

BLANK CANVAS

England & Wales · Charity number 1182185

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-02-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Palace Hub
28-29 Esplanade
Redcar
Cleveland
TS10 3AE

Phone 07877344860

Email info@blankcanvasyouth.com

Website www.blankcanvasyouth.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF BLANK CANVAS ARE:1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.2) THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.3) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION.

Activities: Running needs-based projects to allow young people to create new stories of hope.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£118,917	£78,235	-	-
2024-03-31	£70,094	£34,216	-	-
2023-04-05	£20,143	£18,525	-	-
2022-04-05	£20,463	£13,495	-	-
2021-04-05	£12,369	£12,301	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mark Tate	Chair	2023-11-28
Alice Lambert-Ellis		2025-05-20
Bridget Woodall		2023-11-29
Kristian Shephard		2024-12-03
Tim Theobalds		2024-02-27

BLANK CANVAS

England & Wales - Charity number 1182185

Accounts

B L A N K
C A N V A S

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025



PREPARED BY

Blank Canvas Trustees

Charity Number: 1182185

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE PAST YEAR	1
TRUSTEES' REPORT	2-3
OUR VISION	4
OUR TEAM	5
OUR IMPACT	6 - 8
STORIES	9
SAFEGUARDING	10
SUPPORTERS & FUNDRAISING	11
OUR FUTURE	12
CONTACT	13
FINANCIAL REPORT	14 +

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



MARK TATE

Chair of Trustees

It has been a privilege to watch Blank Canvas grow and flourish in 2024. The Board of Trustees know that the continued rise of poverty and socio-economic deprivation faced by many young people in Redcar is tackled by the Blank Canvas staff and volunteers each week. We are also aware that the local church is beginning to grow in confidence in its mission to young people, led by Blank Canvas. That is why it has been so encouraging to see the mission of Blank Canvas grow this year as well as the infrastructure and finances to support and sustain this growth.

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

This last year has been a wonderful time of youth work! We have seen engagement levels grow across all of our activities, however, it is the deeper work of our Advocacy Programme (YAFA) and the development of the DOXA Programme (faith based activities) that bring us joy on top of all that is happening.

Each year as we reflect, we celebrate the volunteers who turn up week in, week out for the young people of Redcar, their commitment and love for each person who walks through the doors of our safe spaces and other activities.

We have seen another year of provision and incredible generosity from our supporters and funders. Our staff team has expanded and we have seen our funding increase to allow us to sustain and develop new initiatives such as the DOXA Programme, Compass and our YAFA Programme.



**ABI & JONNY
HEDGES**

Founder and Directors

We are thankful for all that God has done this year and we are excited to continue to press on in our vision to create new stories of hope for young people in Redcar and beyond.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Objects of the charity

The charity is governed by a constitution as a charitable incorporated organisation. The charity's principal objects, as set out in its governing document, are:

The objects of Blank Canvas are:

1. The advancement of the Christian Faith. This will be achieved in particular but not exclusively by: working in partnership with local churches to provide youth and community provision. Working in partnership with local schools to provide education on the Christian faith. Creating a space for young people to explore issues of life and faith.
2. The prevention or relief of poverty for young people through their advancement in life and helping of young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals.
3. The advancement of education by providing personal development programmes and courses for young people and by providing training and advice to those working with them.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial Review

Total income received of £118,917 is a 70% increase on the previous year. Most of this increase is due to a higher number of grants received. In addition we have benefitted from more support from partner churches. There is more detail on grants and partner churches in the fundraising section later in this report. We are also very grateful to our individual regular donors who have supported our work during the year.

Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly have also increased to £78,151 for the year. This increase reflects growth in the team to 4 staff members over the year.

The charity has increased cash funds at year end to £100,112 of which £35,688 is unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £22,400 (which equates to about 3 months' of unrestricted expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely.

At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £35,688 and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. Responsibility for the day to day operation of the charity has been delegated to a senior management team led by the Director of Programmes and Director of Operations. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees, by a majority vote.

Responsibilities of Trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Tate

Mark Tate (Sep 11, 2025 14:12:35 GMT+1)

Mark Tate: Chair of Trustees

Date: Sep 11, 2025



OUR VISION

VISION

Blank Canvas' vision is to **create new stories of hope** by giving every young person in Redcar the opportunity to know the **hope of Jesus** and to journey alongside young people in order to **respond to the barriers** which prevent them from flourishing.

SOLUTIONS

Safe Spaces: To provide safe spaces for young people to be known & belong.

Advocacy: To advocate for young people and their families, believing in their potential and equipping them to reach their goals.

Local Church: To equip the local church community to be a welcoming & championing voice for young people.

Innovate: To consistently and creatively re-imagine the provision required to achieve our vision.

OUR TEAM

Over 2024-2025 the Blank Canvas team has grown to 4 staff members and one seconded team member and throughout the year, a fantastic team of 20 volunteers have supported the work of Blank Canvas through Youth Clubs, Workspace, Sunday Night Live, Sports Weeks and other activities. Alongside the volunteers, a team of trustees continue to govern Blank Canvas, ensuring Blank Canvas follows its charitable objectives and provides a public benefit.

STAFF TEAM

Abi Hedges: Director of Programmes and Co-Founder

Lizzie Walsh: Senior Youth Worker

Steve Cassy: Youth Worker: Engagement

Carol Petit: Youth Worker: YAFA

Jude Graham: Youth Intern

TRUSTEES

Mark Tate: Chair of Trustees

Jonny Hedges: Operations Trustee and Co-Founder (Resigned February 2025)

Tim Theobalds: Treasurer

Daniela Reiter: Safeguarding Trustee

Revd Bridget Woodall: Trustee

Kristian Shephard: Trustee

TEAM HIGHLIGHT || Michelle

I've been volunteering with Blank Canvas since 2024 and provide meals at Workspace and Sunday Night Live every week, monthly meals at Youth Club and cater for the Shindig.

