

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1184507

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-07-19

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

Contact

Address Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre
Northway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6LU

Phone 01695725014

Email bookings@the-eccy.co.uk

Website <http://skelmersdaleecumenicalcentre.org/index.html>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:-THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY:1) THE PROMOTION OF FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, BODIES, INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONS IN COMMUNITY THEREWITH2) THE PROVISION, IMPROVEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE BUILDING;3) THE PROMOTION OF THE SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE BUILDING AS A PLACE OF PUBLIC WORSHIP TO BE SHARED BY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, THE METHODIST CHURCH, THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH AND THE NORTH WEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (WHICH CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATION ARE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO TOGETHER AS "THE SHARING CHURCHES") AND TO BE USED BY THEM EITHER ALONE OR JOINTLY WITH EACH OTHER OR TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, BODIES, INSTITUTIONS OR PERSONS IN COMMUNION THEREWITH;AND4) THE PROMOTION OF THE SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE BUILDING AS A CENTRE FOR ANY OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITY WHICH MAY SEEM TO THE CIO TO BE BENEFICIAL TO THE SHARING CHURCHES OR LIKELY TO FURTHER THEIR COMMON AIMS AND INTERESTS SO FAR AS THE SAME MAY BE WHOLLY AND EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE

Activities: The trustees provide and maintain the premises for use under the provisions of the Sharing of ChurchBuildings Act 1969 and in accordance with a sharing agreement made between the sharing Churches.The premises comprise a part designated and set apart for use as a chapel, a part for community use anda part set aside for charitable activities by the Centre/hired by other voluntary organisations

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£155,350	£151,508	-	-
2023-12-31	£233,141	£244,755	-	-
2022-12-31	£154,584	£153,465	-	-
2021-12-31	£175,349	£162,170	-	-
2020-12-31	£197,499	£222,823	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DAVID ALEXANDER STANLEY		2023-05-25
NEIL MACKENZIE		2019-07-18
Rev Michael Charles Tindsley		2019-07-18
Rev PHILIP ANDREW JUMP		2022-10-31
Rev William Wright		2024-08-06

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184507

Accounts

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE
Year ended 31st December 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants received	38,014	43,057	81,071	129,329
Centre usage	74,279		74,279	103,813
	112,293	33,057	155,350	233,142
Payments				
Staff costs	54,386	8,057	62,443	60,240
Utilities	27,850		27,850	18,983
Other costs	10,965		10,965	41,502
Repairs	32,460	15,000	47,460	121,240
Loan repayments	2,790		2,790	2,790
	128,451	23,057	151,508	244,755
Net receipts/(payments)	(6,158)	10,000	3,842	- 11,614
Cash funds brought forward	40,134	-	40,134	50,629
Cash funds carried forward	33,976	10,000	43,976	40,134

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	33,976	10,000	43,976	40,134
Debtors-	-		-	5,687
Creditors - Bounce Back Loan	6,313		6,313	8,910
Creditors - Other	11,331		11,331	3,992
PAYE	2,704		2,704	2,211
Grant received in advance		10,000	10,000	-

Approved by the trustees and signed by:

Rev P Jump
4th November 2025

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184507

Accounts

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Charity Number 1184507

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31ST December 2023

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2023

Reference and administrative details

Trustees	Rev P Jump Mr D Stanley Rev K Summers Mr N Mackenzie Rev M Tindsley
Principal address	Northway Skelmersdale WN8 6LU
Bankers	Nat West Bank Co-operative Bank
Registered Charity Number	1184507
Independent Examiner	M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA KM Chartered Accountants 1 st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley BB11 1JG

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2023

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their first report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st December 2023.

OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are:- the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit by:

- 1) the promotion of fellowship between Christian churches, bodies, institutions and persons in community therewith
- 2) the provision, improvement, and management of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building;
- 3) the promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building as a place of public worship to be shared by the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the North West Baptist Association (which churches and association are hereinafter referred to together as “the sharing churches”) and to be used by them either alone or jointly with each other or together with other Christian churches, bodies, institutions or persons in communion therewith; and
- 4) the promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building as a centre for any other charitable activity which may seem to the CIO to be beneficial to the sharing churches or likely to further their common aims and interests so far as the same may be wholly and exclusively charitable.

Activities

The trustees continued to oversee the work of the centre through an appointed management committee and were pleased to welcome David Stanley as an additional board member.

Our key objectives for 2023 were to complete the main refurbishment of the interior of our building and to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the outstanding issues with a previous contractor. The trustees are pleased to report that both of these are now in place with an agreed settlement and payment scheme in place with the contractor. The main stairwells and hall are now refurbished along with the ground floor disabled toilet and utility area.

We retain the vision to re-introduce regular worship at the centre and are pleased that a weekly prayer meeting has continued on Tuesdays throughout the year with ad-hoc Christmas events also being organised. The Refugee drop-in and support service continues to be run as a directly managed project, with additional provision of a Winter Warm hub for all members of the community, part funded by Lancashire County Council.

All the permanent tenancy areas are now let and there is a sustainable income stream to maintain the centre's activities on an ongoing basis. In short, all of the operational costs and a modest refurbishment programme is possible through revenue funding, with an ongoing programme of external grant applications for more significant improvements.

Although we retain a primary purpose of maintaining and providing a quality facility in which other community stakeholders can offer appropriate support and services, the SEC has also run occasional direct projects. In 2023 this included a Health Community Champions Programme “Your Voice Your Story” which attracted over 20 regular participants working both onsite and also in other locations. The group was tasked with developing a project between themselves and identified a “Signpost Café drop in”, which could help engage the most vulnerable in the various services offered within and beyond the SEC. The project includes sufficient funding to operate this until March 2024. Securing further funding will be a key objective for 2024. We also secured funding to employ a further caseworker for our refugee project with a particular brief to engage with female clients.

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2023

Key Objectives for 2024

The key objectives for 2024 include the following:

- Maintain and develop the SEC as a quality venue for the community provision for the people of Skelmersdale.
- Discharge all remaining financial liabilities to the former refurbishment contractor through drawdown of outstanding grant funds from the Big Lottery
- Continue to offer and develop the refugee drop in and support programme.
- Establish the Signpost Café project and secure sufficient funding to maintain this for at least 24 months.
- Maintain sustainable finance and management systems to ensure ongoing stability for the SEC.
- Work with Ecumenical Partners to further develop the Spiritual life and activities of the Centre.
- Continue a grant funded refurbishment programme to replace downstairs windows, refurbish main hall, upstairs communal space and garden and café area.
- Establish the position of an engagement officer to support the building manager in making the facilities available to community members and proactively engaging visitors in the broader programme and provision of the SEC.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities are on page 7.

Unrestricted balances at the year-end amounted to £40,134. Restricted balances at the year-end amounted to £ Nil. Combined, these gave a total funds carried forward balance of £40,134.

