

# Encounter Christianity

England & Wales · Charity number 1188680

## Details

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**Other names** RE:DISCOVER

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2020-03-20

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

## Contact

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**Address** Redland Parish Church Halls  
Redland Green Road  
Bristol  
BS6 7HE

**Phone** 01179464695

**Email** [info@encounterchristianity.co.uk](mailto:info@encounterchristianity.co.uk)

**Website** [www.encounterchristianity.co.uk](http://www.encounterchristianity.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 4.1 THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:4.1.1 THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND CHRISTIANITY; IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:(A) PROVIDING SPECIALIST TEACHERS TO DELIVER EDUCATION LESSONS IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES;(B) ASSISTING AND TRAINING NON-SPECIALIST TEACHERS IN DELIVERING CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION;(C) PROMOTING CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LESSONS IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES; AND (D) MAKING RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THESE PURPOSES.

**Activities:** Encounter Christianity provides specialist teachers to deliver RE lessons in schools.Assists and trains non-specialist teachers to deliver Christian Religious Education.Promotes Christian RE in schools and makes resources available for these purposes.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- Bath And North East Somerset
- Bristol City
- Gloucestershire
- South Gloucestershire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£63,037	£60,699	-	-
2024-08-31	£74,984	£52,492	-	-
2023-08-31	£25,068	£35,970	-	-
2022-12-31	£58,758	£47,692	-	-
2021-12-31	£47,605	£30,835	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Rev Jema Mary Ball</b>	Chair	2024-12-04
Alison Sarah Long		2024-05-15
Celia Morgan		2022-09-01
Lisa Wendy Quinn		2024-05-15
Lucille Charles		2020-07-15
Rachel Powlesland		2020-07-15
Roderic Paul Symmons		2024-05-17

**Encounter Christianity**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188680

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# Accounts

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**encounter**  
christianity

# **ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Charity Number 1188680**



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The Trustees of Encounter Christianity are pleased to provide our Annual Report, covering the 12-month period ending 31 August 2025.

## Charitable Purposes, Activities and Achievements

The purposes of the Charity are:

*The advancement of the education of the public in the Christian faith and Christianity; in particular, but not exclusively by:*

- *providing specialist teachers to deliver education lessons in schools and colleges;*
- *assisting and training non-specialist teachers in delivering Christian religious education;*
- *promoting Christian religious education lessons in schools and colleges; and*
- *making resources available for these purposes.*

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

*"I was so impressed by the level of engagement, learning and knowledge displayed by the class...within a single lesson with Encounter Christianity."*  
Year 10 Teacher

## Why we exist

Encounter Christianity is made up of a passionate group of four teachers who want to bring the Christian faith to life in the classroom. We want to demonstrate that Christianity is a lived-out, active faith, shared by people across the world.

We want to help teachers to teach the Christian elements of the RE syllabus well and we want children and young people to be able to interact with Christians, hear their stories and be able to ask them questions about faith and spirituality. We also want pupils to have the space to reflect upon and debate their own beliefs.

Our team of teachers works to enrich the RE curriculum and the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils in schools, through the provision of specialist people and resources. We also seek to build positive community relationships between schools, churches, volunteers and other charitable organisations.

*"Thank you for visiting our school last week and for leading a wonderful workshop on Prayer. We all really enjoyed the activities which truly enriched the children's RE learning and our spiritual journey as a school."*  
RE Lead Teacher



### What we offer

Encounter Christianity provides dynamic and engaging RE workshops for children and young people in Primary, Secondary and SEND schools. All our lessons are based on the national curriculum and exam board requirements. We work in partnership with schools, seeking to meet the needs of their curriculums. Our sessions are free to schools.

Our workshops are highly interactive with the aim of providing children with the opportunity to find out for themselves what Christianity is about. For some, this is the first time they have encountered genuine Christians sharing their stories.

*“It was really fun. I loved it because even though it was learning it was fun.”* Year 3 pupil

*“Our RE scheme can be quite dry so it’s good to see the children engaged and enthusiastic.”*  
Year 6 teacher

### Schools

In this reporting period, we delivered **193 primary sessions** to approximately **5,880 pupils** and **72 secondary sessions** to approximately **1,721 pupils**. We also delivered **10 SEND workshops** to approximately **275 students**. We delivered **3 teacher training** sessions.

By August 2025 we taught a total of approximately **7,876 pupils** in Bristol and South Glos.

### Primary

#### Key Stage 1

The addition of a new primary specialist teacher allowed us to focus attention on our KS1 offer to schools. Sessions for such young children are highly resourced and require a greater number of volunteers, allowing us to connect more with volunteers from local churches. **Wonderful World** was an extremely popular lesson which was repeatedly requested by schools. The children learn about God as creator and enjoy the opportunity to create their own creature using junk modelling.



The story of Creation told in an interactive way.

#### Key Stage 2

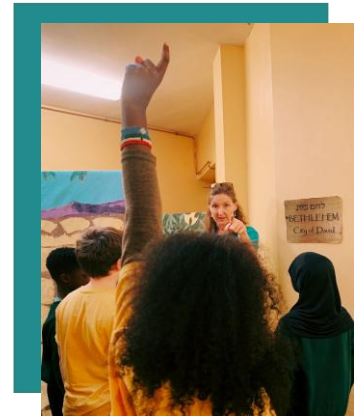
Our KS2 lessons remain in demand, with the workshop **How Do Christians Make Moral Choices?** being particularly requested. In this lesson the pupils examine the actions of the disciple Peter as well as considering how the Golden Rule is lived out by Christians today. The team has worked hard to make the crafts they use in workshops more purposeful, aiding the children’s understanding and enabling them to recall the teaching and explain it to others.



### Primary Trails

This year we relaunched our interactive Trails for primary school children, running them in partnership with local churches. We hosted 220 children over 2 days for our Christmas Trail at one of our partner churches, and at Easter welcomed 90 children to another church in a different part of the city.

The advantages of running a trail are threefold. Trails bring a story to life for the children, and we have witnessed many 'Wow' moments when children enter a scene, beginning an adventure as they step into the story. Churches have also felt encouraged and inspired to do this themselves in the future, and we also have connected with new schools where we currently do not teach our workshops.



Pupils take part in our **Christmas Trail** at a partner church.

*"That was my best journey ever!"* Year 4 pupil



### **The Miraculous Catch of Fish**

- one of our new SEND workshops this year.

