

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From** Period start date 1 April 2024 **To** Period end date 31 March 2025

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Heaton Churches Together

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1181717

Charity's principal address 20 Armstrong Avenue

Heaton

Newcastle upon Tyne

Postcode

NE6 5RD

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Jonathan Lawson			
2	Andrea Hayes			
3	Mark Ridyard	Treasurer		
4				
5				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected from Membership

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Empty box for additional governance information
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## Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the Christian religion in Heaton and its immediate surroundings  
 To promote religious harmony amongst the various Christian congregations of the area and to encourage prayer, fellowship and joint action.  
 To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people in Heaton and its immediate surroundings to prevent people from becoming socially excluded, relieve the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assist their integration into society

Financial year 24-25 was again a year when we ran our key outreach event known as "Heaton Festival".

We had nearly 200 local organisations or groups participating and in terms of attendees the event was least as big as last time and though it's hard to estimate we were potentially even bigger.

We continued our approach of bringing the Heaton community together, encouraging people to get involved with the groups that surround them, whilst at the same time giving people a great day and helping them to identify with the Heaton community.

Performance – We continued to develop our stages this year. Our main stage was filled with brilliant local acts and with a packed crowd all day. The Village Green stage primarily showcased local youth groups and bands with "True Colours" stealing the show. King John's Palace stage had a more relaxed feel with both developing acts as well as some of the quieter bands and then we filled our A'Capella stage for the first time, creating a lovely atmosphere in our kids zone and a chance for new acts to perform to a big audience.

Community groups – This year we blended our Community zone and Ecozone, as we want to make caring for our environment a part of everything we do, rather than a separate thought. We continue to be oversubscribed and we deliberately limit our groups to those who meet locally where possible. All of the groups reported a strong interest from the community and we will follow up to find out if they have ultimately seen increased membership which is one of our targets.

Local small businesses – Our market stalls brought many local small businesses to the festival again. They all give terrific feedback that it gets them known within the community and we've found from returnees that Heaton Festival has helped them establish their businesses and learn what does and doesn't work as they seek to continue to grow.

Food – We continued to offer more food providers this year, consciously expanding the sorts of stalls on offer. We have a blend of companies who are just starting up in the outside catering world who we can help learn what it takes, mixed with some of the more established local organisations to ensure we can also meet the large volume of food required. No matter what their background, they all did exceptionally well, with many of them completely selling out.

Sports, Health and Wellbeing – As an experiment this year, we moved our Sportszone to behind the kids zone, and that helped the groups feel more involved in the main festival. The organisations involved let people have a go at their various activities and also signed people up to come back after the festival.

Children – Our children's zone continues to be a huge success with lots of free activities for families and young people. Activities included inflatables,

## Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

circus skills, a craft tent that included a local potter, sensory music for toddlers and the Armed Forces bikers with sponge throwing! This year a second local detachment of the Territorial Army also got involved meaning we could offer even more free activities whilst helping promote the TA and the ongoing groups it has for both youth and adults.

Youth – Keeping the youth entertained and engaged, our youth zone had all sorts of fun activities. For the more energetic, things like football or basketball shootout, table tennis or Sumo suits, and for the more relaxed a chillout zone, a creative station and an interactive drama experience

Beyond what the general public see, we have continued to develop our organising team with about 20 volunteers leading the planning for the 6 months in the run up to the festival, and over 200 helping out on the day. We are also getting strong support from the council events team and the Parks trust, who see us as a well organised and professional organisation that makes a difference in the community.

We also have continued our tracking of the consequences of the festival. 95% of our contributors tell us they would attend a similar event again, 72% say that the event organisation exceeds their expectations, and many groups tell us how their particular organisation has grown in terms of awareness, community engagement and membership.

We also carry out smaller events against our objectives during the year. Such as

- Community Carol singing at a local venue
- Sock and Chocs – creation of hundreds of Christmas parcels to be given to the local People's Kitchen
- World Day of Prayer
- Joint worship for Lent and Easter
- Christian Aid Week – joint fundraising envelope collection across Heaton
- supporting local food banks and refugee projects
- Caring for our environment
- Places of welcome – 3 of our churches acting as part of a national network that offering an unconditional welcome to local people to connect and contribute for few hours each week. They are places where everyone can go for a friendly face, a cup of tea and a conversation if and when they need it.

### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

HCT is fully reliant on volunteers and all our events are created and executed by members of our organisation.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

#### Social Inclusion

- Several Community groups run and coordinated to address the key community needs.

