

Chairs Report on 2023

2023 was the busiest year so far for our charity. The Twice weekly drop-in ran on all but about 4 weeks of the year. The exact numbers we have supported directly or indirectly is not easy to determine. We know in 2022 we made donations of clothing and toiletries over 500 times and I'm sure this was not much different in 2022.

At this AGM I want to pay a special tribute to our faithful volunteers. With the minimum of red tape, we have involved a wide variety of helpers including those who were themselves Asylum seekers to help sort and distribute clothing, make refreshments, entertain children and offer a kind word of welcome to those who walk through the door. Throughout the year there was a remarkable unity of spirit in the volunteering with everyone finding their niche and doing whatever needed to be done.

Donations of pre used clothing came in from a wide variety of sources along with financial gifts. Bulk buys of underwear, joggers and T shirts, often totalling around £1000 a delivery were brought in from the best value suppliers we could find. At the Drop in we had Craft activities for children and adults, Informal conversational English and benefitted from help in maintaining our gardens and buildings. We celebrated the Persian New Year festival "Norwuz" with the traditional meal and festivities.

Outside the drop in there was Football skills training with Luton Town Community Trust and our team won the cup competition in Bedford. A group came to watch the mighty hatters lose a preseason friendly but I'm afraid we were not able to get first team match tickets. We had visits from our MPs, a Sunday Times journalist researching a story about child migrants, and our Bishop. Even the Papal Nuncio met with a group of those we had been supporting during his visit to Luton.

In the winter of 2023, we joined others in an effort to provide Winter clothing. Coats came via local Round Table groups, and we worked in partnership with staff from Luton Borough Council and other agencies to make sure everyone had the basics they needed to stay warm and dry. At its peak Luton was hosting over 1300 people across 5 hotels and hundreds more in self-catering accommodation.

Through the rest of the year we received donations from a variety of sources. Toiletries came from Harpenden Hygiene. Suitcases came from Luton Airport. SIM cards were obtained from Vodaphone. Luton Foodbank provided kettle packs of food that could be made up with hot water. These were distributed for families with children who could not stomach the

hotel food. In the first part of the year, we matched people up with bicycles from the Luton Borough Councils scheme to restore abandoned cycles. The biggest donation of 2023 came from an unexpected source. The Latter Day Saints (formerly known as the Mormons) provided £15,000 worth of donations comprising essential wear, Primark vouchers, toiletries and some board games.

Many of those we have supported have needed a lot more than just clothing. Debbie, Susan and others provided advocacy support which involved giving advice and helping to arrange appointments that the hotel welfare staff should really have been taking the initiative on. The pressure of supporting people with complex cases meant they both stepped back from the drop in during the year but all those volunteering have sought to signpost and support individuals and families to get access to the services they were entitled to.

During the year we undertook some safeguarding training that was developed with the needs of Asylum seeker support in mind. About 12 of our volunteers undertook this in-person training that had been developed by Courtney Cuffy from Bedfordshire Care4Calais. We had several conversations about safeguarding and safety of volunteers and Asylum seekers at our drop in and remained alert to possible issues and disclosures. Where needed, we liaised with Clearsprings, the company then overseeing the Chiltern and Skyline hotels and with the Luton Borough Council Safeguarding team. Two cases were escalated during the year and individuals were moved to alternative accommodation as a result.

We have supported Asylum seekers of all faiths and none. At Easter 2023 we had 23 baptisms with a further 8 later in the year. The Diocese hosted an Iranian meal for over 80 Persian Christians the following day on Easter Monday. Around a year later there was an outcry that the church was helping people “game the system” and we were quoted in the national press. Our view was and is that while there may be one or two who were not genuine, the vast majority wanted to publicly profess their Christian faith which they had in Iran or for a few, that they had embraced here. Again and again the freedom to believe was mentioned as one of the most powerful factors in their new lived here.

The most powerful and simplest impact of the work has been that Asylum seekers have had the experience of being treated kindly. In a bureaucratic system that has been hostile and in the hotels that have not been much better, Asylum seekers have been further demonised after difficult and dangerous journeys to get here often fleeing from danger in their own countries. We know that so many have left loved ones with the hope of one day being reunited.

As I write this report, the faces and names of some of those that have passed through the building come to mind. Bonds have been quickly formed and the repeated “goodbyes and good luck” have at times felt like tiny multiple bereavements. If we are remembered as being the side of Britain that showed kindness – then I think that is no small contribution to what I hope will be a new and productive life in this country that benefits all of us.

Revd Canon David Kesterton

Chair of Trustees

All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project

Trustees' Report and Accounts

For the period-ended 31 December 2023

Charity Registration No. 1197642

All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project Contents

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All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project

Trustees' Annual Report 2023

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project
Charity Registration Number 1197642
Report for the financial period 24th January to 31st December 2023
Address All Saints Vicarage
Shaftesbury Road
Luton
LU4 8AH

Charity Trustees Rev David Kesterton (Chairman)
Sandra Miller
Rev Kate Lomax
Rev Lynne Sandle
Susan Kesterton

Structure, governance and management

Constitution Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Governing Document Constitution dated 22nd January 2022

Objectives and activities

Objects of the charity To provide practical and emotional support Asylum Seekers housed in Luton, mainly in local Hotels.