### SEND

Following demand from schools, we developed 3 new workshops for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities this year. These workshops focused on stories about Jesus from the New Testament. We have run the workshops alongside our existing sessions on Creation, Christmas and Easter. We also started to deliver specialised workshops for children with complex autistic needs. All the sessions have received extremely favourable feedback from both staff and students.

*"I think you've got it exactly right, you couldn't have made it any better!"* SEND Lead Teacher

### Secondary

This has been a very busy year for our secondary team, with a greatly increased number of school bookings. We connected with 4 new schools this year and reconnected with 4 more which we had not visited in the previous year. We rewrote 3 workshops on Christians in the Media, Trinity and Prayer & Worship. We ran all three workshops in different schools and received excellent feedback. We collaborated with one of our church partners to offer 2 days of school visits to a church and taught pupils about key Christian beliefs, with the help of volunteers from the church.

*"It's useful to actually hear from a real Christian what they think and what they would do. I have wondered what these things would mean in reality for an actual Christian."*

Year 10 student



### Teacher Training

This year we offered three different training opportunities for teachers. We ran a workshop on 'How to teach Christianity effectively in Secondary Schools' for secondary teachers at the **SACRE Conference**. We also ran a workshop on how to teach primary RE lessons in a fun and engaging way for primary teachers at a large **Academy Trust** in the city, as well as hosting our own training session on **key Christian subject knowledge** for primary teachers.

### Team

We welcomed a new member to the Team this year to focus on our **Key Stage 1** offer to schools. This has led to an increase in KS1 bookings. It has also allowed us to develop our Trails work, utilising our new member of staff's extensive experience of running Trails in churches for schools.

With the increase in bookings this year, our team has focused more on their individual specialisms, with 2 of the team working mainly in primary and 2 working mainly in secondary. However, as bookings demand the team are still flexible and adept at teaching outside their Key Stage specialism.

### Volunteers

We continue to take volunteers from **local churches** into schools with us so that they can form links with their local schools. We are pleased to be able to collaborate with *Bristol Schools Connection (BSC)*, who help us to find church volunteers. This year we have also welcomed several youth workers and chaplains to join us in school.

We have also developed a **Volunteer Handbook** to help our volunteers understand what is required of them when they visit schools in relation to safeguarding, conduct and the tasks they will undertake.

### Prayer Ministry

We ran our first **Prayer for Schools** event in May, welcoming a diverse range of Christians from many different churches who wanted to pray for schools in Bristol. This has opened the way to partner with *Mullers* and *BSC* to run further prayer events focusing on children, young people and schools.

The numbers of people requesting our monthly **prayer email** has grown throughout the year and we relaunched our **prayer meetings** online at the beginning of each term to pray for the term ahead.



### Community Engagement

We continue to develop relationships with **churches**. We visited five churches to speak about our work this year and presented the work of the charity at a 'Churches Together' meeting for 6 churches in the Redland area. We also had stands at 3 **Christian Conferences** to highlight our work for local Christians from a wide variety of backgrounds. We have also engaged with other local **Christian organisations** in order to work more effectively as a team. One of the results of this is working collaboratively on prayer meetings for Christian children and youth workers as well as a special **day conference** for Christian staff who work in schools, due to take place in June 2026.

Our annual **Thanksgiving Service** took place on 18 June. We celebrated all that has taken place in schools during the year, as well as giving thanks to God for the children, young people and school staff we have connected with this year, which has greatly increased in number. We welcomed Trustees, volunteers, representatives of churches and other Christian organisations, individual supporters and members of the public to this event.

### Focus for the coming year

One of our key focal points this year is developing our **Key Stage 5** offer to schools. We aim to develop a new workshop aimed at A Level students, as well as organising and running a Bristol wide **6<sup>th</sup> Form Conference** for students studying A Level Religious Studies. We plan to focus on the topic of *Arguments for the Existence of God* and welcome a number of Christian experts in this area to speak at the conference.

### Financial Review

The charity's cash receipts for the period ended 31 August 2025 were £63,037 (2024: £74,984) principally from local churches, Trusts and Foundations, and individual supporters. Cash payments in the period were £60,699 (2024: £52,492 ) relating primarily to salaries, materials and expenses.

### Cash Reserves

The Trustees consider it prudent to maintain cash reserves to the value of at least 3 months-worth of running costs, equating to approximately £15,175. As of 31 August 2025, the charity's free cash reserves were £46,799 (2024: £44,441).



### Reference and administrative details

Charity number: 1188680

Registered office: Redland Parish Church Halls, Redland Green Road, BS6 7HE

Website address: [www.encounterchristianity.co.uk](http://www.encounterchristianity.co.uk)

Trustees:

The Trustees serving during the year 2024-25 were as follows:

- A West (Chair) (resigned January 2025)
- C Salisbury (resigned July 2025)
- L Charles
- R Powlesland (Secretary)
- C Morgan
- A Long
- L Quinn (Treasurer)
- R Symmons
- J Ball (appointed December 2024) (Appointed Chair July 2025)



## Structure, Governance and Management

### Governing Document

The Charity was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 20 March 2020 and is governed by its constitution.

### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

New Trustees are recruited on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Encounter Christianity CIO. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority of the votes cast by the Trustees at a meeting.

New Trustees receive an Induction pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with the Charity. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication *CC3 - The Essential Trustee: what you need to know* together with the charity's governing document and latest annual report and accounts.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Lisa Quinn - Treasurer  
8th December 2025

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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I report on the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the period ended 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 10 to 11.

### *Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### *Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made there underhave not been met;
- or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*P S Brown*

Paul Brown FCIE DChA  
Rose & Leaf Ltd

2 Ger y mynydd  
Hirwaun  
Aberdare  
CF44 9RD  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025

## Encounter Christianity CIO

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Period ended 31 August 2025	Period Ended 31 August 2024
RECEIPTS FROM:	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations</b>				
Gifts from churches	22,665	-	22,665	21,095
Grants from trusts/foundations	13,500	7,500	21,000	43,060
Gifts from individuals	19,288	-	19,288	10,777
<b>Interest</b>	84	-	84	52
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>55,537</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>63,037</u>	<u>74,984</u>
<b>PAYMENTS FOR:</b>				
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Payroll	50,699	4,547	55,246	46,771
IT support	-	775	775	1,593
Safeguarding fees	-	410	410	258
Materials and expenses		2,929	2,929	2,705
	<u>50,699</u>	<u>8,661</u>	<u>59,360</u>	<u>51,327</u>
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Bank fees		60	60	60
Insurance		337	337	252
Accounting and payroll		942	942	853
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,339</u>	<u>1,339</u>	<u>1,165</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>50,699</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>60,699</u>	<u>52,492</u>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<u>4,838</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>2,338</u>	<u>22,492</u>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<u>4,838</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>2,338</u>	<u>22,492</u>

