

Annual Report and Financial Statements



 1 January 2024
to 31 December 2024

Affinity is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with registered charity number 1192455

Report of the Trustees

Members of the Trust Board have the pleasure of submitting their report and the independently audited financial statements of Affinity for the year starting on 1 January 2024 and ending 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the Provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts following the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published in October 2019 and comply with the charity's governing document and the Charities Act 2011.

Charity name:	Affinity
Registered charity number:	1192455
Charity's principal address:	PO Box 905, Haywards Heath RH16 9TJ

Constitution

Affinity was established in June 1969 as an unincorporated organisation but has operated under various names, including the British Evangelical Council (BEC), since 1952. In November 2020, it was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), retaining its original charitable purposes.

Objetives and Activities

The main objective of Affinity is to promote the advancement of the Christian religion, as expressed in Affinity's doctrinal basis, by means of a fellowship of evangelical churches, agencies and individuals. Affinity exists to:

Promote gospel unity among us by engaging in activities that encourage mutual recognition, understanding and respect and that serve to strengthen each other and to help each other maintain and exhibit the highest standards of godly living and Christian discipleship.

Encourage all like-minded churches, agencies and individuals to identify themselves with Affinity. To demonstrate unity to the world by supporting and, where possible, promoting the evangelistic enterprises of Members and Associates. In particular, to be committed to supporting the planting and restoration of Bible-centred, evangelical churches.

Represent our Members and Associates to governments, the media and to those responsible for formulating policy and influencing public morality and social justice. To apply the Word of God to public life and join with others of like persuasion in making representation on these issues where this serves to advance godly, just and wholesome ends.

Engage in theological research and discussion to advance an understanding and acceptance of biblical Christianity. To promote biblical teaching on true ecumenism and to encourage its practice among Members and Associates.

Express our unity and fellowship with like-minded churches and evangelical agencies worldwide.

Governance

Affinity is governed by five trustees who make up the Trust Board, they are supported by the Advisory Council made up of representatives from Corporate, Church and Agency members. The Trustees meet with the Advisory Council twice a year to discuss matters of strategy and planning and to share information about the work of Affinity. Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees.

The Trust Board has considered the general guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in particular, its supplementary guidance on the advancement of religion for the public benefit.

Members of the Trust Board

Rev Dr Thomas Brand (Chair) (re-elected in March 2024)

Rev Paul Yeulett (re-elected in March 2024)

Rev David Meredith

Rev Mark Thomas

Rev John Stevens

Organisational structure

The Trust Board is responsible for the governance and policy for Affinity. The implementation of the policy and the day-to-day management is delegated to the Director, who is appointed by the Trust Board. Graham Nicholls has been in post as Director since 2018. The Director is supported in his responsibilities by an Executive Assistant.

Achievements and Performance

Throughout 2024, Affinity continued to provide advice, support, and services to its member churches and associate agencies across the United Kingdom and Ireland, fostering cooperation, mutual encouragement, and a united gospel witness.

We delivered resources and advice to churches, agencies, and individuals through our website, events, and publications. In 2024, we hosted free online symposiums on topics including death, conversion therapy, and AI. These accessible events equipped Christians to engage thoughtfully with complex cultural issues, and we plan to continue them as long as demand persists.

In April 2024, we launched a podcast featuring guests from Affinity's member churches and organisations. Covering topics such as church history, Christians in politics, and care for marginalised people, the podcast amplifies gospel ministry and fosters encouragement among evangelical Christians.

Affinity's initiatives are enriched by teams of volunteers from member organisations, who contribute expertise in theological advocacy, public engagement, and social issues. We are deeply grateful for their collaboration, which enhances our publications and events.

Affinity's two employees, the Director and Executive Assistant, ensure efficient and cost-effective administration of our operations. The Director continues to raise Affinity's profile through local and national media appearances, advocating for evangelical perspectives on issues like religious freedom and social justice.

Our biennial theological study conference remains a cornerstone for discussion among members. The next conference, scheduled for March 2025, will explore the doctrine of God under the theme 'Great God of Wonders,' equipping members to engage deeply with this foundational topic.

Through these activities, Affinity supports the spiritual and intellectual growth of Christians, fostering a vibrant gospel witness that benefits communities across the UK and Ireland.

Financial Review

In God's goodness, Affinity ended 2024 with a surplus of £20,499 (2023: £7,042). This surplus primarily results from ticket sales for the upcoming Study Conference, with related expenses yet to be incurred. We are thankful to God for providing the means to ensure financial sustainability throughout the year. The Trustees confirm they have exercised careful oversight of the charity's resources and provide the following overview.

Income

Income rose slightly in 2024 to £88,463 (2023: £85,616), driven by modest increases in donations from individual supporters, member churches, and agencies, alongside two generous grants. We are deeply grateful to our member churches, agencies, and individual supporters for their ongoing financial commitment, which enables Affinity to deliver its ministry effectively. We also continue to welcome a growing number of evangelical Christian organisations affiliating as agency members.

