

CONNECT EXMINSTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1199203

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-06-07

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Vicarage
Milbury Lane
Exminster
Exeter
EX6 8AD

Phone 07704172798

Email info@connectexminster.co.uk

Website connectexminster.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VALUES AND TENETS OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION IN EXMINSTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY RAISING AWARENESS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, VALUES AND PRACTICES, THROUGH HOLDING MEETINGS, OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE IN THE COMMUNITY.TO RELIEVE POVERTY BY THE MAKING OF GRANTS AND THE PROVISION OF ITEMS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF EXMINSTER.TO ADVANCE EDUCATION, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF WORKSHOPS AND COURSES IN THE COMMUNITY TO HELP PEOPLE ENHANCE THEIR LIFE SKILLS IN FAMILY RELATED AREAS LED BY LOCAL PROFESSIONALS.NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 AND SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008.

Activities: We serve the community of Exminster through providing local events, workshops and services, as well as financial support through small grants.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£19,305	£11,551	-	-
2024-12-31	£11,467	£6,506	-	-
2023-12-31	£11,768	£11,768	-	-
2022-12-31	£17,719	£12,380	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Vanessa Jane Pestrige	Chair	2022-06-07
Abigail Joanne Lucy Wheatley		2023-02-01
James Webster		2024-09-25
Louis Wooderson Leigh		2026-01-27
Lynne Hollis		2022-06-07
Michaela Joanne Petherick		2022-06-07
Philip Geoffrey MacQueen Pullen		2022-06-07
Susan Pike		2026-01-27

CONNECT EXMINSTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1199203

Accounts

Connect Exminster CIO

(registered charity number 1199203)

Financial Statements and Chairs Report
for the year ending 31st December 2025

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7-8	Independent examiner's report

Chair's Report 2025 - Connect Exminster CIO

Background

Connect Exminster was set up at the beginning of 2022, previously running as a Christian community group since 2018, carrying out its activities with the oversight of Exminster Parish Church. It now runs with a small group of trustees and a large volunteer team.

Vision

As per our constitution our objects are:

- To advance the Christian faith for the public benefit, in accordance with the values and tenets of the Anglican Communion, in Exminster and the surrounding area, in particular but not exclusively by raising awareness of Christian beliefs, values and practices, through holding meetings, outreach and pastoral care in the community.
- To relieve poverty by the making of grants and the provision of items within the community of Exminster.
- To advance education, through the provision of workshops and courses in the community to help people enhance their life skills including within family related areas led by local professionals.

Chairperson's report

I am delighted to be able to present this Chair's report, detailing the highlights that Connect Exminster has been able to accomplish in 2025. We continue to be overseen by Exeter Diocese for our Safeguarding practices and work closely with the local churches and school. 2025 saw some significant donations to Connect which we have budgeted to spend in 2026. We were delighted to be able to provide a grant to St. Martin's Church to appoint a part time Children and Families Lead who is engaged with the wider community and developing programmes of support for outreach, pastoral care and life skills workshops. £3000 of our funds have been allocated to support a new Children and Families support role within the village.

We have continued to serve the community providing community connecting events, workshops and small grants and in this report I would like to highlight the main areas that we have been able to use our resources to make a difference. We have also been able to share our space with other community groups including music groups, a drumming workshop and the Exminster Preschool.

Faith Based & Community Events/Workshops

Throughout the year we have run a range of community activities open to anyone from Exminster to join. Fortnightly on Sundays we continue to host an informal discussion-based space to explore themes of faith and spirituality. These events often involve food together. We were delighted to support the village Summer Fayre in the vicarage garden, funding their bouncy castle and kids activities. Everything was free to access to ensure no-one was excluded and it was a wonderful event connecting the community together.

We have continued to run workshops and coffee mornings for the community. These help people learn new skills while connecting with new people to alleviate loneliness. This year, for the first



time we also partnered with St. Martin's church to offer a three day holiday club in the summer holidays. This had 40 children attend each day engaging in a range of faith based activities as well as life skills learning.