# Encounter Christianity CIO

AT 31 AUGUST 2025

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Current account		46,779		44,441
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		46,779		44,441
Gift Aid not yet received at year end		-		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>46,779</u>		<u>44,441</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrued expenditure		100		100
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>

## CASH RESERVES

### Unrestricted funds

Brought forward	41,941		16,949	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>4,838</u>		<u>24,992</u>	
		46,779		41,941

### Restricted funds

Brought forward	2,500		5,000	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>(2,500)</u>		<u>(2,500)</u>	
		-		2,500

<b>Total cash reserves</b>		<u>46,779</u>		<u>44,441</u>
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Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 8th December 2025



L Quinn (Treasurer)

**Encounter Christianity**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188680

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# Accounts

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**encounter**  
christianity

# **ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Charity Number 1188680**



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The Trustees of Encounter Christianity are pleased to provide our Annual Report, covering the 12-month period ending 31 August 2024. This is the first report following the change to align our financial year to the academic year, bringing it into line with internal reporting and typical reports to funding bodies.

### Charitable Purposes, Activities and Achievements

The purposes of the Charity are:

*The advancement of the education of the public in the Christian faith and Christianity; in particular but not exclusively by:*

- *providing specialist teachers to deliver education lessons in schools and colleges;*
- *assisting and training non-specialist teachers in delivering Christian religious education;*
- *promoting Christian religious education lessons in schools and colleges; and*
- *making resources available for these purposes.*

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

*"I learnt so much from the lesson. I didn't know any of that! You explained it so it was easy to understand."*  
Year 3 teacher

### Why we exist

Encounter Christianity is made up of a passionate group of four teachers who want to bring the Christian faith to life in the classroom. We want to demonstrate that Christianity is a lived-out, active faith, shared by people across the world.

We want to help teachers to teach the Christian elements of the RE syllabus well and we want children and young people to be able to interact with Christians, hear their stories and be able to ask them questions about faith and spirituality. We also want pupils to have the space to reflect upon and debate their own beliefs.

Our team of teachers works to enrich the RE curriculum and the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils in schools, through the provision of specialist people and resources. We also seek to build positive community relationships between schools, churches, volunteers and other charitable organisations.

*"A really brilliant visit, which was so useful for my A-Level students. Encounter Christianity brought the theory to life with their personal testimonies and dynamic presentation."*  
Year 12 teacher



### What we offer

Encounter Christianity provides dynamic and engaging RE workshops for Primary, Secondary and SEND schools, based on the national curriculum and in partnership with schools, tailoring our sessions to the schemes of work they follow. Our sessions are free to schools.

All our workshops are highly interactive with the aim of providing children with the opportunity to find out for themselves what Christianity is about. For some, this is the first time they have encountered genuine Christians sharing their stories.

*“An engaging lesson for the whole class. The children have developed their knowledge through enquiry and loved learning in an interactive way. Both leaders were enthusiastic, encouraging and explained tasks clearly. Thank you! We loved it!”* Year 6 teacher

### Schools

In this reporting period, we delivered **126 primary sessions** to approximately **3,780 pupils** and **48 secondary sessions** to approximately **1,460 pupils**. We also delivered **6 new SEN workshops** to approximately **150 students**. We delivered **1 teacher training** session.

By August 2024 we were linked to **69 schools** in Bristol, South Glos. and Swindon.

### Primary

The primary team continued to plan more investigative based sessions to replace carousel lessons. A highlight this year was teaching 420 children about the Trinity. We have been encouraged by the positive feedback we have received, particularly as many of our volunteers have shared personal stories about how their faith impacts them.

### Secondary

Our updated lesson entitled ‘Jesus as an Inspirational Figure,’ has been received extremely well in secondary schools this year. It includes content on how Jesus’ death and resurrection inspires Christians and has given us the opportunity to share our own stories about how Jesus inspires us as practising Christians today. We have also been able to answer the young people’s questions on the Christian faith. We were excited to deliver new sixth form lessons on the key beliefs of Christianity and the English Reformation.

### SEND

One of our key projects this year has been to extend our work in schools for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We have developed and delivered new multi-sensory sessions on Creation, Christmas and Easter. The sessions have been extremely well received by both staff and students, and we are discussing with the schools how we can input into their curriculum with further sessions.



### Team

Our team underwent a great deal of change during this reporting period. One of our Primary teachers was on maternity leave from December to May. We created a new Classroom Assistant and Administration role to cover this leave and employed a new member of the team during this time.

Our Lead Teacher left the role in April to relocate to another city, and the new role of Charity Director and Lead Teacher was created to replace the previous position. Following a successful interview process, one of our current team secured this role. This left a vacancy for a Primary teacher, who we have now recruited and who will be in post in September.

### Community Relationships

We have formed relationships with new **local churches** and have visited two churches to speak about our work, as well as meeting with the leaders of two further churches to talk about how we can better engage with them. We have begun drawing up plans for a new joint project with a partner church to be run in the coming academic year.

We have maintained a committed group of **volunteers** who have worked with us this year. We have also liaised with Bristol Schools Connection (BSC) to link volunteers from churches with their local schools. We joined with BSC to meet Youth Workers in the area who might like to accompany us into secondary schools.

We launched a **Partnership Scheme** to encourage individuals to join us in praying for our work in schools. As part of this scheme we introduced a monthly prayer bulletin to send out to participants and invited them to a coffee morning in the summer to hear more about our work.

Our annual **Thanksgiving Service** took place on 26 June. This was an opportunity to celebrate all that has taken place during the year, highlighting our involvement in both primary, secondary and SEND schools. We were encouraged to welcome trustees, volunteers, representatives of churches, individual supporters and those interested in our work to this event.



### Financial Review

The charity's cash receipts for the period ended 31 August 2024 were £74,984 (2023: £25,069) principally from local churches, Trusts and Foundations, and individual supporters. Cash payments in the period were £52,492 (2023: £35,971) relating primarily to salaries, materials and expenses.

### Cash Reserves

The Trustees consider it prudent to maintain cash reserves to the value of at least 3 months-worth of running costs, equating to approximately £13,123. As of 31 August 2024, the charity's free cash reserves were £44,441 (2023: £21,949).

