

Charity registration number: 1196611

Christ Central Workington

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Christ Central Workington

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Christ Central Workington
Reference and Administration Details

Charity name	Christ Central Workington
Charity registration number	1196611
Registered Office	The Bridge Centre Central Square Workington Cumbria CA14 3NG
Trustees	Mr Ian Ruddick, Chair Mrs Catherine Atkinson Mr Edward Clarkson-Williams Mr Michael Renouf
Secretary	Mrs Sarah Moore
Treasurer	Mr Michael Renouf
Bankers	Clydesdale Bank 82 English Street Carlisle Cumbria CA3 8HP Yorkshire Bank 154-158 Kensington High Street London W8 7RL Saffron Building Society Saffron House 1a Market Street Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1HX

Christ Central Workington
Reference and Administration Details

Independent Examiner

Mr Tony Hindmoor BFP FCA
Armstrong Watson LLP
Carleton House
136 Gray Street
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 2LU

Christ Central Workington

Trustees Report

Trust information

Details of trustees and other information are set out on pages 1 & 2 and form part of this report. This report and accounts cover the period 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a CIO governed by a constitution with trust deed dated 15 August 2021. It was granted status on 16 November 2021 and was fully operational, with the main transfer of assets, from 1 April 2022. On completion of all transfers, the previous unincorporated charity (number 1052191) was dissolved on 19 December 2023.

The charity has a Council comprising the trustees. New trustees are elected by the Council.

In 2023 there were two part-time employees (not trustees) and many volunteers.

The charity is in fellowship with Christ Central Churches Worldwide, which is linked to Newfrontiers International Trust Ltd. Christ Central Workington is part of Churches Together in Workington & District, which is then part of Churches Together in Cumbria. Christ Central Workington is part of the Evangelical Alliance.

Objectives and activities

The objects are for the benefit of the public in such ways and in such parts of the UK or the world as the Charity Trustees from time to time may think fit (1) to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Faith, (2) to relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by provision of funds, goods or services or support of any kind.

Christ Central Workington operates and maintains the Bridge Centre in Central Square, Workington, providing a place for worship, making facilities available for other community activities, including providing the Workington distribution centre for the North Lakes Foodbank.

The Charity Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements during the year

A place of worship

Sunday Meetings

Normally, Sundays start in the café area with coffee and the opportunity to socialise and get to know one another in an informal setting. Then we move into the large hall and have a time of lively worship. People are encouraged to bring testimonies of encouraging events in their lives or to share requests for prayer. A teaching time follows, which outlines principles of the Christian faith and how it relates to our everyday lives, then we enjoy more socialising with more refreshments. Once a month we all have lunch together and invite friends to join us.

A number of international people have joined Christ Central over the last years, and this has added variety in our worship and friendships while extending our family across a number of different cultures, customs and expressions of the one Christianity. Specifically, we have started a separate Malayalam speaking meeting, which attracts other Malayalam speaking families and friends across the Cumberland region.

Children's work

Through 2022 and 2023 children's work has expanded significantly, with increased numbers of families coming and inviting their friends as well. Our children enjoy being part of our worship times and have also performed various enactments from the bible. We seek to facilitate our young people to gain relevant help and teaching. By the end of 2023 there were four separate groups, covering age

2 to infants year 2, juniors years 3-6, secondary years 7&8 and secondary years 9-13. The situation is expanding and requires more space, resources and recruitment of helpers.

Small Groups

Through 2023, small groups were partly on hold as we piloted a small group with different emphasis – seeking more specifically to invite friends who would not perhaps attend church normally but would attend a low-key friendship group.

A fortnightly Seekers meeting has been vital in shaping our understanding of the way forward and has reassured us that it is “God who builds His church”. It’s a time for seeking God, praying and listening for what God is saying to us.

The fortnightly Prayer Meeting has been less frequent in 2023 (partly replaced by the Seekers meeting) but it has been encouraging to look back and realise how many of our prayers over the years are now being realised.

A prayer group, meeting each week, uses Open Doors material to pray for Christians around the world, particularly where they are most persecuted.

Other smaller groups of 2s and 3s meet regularly for bible study, prayer and encouragement.

A men’s breakfast meets once a month, usually in Monroe’s bar in the Carnegie Theatre, gathering men from other churches and those with no church background.