I love being part of the team and love that Christians from across Redcar are working together for young people.



OUR IMPACT

KNOWING THE HOPE OF JESUS

2024 saw the launch of the DOXA programme, a faith based set of activities that allow young people to explore the Christian faith. This speaks to one of the two key visions for Blank Canvas. The DOXA Programme also seeks to provide one of our solutions in supporting and equipping the local churches to be a welcoming and championing voice for young people in Redcar.

At the first ever weekend away, 13 young people visited Wydale Hall for fun, faith and friendship, with an Alpha course launched after this, attended by many of the group.

Following the completion of Alpha in the winter, Sunday Night Live was launched in January to provide a space for young people to eat together and explore the Christian faith in creative and meaningful ways.



One young person being baptised by Blank Canvas team members in a local church.

One local church through Blank Canvas support has established a Sunday morning provision for young people who have joined the worshipping community, with a small group of young people attending and exploring other local churches .

2024 has seen many young people in Redcar begin to explore and find faith.



Project Sessions Delivered

190



DOXA Programme Hours

198+



Check-in's for sessions

2000+

REMOVING BARRIERS

We're thrilled that 2024 was another year of hosting safe spaces where young people can come with the confidence that they will be spaces they can have fun, build relationships, engage in positive activities and be listened to and supported. Our Redcar East Youth Club has seen rapid growth over 2024 as young people continue to invite their friends. Leaders at Redcar West Youth Club have shared what a joy it is to see some of the young people we have been working with for a number of years grow so much in confidence and have such brilliant, trusting relationships with so many of the team - a testament of the power of consistency in youth work! Workspace continued to be a space where young people can get the support they need to get their school work done with access to laptops, WIFI and other resources. Gathering



together at the end of the evening for what we call our 'family meal' that the young people have helped to prepare is also a notable highlight!

Blank Canvas has also put on Holiday Activities during October Half Term and the Easter holidays and were really encouraged to see a huge growth in confidence of the young people attending as they gave new sports a go and cheered each other on. This same theme was noticeable at the after-school Sports week we ran in March with support from Greenacre's Church Texas.



Advocacy Sessions

160



Minutes of Youth Work

22,698



Meals given to young people

750+



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: YAFA

Supporting young people on a 1:1 basis through mentoring, intentional relationship building with their family and wider support networks and supporting them to set and work towards goals that that want to achieve has been where some of our most impactful youth work has taken place this year. As young people are supported and celebrated to achieve goals that feel important to them here's some of the things we regularly see:

- Improvement in their mental health and wellbeing
- An increase in their own confidence and abilities to make positive changes in their life
- A high level of resilience when met with future challenges
- Young people who feel safe to share the real things they are facing

8



Young people met
with weekly or
biweekly

5



Young people
finished the YAFA
programme

100+



Drinks shared
together

OUR STORIES



AMY*

After being part of Blank Canvas activities for two years, Amy attended the weekend away and decided to give praying a go, she discovered God answered her prayers and couldn't believe that maybe what the Blank Canvas team had been sharing for them could also be true for her.

Amy was paired up with a mentor after the weekend to journey together as she explored faith and a few months later, on the sand dunes of Redcar beach, with a bonfire in the background, made a decision to follow Jesus.

After a year of mentoring, reading her bible and taking part in the DOXA programme, Amy is confidently sharing her faith with friends, family and others.

OLIVER*

Oliver has been attending Blank Canvas activities for 6 months, through getting to know his family and hearing his story we discovered life had been tough for Oliver and that he was being bullied at school and in his community. His confidence was low, he struggled to trust professionals and even in our spaces he would stick to the quiet spaces. Oliver has recently accepted YAFA support from one of the team which his family have shared is a big step for him and we're already seeing growth in his confidence through their work together.

*Real name changed



SAFEGUARDING



“Youth club - It’s full of nice people, genuine and caring people, they don’t judge me and are always there.” - Young person - 15 years old

Making Blank Canvas spaces safe is of the highest priority. Through preparation with our safer recruitment, training and risk assessments, during activities by making each space feel and be safe for all young people and then in our follow up, with parents, family, schools, external services and our safeguarding advisors, thirtyone:eight.

Our Safeguarding team continues to respond to concerns that are reported by volunteers and staff, alongside working closely with local secondary school safeguarding leads to provide wrap around care should any concern require this. Throughout the year Blank Canvas has made referalls to other charities and services in Redcar that would provide further care and support to young people in need.

In 2024, Blank Canvas provided a volunteer and staff team webinar delivered by thirtyone:eight in order to provide a space for training together as a team but also to bring in expert advice that would provide a space to answer questions, re-enforce previous training and collectively as a team discuss our processes and policies.

SUPPORTERS & FUNDRAISING

We are thankful for the work of Tim Theobalds who outworks the finances of Blank Canvas as Treasurer and for Jonny Hedges who has taken a lead on fundraising. During this financial year Blank Canvas has employed the services of Stewardship as payroll provider. **The trustees and staff are grateful and often overwhelmed at the generosity of supporters, both those who have given significant one-off donations and those who regularly give, to support the vision of Blank Canvas.**

This year our regular and one-off donations have increased as the ministry of Blank Canvas has grown and therefore we have been able to sustainably grow as a charity over the last financial year which you will see in the financial report later.

