

Company Registration Number **CE026901**

Charity Registration Number **1196156**

B-LESS

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

B-LESS

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2024.

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 Nov 2023 to Oct 2024, 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 2023-24 academic year, our pool of scholars grew from seven to eleven. Ten of them pursued graduate degrees at Oxford University 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.
- The Search – A weekly outreach event organised by Oxford Intercollegiate Christian Union (OICCU) in Oxford.
- A relaunch initiative for St. John's College Christian Union in Oxford.
- A new initiative to support Christian social science in the University of 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 2024**

Objectives and Activities (continued)

The warm response to the scholarship scheme among students, churches, and the parachurch ministries with whom we partnered in its first two years motivated further expansion for 2023-24, with four 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 2023-24 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.

Covid significantly inhibited the development and transfer of institutional knowledge in student-led initiatives like the Christian Union movement, and B-Less scholars with experience and confidence developed in the pre-Covid world have been particularly significant in reestablishing the work.

2023-24 was primarily a year of consolidation in terms of B-Less scholarship placements, focussing on areas where the team had established a presence in previous years. As the year developed, however, the recruitment cycle for 2024-25 scholarships highlighted the scope for continued extension of our ministry model. In Oxford, opportunities emerged to support undergrads studying in new subject areas including History and STEM subjects, to support the existing ministry of the Christian Union to international students, to support student work projects across a range of churches, and to explore the role of Christian mentors in secular student society contexts. Awareness of B-Less also helped to highlight the importance of graduate mentors and encouragers for undergraduate theologians on a national scale and we were invited to assist in the establishment of a UCCF Theology Network group in Durham.

Increasing the pool of scholars to 11 significantly increased the visibility of the scheme, especially in Oxford, beginning to normalise the idea of dedicated, year-round graduate support for college Christian Union groups, providing plausible and accessible encouragement for struggling Christians significantly and increasing the effectiveness of the college-helper programme for the UCCF Main Event.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

Financial Review

Donations to B-Less exceed budgeted expenses in the period covered by this report by a healthy margin allowing the Charity to replenish its reserves, moving us closer to our policy objective of consistently holding a reserve sufficient to cover operating expenses for three full months.

B-Less continues to receive support from US 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 US through our growing links with Presbyterian Churches.

The charity remains dependent to an extensive degree on one-off 'year-end' financial donations from the United States (34% of total income in 2023-24) 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 US 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



N Wu
Trustee



A Young
Trustee

B-LESS

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF B-LESS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 October 2024, 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**

14 August 2025

B-LESS**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

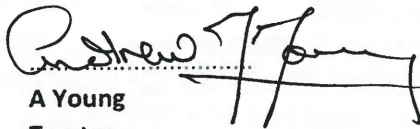
		Year Ended 31 October 2024 £	Year Ended 31 October 2023 £
	Notes		
Incoming resources			
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	155,590	138,149
Investments	3	316	150
Total		155,906	138,299
Resources expended			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	36,763	33,114
Other	4	106,333	105,413
Total		143,096	138,527
Net (expenditure)/income		12,810	(228)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		14,615	14,843
Total funds carried forward	10	27,425	14,615

B-LESS**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	1,611	2,357
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	14,437	8,416
Cash at bank and in hand		13,481	5,746
Total current assets		27,918	14,162
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(2,104)	(1,904)
Net Current Assets		25,814	12,258
Total Net Assets		27,425	14,615
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	10	27,425	14,615

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


N Wu
Trustee


A Young
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

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.

B-LESS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024****3 Analysis of income**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations and legacies		
Donations and gifts	155,590	138,149
Investments		
Bank interest	316	150

All income received in the period was unrestricted.

4 Analysis of expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Books	1,421	1,780
Payments to scholars	34,816	30,898
Training	-	-
DBS checks	526	436
Contracts for scholars	-	-
	36,763	33,114
Other		
General manager remuneration	50,000	53,317
Rent	31,917	31,250
Other property costs	6,416	7,400
Computer costs	1,830	996
Travelling costs	4,992	1,203
Subscriptions	976	609
Legal and professional fees	-	192
Accountancy	2,390	3,531
Bank charges	103	102
Transfer charges	1,689	1,872
Insurance	844	827
Postage, printing and stationery	1,963	2,237
Telephone costs	180	180
Sundry expenses	1,823	603
Depreciation	1,210	1,094
	106,333	105,413

B-LESS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024****5 Staff costs**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	62,900	62,900
Social security costs	1,170	1,258
Pension costs	1,700	2,059
	<u>65,770</u>	<u>66,217</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 £50,000 (2023: £53,317).

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

6 Defined contribution pension scheme costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense	<u>1,700</u>	<u>2,059</u>

B-LESS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024****7 Tangible fixed assets****IT equipment
£****Cost**

At 1 November 2023 4,375

Additions 464

At 31 October 2024 4,839

Depreciation and impairments

At 1 November 2023 2,018

Depreciation charged in the year 1,210

At 31 October 2024 3,228

Net book value

At 31 October 2024 1,611

At 31 October 2023 2,357

8 Debtors**2024
£****2023
£**

Donations pending transfer to UK 13,604 8,148

Prepayments 833 268

14,437 8,416

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**2024
£****2023
£**

Accruals 1,640 1,440

Other creditors 464 464

2,104 1,904

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

10 Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 October 2024 £
General funds	14,615	155,906	(143,096)	27,425