The charity aims to hold 3 months expenditure in unrestricted funds. The centre is financed by a combination of grants. Contracts, donations as well as rental income from centre users both regular and ad hoc. A more comprehensive review of reserves and financial stability is planned for the coming few months.

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2023

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees

The trustees as listed on page 2 are appointed by the Church of England, North Western Baptist Association, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church, each of whom is entitled to appoint up to three trustees.

Day to day running of the Centre is by a Centre Manager.

Governing document

The charity is governed by its Constitution of 19th July 2019 as amended 11th May 2022.

Structure

The trustees meet regularly to discuss matters relating to governance and finance and delegate a number of responsibilities to a centre management group to steer the direction of the Centre.

Risk management

The Trustees have introduced a risk management process to assess business risks and are implementing systems to mitigate these risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures or authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients, and visitors to the premises. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still met the needs of the Charity.

The Centre seeks to follow recognised safeguarding processes.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 5th February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Rev P Jump

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

.....

M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C,
The Wharf
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

5th February 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts				
Grants received	109,821		109,821	73,189
Donations	-	-	-	26,572
Other	-	-	-	3,491
Lottery		19,508	19,508	-
Rental charges	70,166		70,166	51,332
Sales	33,645		33,645	-
	<u>213,632</u>	<u>19,508</u>	<u>233,141</u>	<u>154,584</u>
Payments				
Staff costs	60,240		60,240	56,435
Utilities	18,983		18,983	19,789
Professional fees	1,320		1,320	30,290
Other costs	40,182		40,182	31,761
Repairs	64,082	57,158	121,240	-
Delivery costs	-		-	13,332
Loan repayments	2,790		2,790	1,858
	<u>187,596</u>	<u>57,158</u>	<u>244,755</u>	<u>153,465</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	26,036	- 37,650	- 11,614	1,119
Cash funds brought forward	14,098	37,650	51,748	50,629
Cash funds carried forward	40,134	-	40,134	51,748

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	40,134		40,134	51,748
Debtors	5,687	-	5,687	27,681
Creditors - Bounceback loan	8,910	-	8,910	11,444
Creditors - Other	3,992	-	3,992	-

Approved by the trustees and signed by



Rev P Jump
5th February 2025

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 1 Basis of preparation
These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 Fund Accounting
 - (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity
 - (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.
- 3 Taxation
The charity is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.
The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.
- 4 Transactions with trustees
No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees, or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year. During the year management charges were paid to North Western Baptist Association, a charity in which Rev P Jump is a trustee.
- 5 Restricted funds
The purpose of this restricted funds is explained in the Trustees Annual Report.

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184507

Accounts

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Charity Number 1184507

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31ST December 2022

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2022

Reference and administrative details

Trustees	Rev P Jump D Stanley Rev K Summers Mr N Mackenzie Rev M Tindsley
Principal address	Northway Skelmersdale WN8 6LU
Bankers	Nat West Bank Co-operative Bank
Registered Charity Number	1184507
Independent Examiner	M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA KM Chartered Accountants 1 st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley BB11 1JG

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2022

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their first report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st December 2022.

The charity is a Foundation CIO registered on 19th July 2019, having originally been governed by a Sharing Agreement.

OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are:- the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit by:

- 1) the promotion of fellowship between Christian churches, bodies, institutions and persons in community therewith
- 2) the provision, improvement, and management of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building;
- 3) the promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building as a place of public worship to be shared by the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the North West Baptist Association (which churches and association are hereinafter referred to together as “the sharing churches”) and to be used by them either alone or jointly with each other or together with other Christian churches, bodies, institutions or persons in communion therewith; and
- 4) the promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building as a centre for any other charitable activity which may seem to the CIO to be beneficial to the sharing churches or likely to further their common aims and interests so far as the same may be wholly and exclusively charitable.

Activities

Our key objectives for 2022 were to secure appropriate governance and reporting systems for the Centre, and ensure that it was placed on a sustainable financial footing for the foreseeable future. We are pleased to report significant progress in this respect and while such matters are to a degree, always ongoing, the trustees are satisfied that appropriate measure and strategies are now in place.

We have also continued an ongoing programme of refurbishment to bring the remaining areas of the centre up to standard. In 2022 this included significant refurbishment of the kitchen and café area and funding applications for refurbishment of the main hall, main staircase area, downstairs disabled toilet and utility area.

We have standardised our tenancy arrangements and worked with all building users to generate a more joined-up partnership approach to our community provision. This included a memorial gathering before Christmas and regular user meetings. A streamlined booking system has generated increased ad-hoc use of the premises and work is ongoing to secure full permanent tenancy in the upstairs area. While there is more work to be done, the trustees believe we have reached a place of financial stability.

We retain the vision to re-introduce regular worship at the centre and are pleased that a weekly prayer meeting has continued on Tuesdays throughout the year with ad-hoc Christmas events also being organised. The Refugee drop-in and support service continues to be run as a directly managed project, with plans in 2023 to extend this to a Winter Warm hub for all members of the community.

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2022

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Key Objectives for 2023

Having brought the SEC to a stable and sustainable position, the key concern of the trustees is to maintain and support the work already being done, offering the Centre as a key resource and place of support for the community. Alongside this, our key aspirations for 2023 are as follows:

- Complete negotiations with former refurbishment contractor to complete outstanding works and finalise payment.
- Refurbish downstairs toilet and utility area
- Refurbish main staircase area
- Refurbish main hall
- Continue and develop our refugee support project.
- Introduce and provide Winter Warm Hub in partnership with Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated NHS Care Board
- Introduce and develop a Community Champions Programme in partnership with Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.
- Secure additional tenancies to bring the office areas up to full capacity.
- Maintain sustainable finance and management systems to ensure ongoing stability for the SEC.
- Work with Ecumenical Partners to further develop the Spiritual life and activities of the Centre.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities are on page 7.

Unrestricted balances at the year-end amounted to £14,908. A grant received from the local authority of £37,650 was received in October 2022 and is being expended in 2023-2024.

The charity aims to hold 3 months expenditure in unrestricted funds. The centre is financed by a combination of grants. Contracts, donations as well as rental income from centre users both regular and adhoc. A more comprehensive review of reserves and financial stability is planned for the coming few months.

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2022

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees

The trustees as listed on page 2 are appointed by the Church of England, North Western Baptist Association, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church, each of whom is entitled to appoint up to three trustees.

Day to day running of the Centre is by a Centre Manager.

Governing document

The charity is governed by its Constitution of 19th July 2019 as amended 11th May 2022.

Structure

The trustees meet regularly to discuss matters relating to governance and finance and delegate a number of responsibilities to a centre management group to steer the direction of the Centre.

Risk management

The Trustees have introduced a risk management process to assess business risks and are implementing systems to mitigate these risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures or authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the premises. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still met the needs of the Charity.