Refugee Support & Hardship Fund



Many Ukrainian families have chosen to settle in our village having come over at the start of the war. Initially we prioritised providing significant support to help with learning the language and accessing vital services, as well as providing

opportunities to meet with other Ukrainians for support. Now all our families are living independently (not in the homes of hosts) and we have identified the greatest need is for connection with the wider community - where they can develop their English and form friendships outside of their Ukrainian friendships. To that end we have continued to run monthly coffee mornings, where our Ukrainian community can meet with the wider community. We also had a wonderful evening Christmas wreath making, partnering Ukrainian and UK families together.



In addition we have continued to award small grants through our pastoral support fund, to be able to help those in Exminster who find themselves in financial difficulties. This is for anyone within the community not only our refugees. With thanks to the generosity of Exminster parish Council awarding us £1000 in 2024 we have been able to increase the support we can offer. With grants issued at the end of 2024 and in 2025 this grant has now been spent. Within our unrestricted fund, the trustees have allocated a further £500 should needs arise. The local schools, GP and community

groups will often signpost people in need of support to us for this.

Eco Refill

We have continued to be able to open our Exminster's Eco Refill every Saturday morning. Our vision for this was to be another place of community connection, run by volunteers, that also would help the community make environmentally friendly choices. We highlighted that for many in our community, eco products were unaffordable so buying these products in bulk for wholesale prices and selling them on at costs (no profit) we hoped to encourage more people to

make these choices. We now have a wonderful community of volunteers where friendships have also grown and often regulars come in and enjoy a cuppa and a chat as well as getting their products. This year we have also hosted other community groups through Coffee Mornings in the chapel, so they can share their work with the wider community. These community coffee mornings have been another free space for connection. This ring fenced budget line covers its own costs, but makes no profit, passing all savings on to those who are trying to make more environmentally friendly choices.

Exminster Community Kitchen Garden

Exminster Community Garden, as overseen by Jeremy Pyne and a core team of volunteers is a project that emerged through the course of 2024. Discussion with St Martins Church and other village based organisations paved the way for spades in the ground from January 2025. With a green light from the church and a partnership developed with Connect Exminster - a co-ordinating steering group of volunteers was established and a weekly working session on site initiated to work on creating a garden which would



help 'reconnect

our community with nature, with food and with each other'.

The site had to be cleared of a whole range of waste, and shoulder height brambles and undergrowth to enable us to carve out growing spaces and bring the largely neglected allotment site back to life. The group have met every Friday - with the exception of Boxing day 2025 since then.

With the assistance of grant funding from the Parish Council, Devon CC along with generous donations from members of the community we have installed new sheds , incorporating rain water harvesting, raised beds, communal seating area, composting sites and growing spaces. A recent additional grant allocation from 'The Conservation Volunteers' will enable us to build our facilities and tools for use by children and families. The garden is managed using organic principles and aims to provide a wildlife friendly space - incorporating new bird boxes, bird baths and feeders. We hope to revamp the existing



pond to add to the wildlife that shares the space.

Open days and visits have been arranged with groups such as the brownies and pre-school. Events including open days, plant and produce stalls and a recent fruit grafting workshop have begun to explore other ways of engaging with the wider community. In January this year a celebration event was held to mark our first anniversary - attracting 30-40 people.

Looking ahead to our second year, the aim is to ramp up production of food and flowers to share (Including through the recently revamped community larder). With our improved on-site facilities we anticipate more opportunities to broaden engagement and plan for future development - for example through the improvement of access to make the garden available to those with more limited mobility.

Summary

This year our income was significantly higher at £19305, compared to our outgoings of £11551, largely due to a large grant given for the renovation of Emmanuel Chapel, the building we mainly use for events. This will be fully spent in 2026 replacing the guttering, soffits and facias and redecorating some of the exterior paintwork. We continue to have sufficient reserves to cover our general expenses in to 2026 if needed. With this financial security we can expand our activities for 2026.

