

Company Registration Number **CE026901**

Charity Registration Number **1196156**

B-LESS

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

B-LESS

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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2023.

Reference and Administration details

Registered charity name	B-Less
Charity registration number	1196156
Company registration number	CE026901
Principal office and registered office	11 Holywell Street Oxford OX1 3SA
Trustees	George Diwakar John-Mark Teeuwen Nicolas Wu Andrew Young
Independent Examiner	Andrew P Crossley FCA Baldwin Cox Limited Chartered Accountants 15 Foster Avenue Beeston Nottingham NG9 1AE

Objectives and Activities

B-Less exists to advance the Christian Faith among students in universities, theological colleges, training colleges, technical colleges and other similar institutions throughout Great Britain.

In pursuit of these objectives, in the year from November 2022 to October 2023, the charity has continued, and developed, its policy of recruiting, training, and deploying Christian masters and doctoral students to serve as encouragers, mentors, and evangelists in a variety of higher educational contexts. In the 2022-23 academic year, our pool of scholars grew from three to seven. Five of them pursued graduate degrees at Oxford University, one at the University Of Edinburgh and one Through London Seminary but based in Bath. Our scholars supported:

- Theology Network - A local faculty-based group convened by the Universities and College Christian Fellowship (UCCF) in Oxford and Edinburgh.
- The Search - A weekly outreach event organised by Oxford Intercollegiate Christian Union (OICCU) in Oxford.
- Rooted - the weekly student ministry of Oxford Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- Emanuel Students - the weekly student ministry of Emanuel Church in Bath.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

Objectives and Activities (continued)

The warm response to the scholarship scheme among students, churches and the parachurch ministries with whom we partnered in the 2021-22 academic year motivated further expansion for 2022-23, with five additional scholars being added to the team.

In their oversight of these developments, the trustees of B-Less have been guided by a focus on public benefit as laid out in the charitable objects registered with the Charity Commission.

B-Less scholars are volunteers, recruited through a rigorous process involving public advertisement of the opportunity, submission of application forms and soliciting of references, interviews, DBS checks, and safeguarding training. Scholarships are regulated by a signed, time-limited volunteer contracts. The B-Less associateship is a part-time staff position, subject to the same rigorous recruitment process, but regulated through a contract of employment.

Achievements and Performance

During the 2022-23 academic year, B-Less Scholars – supported and complemented by the charity general manager – made a significant impact in each of the ministry areas in which they were deployed. Scholars continued to assist with the reconstruction of student Christian ministry activities after covid, focussing in particular on Oxford College communities where groups had ceased to function, as well as expanding the faculty-specific support we offer in new directions.

With more scholars coming into the scheme, we were able to provide significantly more support to the Search and to the Oxford Intercollegiate Christian Union 'Main Event', providing college-based support throughout the academic year, and not just for one week of intense activity.

Undergraduate students who had themselves benefitted from the mentoring efforts of earlier generations of B-Less scholars applied for, and were accepted into, the scheme for the first time this year - a significant step towards establishing self-sustaining momentum for B-Less. We were also encouraged to see the gender balance and the range of subject specialisms represented among our scholars continue to broaden, with scholar studying International Development and Economics joining the team.

Ongoing contact with B-Less alumni has also been a source of encouragement. Several students who benefitted from B-Less activities and their precursors in previous years are now serving or training to serve in local churches and schools around the country.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

Financial Review

Donations to B-Less slightly undershot budgeted expenses in the year covered by this report, but the Charity was able to cover the shortfall from its extant reserves. The Charity continues to receive support from the USA and UK based donors. The ratio of local contributions has continued to increase as the work becomes more established although we have also been excited to add several new supporting churches in the USA through our growing links with Presbyterian Churches.

As a charity, we would like to get to the point where we can hold a reserve sufficient to cover operating expenses for three full months. In 2022-2023 this remained an aspiration, although balances in USA and UK based accounts combined rarely fell below the amount required to cover our operations for two months.

The Charity remains dependent to an extensive degree on one-off 'year-end' financial donations from the United States of America (22% of total income in 2022-23) which are much harder to predict than regular monthly commitments. We are continuing to work on developing our base of regular donors, making contacts with new churches and individuals in the USA and the UK and seeking to mobilise alumni where possible.