### Future Plans

We aim to widen our church links in the coming year by partnering with new churches on joint projects such as hosting school trips to their buildings and running Christmas and Easter Trails. We also hope to attend two local **Christian Conferences** to meet Christians from the area and encourage them to partner with us in volunteering, praying and giving.

We are also planning a **Prayer for Schools** event with BSC and Together for Bristol. This will be an opportunity for school staff, Governors, parents and those interested in school's work to pray for schools and teachers in Bristol and South Glos.

We have noticed a large increase in non-specialists teaching RE in both primary and secondary schools and so we plan to design and deliver workshops for both settings in the coming year. These sessions will include ideas on how to deliver Christian content in an accurate and engaging way.

We are also thinking about how we can better equip our volunteers to work in the classroom with us. We hope to offer a training session for both existing and new volunteers in the coming year.



### Reference and administrative details

Charity number: 1188680

Registered office: Redland Parish Church Halls, Redland Green Road, BS6 7HE

Website address: [www.encounterchristianity.co.uk](http://www.encounterchristianity.co.uk)

Trustees:

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

- A West (Chair)
- P Noyce (resigned 16 September 2023)
- C Salisbury
- L Charles
- R Powlesland
- P Richardson (resigned 31 August 2024)
- C Morgan
- R Guy (resigned 5 July 2024)
- A Long (appointed 15 May 2024)
- L Quinn (appointed 1 September 2024)
- R Symmons (appointed 17 May 2024)

**Structure, Governance and Management**

Governing Document

The Charity was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 20 March 2020 and is governed by its constitution.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

New Trustees are recruited on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Encounter Christianity CIO. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority of the votes cast by the Trustees at a meeting.

New Trustees receive an Induction pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with the Charity. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication *CC3 - The Essential Trustee: what you need to know* together with the charity's governing document and latest annual report and accounts.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....

Lisa Quinn - Treasurer  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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I report on the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the period ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 10 to 11.

### *Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### *Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made there underhave not been met;  
or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*P S Brown*

Paul Brown FCIE DChA  
Rose & Leaf Ltd

2 Ger y mynydd  
Hirwaun  
Aberdare  
CF44 9RD  
30<sup>TH</sup> April 2025

# Encounter Christianity CIO

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restricted Funds	Period ended 31 August 2024	Period Ended 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS FROM:</b>				
<b>Donations</b>				
Gifts from churches	21,095	-	<b>21,095</b>	8,100
Grants from trusts/foundations	34,560	8,500	<b>43,060</b>	11,600
Gifts from individuals	10,777	-	<b>10,777</b>	5,341
<b>Interest</b>	52	-	<b>52</b>	28
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>66,484</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u><b>74,984</b></u>	<u><b>25,069</b></u>
<b>PAYMENTS FOR:</b>				
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Payroll	41,492	5,279	<b>46,771</b>	32,454
IT support	-	1,593	<b>1,593</b>	1,226
Safeguarding fees	-	258	<b>258</b>	211
Materials and expenses		2,705	<b>2,705</b>	1,463
	41,492	9,835	<b>51,327</b>	<b>35,354</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Bank fees		60	<b>60</b>	40
Insurance		252	<b>252</b>	-
Accounting and payroll		853	<b>853</b>	577
	-	1,165	<b>1,165</b>	<b>617</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>41,492</u>	<u>11,000</u>	<u><b>52,492</b></u>	<u><b>35,971</b></u>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<u>24,992</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u><b>22,492</b></u>	<u><b>(10,902)</b></u>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<u>24,992</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u><b>22,492</b></u>	<u><b>(10,902)</b></u>

# Encounter Christianity CIO

AT 31 AUGUST 2024

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Current account		44,441		21,949
		<u>44,441</u>		<u>21,949</u>
Gift Aid not yet received at year end		-		-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><b>44,441</b></u>		<u><b>21,949</b></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrued expenditure		100		100
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><b>100</b></u>		<u><b>100</b></u>

### CASH RESERVES

#### Unrestricted funds


Brought forward	16,949		27,850	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>24,992</u>		<u>(10,901)</u>	
		<b>41,941</b>		16,949

#### Restricted funds

Brought forward	5,000		5,000	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>(2,500)</u>			
		<b>2,500</b>		5,000

<b>Total cash reserves</b>		<u><b>44,441</b></u>		<u><b>21,949</b></u>
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Signed on behalf of the trustees on 1st May 2025

  
L Quinn (Treasurer)

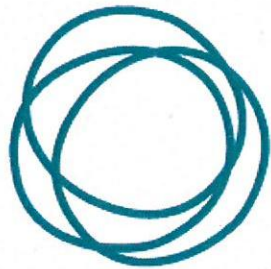
**Encounter Christianity**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188680

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# Accounts

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**encounter**  
christianity

# **ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**Charity Number 1188680**



CONTENTS	PAGES
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<b>Receipts and Payments Account</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>10</b>



The Trustees of Encounter Christianity are pleased to provide our Annual Report, covering the 8-month period ending 31 August 2023. This change is to align our financial year to the academic year, which brings it into line with internal reporting and typical reports to funding bodies.

### Charitable Purposes, Activities and Achievements

The purposes of the Charity are:

*The advancement of the education of the public in the Christian faith and Christianity; in particular but not exclusively by:*

- *providing specialist teachers to deliver education lessons in schools and colleges;*
- *assisting and training non-specialist teachers in delivering Christian religious education;*
- *promoting Christian religious education lessons in schools and colleges; and*
- *making resources available for these purposes.*

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

*"Thank you for offering practical advice to our teachers and for inspiring them to try new ideas in their RWV lessons!"*

### Why we exist

Encounter Christianity is made up of a passionate group of teachers who want to share their Christian faith in a way that enriches and enhances the RE provision in schools in Bristol and the surrounding area. We want to see teachers excited about teaching RE and feeling resourced to do so. We want children and young

people to be able to ask open and honest questions about the Christian faith and to be able to reflect and ponder on their own beliefs and spirituality. We want the education of Christian RE in schools to reflect the living and active faith of so many in this country and around the world and for this to come alive to pupils in our sessions.

*"Just sending a message to say a huge thank you and to just emphasise how incredible the session on Bonhoeffer was! The group that visited were great, and the information shared was so specific, accurate and engaging. It really was a reminder of just how important it is for our students to engage with people of other faith communities, but also really helpful in course delivery."*

Our team of teachers works to:

- Enrich the RE curriculum and the Social Moral Spiritual Cultural development of pupils in schools, through the provision of specialist resources.
- Give children and young people the opportunity to have a positive encounter with a diverse range of Christians and ask honest questions.
- Build positive community relationships with schools, churches, volunteers and other charitable organisations.