Blank Canvas raises money at various points throughout the year, whilst submitting grant applications that provide a key element of funds. We are grateful for all the support we receive from funders who partner with us in our vision for young people in Redcar.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- £12,500, The Joseph Rank Trust
- £26,000, The Lauderdale Trust
- £11,336, First Woodday Baptist Church
- £30,000, Magnify Foundation
- £5,000, Woodsmith Foundation
- £2,000, The Noble Charitable Trust
- £5,000 The Jack Brunton Charitable Trust
- £2,500, Tees Million
- £1,000, Dogger Bank Operators Fund
- £47.00, Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland

PARTNER CHURCHES

- £600, Kirkleatham Parish
- £2,750, St Paul's Ealing
- £1,500, St Michael's and St George's, High Wycombe

FUNDRAISING

- £1,061 raised through the Redcar Boxing Day Dip

OUR FUTURE

2025 AND BEYOND

As we look to 2025, we are excited that Compass will launch, in partnership with Youthscape, a bold intervention programme that seeks out those most at-risk and works to change their life trajectory.

We also will be running a second annual weekend away in May and hope that this will enhance and build on the work of the DOXA programme.

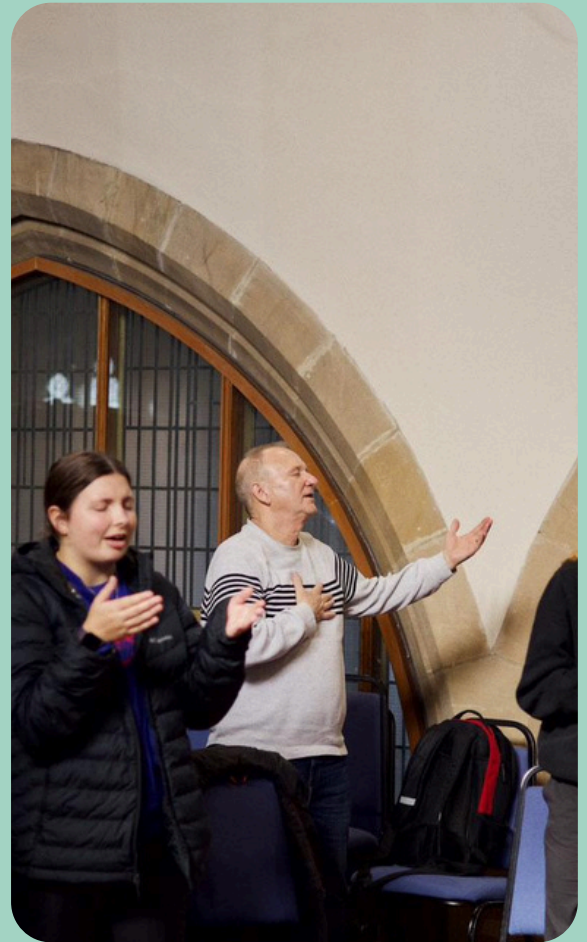
In spring 2025 the Growing Younger Programme will begin, providing support and accompaniment to local churches as they look to launch new spaces for young people to explore faith.

A BC HOME

As Blank Canvas grows, so does the need for space and time availability, in order to run activities, therefore it is within our future plans that Blank Canvas explores the acquisition of a permanent home.

Whilst our presence within local churches would remain, a dedicated Blank Canvas base would provide the opportunity to have daily drop-ins, meals and youth work.

Opportunities for further parent and family engagement during the school day would also be possible should a home be found in Redcar.



PARTNERSHIPS

Blank Canvas exists to support the local church and over the next year will begin to explore deeper partnerships with churches within Redcar and the wider Teesside area.

Through international partnerships our hope is that regular groups from the US will bring concentrated weeks of youth work across all our projects and in-turn will increase our engagement with young people, particularly in our Youth Clubs and Drop-In's.

CONTACT US



BLANK CANVAS

 @youthblankcanvas

 @blankcanvasyouth

Address

The Palace Hub,
28-29 Esplanade, Redcar, TS10 3AE

Email

info@blankcanvasyouth.com

Website

www.blankcanvasyouth.com

Phone

07310 250352

BLANK CANVAS
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	The Palace Hub 28-29 Esplanade Redcar TS10 3AE
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution dated 15th May 2024
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1182185
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Mark Tate Alice Lambert-Ellis (appointed May 2025) Kristian Shephard (appointed December 2024) Tim Theobalds Rev Bridget Ann Wodall Daniela Reiter Liz Gibson (resigned September 2024) Jonny Hedges (resigned February 2025)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Sarah Crispin ACA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 14	Legal & Administrative Details
Page 15	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 16	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 17	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Page 18	Notes to the Accounts

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

BLANK CANVAS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Blank Canvas ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 on pages 16 to 18 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Sarah Crispin

Sarah Crispin (Sep 16, 2025 16:54:28 GMT+1)

Sarah Crispin ACA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Sep 16, 2025

BLANK CANVAS
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds			2025	2024
		General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations		31,743	-	-	31,743	23,464
Gift aid receipts		517	-	-	517	1,029
Other grants		12,754	-	71,697	84,451	45,173
Event Income		675	-	680	1,355	428
Other		850	-	-	850	-
Total receipts		<u>46,540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,377</u>	<u>118,917</u>	<u>70,094</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	57,086	-	21,149	78,235	34,216
Total payments		<u>57,086</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,149</u>	<u>78,235</u>	<u>34,216</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(10,546)	-	51,228	40,682	35,878
Transfers between funds	4	(96)	-	96	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(10,641)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,324</u>	<u>40,682</u>	<u>35,878</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		46,149	-	13,196	59,345	23,467
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>35,508</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,520</u>	<u>100,027</u>	<u>59,345</u>

The notes on page 18 form part of these accounts.

BLANK CANVAS
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2025 £	2024 £
	Notes	General funds £	Designated funds £		
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access		35,461	-	64,520	99,980
Petty cash		47	-	-	47
		<u>35,508</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,520</u>	<u>100,027</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity		1,668	-	-	1,668
Other debtors		941	-	-	941
		<u>2,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,608</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
Pension		110	-	87	-
Fee for Independent Examination		1,020	-	-	1,020
		<u>1,130</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>1,217</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use					
			Fund to which asset belongs	Cost £	Current value £
Computers and IT			General	6,220	3,241
Furniture			General	1,154	901
Sports Equipment			General	366	307
				<u>7,740</u>	<u>4,449</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Tim Theobalds
Tim Theobalds (Sep 15, 2025 09:42:29 GMT+1)
 Tim Theobalds
 Date: Sep 15, 2025

Mark Tate
Mark Tate (Sep 11, 2025 14:12:35 GMT+1)
 Mark Tate
 Date: Sep 11, 2025

The notes on page 18 form part of these accounts.