Expenditure

Expenditure decreased in 2024 to £68,722 (2023: £78,574), primarily due to the absence of costs for the biennial Theological Study Conference, which incurred significant venue expenses in 2023. Other expenses, such as charity management and communication costs, increased slightly to support rising costs and our growing activities.

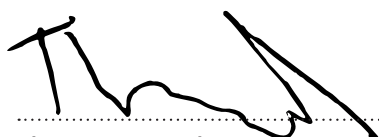
Reserves policy

Affinity aims to maintain free reserves (unrestricted funds less debtors) at a level sufficient to cover three months' general expenditure, allowing us to respond to unexpected developments. At the end of the year, unrestricted funds were £52,398 (2023: £31,898), equivalent to around eight months' general expenditure. A reasonable deficit budget has been planned for 2025, which will reduce this level of reserves.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved this Annual Report for 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Trust Board:



Thomas Brand
Chair

Date:

14 July 2025

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Affinity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Affinity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Aaron Chen

Address: 31 Syresham Gardens, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH16 3LB.

Date:

15 September 2025

Statement of financial activities

1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 funds £	Total 2023 funds £
Incoming resources					
Donations	2	73,752	235	73,987	68,413
Charitable Activities	3	13,838	0	13,838	13,830
Other	4	873	0	873	3,373
Total		88,463	235	88,698	85,616
Resources expended					
Charitable Activities	5	67,964	758	68,722	78,574
Total		67,964	758	68,722	78,574
Operating gain/(loss)		20,499	(523)	19,976	7,042
<i>Correcting error from previous year</i>		0	0	0	481
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		20,499	(523)	19,976	7,523
Total funds brought forward		31,898	0	31,898	24,375
Total funds carried forward		52,398	(523)	51,875	31,898

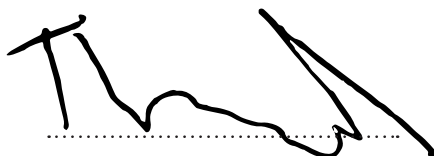
Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	1,556	
Current assets			
Debtors			10
Cash at bank and in hand		54,355	35,554
Creditors			
Supplier Accounts Payable		(710)	(2,025)
Payroll Liabilities		(3,327)	(1,640)
Total net assets		51,875	31,898
Total fund balances			
Unrestricted funds		52,398	31,898
Restricted funds	7	(523)	0
Funds provided		51,875	31,898

Approved by the trustees on: 14 July 2025

Signed on their behalf:



Thomas Brand
Chair

Notes to the financial statements

1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

1. Accounting principles

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

a) Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the historic cost basis of accounting.

b) Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Charity management costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided on fixed assets to write off the cost of the assets over their expected useful lives, at the following annual rate:

Computer equipment Straight Line over 4 years

2. Donations

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Corporate members		31,808	36,791
Church members		4,223	3,905
Agency members		9,345	9,070
Affiliates		4,271	3,683
Grants received		10,000	11,000
Other one off donations		13,151	3,398
Gift Aid reclaimed		1,190	566
		<u>73,987</u>	<u>68,413</u>

3. Charitable Activities - Income

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Sale of resources		140	3,543
Recuperated costs from Council meeting		905	185
Training and events		0	942
Theological Study Conference		12,108	9,060
Speaker honorarium		685	100
		<u>13,838</u>	<u>13,830</u>

4. Other income

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Miscellaneous income		340	0
Administrative secondment		0	3,325
Interest earned		533	48
		<u>873</u>	<u>3,373</u>

5. Charitable Activities - Expenditure

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Employee costs	a	40,007	38,102
Public and media engagement		7,325	6,005
Publications		1,453	5,877
Partnership initiatives		3,869	2,021
Training and events		197	1,461
Communications		8,766	1,920
Charity management costs		6,134	3,299
Theological Study Conference		972	19,889
		<u>68,722</u>	<u>78,574</u>

5a. Employee costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Payroll costs	38,673	36,831
Pension contributions	1,335	1,271
	<u>40,007</u>	<u>38,102</u>

The average number of persons employed during the year was 2 (2023 - 2).

6. Fixed tangible assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
<i>Cost</i>		
Brought forward	0	0
Additions	1,779	1,779
Carried forward 31 December 2024	1,779	1,779
<i>Accumulated depreciation</i>		
Brought forward	0	0
Changes for the year	223	223
Carried forward 31 December 2024	223	223
<i>Net book value</i>		
At 31 December 2024	1,556	1,556
At 31 December 2023	0	0

7. Restricted funds

Fund Name	Brought forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Carried forward
The Gospel Coalition UK	£ -	£ 235	£ 758	£ -	£ (523)

8. Custodian & charity trustees' remuneration

During the period payments of £119.80 (2023 - £256.36) were made to 1 trustee (2023 - 3 trustees) in respect of the reimbursement of travelling expenses incurred by trustees attending meetings or events on behalf of Affinity.

During 2024, 0 trustee(s) (2023 - 1) received remuneration (2023 - £300) for speaking at an Affinity event.

The trustees received no other remuneration in their capacity as trustees of the charity.