continues to pose a challenge for our core funding costs going forward.

The Trustees wish to record their gratitude to the Church Urban Fund for the grant of £10,000, and the 2 grants from The National Lottery's Covid Support Fund of £41,355 and £54,055 which have enabled the charity to continue operating during a difficult year. The Trustees also wish to record their gratitude to The National Lottery Awards for All scheme for the grant of £9870 towards a pilot Cook & Eat project, which has been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The majority of the Charity's expenditure consists of staff costs, amounting to £38268.05 representing 33% of total income, but significant proportions of that income cannot be used for the Development Worker staff costs in the next financial year.

The net result of the period was a surplus of £74,493.29, from the restricted funds.

The unrestricted part of The National Lottery Covid Support Fund grant for Together in Hope enables the Trustees to maintain an unrestricted, contingency reserve of £10,000. This sum is the equivalent to the cost of three months operation, and is held in reserve so that the trustees can responsibly wind up the charity should that become necessary.

5. Future Plans

Heading into 2021 there are several areas that require particular attention from Trustees. Of particular concern are:

- The need to establish long-term financial viability for the charity;
- Delivery of our plans for work in food security
- Development of the work in support of the homelessness charter;
- Development of a costed plan for financial inclusion work and raising the funds to implement that plan.

6. Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with all relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that:

- So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Independent examiner's report on Together Leicester

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020

Statement of Financial Activities

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Actual YTD	Restricted Actual YTD	Total
	£	£	£
INCOME			
External Income	12,000.00	94,300.91	106,300.91
Near Neighbours Income			-
Just Finance Foundation Income			-
CUF Income	10,000.00		10,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	22,000.00	-	116,300.91
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs			
Salaries	18,534.88	13,351.40	31,886.28
Employer's NI Contributions	1,855.94	1,337.20	3,193.14
Pension Contributions (if applicable)	1,833.48	1,355.15	3,188.63
Programme Costs (costs directly related to programme activities)	980.94		980.94
Office and Admin Costs			
Accommodation	2,396.30		2396.30
Professional Fees	90.33		90.33
Other (T&S, facilities, IT, etc)	72.00		72.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**25,763.87**	**16,043.75**	**41,807.62**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) to date	- 3,763.87	78,257.16	74,493.29
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Balance b/f at 1 January 2019	34,518.51		34,518.51
Balance c/f at 31 December 2019	**30,754.64**	**78,257.16**	**109,011.80**

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2020

		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			702.00
CURRENT ASSETS			
	Debtors		
	Cash at Bank	114,731.30	
	Total Current Assets	114,731.30	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		6421.50	
	Net Current Assets		108,309.80
TOTAL NET ASSETS			109,011.80
FUNDS			
	Unrestricted funds		30,785.55
	Restricted funds		78,226.25
TOTAL FUNDS			109,011.80

Together Leicester Annual Report and Accounts
for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These accounts have been externally examined, but not audited. The examiner "reviewed the postings/allocations based on the limited narratives, reviewed the mechanics of the spreadsheet, and stepped back to think does it all make sense." The examiner also viewed the opening and closing bank statements to confirm the balances recorded are accurate.

The examiner did not choose a sample of payments to ensure the postings seemed appropriate or review the charity's own definitions of restricted and unrestricted funds. The examiner assumed here the allocations are compliant with those definitions.

For the period ending 31 December 2012, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions of the Act.

Signed on 6th May 2021

Trustee

Trustee