BLANK CANVAS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Staff Costs (see note 4)	32,002	-	14,478	46,480	20,088
Activities	10,105	-	6,628	16,733	8,345
Premises	5,721	-	-	5,721	-
Independent examination	326	-	-	326	-
Office costs	8,932	-	44	8,975	5,783
	<u>57,086</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,149</u>	<u>78,235</u>	<u>34,216</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

Abi Hedges is married to trustee Jonny Hedges she was employed as Director of Programmes and was paid £18,702 (2024: £15,238) for serving in that capacity; this payment is permitted by the charity's governing document.

4 Movement of funds

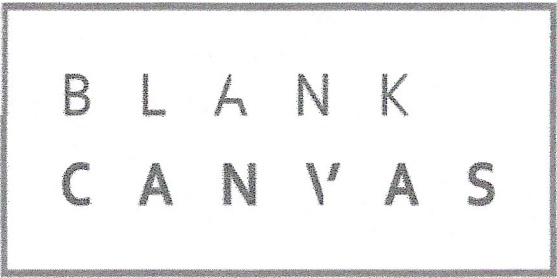
	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	46,149	46,540	(57,086)	(96)	35,508
Restricted funds					
DOXA Programme	12,163	26,680	(20,280)	-	18,563
YAFA	500	5,150	(132)	-	5,518
Compass	-	10,500	(62)	-	10,439
Growing Younger	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Feast of Fun	533	47	(676)	96	-
	<u>13,196</u>	<u>72,377</u>	<u>(21,149)</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>64,520</u>
Total funds	<u>59,345</u>	<u>118,917</u>	<u>(78,235)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,027</u>

The DOXA Programme is restricted funding towards faith based activities of Blank Canvas
YAFA is a restricted funding towards running one to one support mentoring for young people
Compass is restricted funding towards running an intervention programme for young people at risk of exclusion from school.
Growing Younger is restricted funding towards supporting local churches establishing intergenerational worshipping communities.
Feast of Fun is restricted funding towards school holiday activities

BLANK CANVAS

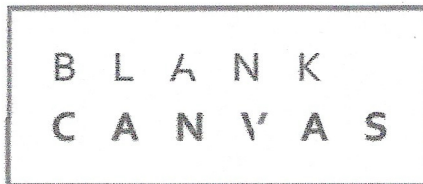
England & Wales - Charity number 1182185

Accounts



Charity Number: 1182185

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024



Annual Report 2023-24

Over the last year Blank Canvas has begun to see the fruits of now over five years of ministry and work across Redcar. The Annual Report is always an opportunity to pause, to look back and celebrate all that has been achieved. To thank the commitment of so many volunteers and staff, alongside looking ahead to our hopes to further supporting young people and families across Redcar, their families and sharing our Christian faith, the very thing that motivates and drives the work of Blank Canvas.

To highlight a few areas of growth in this past year:

We thanked Revd Mark Hubbard for 5 years of being Chair of Trustees and for all that he did to support the launch of Blank Canvas. As he stepped back, Mark Tate, has stepped into that role and takes on the leadership of Blank Canvas, chairing trustees and working alongside the founders in the strategic direction of the charity. Alongside Mark Tate; Jonny Hedges, Revd Bridget Woodhall and Tim Theobalds have joined the trustee board to bring further experience in operations, governance, strategy and finance.

Blank Canvas has grown in our staff numbers by 100% with the employment of Steve Cassy as a Youth Worker. Carol Petit has joined the team through our partnership with St Hilda's Church and Mustard Seed, and following this, has launched the Advocacy Programme.

The second safe spaces youth club was launched and has become an established part of young people's weeks, alongside our existing youth club.

Throughout the summer, the staff team and volunteers ran a full programme of summer activities and our Social Action projects have taken place throughout the year.

Financially we have received a number of key grants that have enabled Blank Canvas to grow both in capacity but additionally in our impact and reach, with further funding received to enable the future employment of a full time Youth Worker with a focus on discipleship and exploring faith.

The trustees and staff wish to thank God and so many partners, volunteers and churches for the faithful support of Blank Canvas in many ways and for the young people and families of Redcar, who we continue to find deep joy in serving, supporting and sharing faith with.

Projects

Youth Club @ St Hilda's

When: Thursday evenings, at St Hilda's Church (Redcar West)

The Youth Club on a Thursday evening is a hub of activity and fun. There is a steady, committed group of young people who come along each week who fill the space with laughter and fun.

The DMC (Deep Meaningful Conversation) room was given a spruce up with fairy lights, inspirational quotes, a space for young people to reflect or pray and there is a group of young people who solidly use this room as their space, plus many young people who engage with it in different ways, using the question cards to chat about deeper things in faith and life.

We continue to do monthly meals, games evenings and other themed sessions which the young people enjoy – anything around food tends to be a hit.

Youth Club @ RBC

When: Tuesday evenings, at Redcar Baptist Church (Redcar East)

Our second Youth Club launched in June 2023 at the United Reformed Church. It was only able to run in this space until the Summer and due to a safety issue with the building we moved to Redcar Baptist Church and 'relaunched' in Sept 2023.

We gathered and trained a new team of youth workers for this space who have done an amazing job of building relationships and establishing a culture of fun, kindness, openness and respect. The team have established a DMC room in this youth club too which again, has been an great place for conversations to go deeper, and questions of life and faith to be discussed.