Connect Exminster End of year accounts
December 2025

Receipts/Income	Note		Payments/Expenditure	Note	
Connect main fund			Connect main fund		
CIO One off donations - Connect main	1	£289.62	Kids & Youth activities - CIO		150
CIO Gift Aid Donations/Gift Aid	2	£3,302.59	Connect activities - CIO		393.38
CIO Chapel Usage Donations		£360.00	Utilities inc Wifi - CIO		852.86
CIO Supporting Interchurch donations	2	£28.52	Hardship fund CIO	5	804.98
CIO GASDS		£137.99	Supporting interchurch expense	6	3000
			Transfer from Unrestricted to designated	7	580
			Funds donated to other charities	8	206.06
Total		£4,118.72	Total		5987.28
Starting balance Jan 25		9405.09	Closing balance Dec 25		7536.53
Eco refill			Eco refill		
Sales from Eco Refill	4	2907.14	Bulk buying for Eco refill		2917.52
Grants for Eco Refill		300			
Total		3207.14	Total		2917.52
Starting balance Jan 25		407.58	Closing balance Dec 25		697.2
Refugees			Refugees		
No income for refugee support		0	Support group costs	9	564
Total		0	Total		564
Starting balance Jan 25		486.63	Closing balance Dec 25		-77.37
Kitchen Garden			Kitchen Garden		
Kitchen Garden grants / donations	10	1980	Kitchen Garden Expenses		1532.56
Total		1980	Total		1532.56
Starting balance Jan 25		0	Closing balance Dec 25		447.44
Chapel Fabric Fund			Chapel Fabric Fund		
Chapel Fabric Grants / donations	11	10000	Fabric Fund expenses		550
Total		10000	Total		550
Starting balance Jan 25		0	Closing balance Dec 25		9450
Starting balance		10299.3			
Total income		£19,305.86			
Total expenditure		11551.36			
Closing balance		£18,053.80			

Notes:

- Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. All within one bank account with 'pots of monies' to track designated and restricted funds. This includes our Eco refill pot so we can ensure this breaks even but is non profit making and our refugee fund, kitchen garden fund and chapel fabric fund to track grant monies given.
- These figures do not include the 2025 Gift Aid HMRC claim.
- Connect has had no further donations to the Hardship fund as it was spending the £1000 grant from the Parish Council given at the end of 2024.
- We continue to offer the Eco refill, led by volunteers, as a resource for the village which just breaks even.
- The full £1000 from the Parish Council was spent within this year
- This was carried over ringfenced money to fund a PT children and families worker in partnership with St. Martin's Church.
- This included two grants from Connect - £380 to support the Kitchen Garden Fund and £200 to support the Eco Refill.
- Activities run by Connect raising funds for Nayamba School and Christian Aid Gaza appeal.
- While we have had no additional designated income for refugee support the remaining funds have focused on increasing community connections. This fund will now be closed.
- In addition to grants from Connect's main fund, the Community Kitchen garden received grants from the Post Office (£100) Alan Connett's Locality Grant (£300) and Exminster Parish Council (£1000)
- We are delighted to have a grant of £10,000 given via P Symons from the legacy of Brenda Winter to restore and repair the fabric of Emmanuel Chapel. There are significant external works that we have ring fenced this donation for.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Cash assets - Bank Account = £18053.80

At the end of 2025 there were no liabilities/creditors.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Connect Exminster CIO		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	Charity no (if any)	1199203
Set out on pages			4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

Signed:

Date:

7th May 2026

Name:

Jo Wilkey

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

No official qualifications. Currently hold the role of Operations and Data Protection Officer in a multi academy trust.

Address:

30, Reddaway Drive

Exminster, Exeter, Devon EX6 8SY

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

CONNECT EXMINSTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1199203

Accounts

Connect Exminster CIO

(registered charity number 1199203)

Financial Statements and Chairs Report

for the year ending 31st December 2024

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Chair's Report 2024 – Connect Exminster CIO

Background

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Vision

As per our constitution our objects are:

- To advance the Christian faith for the public benefit, in accordance with the values and tenets of the Anglican Communion, in Exminster and the surrounding area, in particular but not exclusively by raising awareness of Christian beliefs, values and practices, through holding meetings, outreach and pastoral care in the community.
- To relieve poverty by the making of grants and the provision of items within the community of Exminster.
- To advance education, through the provision of workshops and courses in the community to help people enhance their life skills including within family related areas led by local professionals.