#### Heaton Festival – Jun 2024

- Between 12,000 to 15,000 attendees
- Nearly 200 community organisations involved most of which see increases in participation after the festival
- For details of the individual areas see the performance measures in section C

#### Religious harmony amongst the various Christian congregations

- Regular sharing of events between churches to promote partnership between churches – a combination of virtual and physical events across the year with hundreds of attendees, such as Lent Lunches

#### Promoting the Christian Religion

- Continued to use online services to promote interest amongst those inquisitive about faith.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

HCT's major expenditure is with Heaton Festival, where the aim is to make between a £1000 loss and a £3000 surplus so that over multiple festival we will create a small reserve to cover any issues that we may have in a given festival year.

We aim to have reserves of between £5,000 and £10,000 and at the end of FY23-24 reserves were £7,435 with expectation which provides a firm position for any future events.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

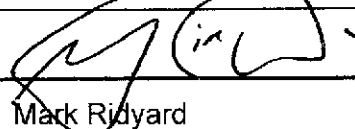
**Section F****Other optional information****Section G****Declaration**

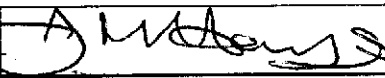
The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

  
Mark Ridyard

  
Andrea Hayes

Position (eg Secretary, Chair,  
etc)

Treasurer

Trustee

Date

30 January 2026

## Heaton Churches Together – Treasurer’s Report FY 2024-2025

### April 1 2024 to March 31 2025

#### Overall Summary

This is a year when HCT runs Heaton Festival. Recall that some fundraising was completed in 2023-24 and this had amounted to £4,525.

Looking at the accounts for 23-24 the vast majority of activity was on Heaton Festival, with net loss of £10,558 for the year. However, over the period from the 2022 festival completing payments and the 2024 festival completing payments balancing these two amounts the net loss of £6,033.

This was a deliberate intent. It is difficult to exactly predict how much a given festival cycle will cost and we aim to carry forward about £5,000 in reserves. However, after the 2022 festival cycle, with the impact of COVID and giving us a double fundraising cycle, we carried for £13,966 and so we undertook a little less grant funding in this cycle to bring the balance back to closer to the target.

Overall summary FY2425		
Row Labels	Data	
	Credits	Debits
Children	1048.8	1950
Church Contributions	2780	
Ecumenical bodies	1000	
Entertainment		60.48
External funding	4500	
Faith and Outreach		416.15
Food	5171.49	421.93
Health and Safety		8080.4
Interest	47.29	
Logistics		14924
Marketing	233	628.5
Non Festival	30	219.6
Private Contribution	493.4	
Stalls	1100	
Stalls - info	60	
Youth		320.31
<b>Total Result</b>	<b>16464</b>	<b>27021</b>

The Account started with a Balance of £17,993 and ended with a balance of £7,435

Mark Ridyard, HCT Treasurer  
[markridyard2@gmail.com](mailto:markridyard2@gmail.com)



## Heaton Festival 2024 summary

Overall, Heaton Festival targetted to return to a post cycle balance of close to £5,000 after the record receipts from 2022 brought the reserves to £13,966.

This meant that our fundraising targets were slightly lower than previous years and this lead to our fundraising coming in at £20,959

The highlights include

- Fundraising - £12,973.6, including
  - External funding, both secular and ecumenical at £5,500
  - Continued support from the council ward funding at £3,524 and the HCT churches at £3,780
- On the day receipts rose again to £7,877 vs 7,147, driven by more from Food providers

In terms of spending we had slight increase in costs vs previous years (£26,802 vs 2022 - £24,185 and 2019 - £25,169).

The key increases were driven by

- Logistics – up from from £13,237 to 14,924 (primarily driven by increased costs for Bins and toilets)
- Health and Safety – up from £6,522 to £8,080 (primarily driven by an increased licence cost from the Parks at £950)

A full item by item income and expenditure is shown below. Due the multiyear nature of fundraising and expenditure, this covers items that occurred in financial years 23-24 and 24-25.