Some highlights this year include youth-led karaoke and 'Youths Got Talent' evenings which the young people really enjoyed doing. We love to see this enthusiasm and leadership and are working with these young people to encourage them in these skills.

Workspace

When: Monday afternoons, at St Hilda's Church (Redcar West)

Workspace has grown significantly this year with both young people and team. It's been wonderful to support a whole host of additional young people and has presented challenges to overcome – we've needed more laptops and have had to find ways to ensure the space remains calm and somewhere work take place

Michelle has taken on the cooking as is amazing at cooking delicious meals from scratch that the young people are thoroughly enjoying. Mary loves maths and has become our in-house maths expert supporting any young people who need some support with their maths homework.

We have been able to open up a second quieter room at Workspace that enables some quieter work to take place which has been really positive for some of the young people who attend who found the larger room could be too distracting for them.

We have started to invite guests to come into Workspace and share about career paths or issues that affect young people: including the army, teaching and cyber-crime.

Youth Advocacy

When: Adhoc

The Advocacy Programme launched in response to the constant need for support that goes beyond what we can provide in our regular spaces and a need to be 'advocated for'. We see large numbers of young people consistently sharing tough situations, mental health difficulties, bereavements, relational issues, challenges at school and more every week.

Carol oversees the advocacy work and a team of mentors. Through this work we are building up excellent relationships with staff at one of our local schools – a school many of our young people attend, alongside meeting with social workers, and the early help team. We are working closely with parents, and other professionals to provide joined up support for young people that is really impactful.

At the heart of the work is each young person and their individual needs. No two mentor relationships look the same as each is shaped by the needs and desires of the young person involved which is something we're really proud of!

Youth-Led Social Action

Steve has been gathering groups of young people, inspiring them to think about what issues they think most affects their communities and to think through what they might like to do to make an impact in those areas.

Activities have included a litter pick in Locke Park, an ice-skating trip to Billingham Forum with a wellbeing session included for young people struggling with their mental health.

Summer Activities

During the summer through grant funding, we ran a full programme of activities for young people to enjoy. We are aware many of the young people we engage with do not have many or any plans during the holidays and it can be a financially tough time for families, alongside the gap in free school meals.

With two activities taking place every week: a weekly beach trip and picnic and a movie night and meal. Plus, three additional trips: to the woods, a day trip to Saltburn and a scavenger hunt around Redcar. Around 30 young people engaged with the different activities and found such joy in the days. Positive relationships were built with one another, fun memories made and confidence grown during the summer weeks.

Giving and Partnerships

We are deeply grateful for all the regular and one-off donations we've received this year from our supporters. A big thank you to First Woodway Baptist Church, Baptist Insurance Corporation, County Durham Community Foundation, Scurrah Wainwright, Just Sow, The Benefact Trust, Tesco Community Grants, Feast of Fun, The Fellowship of St John and Beyond Housing for their support towards our work.

Our partnerships with the local churches across Redcar are key to our work and continue to flourish. We are thankful to serve alongside Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish, Redcar Baptist Church, Kirkleatham Parish, St Peter's Church, United Reformed Church and Christchurch Coatham and Dormanstown.

Looking forward

We look forward to this next year with further funding enabling the launch of our discipleship programme, we hope and look forward to new growth in meeting new young people and their families, journeying with them in overcoming challenges and seeing new stories of hope created.

Abi Hedges (Projects Lead)

Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2024

General Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	Notes	2023/24	2022/23
		£	£
Donations		6,683	4,595
Gift Aid		1,029	257
Grants	2	45,173	8,865
Youth Club Subs		428	112
Other	3	16,781	6,314
Total Receipts		<u>70,094</u>	<u>20,143</u>
 Payments			
Wages		20,088	14,027
Administration/Insurance/Training		5,783	2,643
Projects		8,345	1,855
Total Payments		<u>34,216</u>	<u>18,525</u>
 Surplus of receipts over payments		 <u>35,878</u>	 <u>1,618</u>
 Bank accounts and cash at 1 April		 <u>23,467</u>	 <u>21,849</u>
Bank accounts and cash at 31 March		<u>59,345</u>	<u>23,467</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2024

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Cash Funds as at 31 March	172	61
Nat West Account	59,173	23,406
	<u>59,345</u>	<u>23,467</u>
 Represented by		
Cash Funds as at 1 April	61	-
Nat West Account	23,406	21,849
	<u>23,467</u>	<u>21,849</u>
 Surplus of receipts over payments	 <u>35,878</u>	 <u>1,618</u>
	<u>59,345</u>	<u>23,467</u>

Approved on 16 July 2024 by Blank Canvas Trustees who authorised the following Trustees to sign on their behalf:



Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer)



Mark Tate (Chair)

Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of the financial statements

The financial statements of Blank Canvas have been prepared in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payment basis.

2 Grant Income

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Arnold Clarkes Community Fund	-	1,000
County Durham Community Foundation	-	7,865
Baptist Insurance Company	12,163	-
Just Sow	10,000	-
The Fellowship of St John	10,000	-
The Scurrah Wainwright Charity	5,000	-
Feast of Fun	2,970	-
Benefact Trust Grant	2,950	-
Beyond Housing	1,090	-
Groundwork	1,000	-
Total	<u>45,173</u>	<u>8,865</u>

3 Other Income

Redcar Baptist Church	2,083	2,917
Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish	1,000	1,000
Sabic UK Petrochem	-	1,000
St Hilda's Church, Redcar	600	600
Mustard Seed	480	440
Youth for Christ, Denmark	-	340
Amazon Smile	-	17
First Baptist Church – Woodway	11,785	-
Peter Grogan (Local councillor)	500	-
Misc.	333	-
Total	<u>16,781</u>	<u>6,314</u>

**Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2024**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Blank Canvas.

I report on the financial statements of Blank Canvas for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 6 to 7.