To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or who are aged or sick or disabled and to relieve the distress caused hereby.

Summary of activities The charity runs a twice weekly drop in where clothing and toiletries can be accessed and the provision of a social space with refreshments.

Advocacy and support is provided by a number of trained volunteers. The charity works closely with partners including Care4Calais, Red Cross and Discover Islam.

Volunteers The charity relies heavily on volunteers to carry out its activities.

Financial review

Reserves policy The charity aims to keep sufficient unallocated funds in reserve in order to maintain its charitable work and meet its regular commitments for about three months regardless of levels of income, and in order to be able to undertake occasional projects involving larger than normal expenditure.

Current reserves £6,889 (Unrestricted current assets)

Declaration

Declaration The trustees declare that they have approved the above trustees' report. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature

Full name

Position

Date

Signature

Full name

Position

Date

All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project
Statement of Financial Activities
for the period ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total for 2023 £
Donations		4,027	-	4,027
Grants received		-	5,435	5,435
Total Donations and Legacies		4,027	5,435	9,462
Total incoming resources		4,027	5,435	9,462
Project costs		4,207	6,544	10,751
Hall Hire		-	-	-
Gross Wages	4	-	2,828	2,828
Volunteer Training		700	-	700
Total Project Costs		4,907	9,372	14,279
Other governance costs		500	-	500
Total Governance Costs		500	-	500
Total Resources Used		5,407	9,372	14,779
Net Movement in funds		(1,380)	(3,937)	(5,317)
Total funds brought forward		8,279	3,937	12,216
Transfers between funds		-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		6,899	-	6,899

All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2023
Charity Reg Number: 1197642

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total as at 31/12/2023 £
Current assets				
Cash at bank & in hand		7,399	-	7,399
Total assets		7,399	-	7,399
Current liabilities				
Creditors & Accruals	6	500	-	500
Net current assets		6,899	-	6,899
Total assets less current liabilities		6,899	-	6,899
Net assets		6,899	-	6,899
Funds of the charity				
Unrestricted funds	8	6,899	-	6,899
Restricted funds	7	-	-	-
Total funds		6,899	-	6,899

Approved by the Trustees on:

Signed by, on behalf of all the Trustees:

Name:

Date: 14/08/2024

All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project
Notes to the Accounts
for the period ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) 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.

2 Accounting Policies

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources are included in the accounts when the charity becomes entitled to the donation, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Tax reclaimed on donations is included in the accounts at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Volunteers - the value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment income i.e. bank interest is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Liabilities are generally recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure and the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Governance Costs include costs of preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustees meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees.

3 Accountants Fees

Included in these accounts is £500 (2022 - £500) in fees paid for the examination of these accounts.

4 Employees

Number of employees	2023	2022
Charitable activities	1.0	1.0
Total	1.0	1.0

Staff Costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross Salaries	2,828	743
Employer's NI Contribution	-	-
Employer's Pension Contribution (defined contribution scheme)	-	-
Total	2,828	743

There were no employees who received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

5 Related Party Transactions

The church had the following transactions with related parties

Services from related charities

Name of Charity	Relationship	2023 £	2022 £
All Saints with St Peter. PCC	Mutual trustees	-	6,000
Total		-	6,000

6 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year

Accruals	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals and deferred income	500	7,438
Accruals and deferred income	500	7,438

7 Restricted Funds

Fund Name Purpose

Asylum Seekers Support To provide practical and emotional support to Refugees and Asylum Seekers housed in Luton.

Movement on Restricted Funds in the year:

£	Opening Balance	Income in 2023	Expenditure in 2023	Transfer between funds 2023	Closing Balance
Asylum Seekers Support	3,937	5,435	(9,372)	-	-
Total	3,937	5,435	(9,372)	-	-

8 Unrestricted and Designated Funds

Fund Name Purpose

General Unrestricted To spend at the discretion of the charity trustees for any purposes of the charity.

Movement on Unrestricted Funds in the year:

£	Opening Balance	Income in 2023	Expenditure in 2023	Transfer between funds 2023	Closing Balance
General Unrestricted	8,279	4,027	(5,407)	-	6,899
Total	8,279	4,027	(5,407)	-	6,899

All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project

Independent examiners report to the trustees of

All Saints Luton Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Project

Charity Registration No. 1197642

I report on the accounts for the period ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

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 period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £25,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, 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 Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- 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 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 next statement.

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 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the 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 a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Mark Plane

Name: Mark Plane

Relevant professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: 2nd Floor, Apex House

30-34 Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2RD

14/08/2024