The Centre seeks to follow recognised safeguarding processes.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30th October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Jump', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev P Jump

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C,
The Wharf
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

30th October 2023

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE
Year ended 31st December 2022
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Receipts			
Grants received	8,875	-	8,875
Grant – Reaching Communities		26,664	26,664
Grant – West Lancs BC		37,650	37,650
Donations/other	26,570		26,572
Closure of CFB investment	3,492		3,491
Rental charges	51,332		51,332
	90,270	64,314	154,584
Payments			
Staff costs	29,771	26,664	56,435
Utilities	19,789		19,789
Professional fees	30,298		30,298
Other costs	31,761		31,761
Delivery costs	13,332		13,332
Loan repayments	1,858		1,858
	126,801	26,664	153,465
Net receipts/(payments)	(36,531)	37,650	1,119
Cash funds brought forward	50,629	-	50,629
Cash funds this year end	14,908	37,650	51,748

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		Total 31.12.22 £	As at 31.12.21 £
CASH FUNDS			
Bank current accounts	Unrestricted	14,908	50,629
	Restricted	37,650	
Property – Ecumenical Centre	Held on Trust		
Other debtors – Big Lottery	Restricted	27,681	27,681
Other creditors - Construction	Restricted	27,681	27,681
Bank loan	Unrestricted	11,444	13,100

Approved by the trustees and signed by:



Rev P Jump
30th October 2023

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 1 Basis of preparation
These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 Fund Accounting
 - (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity
 - (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.
- 3 Taxation
The charity is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.
The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.
- 4 Transactions with trustees
No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees, or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year.
- 5 Restricted funds
The purpose of this restricted funds is explained in the Trustees Annual Report.

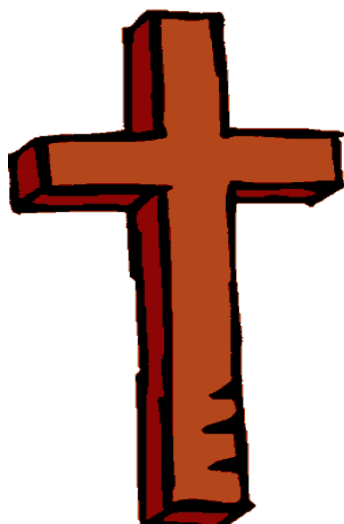
SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184507

Accounts

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Charity number 1184507



Annual Report and Accounts

Financial Year Ended

31-12-2021

Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 31-12-2021

The Charity's Governing Document

The charity was originally governed by a Sharing Agreement made on the 25th April 1972 between the Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance, The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Skelmersdale, The Methodist Church, The Presbyterian Church of England, The Lancashire and Cheshire Association of Baptist Churches and The Lancashire Congregational Union (Incorporated). The Presbyterian Church of England and the Lancashire Congregational Union amalgamated in October of 1972 to form the United Reformed Church.

Since the 1st January 2020 the charity having been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales has been operating as such. All land is held by the CIO charity and all activities are run under the auspices of the new charitable organisation.

List of Trustees

Church of England	Baptist	United Reformed Church	Methodist
N MacKenzie Vacancy C Spittle	Rev T Presswood Rev R Preston Vacancy	K Summers Vacancy Vacancy	Rev M Tindsley Vacancy Vacancy

The day to day running of the Centre lay with an interim Centre Manager for the majority of the reporting period and during the Covid outbreak.

Bankers

National Westminster Bank, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6LD

Aims of the Charity

The purposes of the charity remained as stated in its governing document as being:

The Objects of the CIO are: The advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit by

- 1. The promotion of fellowship between Christian Churches, bodies, institutions and persons in the community therewith*
- 2. The provision, improvement and management of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre Building*
- 3. The promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre Building as a place of public worship to be shared by the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the North West Baptist Association (which churches and association are referred to together as 'the sharing Churches') and to be used by them either alone or jointly with each other or together with other Christian churches, bodies, institutions or persons in communion therewith; and*
- 4. The promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre Building as a Centre for any other charitable activity which may seem to the CIO to be beneficial to the sharing*

churches or likely to further their common aims and interests so far as the same may be wholly and exclusively charitable.'

Correspondence Address

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre, Northway, Skelmersdale WN8 6LU

Phone: 01695 725014

Email: info@skelmersdaleecumenicalcentre.org

Reserves Policy

A Reserves Policy was formalised and put in place and the Board is mindful of needing to work towards its achievement in the longer term. However, the financial position needed to be stabilised as such it was not deemed prudent, with pandemic restrictions still in place, to earmark monies needed for day-to-day activities and overheads for the reserves of the organisation when income streams were very much depleted. Under the Reserves Policy 3-month's running costs will be held as a general reserve.

Health & Safety Policy

Health & Safety continues to be at the heart of the Board's ethos and responsibilities and those involved are keen to ensure that all matters are covered. The organisation employs a caretaker to ensure that the building is maintained to meet recognised standards and conduct regular risk assessments to mitigate against any risks identified. Building work has continued over the period. All relevant external personnel have been used to assure the Board that relevant health and safety requirements have been met throughout the building project. Tenants have been kept informed of works being undertaken at any point in time to ensure their safety if maintained in the premises.

Safeguarding

The Centre seeks to follow recognised safeguarding processes and good practice to ensure that all users of the Centre are protected. An appropriate officer is appointed as first point of contact for safeguarding concerns to be reported to. Enhanced DBS checks are conducted for those persons coming into contact with vulnerable adults or children.

GDPR

Steps are being taken to ensure that all personal data is being dealt with in accordance with the general Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Employees, volunteers, tenant bodies, stakeholders, contractors and service user will only have personal data stored that is absolutely necessary and once it is no longer required it will be destroyed in accordance with the organisation's Records Retention Policy. Those involved will be asked to sign authorisation for personal data to be stored and retained as required by law.

Our priorities for 2021 continued to be:

- To develop the governance structures for the charity
- To resolve the difficulties with the refurbishment work and to continue the unfinished work to deliver the completed project to the satisfaction of the funder

- To ensure the Centre is enhanced as a practical community meeting point where the Centre's charitable objectives can be achieved
- To seek alternative funding sources so work can continue on the premises and new and existing projects can be undertaken to meet existing and newly identified community needs
- To continue to secure appropriate funding from the various denominational bodies to ensure delivery of charitable objectives
- To reinstate Christian worship and pastoral support in all its forms for the benefit of the community it serves
- To continue to provide community space for use by voluntary sector organisations meeting local need
- To support individuals during the continuing Covid-19 pandemic in any way necessary to promote the physical, mental and spiritual good health & wellbeing of the community at large in any way necessary

The Board have regard to the advice and guidance provided by the Charity Commission for England and Wales relating to public benefit when supporting the activities of the charity over the financial year.