### What we offer

Encounter Christianity provides dynamic and engaging RE sessions for Primary and Secondary schools, based on the national curriculum and in partnership with schools so that we can tailor our sessions to the schemes of work they follow. Our sessions are free to schools. We currently offer 27 primary and 27 secondary sessions. We tailor-make sessions for each SEND school booking we receive (eg: Christmas, Harvest, Easter). We also offer a teacher training session for primary school teachers, to contribute to their CPD and inspire and equip them in their teaching of RE.

### RECENT ACTIVITY

*"Very accessible to all. They all loved it and learnt from it, they want to do it again."*

### Schools

In this shorter reporting period, we were in schools from January-July and delivered **88 primary sessions** to approximately **2,640 pupils** and **33 secondary sessions** to approximately **990 pupils**. We delivered **3 teacher training** sessions. By the end of 2023 we were linked to **57 schools** in Bristol, South Glos. and as far as Swindon.

### Team

In this reporting period, our team consisted of 2 Secondary teachers (both 2 days per week) and 2 Primary teachers (3 days and 2 days per week). One Primary and one Secondary teacher led the team and oversaw charity admin, as well as teaching roles.

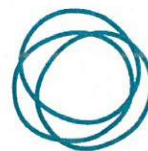
In May 2023 we successfully recruited a new KS3/4 lead, to replace our Secondary lead who stepped down from her role in Summer 2023. Our new KS3/4 lead teacher started in September 2023, with a particular focus on engaging pupils post-pandemic.

We welcomed a work-experience student for a week, who did brilliantly and even developed a new resource for us. We hope we can welcome more work-experience pupils and student teachers, or those considering teacher training, over the next year.

### Community Relationships

We have continued to grow our relationships with local churches by making it a priority to share our vision with church leaders, as well as children's and youth workers. The Charity Lead Teacher met with 3 new church leaders/children's workers to grow new partnerships. We visited 2 churches to speak about our work, with the aim to increase our support in terms of volunteers, prayer and fundraising.

In June 2023, we held a **Thanksgiving Service** for the first time. This event gathered all our team, trustees, volunteers, supporting churches and individual supporters to meet and celebrate the year. This is an event we hope to hold annually.



### **Financial Review**

The charity's cash receipts for the period ended 31 August 2023 were £25,068 (2022: £58,758) principally from local churches and Trusts and Foundations, and increasingly also from individual supporters. Cash payments in the period were £35,970 (2022: £47,692) relating primarily to salaries, materials and expenses. Changing the year-end to align with the academic year has resulted in an 8-month reporting period which excludes the last 4 months of the calendar year, which are typically when some larger grants are received, hence the negative cashflow in the period.

### **Cash Reserves**

The Trustees consider it prudent to maintain cash reserves to the value of at least 3 months-worth of running costs, equating to approximately £13,500. As at 31 August 2023, the charity's free cash reserves were £21,949 (2022: 32,851).

### **Plans for future years**

We are reaching a point where we want to consider future growth of the work and the team, so we look forward to dreaming big about the future of the charity and refining our vision and values so they can inform practical decisions.

#### **Curriculum**

Having appointed a SEND curriculum lead from within our existing team, we plan on delivering 6 sessions to our local SEND school (both Primary and Secondary) in 2023-24. We hope to be able to link to other SEND schools who will be interested in booking us for future years.

It has been a particular challenge to engage Secondary pupils post-pandemic and we have found they are less keen to ask questions and give their opinions. We hope our new KS3/4 curriculum lead will identify ways in which our Secondary work can grow and make some changes that will engage these pupils.

In the next year we hope to continue the work of reviewing our Primary lessons to minimise teacher talk and maximise pupil engagement and interactions. The investigative approach we rolled out this year in our *What do Christians say when life gets hard session?* has been successful in this and we hope to replicate this across more of our lessons.

#### **Community relationships**

We plan to continue developing our strong community links with churches across Bristol and recruit more volunteers to go into their local schools with us. We hope to speak to at least 3 church congregations about our work.



### **Reference and administrative details**

Charity number: 1188680

Registered office: Redland Parish Church Halls, Redland Green Road, BS6 7HE

Website address: [www.encounterchristianity.co.uk](http://www.encounterchristianity.co.uk)

Trustees:

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

- A West (Chair)
- P Noyce (resigned 16 September 2023)
- C Salisbury
- L Charles
- R Powlesland
- P Richardson
- C Morgan
- R Guy (appointed 7 February 2024)
- A Long (appointed 15 May 2024)
- L Quinn (appointed 15 May 2024)
- R Symmons (appointed 17 May 2024)



### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Governing Document

The Charity was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 20 March 2020 and is governed by its constitution.

#### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

New Trustees are recruited on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Encounter Christianity CIO. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority of the votes cast by the Trustees at a meeting.

New Trustees receive an Induction pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with the Charity. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication CC3 - *The Essential Trustee: what you need to know* together with the charity's governing document and latest annual report and accounts.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
P Richardson

Treasurer

23 May 2024

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

### PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 AUGUST 2023

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I report on the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the period ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 10.

#### *Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### *Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made there underhave not been met;
- or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*P S Brown*

Paul Brown FCIE DChA  
Rose & Leaf Ltd  
2 Ger y mynydd  
Hirwaun  
Aberdare  
CF44 9RD  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Encounter Christianity CIO

PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 AUGUST 2023

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Period ended 31 August 2023 £	Year Ended 31 December 2022 £
<b>RECEIPTS FROM:</b>				
<b>Donations</b>				
Gifts from churches	8,100	-	<b>8,100</b>	15,750
Grants from trusts/foundations	7,600	4,000	<b>11,600</b>	31,550
Gifts from individuals	5,341	-	<b>5,341</b>	11,437
<b>Interest</b>	28	-	<b>28</b>	21
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>21,068</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>25,068</b>	<b>58,758</b>
<b>PAYMENTS FOR:</b>				
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Payroll	24,470	7,984	<b>32,454</b>	40,242
IT support	-	1,226	<b>1,226</b>	3,904
Safeguarding fees	-	211	<b>211</b>	326
Materials and expenses	-	1,463	<b>1,463</b>	2,140
	24,470	10,884	<b>35,354</b>	<b>46,612</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Bank fees	-	40	<b>40</b>	81
Insurance	-	-	<b>-</b>	243
Accounting and payroll	-	577	<b>577</b>	756
	-	617	<b>617</b>	<b>1,080</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>24,470</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>35,970</b>	<b>47,692</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<b>(3,401)</b>	<b>(7,500)</b>	<b>(10,902)</b>	<b>11,066</b>
<b>TRANFERS TO/(FROM) FUNDS</b>	<b>(7,500)</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>(10,901)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10,902)</b>	<b>11,066</b>

