

encounter
christianity

ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

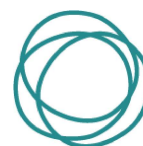
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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."

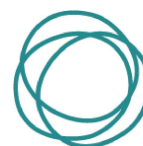
Our team of teachers works to:

- 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).

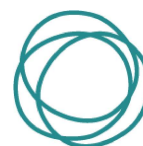
Community Relationships

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.



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 (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

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
17th October 2023

Encounter Christianity CIO

YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

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

Encounter Christianity CIO

AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash funds				
Current account		32,851		5,015
		<u>32,851</u>		<u>5,015</u>
Gift Aid not yet received at year end		-		-
Total Assets		<u><u>32,851</u></u>		<u><u>5,015</u></u>
Liabilities				
Accrued expenditure		-		-
Total Liabilities		<u><u>-</u></u>		<u><u>-</u></u>

CASH RESERVES

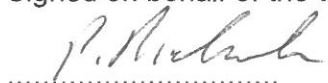
Unrestricted funds

Brought forward	21,785		5,015	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>6,066</u>		<u>16,770</u>	
		27,851		21,785

Restricted funds

Brought forward	-		-	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>5,000</u>		<u>-</u>	
		5,000		-
Total cash reserves		<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)