Public Benefit

PRINCIPLE 1: There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits

Principle 1a: Definition:

It must be clear what the benefits are

Activities Undertaken:

During the continuing Covid pandemic the Centre continues to concentrate on working to meet dire community need and undertake various community initiatives primarily focussing on health and wellbeing, spiritual care. The Centre has continued to act as a link with the community undertaking a number of projects specifically aimed at meeting the more tangible needs of the community such as working to assist to provide key workers and members of the public with PPE, masks etc. This has been done by bringing members of the public together using the Centre as its base so acceptable social distancing requirements can be adhered to producing the items required. In addition, our previous year's activities for acting as a hub for those needing support to access support, advice, guidance and signposting for help with benefits and other information continued. The Centre was also able to provide food to those most in need and most isolated in the community.

It should be noted that the closure of the Centre at various peaks and troughs due to covid restrictions negatively impacted on income generation. Enforced closures allowed the Board to plan for the complete opening of the Centre, the activities to be undertaken and the local needs that had become apparent during the Covid crisis.

Principle 1b: Definition:

The benefits must be related to the aims

Activities Undertaken:

Activities are as stated above and focussed on the pastoral care of local residents, lighting candles for those who sent in prayers for support during a difficult time.

The other care was more grass roots practical delivery to meet the needs of those most in need, socially isolated, on reduced incomes or suffering in other ways, shapes and forms. Dependent on circumstances, some self-reliant people found themselves in need following the outbreak of Covid.

Principle 1c: Definition:

Benefits must be balanced against any detriment or harm

Activities Undertaken:

At all times the government advice relating to Covid, safety of staff and volunteers and social distancing requirements continued to be met. The Board regularly assessed the potential dangers associated with undertaking activities against the harm that no intervention would cause the community as a whole and decided that it was able to offer support without putting persons at risk. Risk assessments were undertaken at regular intervals and care was taken to ensure the Centre was cleaned thoroughly every day to protect those offering their time, experience and support.

PRINCIPLE 2: Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

Principle 2a: Definition:

The beneficiaries must be appropriate to the aims

Activities Undertaken:

The general community irrespective of age, ability, ethnicity, creed and sexuality all benefitted from the activities undertaken in the name of promoting the charitable activities during the stated period. All work undertaken was deemed to be a way of promoting the teachings of the Gospel offer help and support to those in need living in the community.

Principle 2b: Definition:

Where benefit is to a section of the public, the opportunity to benefit must not be unreasonably restricted (a) by geographical or other restrictions; or (b) by ability to pay any fees charged

Activities Undertaken:

There are no restrictions on who can benefit from the work of the charity and there were no charges levied during the reporting period for activities undertaken or the produce created (PPE) for roll out to the community at large to ensure their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Principle 2c: Definition:

People in poverty must not be excluded from the opportunity to benefit.

Activities Undertaken:

People living in poverty are the key service users of the Centre and are not precluded from taking part or from benefitting from the support offered at the Centre in any way.

Principle 2d: Definition:

Any private benefits must be incidental.

Activities Undertaken:

There were no private benefits during the reporting period.

Centre Report

As with last year, the organisation faced the continued general nationwide lockdown restrictions as they fluctuated from time to time, and this impacted on the organisation's ability to generate income. The report is therefore very similar to the previous year with steps being taken to get the building works completed, meet demands dictated by Covid and ensuring the Centre was open for tenants to meet their own defined needs.

The reserve fund in place continued to be depleted to make good the shortfall in income but the Board have continuously been mindful of the need to build up these reserves moving forward. Staffing levels continued to be maintained at the previous year's level and the charity benefitted from the support of an interim centre manager to professionalise and look for ways to develop the Centre moving forward.

Worship in the traditional C of E sense continued to be held in abeyance due to the lockdown restrictions but community prayers, and mindfulness were conducted for those in need. The Board is keen to see the congregation increase once lockdown is lifted and will plan for this at the appropriate time. The lighting of candles reported the previous year continued to be a key element of worship with prayers and intercessions being sent in by residents as and when they felt the need.

The business plan continued to remain on hold until the full impact of the pandemic and threats, weaknesses and opportunities for development could be explored.

As mentioned earlier, various projects continued during the pandemic but focussed on what was needed most in the community ie food, PPE, support, advice and guidance. The Centre was opened on a regular basis so that tenant organisations could meet their own needs and those of the residents during a particularly difficult time. This included the services of voluntary and third sector bodies, local churches and private providers who all ensured that local needs of those particularly marginalised throughout this time could be identified, dealt with and improved thereby achieving the overall ethos of the charity.

Centre Finances

The ongoing downturn in the economy continued to impact on the ability of the Centre to generate funds. This was then further impeded by the lockdown due to the pandemic and the fact that the Centre had to close its doors to general regular usage and occasional lettings. Lettings income was impacted given the fact regular users also faced problems in generating their own income and paying rents. Self-financing initiatives dried up due to government advice and restrictions re use of such premises. Development and roll out of projects that relied on meeting members of the public face to face, where those needing support had no computer access, meant a number of initiatives stood still and were

effectively put on hold. However, throughout the period, the Board were mindful of ensuring staff, volunteers, tenants and service users felt safe, secure and protected. Wider hiring and publicising of the facility for community use could not take place for the various reasons already explored but completion of the building works will result in the facility being a stronger community resource moving forward.

With this in mind, the Board are confident the Centre will be working at full strength with tenants complimenting each other in the not-too-distant future. A variety of new and current activities will be provided catering for the various community needs and interests and inspiring those involved to take a more active community role thereby enhancing their own health and wellbeing and those they come into contact with. The challenge now is being ready after the Covid restrictions are lifted so that those who have felt disengaged whilst the pandemic has run its course feel able to become active in their communities moving forward and link back into society to improve their own feelings of social isolation, wellbeing and feel supported overall. Whilst this cannot be guaranteed, the Board are mindful of their duties and responsibilities and feel the Centre will be post Covid ready at the appropriate time and will take its rightful place as a central community Hub.

Priorities for 2022

- To complete the filing of the accounts for the original charity for 2019 and undertake the legal process to remove the old charity from the Central Register of Charities
- To continue the development of the Centre as required to ensure maximum occupancy
- To ensure maximum occupancy
- To review rental rates
- To actively promote the Centre as a community space and look for new partnership opportunities
- To improve the Chapel for community use and promote active worship in all its forms
- To offer the Centre as a community base, local hub and resource centre to meet local needs in line with the objectives of the charity.