# Encounter Christianity CIO

AT 31 AUGUST 2023

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2023	2023	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Current account		21,950		32,851
		<u>21,950</u>		<u>32,851</u>
Gift Aid not yet received at year end		-		-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><u>21,950</u></u>		<u><u>32,851</u></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrued expenditure		100		100
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><u>100</u></u>		<u><u>100</u></u>
 <b>CASH RESERVES</b>				
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Brought forward	27,851		21,785	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>(10,901)</u>		<u>6,066</u>	
		16,950		27,851
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Brought forward	5,000		-	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>-</u>		<u>5,000</u>	
		5,000		5,000
<b>Total cash reserves</b>		<u><u>21,950</u></u>		<u><u>32,851</u></u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees on 23 May 2024

  
P Richardson (Treasurer)

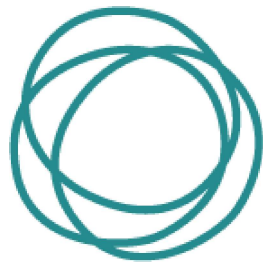
**Encounter Christianity**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188680

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# Accounts

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**encounter**  
christianity

# **ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO**

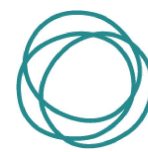
**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Charity Number 1188680**



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The Trustees of Encounter Christianity are pleased to provide our Annual Report, covering the year ending 31 December 2022.

### **Charitable Purposes, Activities and Achievements**

The purposes of the Charity are:

*The advancement of the education of the public in the Christian faith and Christianity; in particular but not exclusively by:*

- *providing specialist teachers to deliver education lessons in schools and colleges;*
- *assisting and training non-specialist teachers in delivering Christian religious education;*
- *promoting Christian religious education lessons in schools and colleges; and*
- *making resources available for these purposes.*

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

### **Why we exist**

Encounter Christianity is made up of a passionate group of teachers who want to share their Christian faith in a way that enriches and enhances the RE provision in schools in Bristol and the surrounding area. We want to see teachers excited about teaching RE and feeling resourced to do so. We want children and young people to be able to ask open and honest questions about the Christian faith and to be able to reflect and ponder on their own beliefs and spirituality. We want the education of Christian RE in schools to reflect the living and active faith of so many in this country and around the world and for this to come alive to pupils in our sessions.

*"I wanted to say a huge thank you for creating the 'wedding of the year' event on Wednesday. It really caught the attention of our RS students and of the whole school. I know my students can now talk confidently about the purpose and meaning of a Christian wedding ceremony. Lifetime memories were made."*

Our team of teachers works to:

- Enrich the RE curriculum and the Social Moral Spiritual Cultural development of pupils in schools, through the provision of specialist resources.
- Give children and young people the opportunity to have a positive encounter with a diverse range of Christians and ask honest questions.
- Build positive community relationships with schools, churches, volunteers and other charitable organisations.

### **What we offer**

Encounter Christianity provides dynamic and engaging RE sessions for Primary and Secondary schools, based on the national curriculum and in partnership with schools so that we can tailor our sessions to the schemes of work they follow. Our sessions are free to schools. We currently offer 27 primary and 27 secondary sessions. We also offer a teacher training session for primary school teachers, to contribute to their CPD and inspire and equip them in their teaching of RE.

*"Really well put together and engaging"*



## ACTIVITY THIS YEAR

### Schools

The start of 2022 saw a marked increase in our in-school sessions and workshops, as schools started to open their doors up to in-person visits in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic. We delivered **146 primary sessions** to approximately **4,380 pupils** and **34 secondary sessions** to approximately **980 pupils**. By the end of 2022 we were linked to **58 schools** in Bristol, South Glos. and as far as Swindon.

*"This was their favourite RE lesson ever apparently. Lots of them really enjoyed the crafting aspect."*

### Teacher Training

One of our dreams over many years had been to deliver training sessions for Primary teachers to equip them to better teach RE as non-specialists. This is because Primary teachers receive little training on or input into their RE subject knowledge. We wanted to be able to support teachers, who are already working at capacity, by going to their school to deliver in person training sessions with ideas they could easily adapt to their classroom teaching. In January 2022, we led a training session at the SACRE conference in Bristol and in October we delivered the same session at a diocese conference in Swindon. These were well attended and led to requests for us to deliver teacher training sessions in schools with a whole staff team. By the end of 2022, we delivered 4 teacher training sessions and 3 more by July 2023, meaning a total of **7 CPD training sessions** for Primary teachers to enthuse them and give them new ideas about teaching RE in an interactive and meaningful way.

*"Thank you so much for the Staff Meeting - it really was excellent! Everyone enjoyed it and found it inspiring. Your workshops and the staff meeting have greatly helped to promote teaching RE and also have helped with subject knowledge of Christianity."*

### Staff

We were able to expand our staff team from 3 members to 4 as of July 2022. This is due to high demand, particularly in primary bookings. Our team as of July 2022 comprised of 2 primary teachers (3 days and 2 days a week) and 2 secondary teachers (both 2 days a week).

### Community Relationships

We have also been growing our relationships with local churches and making it a priority to share our vision with local church leaders, as well as children and youth workers. This has led to sharing about our work in Sunday gatherings and increasing our support in the following 3 areas:

- **Finance:** donations from individual givers and churches towards the work we do.
- **Prayer:** a growing number of people receive updates on our work so they can pray for us and support us.
- **Volunteering:** as well as our 16 EC volunteers, we have worked alongside churches to partner with them and go into their local schools with a team of volunteers from their church.

To date, we have seen more growth in our church relationships. We are connected with **13 churches** across Bristol, 2 of which support us financially and 11 of which have come into schools with us. We also held our first thanksgiving service in June 2023 to gather all our supporters and give thanks for the year that has passed.

*"Great to have so many adults - helped to keep all children engaged"*



## **Financial Review**

The charity's cash receipts for the year ended 31 December 2022 were £58,758 (2021: £47,605) principally from local churches and Trusts and Foundations. Cash payments in 2022 were £47,692 (2021: £30,835) relating primarily to salaries, materials and expenses. As the staff were transferred across from Redland Parish Church under TUPE from 1 April 2021, costs were a quarter lower than would be expected in a typical year.