Lunch Club

The over-55s Lunch Club used to meet once a month and offered a good two-course meal at a reasonable price to between 40 and 50 people. After closing Lunch Club in March 2020, it was opened again in November 2021. We had lost quite a few to Covid-19, deaths and ill health so numbers were down and it was difficult to get regular volunteers. Lunch club stopped in April 2022.

Leadership Team

Mike Renouf has continued in leadership over the year, providing pastoral support, regular teaching, and direction for the church family. He has been specifically assisted by Rob & Jo Horn via Whitehaven Grace Church, together with Ian Ruddick. A core group of six has been formed and five were able to attend a Christ Central Churches leaders’ Conference. A wider leadership team has been assembled to manage the many practical and operational aspects of church life and management of facilities.

Churches Together in Workington and District

Christ Central has been a key member, seeking to support and encourage other churches in the area. We are regular attendees at the meetings and have been involved in the events the group has organised. We enjoy the friendship and mutual trust among several of the local churches, and we look forward to working more together for the good of our town and its people.

Toddler Group

Toddler Group has not restarted since we closed it due to the lockdown in March 2020. It was hugely popular and controlling numbers and ensuring safety was a challenge. We had hoped to restart the group on a smaller scale, with a different focus but this has not been the case as we have redirected resources into other activities for now.

Foodbank

Throughout 2023, Foodbank has continued to operate from the Bridge Centre. Most weeks we were feeding 30-40 people. We were aware of food pantries and other emergency provision available in the area and were able to ensure that needy people could access all that was available locally.

Over the school holidays at Easter, in the summer, and at Christmas, Foodbank gave out Kids Lunch Packs to families on benefits with children in receipt of Pupil Premium.

Making facilities available for other community activities

The Bridge Centre has been made available for use by the following organisations

- Alcoholics Anonymous meet weekly
- Our partnership with Victim Support continues. The Turning the Spotlight programme uses our premises for up to three courses almost continually, as they seek to prevent domestic violence locally
- The local GP practices hold team training sessions and other meetings
- Parkinson's Carers meet regularly
- Hospice at Home West Cumbria use the building regularly
- Cumbria County Council / Cumberland Council have used the building for a local government election and an exposition, and they will use the venue again
- The NSPCC used the Bridge centre for a Childhood Day.
- Workington's Carnegie Singers used the venue for their Christmas concert and have asked to use it again for this event in 2024.

Trustees

The trustees met 4 times in 2023 covering

- financial and budgeting reviews against intended and future activities
- employment and wages
- training
- donations to other organisations
- away day and away weekend
- New policies (e.g., complaints, conflict of interest, risk management and its register) policy reviews and risk assessment reviews
- maintenance, new equipment and technology enhancements
- getting more space in the building, short term and long term,
- town building projects
- wider leadership team

Future plans

We plan to consolidate and continue what we have done in 2023, including looking for ways to continue our benefit to our community. We still actively pursue assistance to maintain and extend our activities and effectiveness.

A number of organisations have indicated that they wish to continue using the Bridge Centre in 2024.

We have an increasing number of youth in Christ Central and are looking to provide resources and space for these age groups, not only on Sundays but during the week

We are exploring gaining more space in the building (using loft areas) with the help of a local architect and design company.

We have realised the benefit of away days and weekends as a means to getting to know everyone better and inviting friends and new people to benefit from the Christ Central family. 2024 will have an away weekend in March and probably another away day in the autumn, with other potential activities in the summertime.

Financial Review

2022 figures only cover 9 months of CIO operation from 01/04/2022, when transfer of assets occurred from the previous unincorporated charity (number 1052191). The 2022 figures listed therefore only relate to CIO and not the whole of 2022, which included the previous charity.

Income and expenditure for 2023 (and 2022 in brackets for CIO/both charities) were £63,237 (£25,455/£38,968) and £41,193 (£23,818/£41,065). This gave a net surplus of £22,044 (£1,637/deficit £2,097).

Current assets at 31 December, apart from the Bridge Centre, were £96,496 (£74,452), of which £67,766 (£49,260) were held in savings accounts, £22,158 (£20,237) were held in current accounts and petty cash was £146 (£109). There were no funds in deficit.

Introduction of a Malayalam-speaking worship group, raising separate offerings, has led to the introduction of a designated fund in 2023 covering this group.

A one-off gift of £12,000 was granted to Christ Central Workington early in 2023. The gift and the Malayalam offering, together with some generous donors, has increased specific income in 2023 significantly. Income in 2024 may well be less than in 2023.

