



encounter
christianity

ENCOUNTER CHRISTIANITY CIO

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Charity Number 1188680



CONTENTS	PAGES
Trustees' Report	3 - 7
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	8
Receipts and Payments Account	9
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	10



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

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

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

Encounter Christianity CIO

AT 31 AUGUST 2023

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Cash funds				
Current account		21,950		32,851
		<u>21,950</u>		<u>32,851</u>
Gift Aid not yet received at year end		-		-
Total Assets		<u><u>21,950</u></u>		<u><u>32,851</u></u>
Liabilities				
Accrued expenditure		100		100
Total Liabilities		<u><u>100</u></u>		<u><u>100</u></u>

CASH RESERVES

Unrestricted funds


Brought forward	27,851		21,785	
Net receipts/(payments) for the period	<u>(10,901)</u>		<u>6,066</u>	
		16,950		27,851

Restricted funds

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

Total cash reserves		<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)