## **Cash Reserves**

The Trustees consider it prudent to maintain cash reserves to the value of at least 3 months-worth of running costs, equating to approximately £17,500. As at 31 December 2022, the charity's free cash reserves were £32,851 (2021: 21,785).

## **Plans for future years**

As of September 2023, our team is connected to 58 schools across Bristol and the surrounding area, with a cluster of schools in Swindon. Also as of September 2023, we have allocated a staff member to oversee our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) work in mainstream schools and in specialist schools. We already have several bookings in a local specialist school and hope to connect with up to 3 specialist schools by the end of the year. We also plan to continue growing our network of schools.

As a result of our growing relationship with schools, one Bristol secondary school has requested that we input into their History curriculum by leading an A Level workshop on the Reformation and how it has impacted the church and continues to influence Christians today. We are excited to see how schools are recognising the way RE interacts with other areas of the curriculum and will be offering this session to other local schools.

A big focus for this year will be to continue growing our relationship with local churches and partnering with them to go into their local schools. We want to grow our network of volunteers to at least 20 regular volunteers and provide training for them.

Due to the success of our teacher training sessions on ideas for creating meaningful and engaging RE lessons, we plan to put together and offer schools a session on subject knowledge for the Christianity section of the curriculum. We also want to investigate the possibility of inputting into local teacher training courses by running a one-off training session for student teachers.

We will also be reviewing our sessions to reflect a greater emphasis on children learning through investigation. We believe this will give them more time for reflection and generating questions as they develop their own opinions and spiritual awareness.

We recognise the mental health crisis in children and young people is an unprecedented issue of our time and we want to examine how we can contribute to children building a positive view of themselves and their worth, whilst developing their own sense of self and spirituality.



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### **Reference and administrative details**

Charity number: 1188680

Registered office: Redland Parish Church Halls, Redland Green Road, BS6 7HE

Website address: [www.encounterchristianity.co.uk](http://www.encounterchristianity.co.uk)

Trustees:

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

- A West (Chair)
- P Noyce (resigned 16 September 2023)
- C Salisbury
- C Nichols (resigned 29 June 2022)
- L Charles
- R Powlesland
- P Richardson
- C Morgan (appointed 1 September 2022)



## Structure, Governance and Management

### Governing Document

The Charity was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 20 March 2020 and is governed by its constitution.

### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

New Trustees are recruited on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Encounter Christianity CIO. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority of the votes cast by the Trustees at a meeting.

New Trustees receive an Induction pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with the Charity. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication *CC3 - The Essential Trustee: what you need to know* together with the charity's governing document and latest annual report and accounts.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
P Richardson  
Treasurer

24 October 2023

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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I report on the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 9 to 10.

### *Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### *Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made there underhave not been met;
- or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*P S Brown*

Paul Brown FCIE DChA  
Rose & Leaf Ltd

Suite 2  
14 – 15 Triangle South  
Bristol  
BS8 1EY  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Encounter Christianity CIO**  
**YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

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	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>RECEIPTS FROM:</b>				
<b>Donations</b>				
Gifts from churches	15,750	-	<b>15,750</b>	13,146
Grants from Trusts/Foundation	26,550	5,000	<b>31,550</b>	31,340
Gifts from Individuals	11,437	-	<b>11,437</b>	3,119
<b>Interest</b>	21	-	<b>21</b>	-
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>53,758</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u><b>58,758</b></u>	<u><b>47,605</b></u>
<b>PAYMENTS FOR:</b>				
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Payroll	40,242	-	<b>40,242</b>	28,009
IT Support	3,904	-	<b>3,904</b>	507
Safeguarding fees	326	-	<b>326</b>	387
Materials and expenses	2,140	-	<b>2,140</b>	1,330
	<u>46,612</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>46,612</b></u>	<u><b>30,233</b></u>
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Bank fees	81	-	<b>81</b>	96
Insurance	243	-	<b>243</b>	243
Accounting and payroll	756	-	<b>756</b>	263
	<u>1,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>1,080</b></u>	<u><b>602</b></u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>47,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>47,692</b></u>	<u><b>30,835</b></u>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<u>6,066</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u><b>11,066</b></u>	<u><b>16,770</b></u>

# Encounter Christianity CIO

AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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	2022	2022	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Current account		32,851		5,015
		<u>32,851</u>		<u>5,015</u>
Gift Aid not yet received at year end		-		-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><u>32,851</u></u>		<u><u>5,015</u></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrued expenditure		-		-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><u>-</u></u>		<u><u>-</u></u>
 <b>CASH RESERVES</b>				
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Brought forward	21,785		5,015	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>6,066</u>		<u>16,770</u>	
		27,851		21,785
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Brought forward	-		-	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>5,000</u>		<u>-</u>	
		5,000		-
<b>Total cash reserves</b>		<u><u>32,851</u></u>		<u><u>21,785</u></u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees on 24 October 2023



.....  
P Richardson (Treasurer)

**Encounter Christianity**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188680

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# Accounts

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# **ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO**

## **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Charity Number 1188680**

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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Receipts and Payments Account

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# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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The Trustees of Encounter Christianity are pleased to provide our Annual Report, covering the year ending 31 December 2021.

### Charitable Purposes, Activities and Achievements

The purposes of the Charity are:

*The advancement of the education of the public in the Christian faith and Christianity; in particular but not exclusively by:*

- *providing specialist teachers to deliver education lessons in schools and colleges;*
- *assisting and training non-specialist teachers in delivering Christian religious education;*
- *promoting Christian religious education lessons in schools and colleges; and*
- *making resources available for these purposes.*

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

### Background

Encounter Christianity was set up in March 2020 to adopt the work of Redland Education Centre – a ministry of Redland Parish Church – which had been pursuing the same charitable objectives for the prior 15 years. The reason to transition to an independent charity was to enable the work to grow by partnering with other churches, individuals and organisations that share in the objectives of Encounter Christianity.

### What we offer

Encounter Christianity provides free, dynamic, interactive RE resources for Primary and Secondary schools, based on Bristol's Agreed Syllabus. This includes in-school sessions, online video content and downloadable activity packs.

Our team of teachers works to:

- Enrich the RE curriculum and the Social Moral Spiritual Cultural development of pupils in schools, through the provision of specialist resources
- Give children and young people the opportunity to have a positive encounter with a diverse range of Christians and ask honest questions.
- Build positive community relationships with schools, churches, volunteers and other charitable organisations.