Chairperson's report

I am delighted to be able to present this Chair's report, detailing the highlights that Connect Exminster has been able to accomplish in 2024. We continue to be overseen by Exeter Diocese for our Safeguarding practices and work closely with the local churches and school. 2024 saw some significant donations to Connect which we have budgeted to spend in 2025. £3000 of our funds have been allocated to support a new Children and Families support role within the village. This role will work across the community in line with our objects and in partnership with St. Martin's Parish Church. A further £2000 has been donated in order to resource family activities in partnership with the parish church.

We have continued to serve the community providing community connecting events, workshops and small grants and in this report I would like to highlight three main areas that we have been able to use our resources to make a difference. We have also been able to share our space with other community groups including music groups, a drumming workshop and the Exminster Preschool.

Faith Based & Community Events/Workshops

Throughout the year we have run a range of community activities open to anyone from Exminster to join. Fortnightly on Sundays we continue to host an informal discussion-based space to explore themes of faith and spirituality. These events often food together. Our largest event was Love Exminster, with hundreds of people attending for a funday at the Deepway Green. All activities and BBQ were free to access to ensure no-one was



excluded and it was a wonderful

event connecting the community together. Local businesses, community groups and even a local Dog Show all joined in. We looked at the central Christian



value of Love and how we can love God, ourselves and one another better. Children from the preschool led us in some songs on this theme.

We have continued to run workshops and coffee mornings for the community. These help people learn new skills while connecting with new people to alleviate loneliness.

Refugee Support & Hardship Fund



Many Ukrainian families have chosen to settle in our village having come over at the start of the war. Initially we prioritised providing significant support to help with learning the language and accessing vital services, as well as providing opportunities to meet

with other Ukrainians for support.

Now all our families are living independently (not in the homes of hosts) and we have identified the greatest need is for connection with the wider community - where they can develop their English and form friendships outside of their Ukrainian friendships. To that end we have facilitated Craft workshops as a non threatening point of connection. We have also run Coffee Mornings, where our Ukrainian community have hosted with their own homemade treats, sharing with the wider community.



In additional to this pastoral support we have continued to award small grants through our small pastoral support fund, to be able to help those in Exminster who find themselves in financial difficulties. This is for anyone within the community not only our refugees. With thanks to the generosity of Exminster parish Council awarding us a further £1000 we have been able to increase the support we can offer. The local schools, GP and community groups will often signpost people in need of support to us for this.

Eco Refill

We have continued to be able to open our Exminster's Eco Refill every Saturday morning. Our vision for this was to be another place of community connection, run by volunteers, that also would help the community make environmentally friendly choices. We highlighted that for many in our community, eco products were unaffordable so buying these products in bulk for wholesale prices and selling them on at costs (no profit) we hoped to encourage more people to make these choices. We now have a wonderful community of volunteers where friendships have also grown and often regulars come in and enjoy a cuppa and a chat as well as getting their products. This year we have also hosted other community groups through Coffee Mornings in the chapel, so they can share their work with the wider community. These community coffee mornings have been another free space for connection.

This year our income was significantly higher at £11530, compared to our outgoings of £6570, largely due to monies given specifically to help Connect with our new partnership with Exminster Parish Church who we are working closely with to better support children and young families in the community. £3000 has already been pledged for a new part time role to help us meet our objectives and a further £2000 is ring-fenced for the additional resources that will be needed to resource activities for children and families. We continue to have sufficient reserves to cover our expenses in to 2025 if needed. With this financial security we can expand our activities for 2025.



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Connect Exminster CIO

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity no (if any)

1199203

Set out on pages

6

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

Signed:

Date:

22nd April 2025

Name:

Jo Wilkey

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Employee of St Christopher's CofE (Primary) Multi Academy Trust

Address:

15, Quarry Park Road

Exeter, Devon EX2 5PH

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Administrator should be provided with supplier invoices / credits at the time of the payment request. Payments should not be made from supplier statement information only.

Where possible remittance information should be filed with accounts. Records of donations and Eco purchases should be downloaded on a monthly basis and filed with bank statements for best practice.

Charitable transfers should always have a paper trail of request eg email acknowledgment or advice of payment.