While overall expenditure between 2022 and 2023 is similar, cost increases in 2023 relate to higher wages, higher contributions for visiting speakers, paying for more training of volunteers and paying for more administrative assistance.


Reserves

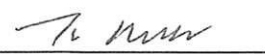
The charity has a policy on reserves, covering 6 months operating costs, review and termination/windup considerations. At 31 December 2023, the charity held funds of £96,496 that will cover operating costs and

- payment of further employment, as required
- specific projects either in the community or abroad
- building, projects, maintenance and repairs contingencies

The full accounts and independent examiner's report are presented in the following pages.

Approved by the trustees on 02 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by


Mr Michael Renouf


Mr Ian Ruddick

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts for the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The 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
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

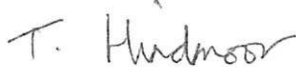
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records comply with accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Tony Hindmoor BFP FCA
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Chartered Accountants
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Christ Central Workington
Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 31 December

	Note	Undesignated £	Designated £	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary	1	51,249	3,212	54,461	21,243
Investment		3,509		3,509	1,097
Charitable activities	2	4,550		4,550	2,978
Other		717		717	137
Total		60,025	3,212	63,237	25,455
Resources expended					
Charitable expenditure	3	36,854	580	37,434	22,120
Administrative costs	4	3,759		3,759	1,698
Total		40,613	580	41,193	23,818
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) resources		19,412	2,632	22,044	1,637
Reconciliation					
Transfer from old charity (1052191)					588,660
Balance brought forward		590,297	0	590,297	0
Balance carried forward		609,709	2,632	612,341	590,297

**Christ Central Workington
Balance Sheet at 31 December**

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
The Bridge Centre		480,180		480,180	
The Bridge Centre contents		35,665		35,665	
Total fixed assets	1		515,845		515,845
Current Assets					
Saffron Building Society		67,766		49,260	
Clydesdale Bank		6,426		4,846	
Yorkshire Bank		22,158		20,237	
Cash in hand		146		109	
Net current assets			96,496		74,452
Net assets			612,341		590,297
Accumulated funds					
Transfer from old charity (1052191)			0		588,660
Balance at 1 January			590,297		0
Surplus/(deficit) for year			22,044		1,637
Balance at 31 December			612,341		590,297

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

Michael Renouf 

Date 08 May 2024

Ian Ruddick 

Date 8/5/2024

Christ Central Workington
Notes to the Financial Statements at 31 December

Note	Undesignated		Designated	2023 Total		2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Voluntary income							
Church general giving		33,298		33,298		17,361	
Malayalam Worship			2,570	2,570			
Tax reclaimed		5,821	642	6,463		3,832	
Donations/grants		12,130		12,130		50	
Total		<u>51,249</u>	<u>3,212</u>	<u>54,461</u>		<u>21,243</u>	
2 Charitable activities income							
Hire of rooms		4,534		4,534		2,602	
Refreshments		16		16			
Lunch club						46	
Day/Weekend away						330	
Total		<u>4,550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,550</u>		<u>2,978</u>	
3 Charitable expenditure							
Ministry							
Salaries	4,052			4,052		2,756	
NI & Tax	0			0		494	
Ministry expenses	396			396		198	
Visiting speakers	11,258		400	11,658		6,287	
Ministry total		15,706	400		16,106		9,735
Charitable activities							
Refreshments	261		180	441		7	
Lunch club						29	
Youth work	176			176			
Donations & grants	5,630			5,630		4,749	
Day/Weekend away	2,684			2,684		495	
Church courses/training	1,745			1,745			
Charitable activities admin	2,003			2,003			
Sundries	1,502			1,502		541	
Charitable activities total		14,001	180		14,181		5,821
The Bridge Centre							
Utilities	3,131			3,131		2,121	
Maintenance & Repairs	742			742		3,008	
Cleaning & Consumables	347			347		264	
Equipment	1,415			1,415		115	
Insurance	1,512			1,512		1,056	
The Bridge Centre total		7,147	0		7,147		6,564
Total		<u>36,854</u>	<u>580</u>	<u>37,434</u>		<u>22,120</u>	
4 Administrative costs							
Independent Examination		864		864		388	
Changing to a CIO		245		245		312	
Charity administrative services		2,003		2,003		588	
Telephone/Broadband/Website		433		433		319	
Stationery/office		214		214		91	
Total		<u>3,759</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,759</u>		<u>1,698</u>	
5 Accounting policies							
i) The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis							
ii) Fixed assets are shown at the historic cost							