Structure, Governance and Management

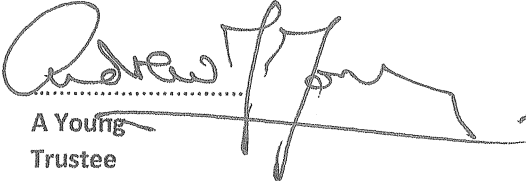
B-Less is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom. Eligibility for trusteeship and procedures for appointing trustees are set out in detail in our charity constitution. It is our policy that new trustees can be appointed, and existing trustees reappointed, for a maximum term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees and that no trustee may serve for longer than three consecutive terms.

All trustees are expected to complete trustee-specific safeguarding training provided by our partner organisation, ThirtyOne:Eight.

B-Less works closely in partnership with the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) who convene and supervise many of the groups and events in which B-Less scholars and associates serve. Local and national UCCF staff are represented on B-Less selection panels and placement supervision is undertaken with input from local UCCF leaders.

Prepared by and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 28/08/2024


.....
N Wu
Trustee


.....
A Young
Trustee

B-LESS

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF B-LESS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 October 2023, which are set out on pages 6 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 the Trust'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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.



Andrew P Crossley FCA
Baldwin Cox Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Foster Avenue
Beeston
Nottingham
NG9 1AE

27 August 2024

B-LESS

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**


		Year Ended 31 October 2023 £	Period Ended 31 October 2022 £
	Notes		
Incoming resources			
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	138,149	126,719
Investments	3	150	6
Total		138,299	126,725
Resources expended			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	33,114	15,209
Other	4	105,413	96,673
Total		138,527	111,882
Net (expenditure)/income		(228)	14,843
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		14,843	-
Total funds carried forward	10	14,615	14,843

B-LESS**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	2,357	2,773
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	8,416	6,955
Cash at bank and in hand		5,746	6,233
Total current assets		14,162	13,188
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,904)	(1,118)
Net Current Assets		12,258	12,070
Total Net Assets		14,615	14,843
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	10	14,615	14,843

The financial statements on pages 6 to 12 were approved by the trustees on 28/08/2024 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
N Wu
Trustee


.....
A Young
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Charities Act 2011.

2 Accounting policies

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

IT equipment	25% on cost
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Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

Accounting period

The accounts cover the year to 31 October 2023. The comparatives cover the period from its inception on 29 September 2021 to 31 October 2022. It was recognised as a charity on 14 October 2021 and commenced its activities on 29 November 2021.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

3 Analysis of income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations and legacies		
Donations and gifts	138,149	126,719
Investments		
Bank interest	150	6

All income received in the period was unrestricted.

4 Analysis of expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Books	1,780	1,678
Payments to scholars	30,898	10,817
Training	-	857
DBS checks	436	303
Contracts for scholars	-	1,554
	33,114	15,209
Other		
General manager remuneration	53,317	46,958
Rent	31,250	27,000
Other property costs	7,400	6,662
Computer costs	996	2,360
Travelling costs	1,203	2,796
Subscriptions	609	587
Legal and professional fees	192	1,670
Accountancy	3,531	4,342
Bank charges	102	78
Transfer charges	1,872	885
Insurance	827	676
Printing and stationery	2,237	1,210
Telephone costs	180	165
Sundry expenses	603	360
Depreciation	1,094	924
	105,413	96,673

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

5 Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	62,900	51,983
Social security costs	1,258	-
Pension costs	2,059	1,125
	<u>66,217</u>	<u>53,108</u>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

The total amount paid to key management personnel (including trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity for the year was £53,317 (2022: £46,958).

The average monthly number of persons employed by the company during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

6 Defined contribution pension scheme costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amount of contributions recognised in the SoFA as an expense	<u>2,059</u>	<u>1,125</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

7 Tangible fixed assets

IT equipment
£

Cost

At 1 November 2022	3,697
Additions	678
At 31 October 2023	<u>4,375</u>

Depreciation and impairments

At 1 November 2022	924
Depreciation charged in the year	1,094
At 31 October 2023	<u>2,018</u>

Net book value

At 31 October 2023	<u>2,357</u>
At 31 October 2022	<u>2,773</u>

8 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations pending transfer to UK	8,148	6,795
Prepayments	268	160
	<u>8,416</u>	<u>6,955</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	1,440	1,068
Other creditors	464	50
	<u>1,904</u>	<u>1,118</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

10 Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 October 2023 £
General funds	14,843	138,299	(138,527)	14,615