**Connect Exminster End
of year accounts
December 2024**

Receipts/Income	Note		Payments/Expenditure	Note	
Connect main fund			Connect main fund		
CIO Transfer from St. Martins	1		Kids & Youth activities - CIO		455.73
CIO One off donations - Connect main	2	1000	Connect activities - CIO		380.34
CIO Gift Aid		251.4	Maintenance - CIO		50
Donations/Gift Aid		1990.3	Utilities inc Wifi - CIO		494.61
CIO Grants	3	1000	Hardship fund CIO	6	636.6
CIO Chapel Usage		210.75	Supporting interchurch expense	7	983.36
Donations		210.75			
CIO Supporting Interchurch donations	4	4168.8			
Total		8621.2			
Starting balance			Total		3000.64
Jan 24		3720.5	Closing balance Dec		9341.09
Eco refill			Eco refill		
Sales from Eco Refill	5	2845.7	Bulk buying for Ecorefill		2863.24
Total		2845.7	Total		2863.24
Starting balance			Closing balance Dec		24
Jan 24		425.15			407.58
Refugees			Refugees		
No income for refugee support		0	Refugee Support Group c	8	450.63
			Facilities reimbursement		192
Total		0	Total		642.63
Starting balance			Closing balance Dec		24
Jan 24		1193.3			550.63
Starting balance		5338.9			
Total income		11467			
Total expenditure		6506.5			
Closing balance		10299			

Notes:

1. Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. All transactions are through two bank accounts with three 'pots of monies' our general pot, our Eco refill pot so we can ensure this breaks even but is non profit making and our Refugee fund to track grant monies given for refugee support.
2. £1000 was donated from St. Martin's church from the designated fund that had been used by Connect when it operated within the PCC of St. Martins, prior to registering as a CIO.
3. Connect was awarded £1000 to be allocated to the Hardship Fund it operates.
4. Connect has been given ring fenced monies to specifically support interchurch aims linked to our charitable objectives. £1000 of this is specifically for a new children and families lead that, in partnership with St. Martin's Church, we are currently advertising for.
5. We continue to offer the Eco refill, led by volunteers, as a resource for the village which just breaks even.
6. See note 3. This fund has already been in high demand
7. See note 4. Some of these monies have already been spent supporting Little Treasures a weekly Under 5s group.
8. While we have had no additional designated income for refugee support the remaining funds have focused on community increasing community connections running craft clubs and coffee mornings.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Cash assets - Bank Account = £10299.30

At the end of 2024 there were no liabilities/creditors.

CONNECT EXMINSTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1199203

Accounts

Connect Exminster CIO

(registered charity number 1199203)

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Vision

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- To relieve poverty by the making of grants and the provision of items within the community of Exminster.
- To advance education, through the provision of workshops and courses in the community to help people enhance their life skills including within family related areas led by local professionals.

Chairperson's report

I am delighted to be able to present my second Chair's report, detailing the highlights that Connect Exminster has been able to accomplish in 2023. Completing our year, we are now much more established as a CIO, registered with HMRC for gift aid and through Exeter Diocese for all our safeguarding training and support.

Alongside these important aspects of governance we have continued to serve the community and in this report I would like to highlight three main areas that we have been able to use our resources to make a difference. We have also been able to share our space with other community groups including the village Pantomime company, Exact, a music group and the Exminster Preschool.

Faith Based & Community Events/Workshops

Throughout the year we have run a range of community activities open to anyone from Exminster to join. Fortnightly on Sundays we continue to host an informal discussion-based space to explore themes of faith and spirituality. These events often involved a shared meal. A highlight was our home grown harvest dinner, open to all, with people from around the village donating what they have been able to grow for us to share. We had an incredible spread! We also hosted two much larger community events, Love Easter, held in the local community centre and Love



Christmas, held in our local pub, the Royal Oak. . These were very well attended by the wider community and a chance to gather for fun (live sheep and donkey included) and learn a little bit about these Christian festivals in an inclusive informal way. We also held a stall offering free children’s activities and cake decorating at our local football club’s summer fete, to provide something for those especially for whom times are difficult financially. We have established a small pastoral support fund, to be able to help those in Exminster who find themselves in financial difficulties. This has already been accessed and we hope to be able to offer more grants as there is need in 2024.



