

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Section A - Reference and administration details

Charity Name	Open Ears
Charity number	1181896
Charity Address	6 Westfield Road Leicester Leicestershire LE3 6HR
Charity Trustees	Anthea Own (Chair Person) Christine Pitts (Secretary) Julia Chapman (Treasurer) Mary Bucknall Marylin Kilsby
Associate Committee Members	Marilyn Baker Emily Owen Susanne Willdig. Tracy Williamson

Section B - Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts	Open Ears is constituted by its Foundation CIO Constitution (dated 4/1/2019)
Management of the charity	The charity is managed by its trustees and committee members
Selection of new trustees and committee members	The existing trustees and committee members are responsible for the selection of new individuals. The final decision is made by a vote of this group of individuals.

Section C - Objectives and activities

Summary of the objectives and activities of the charity set out in its governing document	Open Ears is a non-denominational Christian charity for people who have various degrees of impaired hearing, mainly (but not exclusively) those who communicate orally, assisted by hearing aids or cochlear implants and lip-reading.
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Section C - Objectives and activities Continued.....

Objectives

The objectives of the charity are, for the public benefit:

- The advancement of the Christian religion among the hearing impaired
- The relief of need, hardship or sickness, in particular the relief of those with hearing impairments.

Activities

The activities of the charity are:

- Provide pastoral support to those in need
- Organise fellowship/bible teaching events
- Provide publications/information
- Provide training/demonstrations to church leaders to highlight the needs of those with impaired hearing and offer advice on suitable equipment e.g. loop systems
- Provide financial support to organisations providing relief to those affected by hearing impairments.

Section D - Achievements and performance

The main achievements of the charity during the period

The impact of the Pandemic has continued from 2020 into 2021. Like other charities we have faced many challenges as a result and have needed to adapt to ensure we are able to operate.

- Technology

The committee looked to Zoom Conferencing as a new way to meet remotely as we could no longer meet in person for the foreseeable future. This was made possible through Suzanne's expertise with Speech to Text being provided through Zoom's Caption Text functionality.

The positive outcome of this being we have been able to meet on a more regular basis and have used the time to focus on our direction for the future as well as how we might support our members during this difficult time.

The main achievements of the charity during the period continued.....

- Magazine - Hearing Eye

Four editions of the magazine 'Hearing Eye' were produced with a circulation of about 225 per issue which included postal and email copies being sent to our members and other interested people. We continue to look for new and creative content to include within this magazine to reach the needs of our members and feedback to date has been positive.

Section D - Achievements and performance Continued.....

- Cards

We continue with sending out our own Christmas Card this year and complimented that with an Easter Card. And a birthday card where we are aware of this date. The aim of this being to reach out to our members to help them feel included as well as encouraging them to consider the true meaning of Easter and Christmas.

- Focus on Corporate Prayer

We continue to meet as a committee for prayer and have introduced some online community prayer meetings for our members. We are working on ways to overcome the barriers that hearing loss has with regard to these meetings, however with Speech to Text resources available this has helped..

- Social Media

We are currently looking at how we reach and communicate to our members. As a result and keeping up with others we are looking at social media as a means to reach people and have hired a consultant to assist us to do this.

- Online Conferences

We have successfully held several online conferences, prayer meetings and quiz evenings for our members. Positive feedback has been received regarding these meetings and we continue to look for additional ways to support and reach out to our members.

- International

We continue to support Churches for All and Church Ear charities and their work with the hard of hearing.

- Giving

Members of the fellowship have continued to give enabling the aims of the charity to be fulfilled.

Section E - Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's previous policy was to have as a minimum level of reserves, funds equivalent to three months worth of expenditure. However with the current worldwide economic situation as it is, as a result of the Pandemic and the low level of regular income we are receiving, the trustees have taken a decision to increase this to twelve months.

Section F - Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed: **Julia Chapman**

Date: 30 October 2022

Position: *Treasurer, Trustee*

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Charity Name Open Ears

Charity Number 1181896

As at 31 December

	31.12.21 Restricted Funds £	31.12.21 Unrestricted Funds £	31.12.21 Total Funds £	31.12.20 Restricted Funds £	31.12.20 Unrestricted Funds £	31.12.20 Total Funds £
Bank	£57,044	£7,634	£64,677	£65,263	£2,721	£67,984
Other Assets	£4,097	£0	£4,097	£4,096	£0	£4,096
Liabilities	-£670	£0	-£670	£0	£0	£0
	£60,471	£7,634	£68,104	£69,359	£2,721	£72,080
Reserves						
Funds at start of year	£69,195	£2,885	£72,080	£76,795	£579	£77,374
Transfer Assets	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Results for the year	-£8,889	£4,912	-£3,976	-£7,599	£2,306	-£5,294
Funds at end of year	£60,307	£7,798	£68,104	£69,195	£2,885	£72,080

Signed by one trustee on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Date of approval

Julia Chapman
Treasurer, Trustee

Julia Chapman

30 October 2022

Notes to the Accounts

Restricted v Non Restricted Funds

- These were as a result of net funds at the date of transfer of the assets (see notes below)
- Restriction - Funds received prior to this date are restricted and may only be spent on UK activities
- Funds received after this date are not subject to any restriction and may be spent on UK or International activities

Other Assets

- A deposit has been paid for a future Open Ears Conference of £3,932.
 - Unfortunately due to the
- Given the confidence of the liquidators of this amount being recoverable we have included this within other assets.

Liabilities

These relate to expenses incurred for which the purchase invoice has not yet been received.

Transfer of Assets

- Open Ears (1181896) was registered as a new CIO Charity on 6 February 2019
- Open Ears(284487) transferred its charity status to this new CIO charity (1181896) during 2019.
- On 21 September 2019 Open Ears (284487) transferred its assets and liabilities to Open Ears (1181896), the newly created CIO charity.
- On 18 November 2019, Open Ears (284487) was transferred to and merged with Open Ears (1181896)
- This merger was registered on 15 January 2020.
- Open Ears (284487) has been removed from the Register of Charities.
- This merger is now listed in the Register of Mergers maintained by the Charity Commission