Neil Mackenzie

Chair of Trustees

31-12-2021

Accounting information

Financial statements for the FYE 31 December 2021

Balance sheet

- Statement of assets and liabilities
- Statement of financial activities

Notes to the accounts

Independent examiners report

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre 1184507

Balance Sheet 31-12-2021

				Comparative Figures 2020			
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
Fixed Assets							
Land & Buildings	0	2057000	2057000		0	2057000	2057000
Equipment (Est)	0	1000	1000		0	1000	1000
Current Assets							
BLF Retention	0	32020	32020		0	32020	32020
Debtors & Prepayments	0	0	0		0	0	0
Cash @ Bank	0	50629	50629		0	37450	37450
Central Finance Board - short term investment	0	0	0		3480	0	3480
TOTAL	0	2140649	2140649		3480	2127470	2130950
Current Liabilities							
Creditors & accruals (due in under 1 year)	0	32182	32182			37680	37680
Provision for notified debt	0	32020	32020			36522	36522
TOTAL	0	64202	64202		0	74202	74202

Total Assets less Current Liabilities		2076447	2076447		3480	2201672	2205152
Loans & Creditors due after 1 year	12000	60829	72829		12000	0	12000
Net Total Assets	12000	2137276	2149276		15480	2094950	2106950

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE
CHARITY NUMBER 1184507
Final Accounts for FYE 31-12-2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR FYE 31-12-2021

		2021	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020	2020
		Income	Income	Restricted fund	TOTAL INCOME	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted funds	TOTAL
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS									
Revenue Trading Income			21,837		21,837	10,717		10,717	10,717
Room Hire and Office Rentals			220		220	9,098		9,098	9,098
Shop, Lunch Club & Other			2,800		2,800				
Insurance Claim			2,503		2,503				
Gas refund			21,837		21,837				
Other Revenue Income									
Gifts & Donations Unrestricted			19,899		19,899	6,239	5000	11,239	11,239
Short term Loan NWBA			3,341		3,341				
Methodist Circuit			586		586				
West Lancs COVID Support Grant			15,352		15,352	10,000		10,000	10,000
Job Retention Scheme						10,302			10,302
GRANTS									
BLF			21,996		21,996				
Lancashire County Council - Refugee work		2,700	23,260		25,960				
John Moores Foundation		900	8,300		9,200				

CVS		4,800	17,700		22,500				
Grandscape			16,055		16,055				
Partners in crime							2,910	2,910	2,910
		13,100			13,100				
		88,038	87,311		175,349				
CAPITAL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT									
Grants									
Church at Centre									
NWBA							22,471	22,471	22,471
URC							586	586	586
Methodist Church							12,000	12,000	12,000
British Lottery Fund							103,176	103,176	103,176
Community Foundation							5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL INCOME		88,038	87,311		175,349		46,356	151,143	197,499
EXPENDITURE		Unrestricted	Restricted		TOTAL		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
Centre Running Costs (revenue)		93,883			93,883				
Grant Funds applied for			39,482		39,482		76,826		
Capital Refurbishment Costs									
Building works		28,805			28,805			142,144	142,144
Fees								3,853	3,853
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		122,688	39,482		162,170		76,826	145,997	222,823
Net income & Expenditure before investment gains		13,179			13,179		-30,470	5,146	-25,324

Net gain on investments		0		0		0		0
Transfer between funds		0		0		0		0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		13,179		13,179		-30,470		5,146
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD 1-1-2021		37,450		37,450		12,196		50,578
		13,179		13,179		-30,470		5,146
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD 31-12-2021		50,629		50,629		-18,274		55,724
		EXPENDITURE				Reconciliation Balance		
		FROM RESTRICTED GRANT						
		Lancs County Council	9,368			Brought forward 1-1-2021	37,450	
		Big Lottery Fund	13,336			Income	175,349	
		Grantscape	17,555			Expenditure	-162,170	
		TOTAL	40,529			Balance carried forward 31-12-2021	50,629	

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE Charity No 1184507

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP(FRS102) as updated, being the current version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: a) General Funds held for any purpose of the Centre which are unrestricted. b) Restricted funds held for a defined purpose as specified by the grant provide or donor.

There are no Endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their cash value at the year-end in accordance with the requirement to show a true and fair view of the Centre's financial position and activities.

4. Income

Income for the centre is largely based on rental income from office accommodation, plus a food bank, together with casual lettings and income from sporting and community interest groups. The Centre also provided a charity shop selling or providing free, donated shoes and clothing etc - and a lunch club supplying meals at subsidised prices.

The Ecumenical Centre sits in the centre of one of the most deprived areas in the North West and, inevitably charges levied had to reflect the community's ability to pay. It has become apparent however, that current levels of income would be insufficient to cover expenditure and the gap could only be bridged by donations from individuals and other church denominations.

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the money is actually due and the trustees are reasonably certain they have received or will receive it.

Because of the pandemic income has been reduced significantly in comparison with earlier pre- Covid years.

Covid Effect

In 2020, overall income reduction was, to an extent, compensated by the HMRC Job Retention Scheme, plus increases in donations and Covid Grant Support. These compensatory factors, amounted to around £22,800 in that year. Due to changes in Government policy this support was not available after 2020 with inevitable consequences, insofar as former clients and users were cautious about an early return to the centre

5. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred, and accepted as being legally due and unavoidable. Where invoices, or similar financial obligations are in dispute these have not been included as expenditure in the income and expenditure summary.

However, the disputed amounts, as claimed by creditors, have been included as possible liabilities in the Balance Sheet, to avoid any suggestion that not all issues have been properly recorded.

Overall expenditure between 2020 and 2021 reduced by almost £60,000 principally due to much reduced expenditure on the Centre Building refurbishment scheme.

6. Grants

Grants received from various grant making bodies, whether church denominations, the British Lottery or other charitable providers, are restricted and only applied for the purpose given. Where grants are provided with an element of unrestricted as well as restricted funds, these are strictly monitored.

7.VAT

Since the Centre is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

8. Tangible Fixed assets

Ecumenical Centre Building

Valuation of the Centre Building was undertaken in March 2022 by CTD Consulting, Chartered Surveyors.

The British Lottery has a legal charge on the premises equivalent to the amount of grant provided. This charge (in full or in part) could be applied in the event that the Trustees fail to complete the refurbishment per the terms of the original specification that supported the grant application.

Equipment held by the Centre is of low value - mainly tables and chairs and so a low estimate of £1,000 has been included.

9. Investments

Investment by the charity would normally be short term, and placed after following the Commission's Guidelines in CC14. Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income would be included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year-end shown in the SOFA.

10 Liabilities

a) Payments in advance

These prepayments include Grants provided to provide specialist services in support of refugees and asylum seekers. Many of these people have very little or no English, and need help with access to services. They included:

- Advice services
- Interpreter Services
- Volunteer Coordination
- Asylum Seekers Youth Work

b) Trade Creditors

Although included in the Balance Sheet, some of these debts are disputed and subject to future negotiation with creditors.

c) Loans

The SEC took advantage of the Government sponsored 'Bounce Back Loan' scheme.

There is also a loan from the Methodist Denomination with concessionary repayment terms.

10. Balance Sheet, Debtors,

Current assets include a sum of £32,020 due from the British Lottery Fund. This sum is the retention provision included as required under the terms of the construction contract. It will be used to reduce the provision for notified debts shown under liabilities. The release of the BLF retention money is dependent on the SEC fulfilling some administrative conditions required by the contract. These are a work in progress and are expected to satisfy the necessary conditions in the current financial year

As referred to in para 5 above, some sums included as current liabilities are in dispute but have been included in the Balance Sheet as amounts notified/claimed by the creditors. It is expected that as negotiations proceed during 2022, these sums will reduce as and when settlement are reached.