Both our Device Doctors workshop, giving free tech support, and Craft & Chat, providing space to connect and craft, were well received by the community. We were delighted that several of our Ukrainian residents also led our craft & chat workshops, sharing their embroidery skills with us too. We run these events to help people learn new skills while connecting with new people to alleviate loneliness.



Ukrainian Support



We have continued to be able to be the lead organisation coordinating support for the 30 Ukrainians in families within the village. We have received £5500 in grants to deliver this support which has partly funded a co-ordinator to help with communication and translation. IN addition to this we have run a weekly drop in Hub on Friday evenings, with refreshments. This has been a safe place to ask questions and find support. Many of our families are now in their own accommodation in Exminster and the surrounding area. As there needs have changed we have targeted more funds towards their English Language learning, through a professional full time EAL expert. To mark the start of the summer holidays, we were also able to coordinate a trip to Paignton Zoo, somewhere many had longed to visit but the travel and tickets made it too expensive. Linking with Ukrainian groups in Dawlish and Teignmouth we could take a large coach for a wonderful day out. We have also given out £495 in small grants to relieve financial hardship within this community, helping with sudden unforeseen expenses as well as helping their children attend school trips that would otherwise be inaccessible.

Eco Refill

We have continued to be able to open our Exminster’s Eco Refill every Saturday morning. Our vision for this was to be another place of community connection, run by volunteers, that also would help the community make environmentally friendly choices. We highlighted that for many in our community, eco products were unaffordable so buying these products in bulk for wholesale prices and selling them on at costs (no profit) we hoped to encourage more people to make these choices. We now have a wonderful community of volunteers where friendships have also grown and often regulars come in and enjoy a cuppa and a chat as well as getting their products.

With approximately £12000 in outgoings and income, we have been able to maintain our financial position, with emergency reserves to cover our expenses in to 2024 if needed. With this financial security’s we hope to expand our activities for 2024.

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect Exminster CIO
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on page 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner :

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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 Commissioners 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, improvements in practice and recording have continued to be maintained. I do not foresee further issues arising in the future which therefore 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 and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have been met.

Signed  _____ Date ___21st July 2024_____

Jo Wilkey, Operations Officer; Data Protection Officer
Employee of St Christopher's CofE (Primary) Multi Academy Trust

Connect Exminster End of year accounts December 2023

Receipts/Income	Note	
Connect main fund	1	
CIO Transfer from St. Martins	2	1000
CIO One off donations - Connect main		162.82
CIO Gift Aid Donations/Gift Aid	3	698.62
CIO Grants		0
CIO Chapel Usage Donations		945
Total		2806.44
Starting balance Jan 23		2459.25
Eco refill		
Sales from Eco Refill	4	2612.63
Total		2612.63
Starting balance Jan 23		315.14
Refugees		
One off donations - Refugee		170.5
Grants - Refugee	5	5511.5
Outing Donations - Refugee		667.15
Total		6349.15
Starting balance Jan 23		2564.26
Starting I		5338.65
Total Receipts		11768.22
Total Payments		11767.97
Balance		5338.9

Payments/Expenditure	Note	
Connect main fund		
Kids & Youth activities - CIO		464.86
Connect activities - CIO		81.01
Maintenance - CIO		12
Utilities inc Wifi - CIO		828.51
Funds donated to other charities	6	133.82
Hardship fund CIO	7	25
Total		1545.2
Closing balance Dec 23		3720.49
Eco refill		
Bulk buying for Ecorefill		2502.62
Total		2502.62
Closing balance Dec 23		425.15
Refugees		
Staffing expenses for refugee support		945
Facilities reimbursement - Refugees		495
Individual harship grants refugees		124.97
Refugee Support Group costs		1309.18
EAL classes refugees	8	3834
Outings expenses refugees		1012
Total		7720.15
Closing balance Dec 23		1193.26

Notes:

1. Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. All transactions are through two bank accounts, one which was open at the start of the year and one opened in Feb 2023.

2. £1000 was donated from St. Martin's church from the designated fund that had been used by Connect when it operated within the PCC of St. Martins, prior to registering as a CIO.

3. Connect is now registered for Gift Aid. £2818.21 from GoFundMe transfers, £326.40 from a local school sports fundraiser, £145 from a local community fundraiser and the remaining £500 from a private donor.