Respective Responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Blank Canvas trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 subsequently 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

I am satisfied that the General Receipts and Payments Account discloses money received and expended by Blank Canvas and that the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the Notes to the Financial Statements present the financial position of Blank Canvas to the degree required by the Charities Act.

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



Jonathan Thompson

Date

26/7/24

1 Manor Farm Place
Great Smeaton
Northallerton
DL6 2HP

Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2024

Report on Financial Management for Year 2023/24

Introduction

The General Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities summarise the finances for the year and disclose the financial position at the end of the year.

A deficit budget was set and approved at a Trustee Meeting in February 2023.

Reports were produced for the Trustees on a regular basis which enabled them to monitor receipts and payments.

Review of the Finances

The principal points to be made are as follows:

- Donations of £6,683 have been received during the year from a number of individuals.
- A further £16,781 has also been received from various organisations, including a large donation of £11,785 from First Baptist Church, Woodway, Texas to support the employment of current/additional staff at Blank Canvas. We would also like to thank the following Churches - Redcar Baptist Church, Nicholas Postgate Trust and St Hilda's for their continued generosity.
- A gift aid claim was made and received for donations received in the previous tax year.
- We were also successful in receiving the following Grants/Donations during the financial year, of which a number have been spent during 2023/4 and others which were received towards 2024/5, and therefore will be carried forward. We would like to thank them here formally.
 - The Scurrah Wainwright Charity - £5,000
 - Together Middlesbrough (Feast of Fun) - £2,970
 - Just Sow - £10,000
 - Benefact Trust - £2,950
 - Beyond Housing - £1,090
 - Groundwork - £1,000
 - Baptist Insurance Company - £12,163
 - Peter Grogan - £500
 - Fellowship of St John - £10,000
- Due to the timings of Grants/Donations received in 2023/4 the Trustees agreed that £42,613 of the funds in the bank account will be used for expenditure in 2024/25

Blank Canvas is very thankful for those that support the charity.

The Trustees of Blank Canvas
July 2024

BLANK CANVAS

England & Wales - Charity number 1182185

Accounts

**Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2023**


General Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	Notes	2022/23	2021/22
		£	£
Donations		4,595	3,709
Gift Aid		257	250
Grants	2	8,865	16,020
Sales		-	90
Youth Club Subs		112	-
Other	3	6,314	394
Total Receipts		<u>20,143</u>	<u>20,463</u>
 Payments			
Wages		14,027	11,042
Administration/Insurance/Training		2,643	1,345
Projects		1,855	1,108
Total Payments		<u>18,525</u>	<u>13,495</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments		1,618	6,968
Bank accounts and cash at 1 April		21,849	14,881
Bank accounts and cash at 31 March		<u>23,467</u>	<u>21,849</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2023

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Cash Funds as at 31 March	61	-
Nat West Account	23,406	21,849
	<u>23,467</u>	<u>21,849</u>
Represented by		
Cash Funds as at 1 April	-	-
Nat West Account	21,849	-
	<u>21,849</u>	<u>14,881</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments	1,618	6,968
	<u>23,467</u>	<u>21,849</u>

Approved at a meeting of Blank Canvas Trustees on 21 June 2023 which authorised the following Trustees to sign on their behalf:


Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer)


Daniela Reiter (Trustee)

**Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2023**

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of the financial statements

The financial statements of Blank Canvas have been prepared in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payment basis.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment

The furniture, fittings and other items of equipment are held on the premises of Redcar Baptist Church. It is unlikely that anything has significant market value. No asset register is maintained.

2 Grant Income

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
The Message Trust Tithe Grant	-	2,000
All Churches Grant	-	8,050
Arnold Clarkes Community Fund	1,000	1,000
Sirius Minerals Foundation	-	4,470
Golden Giveaway	-	500
County Durham Community Foundation	7,865	-
Total	<u>8,865</u>	<u>16,020</u>

3 Other Income

	£
Amazon Smile	17
Youth for Christ, Denmark	340
St Hilda's Church, Redcar	600
Redcar Baptist Church	2,917
Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish	1,000
Mustard Seed	440
Sabic UK Petrochem	1,000
Total	<u>6,314</u>

Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2023

Report on Financial Management for Year 2022/23

Introduction

The General Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities summarise the finances for the year and disclose the financial position at the end of the year.

A deficit budget was set and approved at a Trustee Meeting in March 2022.

Reports were produced for the Trustees on a regular basis which enabled them to monitor receipts and payments.

Review of the Finances

The principal points to be made are as follows:

- Donations of £4,595 have been received during the year from a number of individuals.
- A further £6,314 has also been received from various organisations.
- A gift aid claim was made and received for donations received in the previous tax year.
- We were also successful with an award from County Durham Community Foundation of £7,865. This was received in February 2023 and will be carried forward into the next Financial Year 2023/24 for expenditure relating to the iwill Youth Social Action Programme.

Blank Canvas is very thankful for those that support the charity.

The Trustees of Blank Canvas
June 2023

Annual Report from Abi (Project's Lead)

Workspace

It has been great to see Workspace continue to grow over this past year. We have seen between ten and twelve young people regularly attending over the course of the year. At Workspace, young people access: holistic support, regular check ins, support from tutors to help them to set achievable goals and see these achieved, resources such as laptops, paper and pens and are getting their all-important homework done each week. Our aim is to create a safe space where young people can be themselves, have fun and access the support they need to be able to thrive.

We have an amazing team of volunteers who make Workspace happen. This year we have had two new team members join the team too: Carol and Rebecca. Rebecca has stepped into a 'young team' role after attending workspace herself and naturally supporting the other young people each week and Carol is loving being involved and hoping to start cooking a hot meal each week for the young people who attend.