11. The Capital Refurbishment Scheme

There was increasing recognition that the Centre building was in urgent need of renovation. Extensive research and consultation were undertaken before the earlier Charity 509475 entered into a major refurbishment contract. The scheme was financed by a British Lottery Fund grant, awarded in June 2017. Additional grant support for the chapel element of the scheme, was subsequently provided by the four church denominations.

There have been problems with this scheme inasmuch as the initial cost was significantly underestimated by those professions engaged to oversee the project on behalf of the Trustees.

Further problems arose insofar as there were delays when progressing the construction element and, in addition, the quality of financial information, supplied by the professional advisors and others, left much to be desired. Many of the disputed account issues relate to the refurbishment scheme.

12. Conclusion

The Trustees are satisfied, that despite some of the difficult circumstances referred to above, the accounts of the CIO now submitted for 2021, do represent an accurate and fair view of all financial transactions, with no material errors or omissions.

The auditor has been fully appraised of the circumstances and explanations regarding the preparation of the 2021 accounts. She has accepted these were difficult times for the SEC. due to the impact of Covid,

She has reviewed the key financial elements required and included in the Charity's Final Accounts, and is satisfied that, notwithstanding some difficulties, the accounts do provide a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Ecumenical Centre

Rev'd David M Burrows CIPFA (Former Trustee for Finance)



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

On accounts for the year ended Dec 31st 2021 **Charity no (if any)** 1184507

Set out on pages 1-5

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

Signed: *AP AScroft* **Date:** 5/5/22

Name: Mrs A P AScroft

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): CIPFA

Address: 1 Wane's Fold, Off Parr Lane, Ecclestone. Lancs PR7 5UZ

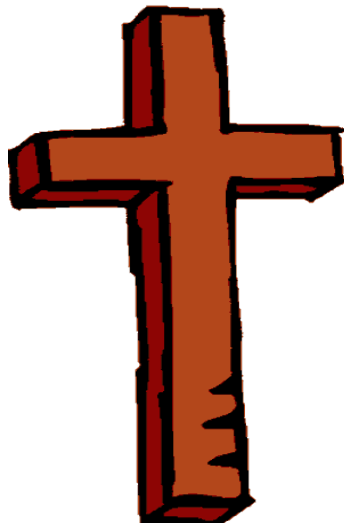
SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1184507

Accounts

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Charity number 1184507



Annual Report and Accounts

Financial Year Ended

31-12-2020

Please note:

CIO date of establishment was 19-7-2019 however there was no activity within the CIO until the start of the new Financial Year. All activities prior to 1-1-2020 were undertaken by the unincorporated charity (reg number 509475). This annual report and accounts covers the full financial year 1-1-2020 to 31-12-2020 and annual return covers this period also as no activities undertaken by the CIO until that point as confirmed as appropriate reporting by the Charity Commission 10-5-2022

Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 31-12-2020

The Charity's Governing Document

The charity was governed by a Sharing Agreement made on the 25th April 1972 between the Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance, The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Skelmersdale, The Methodist Church, The Presbyterian Church of England, The Lancashire and Cheshire Association of Baptist Churches and The Lancashire Congregational Union (Incorporated). The Presbyterian Church of England and the Lancashire Congregational Union amalgamated in October of 1972 to form the United Reformed Church.

Since the 1st January 2020 the charity having been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales has been operating as such. Steps were taken through the year to remove the old body from the register, its assets having been in practice transferred to the CIO as of 1-1-2020. The accounts for 2019 (unincorporated body) and 2020 (CIO charity) follow on from each other

List of Trustees

Church of England	Baptist	United Reformed Church	Methodist
Ven J McKenzie Rev C Spittle Revd David Burrows - (appointed 18 th May)	Rev T Presswood Rev R Preston Vacancy	Rev M Tindsley Vacancy Vacancy	Rev R Andrews (resigned 20 th September 2019) Rev K Summers N Mackenzie Vacancy

The day to day running of the Centre lay with the Centre Manager throughout the reporting period and Rev R Preston (Trustee) acted as the go between feeding information to the trustees and liaising with the Centre Manager in relation to day-to-day operational issues. The Chair Ven J McKenzie acted as Line Manager during this period for senior staff members

Bankers

National Westminster Bank, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6LD

Aims of the Charity

The purposes of the sharing agreement and CIO charity remained the same and are stated as being:

The Objects of the CIO are: The advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit by

1. *The promotion of fellowship between Christian Churches, bodies, institutions and persons in the community therewith*
2. *The provision, improvement and management of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre Building*
3. *The promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre Building as a place of public worship to be shared by the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the North West Baptist Association (which churches and association are referred to together as ‘the sharing Churches’) and to be used by them either alone or jointly with each other or together with other Christian churches, bodies, institutions or persons in communion therewith; and*
4. *The promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre Building as a Centre for any other charitable activity which may seem to the CIO to be beneficial to the sharing churches or likely to further their common aims and interests so far as the same may be wholly and exclusively charitable.’*

Correspondence Address

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre, Northway, Skelmersdale WN8 6LU

Phone: 01695 725014

Email: info@skelmersdaleecumenicalcentre.org

Reserves Policy

When our financial position is recovered the Board will maintain a Reserves Policy whereby 3 months costs will be held as a general reserve. The Board is working towards putting our affairs in order and applying for funds following the depletions consequent upon a difficult refurbishment and covid which resulted in a tremendous reduction in income whilst overheads continued.

Health & Safety Policy

Health & safety is at the heart of its responsibilities and the trustees of the Board are keen to ensure that all matters are covered. The organisation employs a caretaker to ensure that the building is maintained to an acceptable standard and tried to mitigate any risks identified. Building work has been undertaken using a qualified building company, quantity surveyor and architect so the trustees can be assured that relevant health and safety requirements have been met.

Safeguarding

The Centre seeks to follow recognised safeguarding processes and good practice to ensure that all users of the Centre are protected. An appropriate officer is appointed as first point of contact for safeguarding concerns to be reported to. Enhanced DBS checks are conducted for those persons coming into contact with vulnerable adults or children.

GDPR

Steps are being taken to ensure that all personal data is being dealt with in accordance with the general Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Employees, volunteers, tenant bodies, stakeholders, contractors and service user will only have personal data stored that is absolutely necessary and once it is no longer required it will be destroyed in accordance with the organisation's Records

Retention Policy. Those involved will be asked to sign authorisation for personal data to be stored and retained as required by law.

Our priorities for 2020 were:

- To develop the governance structure for the charity
- To resolve the difficulties with the refurbishment work and to continue the unfinished work to deliver the finished project to the Big Lottery Fund. The aim is secure the Centre is enhanced as a community meeting point where the Centre's charitable objectives can be achieved
- To seek alternative funding sources so work can continue on the premises and projects currently being undertaken to meet community needs
- To continue to secure appropriate funding from the various denominational bodies to ensure charitable delivery
- To continue to offer Christian worship and pastoral support in all its forms for the benefit of the community it serves
- To continue to provide community space
- To support individuals during the Covid-19 pandemic in any way necessary to promote the physical, mental and spiritual good health of the community at large in any way necessary

The Board of Management have regard to the advice and guidance provided by the Charity Commission for England and Wales relating to public benefit when supporting the activities of the charity over the financial year.