4. £900 from Christadelphian fund, £2872.50 from Teignbridge Community Voluntary Services and £4440 from Church Urban Fund

5. This includes specialist English Language tuition, summer camp coordinator and overall project coordinator costs

6. This includes food, crafts, teaching resources

Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Cash assets - Bank Account = £5338.65

CONNECT EXMINSTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1199203

Accounts

Connect Exminster CIO

(registered charity number 1199203)

Financial Statements and Chairs Report

for the year ending 31st December 2022

Page	Contents
2-5	Trustees' annual report
6	Independent examiner's report
7	Financial report showing receipts and payments, assets and liabilities with notes to the account.



Trustee's Report 2022 – Connect Exminster CIO

Background

Connect Exminster was set up at the beginning of 2022. While Connect has been running as a Christian community group since 2018, carrying out its activities with the oversight of St. Martin's Church of England Church, Exminster. This included having a designated separate bank account which was overseen by St. Martin's PCC treasurer and annually audited. As Connect has grown over the years, it was agreed that becoming a stand-alone entity was necessary. We received notification of our successful application to become a CIO on 7th June.

Vision

As per our constitution our objects are:

- To advance the Christian faith for the public benefit, in accordance with the values and tenets of the Anglican Communion in Exminster and the surrounding area, in particular but not exclusively by raising awareness of Christian beliefs, values and practices, through holding meetings, outreach and pastoral care in the community.
- To relieve poverty by the making of grants and the provision of items within the community of Exminster.
- To advance education, through the provision of workshops and courses in the community to help people enhance their life skills including within family related areas led by local professionals.

We believe that the church should be at the centre of a community, meeting needs (spiritual, emotional, social, financial and practical) as they arise. Our vision is to build a community in Exminster where people love one another by serving each other so no-one is left in isolation, whatever challenges they face. We see ourselves as partners with the many other wonderful groups seeking to care for the residents of Exminster. We also hope to be catalysts that can help build connections, share resources and help build bridges to create a more loving infrastructure in the community.

Chairperson's report

I am delighted to be able to present my first Chair's report, detailing all that Connect Exminster has been able to accomplish in 2022. As our first official year, much of our work has been establishing ourselves as a CIO. This has

included recruiting trustees, opening a bank account, setting up all our policies and procedures, registering with Exeter Diocese for safeguarding oversight and completing all the relevant safeguarding training. Our constitution was finally approved in June.

However, this has not stopped up making a positive start, serving the community and in this report I would like to highlight three main areas that we have been able to use our resources to make a difference.

Faith Based Community Events

Throughout the year we have run a range of community groups open to anyone from Exminster to join. Fortnightly on Sundays we host an informal discussion-based space to explore themes of faith and spirituality. For example, from Autumn 2022 we looked at what we might learn from ancient spiritual practices and enjoyed a community 'pilgrimage' walk, a feasting brunch, a discussion around healing. We have also run a monthly Youth Connect for secondary aged students, based around pizza, games and chat and they have been looking at emotional health and how to look after your own well-being. Having identified a need within the community for relationship support we also ran Exminster's Date Night. 44 people signed up to this, which gave them a weekly goodie bag with treats, questions and a link to a video to watch together to spark thoughts and help them discuss and reflect on their long-term relationships together.



This was very well received by all who took part and the anonymity, being able plan your own date night rather than meet with others in a big hall, enabled more to take part. We also hosted two much larger community events, Love Easter and Love Christmas. These were very well attended by the wider community and a chance to

gather for fun (live chicken and donkey included) and learn a little bit about these Christian festivals in an inclusive informal way.

