

ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Charity Number 1188680

ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

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YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

CONTENTS

Pages

Trustees' report

3 – 6

Independent examiners report to the trustees

7

Receipts and Payments Account

8

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

9

ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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

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

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

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

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
15th October 2022

Encounter Christianity CIO

YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
RECEIPTS FROM:			
Donations			
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
TOTAL RECEIPTS	47,605	47,605	5,040
PAYMENTS FOR:			
Charitable Activities			
Payroll	28,009	28,009	-
IT Support	507	507	-
Safeguarding fees	387	387	-
Materials and expenses	1,330	1,330	-
	30,233	30,233	-
Governance Costs			
Bank fees	96	96	25
Insurance	243	243	-
Accounting and payroll	263	263	-
	602	602	25
TOTAL PAYMENTS	30,835	30,835	25
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	16,770	16,770	5,015

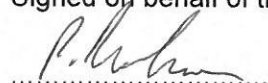
Encounter Christianity CIO

AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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