Youth Club – St Hilda's

Youth Club launched in September 2022 with a brilliant team of dedicated volunteer youth workers excited to get alongside young people and make a positive difference. Youth Club has had a committed group of ten or so young people who have been attending weekly since the first few weeks of launching and has continued to grow in this new year too, with about seventeen young people now regularly attending each week. The vision of Youth Club is to be a safe space for all young people to have fun, build relationships and grow in confidence.

We have found that young people love building relationships with the team and when given the opportunity, want to open-up about the highs, lows, challenges, and joys in their lives. We have moved the space around in response to this opportunity, and now have a small 'quiet' room where young people can always find two leaders to chat to, or just come and to calm and regulate themselves.

We eat together half-termly, have special event's evenings such as movie nights, games nights and each week catch up on the high's and low's of each others weeks. The young people describe youth club like this:

'Youth Club is the highlight of my week'

'Honestly I have soo much fun with you all. I look forward to seeing everyone every week. I am so grateful I have met so many amazing people... we need more people like them Blank Canvas team'

'Thank you for the best term ever at Youth Club!'

We're excited to be launching our second Youth Club at the United Reformed Church in this next financial year.

Giving

We've been so grateful for all the regular and one-off donations we've received this year from our supporters. A big thank you to the County Durham Community Foundation, for the grant money they awarded us towards our work.

Looking forward

We look forward to this next year with hope and look forward to new growth, overcoming challenges and more young people reached, supported, and impacted.

Abi Hedges (Projects Lead)

BLANK CANVAS

England & Wales - Charity number 1182185

Accounts

Blank Canvas

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2022

General Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	Notes	2021/22	2020/21
			£
Donations		3,709	3,921
Gift Aid		250	1,377
Grants	2	16,020	765
Sales		90	648
Other	3	394	5,658
Total Receipts		20,463	12,369
Payments			
Wages		11,042	11,226
Administration/Insurance/Training		1,345	1,022
IT			-
Projects		1,108	53
Total Payments		13,495	12,301
Surplus of receipts over payments/ Excess of payments over Receipts		6,968	68
Bank accounts and cash at 1 April		14,881	14,813
Bank accounts and cash at 31 March		21,849	14,881

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2022

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Cash Funds as at 31 March		
Nat West Account	21,849	14,881
Represented by		
Cash Funds as at 1 April		
Nat West Account	14,881	14,813
Surplus of receipts over payments/ Excess of payments over Receipts	6,968	68
	21,849	14,881

Approved at a meeting of Blank Canvas Trustees on 4 July 2022 which authorised the following Trustees to sign on their behalf:

Mr Mark Hubbard (Chairman)



Mrs Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer)



**Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2022**

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of the financial statements

The financial statements of Blank Canvas have been prepared in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payment basis.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment

The furniture, fittings and other items of equipment are held on the premises of Redcar Baptist Church. It is unlikely that anything has significant market value. No asset register is maintained.

2 Grant Income

The Message Trust Tithe Grant	£	2,000
All Churches Grant		8,050
Arnold Clarkes Community Fund		1,000
Sirius Minerals Foundation		4,470
Golden Giveaway		500
Total		16,020

3 Other income

A Tax refund of £107.20 was received from HMRC for an employee as we were unable to offset the amount against normal monthly payments to HMRC.
The amazon Smile programme also donated £19.48
Churches Together in Redcar gave £115.00 to Blank Canvas for the CEO to action a Youth Consultation in the area.

Approved at a meeting of Blank Canvas Trustees on 4 July 2022 which authorized the following Trustees to sign on their behalf:

Mrs Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer)

Mr Mark Hubbard (Chairman)




Blank Canvas

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2022

(Annual Report from AIA (CEO))

Report on Financial Management for Year 2021/22

Introduction

The General Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities summarise the finances for the year and disclose the financial position at the end of the year.

Reports were produced for the Trustees on a regular basis which enabled them to monitor receipts and payments.

Review of the Finances

The principal points to be made are as follows:

- Donations of £3,709 have been received during the year. Blank Canvas is thankful for those that support the charity.
- A gift aid claim was made and received for donations received in the previous tax year in April. Gift aid claims have also been made and received via Enthuse from July 21 to Mar 22.
- Of the income received from Grants this year the following table shows expenditure and amounts to be carried forward into 2022/23

Grant (Received in date order)	Project	Received £	Spent £	Carry forward
The Message Trust	n/a	2,000	2,000	-
All Churches Trust Grant	Let's Talk Covid	8,050	4,141	3,909
Arnold Clarkes Community Fund	n/a	1,000	1,000	-
Sirus Minerals Foundation Grant	Workspace	4,470	2,125	2,345
The Teesside Charity/Golden giveaway	Open Access Youth Group	500	-	500
Total		16,020	9,266	6,754

- Sales of 'Lets Talk Covid' a 12 week course written to help young people reflect on and process the impact of covid on their lives generated a further £90 at the start of the year. The course has been amended and is now being run in a number of schools in Redcar with the help of grant funding received during the year.

The Trustees of Blank Canvas
July 2022

Annual Report from Abi (CEO)

Let's Talk Covid

Let's Talk Covid is an emotional resilience course written inhouse by our team to support young people to process the turmoil of challenges we all faced during the pandemic and equip them with tools and skills to thrive and build their own resilience. This year we've worked hard to build relationships with local schools and promote Let's Talk Covid, so it was really exciting to begin running in a school setting in January 2022. We have partnered with both Outwood Academy Redcar and Outwood Academy Bydales and run the course of six-week sessions with five groups of young people in total. Some feedback from the students included:

'The team is very supportive, and it makes me feel like I can talk in a safe space'
'The most helpful part was being able to get things off my chest and talk to someone'
Young people described the sessions in one word as: 'the best', 'helpful', 'calming', 'helpful', 'caring'.