Public Benefit

PRINCIPLE 1: There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits

Principle 1a: Definition:

It must be clear what the benefits are

Activities Undertaken:

During the Covid pandemic the Centre concentrated on working to meet dire community needs and undertake a number of initiatives primarily focussing on health and wellbeing in the community, spiritual care and undertaking a number of projects specifically aimed at meeting the more tangible needs of the community such as working to assist to provide key workers and members of the public with PPE, masks etc. by the community coming together to use the space at an acceptable social distance to produce the items required. In addition we acted as a central hub so people could access us for support, advice, guidance and signposting for help with benefits and other types of advice required. The Centre was also able to provide food to those most in need and most isolated in the community.

It should be noted that the closure of the Centre resulted in reduced income. However, it allowed the Board to focus on completion of the building work which was done at agreed social distancing levels.

Principle 1b: Definition:

The benefits must be related to the aims

Activities Undertaken:

Activities are as stated above and focussed on the pastoral care of local residents, lighting candles for those who sent in prayers for support during a difficult time.

The other care was more grass roots practical delivery to meet the needs of those most in need, socially isolated, on reduced incomes or suffering in other ways, shapes and forms. Dependent on circumstances, some self-reliant people found themselves in need following the outbreak of Covid.

Principle 1c: Definition:

Benefits must be balanced against any detriment or harm

Activities Undertaken:

At all times the government advice relating to Covid, safety of staff and volunteers and social distancing requirements were met. The Board weighed up the potential dangers associated with undertaking activities against the harm that no intervention would cause the community as a whole and decided that it was able to offer support without putting persons at risk. Risk assessments were undertaken at regular intervals and care was taken to ensure the Centre was cleaned thoroughly every day to protect those offering their time, experience and support.

PRINCIPLE 2: Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public**Principle 2a: Definition:**

The beneficiaries must be appropriate to the aims

Activities Undertaken:

The general community irrespective of age, ability, ethnicity, creed and sexuality all benefitted from the activities undertaken in the name of promoting the charitable activities during the stated period. All work undertaken was deemed to be a way of promoting the teachings of the Gospel offer help and support to those in need living in the community.

Principle 2b: Definition:

Where benefit is to a section of the public, the opportunity to benefit must not be unreasonably restricted (a) by geographical or other restrictions; or (b) by ability to pay any fees charged

Activities Undertaken:

There are no restrictions on who can benefit from the work of the charity and there were no charges levied during the reporting period for activities undertaken or the produce created (PPE) for roll out to the community at large to ensure their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Principle 2c: Definition:

People in poverty must not be excluded from the opportunity to benefit.

Activities Undertaken:

People living in poverty are the key service users of the Centre and are not precluded from taking part or from benefitting from the support offered at the Centre in any way.

Principle 2d: Definition:

Any private benefits must be incidental.

Activities Undertaken:

There were no private benefits during the reporting period.

Centre Report

During the year the organisation faced the continued general nationwide lockdown which impeded its ability to generate funds. The report is therefore very similar to the previous year for the unincorporated charity. However, it had been granted funding for the refurbishment of parts of the premises and continued to undertake this work during lockdown ensuring the safety of those concerned/involved in the work required. All such funds were held as restricted funds for a particular purpose and could not be spent on anything else.

The reserve fund in place continued to be used in part to act as contingency funding during the prolonged shutdown but the Trustees agreed to take step to increase the monies held on reserve moving forward.

Due to a misunderstanding of the Commission guidance and regulations, the winding up and full closure and removal of the original charity from the Register of Charities has taken longer than expected. Due to paucity of funds the trustees have been unable to take the full professional advice they would like.

Worship had to be put on hold during the lockdown as with other bodies throughout the country. In its stead we continued to offer a service whereby prayers were offered for those sending in prayer requests and candles lit for those unable to attend the Chapel as this was felt the best that could be offered in the circumstances and was a way of offer succour to those needing spiritual support during the difficult times faced by the community at large.

The business plan had remain on hold until the full impact of the pandemic had been realised and full assessment of that impact made.

As mentioned earlier, various projects continued during the pandemic but focussed on what was needed most in the community ie food, PPE, support, advice and guidance.

The Centre remained open for those wishing to use the services of other tenant bodies within the Centre including Ark CIC, Skelmersdale Foodbank, The Birchwood Centre, Lancashire Community Finance and SWILCAN.

Centre Finances

The ongoing downturn in the economy continued to impact on the ability of the Centre to generate funds. This was then further impeded by the lockdown due to the pandemic and the fact that the Centre had to close its doors to general regular usage and occasional lettings. Lettings income was impacted given the fact regular users also faced problems in generating income and paying rents. Running projects and seeing members of the public face to face was an issue as the Centre had to be able to show it protected staff, volunteers, tenants and service users. The ongoing work to the premises prevented the Board from being able to offer a broader hiring of the facility as some areas were sealed off to protect the health and safety of the public at large whilst work was undertaken.

Moving forward the Board are still hopeful the Centre will get back to full working strength and once work is completed the activities will be able to be spread throughout the premises and be of more benefit to the wider community to meet their diverse needs and requirements. Whilst this

cannot be guaranteed until the Covid pandemic and any variants are tackled, the Board are mindful of their duties and responsibilities and feel the Centre will get back to full working strength as soon as practicably possible.

Priorities for 2021

- To complete the filing of the accounts for the original charity for 2019 and undertake the legal process to remove the old charity from the Central Register of Charities
- To continue with completion of the building work to enhance the facility and build on the work undertaken as part of the grant secured from the Bog Lottery Fund to get the premises back to full working order
- To increase hirings of the premises to ensure maximum lettings income can be generated
- To actively promote the Centre as a community space and look for new partnership opportunities
- To improve the Chapel for community use and promote active worship
- To offer the Centre as a community base, local hub and resource centre to meet local needs in line with the objectives of the charity.