Row Labels	Credits	Debits			
Children	1048.8	1950	Food	5171.49	421.93
Bouncy Castles	1048.8		Tea Tent	1202.75	
Lip Lee		80	Fat Hippo	330.8	
Double Deckers - Inflatables - Deposit		200	DDC Catering	450	
Newcastle Circus Arts - Deposit		200	AJ Ices	200	
Newcastle Circus Arts - Balance		580	Sun of Seitan	75	
Kids Kabin - clay		20	Fire and Dough Pizza	474.75	
PJs Inflatables		870	Layla's Kitchen - Y Sayed-Ahmed	49	
Church Contributions	3780		Paros	235	
HBC	500		Candyfloss Events	100	
St Cuthberts	200		Parallel 7	100	
St Gabriels	500		Coffee Cart	150	
St Georges	500		Crepes Gourmet	150	
St Teresa's	330		Vanilla Treats	55	
St Silas	250		Taylor Made Coffee	50	
St Francis	500		Tea Tent Consumables		421.93
Christ Church	500		Life Kombucha	80	
Elim - Kingdom Life	500		Jamjar	200	
Council	3524.99		Punto	200	
Newcastle City Council - Ouseburn Ward Funding	1000		Mac n Cheese	279.55	
Newcastle City Council - Manor Park Ward Funding	1000		Mr Whippy	200	
Newcastle City Council - Heaton Ward Funding	1000		Remainder of Tea Tent	120	
Newcastle City Council - Dene and South Gosforth Ward Funding	524.99		Tea Tent - Sum up	164.64	
Ecumenical bodies	1000		Crackers 4 Cheese	50	
URC Mission Grant	1000		Dot Bagel	50	
Entertainment		60.48	Lily Tree Bakery	80	
Chili Rd Band - van hire		60.48	Memories of the Black Forest	125	
External funding	4500		Health and Safety	8080.4	
RW Mann	500		Central Insurance	1573	
Sir James Knott	1500		St Johns	549.12	
Catherine Cookson Fund	1000		Site Link Radios	375.6	
Barbour Foundation	1000		NCC - Market Licence	50	
Beech Cottage Dental Practice	500		Hutton Traffic Management - Road closure signage	574	
Faith and Outreach		416.15	NCC - Licensable activities permit (market, Music etc)	515	
Bookmarks and Posters - Prestige Printing		207.4	PES Stewards	243.6	
Bibles - Nathan Hook - St Thomas		208.75	NCC - Traffic Order - via Graham Watson	1600	
			PP/PRS - 5000 people	499.04	
			Urban Green licence	950	
			Central Insurance - Groups with no Insurance	129	
			Alan Hillary Events	1020	
			Interest	47.29	
			Interest	47.29	
Stalls - info	60		Logistics		14924
Body Image Fitness	20		C Solutions - Stalls		1584
North Wildlife Trust	20		Alrose - Main Stage		4572
North East Organic	20		Van Hire		465.6
Youth		320.31	Ingram AV - Main Stage and Village Green Sound		3327
Youth zone Consumables - Amazon - Leanne Robson		170.31	NCC - Waste collection - 14 bins		454.94
PJs Inflatables		150	CS Solutions - Marquees and Chairs and Tables		1988
			Easy-Hire - 40 barriers		420
			Castlewood Toilets		1295
			Hot Event solutions - Track mat		100
			Gazebos - TJ Hughes - Andrea Hayes		241.99
			Trolley Hire - Andrea Hayes		161.1
			Extra Bins - Skip disposal to Park		314.4
			Marketing	233	628.5
			Tshirt sales	233	
			Print North East - 5 banners and 6 date change patches		207.6
			Logo Bear - 31 T-shirts		262.5
			Print NE - Large maps		158.4
			Private Contribution	493.4	
			Bucket Donations		294.2
			DONR - Text giving		29.2
			Insurance Donation - John Smeed		80
			Double payment of Cheque		80
			Private Donation		10
			Stalls	1100	
			L&S Gifts - Linda Scott		50
			Le Mini Macaron		50
			Anke Sayn Rainbow - Saynie Stall		50
			Fork in the Rose		50
			Northstar Needlework		50
			Opal Sunshine		50
			Fudgetown		50
			Arshita Jewellery - P Singh		50
			Flea Circus		100
			Sea of Rivers - Justine De Rios		50
			CandyLand - IA Khan		50
			Sam Wood Art		50
			Northern Wood Co - Ryan Kelly		50
			Susannah Raine		50
			Wood Yew Crafts - Pam Bennett		50
			RawPrint Heaton - RA Wood		50
			Sopharia Jewellery - S Howell		50
			Fiona McKeown		50
			Catchi's Kimchi		50
			R Zillinskaite		50
			Curvy Sounds		50