### Activity this year

The Covid-19 pandemic brought a wave of change to the schools our team support. For much of the day, pupils were confined to home-learning, sitting in front of computer screens for hours at a time which decreased concentration and increased levels of anxiety. Teachers were overwhelmed with the expectation of an immediate transition to online lessons, with no time to plan.

Our staff team made it a top priority to step into the provision gap to support both pupils and teachers by creating high quality video-led lessons, teaching themselves the skills in the process. Our existing resources were also adapted to enable easy access for both pupils and staff; pupils were able to

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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interact with lesson content without a teacher present, which in turn gave respite to staff and a change of voice for pupils.

In total, 8 secondary video resources were created with accompanying workbooks for pupils, as requested by our school connections. These received 152 views, reaching approximately **4500 pupils**. Our 6 online primary resources included videos to be used in whole school assemblies and individual lessons. These were viewed 87 times, reaching approximately **2600 pupils**. The team received excellent feedback from the staff they worked with during this time.

*"This is absolutely fantastic, please say thank you very much to your team, this is so brilliant."*

*"It is really helpful for our pupils to hear the clear Christian teaching from you guys."*

In September 2021, the team returned to visiting classrooms, teaching 34 lessons over the 4 months up to the Christmas holidays. Demand was so high the team unfortunately had to turn down a further 8 lessons due to limited capacity.

2022 has seen continued growth with the academic year ending connected to 45 schools and 15 volunteers. The team delivered a total of 146 lessons, teaching over **4000 pupils** and receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback.

In addition to schools' work, our team spent time building partnerships with other organisations, including the recruitment and training of 8 new volunteers and connecting with churches and trusts.

*"10/10 engagement – you kept the most poorly behaved student in the lesson – Big accomplishment!! Even had his hand up!"*

*"Lots of quick paced activities that engaged all the children. Lots of smiling faces. Use of drama, videos and creative resources encouraged all the class to get involved. We have an SEN child with extreme need who was able to participate in all activities. There were lots of actions that accompanied the new vocabulary with supported speaking and learning. It's clear that the children loved the workshop. Thank you!"*

#### Financial review

The charity's cash receipts for the year ended 31 December 2021 were £47,605 (2020: £5,040) principally from local churches and Trusts and Foundations. Cash payments in 2021 were £30,835 (2020: £25) relating primarily to salaries, materials and expenses. As the staff were transferred across from Redland Parish Church under TUPE from 1 April, costs were a third lower than would be expected in a typical year.

#### Cash Reserves

The Trustees consider it prudent to maintain cash reserves to the value of at least 3 months-worth of running costs, equating to approximately £13,500. As at 31 December 2021, the charity's free cash reserves were £21,785.

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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### Plans for future years

As of September 2022, our team is connected to 49 schools across Bristol and surrounding areas, with ambition to increase this to 70 schools by the end of the current academic year. As demand from schools continues to outpace capacity, the charity hopes to increase staff hours to meet this need. The charity also aspires to hire a new teacher with expertise in special educational needs to lead them in providing sessions for pupils attending special schools across Bristol.

Furthermore, several primary schools have recently requested the team attend after school staff meetings to lead training sessions focusing on teaching techniques specific to RE. Delivery of this resource has already begun and a high uptake is expected going forward. The team are excited to branch out into this new area and hope to connect with local universities in the future, to contribute to their teacher training courses.

### Reference and administrative details

Charity number: 1188680

Registered office: Redland Parish Church Halls, Redland Green Road, BS6 7HE

Website address: [www.encounterchristianity.co.uk](http://www.encounterchristianity.co.uk)

### Trustees:

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

A West (Chair)  
P Noyce  
C Salisbury  
C Nichols (resigned 29 June 2022)  
L Charles  
R Powlesland  
P Richardson  
M Baker (resigned 31 January 2021)  
C Morgan (resigned 31 March 2021, reappointed 1 September 2022)

Independent examiner Paul Brown FCIE DChA, Rose & Leaf Ltd, Suite 2 14 – 15 Triangle South, Bristol BS8 1EY

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Governing Document

The Charity was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 20 March 2020 and is governed by its constitution.

#### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

New Trustees are recruited on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Encounter Christianity CIO. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority of the votes cast by the Trustees at a meeting.

New Trustees receive an Induction pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with the Charity. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication CC3 – *The Essential Trustee: what you need to know* together with the charity's governing document and latest annual report and accounts.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
P Richardson  
Treasurer

4 October 2022

# ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

---

I report on the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 8.

### *Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### *Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made there underhave not been met;
- or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*P S Brown*

Paul Brown FCIE DChA  
Rose & Leaf Ltd

Suite 2  
14 – 15 Triangle South  
Bristol  
BS8 1EY  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2022

# Encounter Christianity CIO

YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

---

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>RECEIPTS FROM:</b>			
<b>Donations</b>			
Gifts from churches	13,146	13,146	5,000
Grants from Trusts/Foundations	31,340	31,340	-
Gifts from Individuals	3,119	3,119	40
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>47,605</u>	<u>47,605</u>	<u>5,040</u>
<b>PAYMENTS FOR:</b>			
<b>Charitable Activities</b>			
Payroll	28,009	28,009	-
IT Support	507	507	-
Safeguarding fees	387	387	-
Materials and expenses	1,330	1,330	-
	<u>30,233</u>	<u>30,233</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Governance Costs</b>			
Bank fees	96	96	25
Insurance	243	243	-
Accounting and payroll	263	263	-
	<u>602</u>	<u>602</u>	<u>25</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>30,835</u>	<u>30,835</u>	<u>25</u>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<u>16,770</u>	<u>16,770</u>	<u>5,015</u>

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# Encounter Christianity CIO

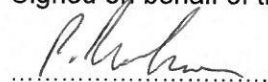
AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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	2021	2021	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Current account		21,785		5,015
		<u>21,785</u>		<u>5,015</u>
Gift Aid not yet received at year end		-		-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><u>21,785</u></u>		<u><u>5,015</u></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accruals		100		
Other Creditors		1,056		-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><u>1,156</u></u>		<u><u>-</u></u>
 <b>CASH RESERVES</b>				
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Brought forward	5,015		-	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>16,770</u>		<u>5,015</u>	
		21,785		5,015
<b>Total cash reserves</b>		<u><u>21,785</u></u>		<u><u>5,015</u></u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees on 4 October 2022



P Richardson (Treasurer)