Neil Mackenzie

Chair of Trustees

31-12-2020

Accounting information

Financial statements for the FYE 31 December 2020

Balance sheet

- Statement of assets and liabilities
- Statement of financial activities

Notes to the accounts

Independent examiners report

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre 1184507

Balance Sheet 31-12-2020

				Comparative Figures 2019		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
Fixed Assets						
Land & Buildings		2057000	2057000		2057000	2057000
Equipment (Est)		1000	1000		1000	1000
Current Assets						
BLF Retention		32020	32020		0	0
Debtors & Prepayments	0	0	0		0	0
Cash @ Bank		37450	37450	12195	50579	62774
Central Finance Board – short term investment	3480		3480	15460		15460
TOTAL	3480	2127470	2130950	27655	2108579	2136234
Current Liabilities						
Creditors & accruals (due in under 1 year)	0	37680	37680	0	0	0
Provision for notified debt	0	36522	36522	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	74202	74202	0	0	0
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	3480	2201672	2205152	27655	2108579	2136234
Loans & Creditors due after 1 year	12000	0	12000	17000	0	17000
Net Total Assets	15480	2094950	2106950	10655	2108579	2119234

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre 1184507

Final Accounts for FYE 31-12-2020

Statement of Financial Activities for FYE December 2020

INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL INCOME
Revenue Trading Income						
Room hire & office rentals	10717		10717	27784		27784
Shop & lunch club	9098		9098	3438		3438
Other Revenue Income						
Gifts & Donations Unrestricted	6239	5000	11239	4326		4326
Short term Loan NWBA				5000		5000
Loan From Methodist Circuit				12000		12000
West Lancs Covid Support Grant	10000		10000			
Job Retention Scheme	10302		10302			
Capital Refurbishment Grants						
Grants						
Church @ Centre						
NWBA		22471	22471			
URC		586	586			
Methodist Church		12000	12000			
Big Lottery Fund		103176	103176		613524	613524
Community Foundation		5000	5000			
Partners in Crime		2910	2910			
TOTAL INCOME	46356	151143	197499	52548	613524	666072

EXPENDITURE	2020	2020	2020		2019	2019	2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL INCOME
Centre running costs (revenue)	76826		76826		57036		57036
Capital Refurbishment Costs							
Building works		142444	142444				
Fees		3853	3853				
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	76826	145997	222823		-57036	-562945	619981
Net income & exp before investment gains	-30470	5146	-25324		-4488	50579	46091
Net gains on investments	0	0	0		0	0	0
Transfer between funds	0	0	0		0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-30470	5146	-25324		-4488	50579	46091
Total funds brought forward 1-1-2020	12196	50578	32774	1-1-2019	16684	0	16684

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Charity No 1184507

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP(FRS102) as updated, being the current version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

2. Funds

The funds held constitute:

- a) General Funds held for any purpose of the Centre which are unrestricted.
- b) Restricted funds held for a defined purpose as specified by the grant provide or donor.

There are no Endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their cash value at the year-end in accordance with the requirement to show a true and fair view of the Centre's financial position and activities.

4. Income

Income for the centre is largely based on rental income from office accommodation, plus a food bank, together with casual lettings and income from sporting and community interest groups. The Centre also provided a charity shop selling donated shoes and clothing etc – and a lunch club supplying meals at subsidised prices.

The Ecumenical Centre sits in the centre of one of the most deprived areas in the North West and, inevitably charges levied had to reflect the community's ability to pay. It has become apparent however, that current levels of income would be insufficient to cover expenditure and the gap could only be bridged by donations from individuals and other church denominations.

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the money is actually due and the trustees are reasonably certain they have received or will receive it.

Because of the pandemic much income was lost due to the enforced closure of the centre. Consequently, the 2020 income from users reduced by £13,426 compared with 2019.

The overall reduction was, to an extent, compensated by the HMRC Job Retention Scheme, plus increases in donations and Covid Grant Support. These compensatory factors, amounted to around £22,800

5. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred and accepted as being legally due and unavoidable. Where invoices, or similar financial obligations are in dispute these have not been included as expenditure in the income and expenditure summary. However, the disputed amounts, as claimed by creditors, have been included as possible liabilities in the Balance Sheet, to avoid any suggestion that not all issues have been properly recorded.

Expenditure between 2019 and 2020 increased by almost £20,000 principally due to the appointment of a very necessary Centre Manager. Inevitably, the slightly improved operational income picture between 2019 and 2020 was significantly offset by a substantial increase in operational expenditure.

6. Grants

Grants received from various grant making bodies, whether church denominations, the British Lottery or other charitable providers, are restricted and only applied for the purpose given. Where grants are provided with an element of unrestricted as well as restricted funds, these are strictly monitored.

7. VAT

Since the Centre is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

8. Tangible Fixed assets

Ecumenical Centre Building

Valuation of the Centre Building was undertaken in March 2022 by CTD Consulting, Chartered Surveyors.

The Big Lottery has a legal charge on the premises equivalent to the amount of grant provided. This charge (in full or in part) could be applied in the event that the Trustees failed to complete the refurbishment.

Equipment held by the Centre is of low value – mainly tables and chairs and so a low estimate of £1,000 has been included.

9. Investments

Investment by the charity would normally be short-term and placed after following the Commission's Guidelines in CC14. Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income would be included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year-end shown in the SOFA.

10. Balance Sheet, Debtors, Prepayments and Creditors

Current assets include a sum of £32,020 due from the Big Lottery Fund. This sum is the retention provision included as required under the terms of the construction contract. It will be used to reduce the provision for notified debts shown under liabilities. The release of the BLF monies is dependent on the SEC fulfilling some administrative conditions required by the contract.

As referred to in para 5 above, some sums included as current liabilities are in dispute but have been included in the Balance Sheet as amounts notified/claimed by the creditors. It is expected that as negotiations proceed during 2021, these sums will reduce as and when settlement are reached.

11. The Capital Refurbishment Scheme

There was increasing recognition that the Centre building was in urgent need of renovation. Extensive research and consultation were undertaken before the earlier Charity 509475 entered into a major refurbishment contract. The scheme was financed by a Big Lottery Fund grant, awarded in June 2017. Additional grant support for the chapel element of the scheme, was subsequently provided by the four church denominations.

There have been problems with this scheme inasmuch as the initial cost was significantly underestimated by those professions engaged to oversee the project on behalf of the Trustees. Further problems arose insofar as there were delays when progressing the construction element and, in addition, the quality of financial information, supplied by the professional advisors and others, left much to be desired. Many of the disputed accounts issues relate to the refurbishment scheme.

For information only, a cumulative summary of expenditure on this project between 2017 and December 2020, has been included with the accounts. However, the records relating to expenditure in 2017 and 2018 cannot be guaranteed but are based on the best information from whatever documents were available for those years.

12. Conclusion

The Trustees are satisfied, that despite some of the difficult circumstances referred to above, the accounts of the CIO now submitted for 2020, do represent an accurate and fair view of all financial transactions, with no material errors or omissions.

The auditor has been fully appraised of the circumstances and explanations regarding the preparation of the 2020 accounts. She has accepted these were unprecedented times for the SEC. due to the impact of Covid, together with issues surrounding the major refurbishment project.

She has reviewed the key financial elements required and included in the Charity's Final Accounts, and is satisfied that, notwithstanding all the difficulties, the accounts do provide a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Ecumenical Centre

Rev'd David M Burrows CIPFA (Trustee for Finance)



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

On accounts for the year ended

Dec 31st 2020

Charity no (if any)

1184507

Set out on pages

1-4

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

Signed:

AP Ascroft

Date:

5/5/22

Name:

Mrs A P Ascroft

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

CIPFA

Address:

1 Wane's Fold, Off Parr Lane, Ecclestone, Lancs PR7 5UZ