Workspace

Workspace is an afterschool space where young people can bring their homework and access laptops, the internet and supportive volunteer tutors. Our aim is to cultivate a space where young people can be themselves, get holistic support, have some fun AND get their all-important homework done. This year, in the wake of post-covid, we spent some time recruiting and training up a new volunteer team and promoting and advertising Workspace in spaces young people might see it. We relaunched Workspace on 24th January 2022 and have seen seven young people join in and consistently attend during this time. One young person stated they could see how much they've grown in confidence in the few months they've been attending. The team are really pleased with how it's going so far.

Giving

We've been so grateful for all the regular and one-off donations we've received this year from our supporters. A big thank you to the All Churches Trust, Arnold Clarke, The Teesside Charity and Sirius Minerals for the grant money they awarded us towards our work.

Looking forward

We look forward to this next year with hope and look forward to new growth, overcoming challenges and more young people reached, supported, and impacted.

Abi Hedges (CEO)

BLANK CANVAS

England & Wales - Charity number 1182185

Accounts

Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2021

General Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Donations		3,921	6,025
Gift Aid		1,377	-
Grants	2	765	1,000
Sales		648	-
Other	3	5,658	1,387
Total Receipts		<u>12,369</u>	<u>8,412</u>
 Payments			
Wages		11,226	9,402
Administration/Insurance/Training		1,022	1,689
IT		-	1,070
Projects		53	325
Total Payments		<u>12,301</u>	<u>12,486</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments/ Excess of payments over Receipts		<u>68</u>	<u>-4,074</u>
Bank accounts and cash at 1 April		<u>14,813</u>	<u>18,887</u>
Bank accounts and cash at 31 March		<u>14,881</u>	<u>14,813</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2021

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Cash Funds as at 31 March		
Nat West Account	<u>14,881</u>	<u>14,813</u>
Represented by		
Cash Funds as at 1 April		
Barclays Blank Canvas (ECBC)	-	18,887
Nat West Account	<u>14,813</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>14,813</u>	<u>18,887</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments/ Excess of payments over Receipts	<u>68</u>	<u>-4,074</u>
	<u>14,881</u>	<u>14,813</u>

Approved at a meeting of Blank Canvas Trustees on 8 July 2021 which authorised the following Trustees to sign on their behalf:

Mr Mark Hubbard (Chairman)



Mrs Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer)



Blank Canvas
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of the financial statements

The financial statements of Blank Canvas have been prepared in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payment basis.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment

The furniture, fittings and other items of equipment are held on the premises of Redcar Baptist Church formerly known as East Cleveland Baptist Church. It is unlikely that anything has significant market value. No asset register is maintained.

2 Grant Income

	£
Furlough - Job Retention Scheme	765

3 Other Income

Included in other income is an amount of £4,983 claimed in advance from HMRC to cover the costs of Statutory Maternity Pay payable to an employee from 6 April 2020. The employee's maternity leave spanned two years – 2019/20 and 2020/21.

A Tax refund of £658 was also received from HMRC for an employee as we were unable to offset the amount against normal monthly payments to HMRC.

Blank Canvas

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2021

Report on Financial Management for Year 2020/21

Introduction

The General Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities summarise the finances for the year and disclose the financial position at the end of the year.

Reports were produced for the Trustees on a regular basis which enabled them to monitor receipts and payments.

Review of the Finances

The principal points to be made are as follows:

- Donations of £3,921 have been received during the year. Blank Canvas is thankful for those that support the charity.
- Our first gift aid claim was made and received in May 2020 on donations received in the previous tax year.
- Due to the covid pandemic our projects Workspace and Gather were put on hold.
- 'Lets Talk Covid' a 12 week course was written to help young people reflect on and process the impact of covid on their lives. This has been made available to the general public and sales of the course in the financial year 2020/21 were £648.

The Trustees of Blank Canvas
8 July 2021

Annual Report from Abi (CEO)

Staff Transitions

- David Latham (Workspace lead) was furloughed on 20th April 2020 until 14th September 2020 as a result of the Covid Pandemic.
- Abi Hedges (CEO) came back to work following maternity leave on the 8th December 2020.

Workspace

Pre-Covid restrictions coming into place, Workspace was in a really exciting place with 4 team members and 4 committed young people, and our hope was to expand, opening the group up for more young people to receive support. At the beginning of this financial year, the UK was in lockdown due to Covid-19 which meant that Workspace sessions had been stopped.

To continue our support for young people during this time, we used our website to signpost to some resources that could help young people with their learning whilst doing 'school' at home. The trustee's discussed the possibility of re-opening Workspace in September 2020, this was dependent upon a completed risk assessment, team members comfortable to attend in-person and a general feeling that we're able to keep everyone safe. However, cases began to rise again in the North-East and the majority of our team did not feel comfortable to re-open. Workspace has been paused for the whole of this financial year and we hope to be able to reopen in Sept 2021.

Let's Talk Covid

David was brought back to work in September to begin developing a 12-session course to help young people reflect on and process the impact of Covid-19 upon their lives. Abi and Jonny Hedges wrote a course overview and commissioned Dave to begin creating content and fleshing the course out. Abi and Dave worked together throughout December and January, extending Dave's hours to get the course completed. Let's Talk Covid went 'live' for sale on 8th February.

Abi has run Let's Talk Covid locally with two groups of young people in Redcar and is in conversation with Sacred Heart and West Redcar Outwood about running courses for their students in September 2021. The feedback from young people has been really encouraging. Here's a few quotes from them...

'Let's Talk Covid has been really useful for me to help me navigate my emotions during these tough times and not internally judge myself for how I am feeling. I am eternally grateful for the tools and strategies I've learned.'

'It all helped me see that I wasn't the only one feeling this way and mixed emotions'

'My favourite part was the quotes at the end of each session. They really inspired me.'

Giving

We've been really grateful for all of the regular and one-off donations we've received this year.

Looking Forward

We look forward to this next year with hope and look forward to new growth, overcoming challenges and more young people reached, supported and impacted.

Abi Hedges (CEO)