Ukrainian Support



With the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the UK Homes for Ukraine Scheme opened in March 22, Connect Exminster established Exminster Refugee Support and took the role of catalyst to connect the wider community in Exminster so that we could respond in a larger scale to the crisis. Gathering over 300 members, we were able to host

30 Ukrainians in families within the village. This was possible because we provided all the support for completing government applications, accessing support services and funding resources. All our members were encouraged to complete a simple questionnaire to identify how they could help practically. We also hosted community meetings to keep people informed of what we were doing and the help they could give. As a result, we coordinated volunteers who we ran EAL classes for beginners, intermediates and advanced students. We opened a conversation café for guests to meet informally with others from the community to practice English but also to make friendships and ask questions that they had. This was a great place for signposting to other support they could access. We oversaw a designated fund, with donations from the community as well as some local grants, which meant local people who could not help practically, could donate, and provide emergency clothing to travel bus passes etc for our new Exminster Ukrainian residents. Connect also donated the small chapel that they use for weekly events, and we were delighted that so many for the wider community stepped up to revamp the space so it could be a hub for our new friends to meet in the evenings



together. We also provided a daily summer camp for the Ukrainian children to support parents over the summer holidays.

A particular highlight was on Ukrainian Independence Day, where we facilitated and funded a community evening to learn more about Ukrainian and show our solidarity and love on such a difficult day.

Eco Refill

On February 5th 2022 we launched Exminster's Eco Refill. Our vision for this was to be another place of community connection, run by volunteers, that also would help the community make environmentally friendly choices. We highlighted that for many in our community, eco products were unaffordable so buying these products in bulk for wholesale prices and selling them on at costs (no profit) we hoped to encourage more people to make these choices. We now have a wonderful community of volunteers where friendships have also grown and often regulars come in and enjoy a cuppa and a chat as well as getting their products. In our first year we had 438 transactions made!



SAVE *the* PLANET & SAVE MONEY!

EXMINSTER ECO REFILL STATION

- > Emmanuel Chapel, Exminster (next to Berrybrook Motors)
- > 9am-12pm on Saturday mornings
- > **OPENING SOON: Saturday 5th Feb**

Stocking household and personal cleaning basics:

- > laundry liquid
- > washing up liquid
- > hand wash
- > shampoo
- > conditioner

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: exminsterrefillstation@gmail.com

EXMINSTER ECO REFILL

EXMINSTER ECO REFILL is a volunteer run, non-profit project to help residents of Exminster use eco friendly products. Eco products will be for more affordable because of buying in bulk with wholesale prices and passing on this saving to the community. Reusing containers also keeps costs down and reduces plastic waste.

Come along and find out more!

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect Exminster CIO
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on page 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner :

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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 Commissioners 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, a few small matters came to my attention from early dates which have been investigated. Improvements in practice and recording have already been implemented and I do not foresee these issues arising in the future 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 and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met.

Signed  _____ Date 8th September 2023

Jo Wilkey, Operations Officer; Data Protection Officer
Employee of St Christopher's CofE (Primary) Multi Academy Trust

Connect Exminster End of year accounts December 2022

Receipts/Income

	Note	
Connect main fund	1	
Initial transfer from St. Martins	2	1500
One off donations		636.85
Chapel Usage Donations		1477.5
Total		3614.35

Eco refill

Sales from Eco Refill		2602.45
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Refugees

One off donations	3	3289.61
Grants	4	8212.5
Total		11502.11

Total Receipts	17718.91
Total Payments	12380.26
Balance	5338.65

Payments/Expenditure

	Note	
Connect main fund		
Youth activities		258.32
Kids activities		245.93
Connect activities		394.8
Maintenance		59.87
Utilities inc Wifi		136.18
Funds donated to other charities		60
Total		1155.1
Fund balance		2459.25

Eco refill

Bulk buying for Ecorefill		2235.49
Equipment/Maintenance Ecorefill		51.82
Total		2287.31
Fund balance		315.14

Refugees

Staffing expenses for refugee support	5	3118.75
Facilities reimbursement		1477.5
Individual harship grants		2686.73
Consumables	6	1654.87
Total		8937.85
Fund balance		2564.26

Notes:

1. Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. All transactions are through the bank account which opened in Feb 2022.
2. £1500 was donated from St. Martin's church from the designated fund that had been used by Connect when it operated within the PCC of St. Martins, prior to registering as a CIO. This also includes small donations at community events.
3. £2818.21 from GoFundMe transfers, £326.40 from a local school sports fundraiser, £145 from a local community fundraiser and the remaining £500 from a private donor.
4. £900 from Christadelphian fund, £2872.50 from Teignbridge Community Voluntary Services and £4440 from Church Urban Fund
5. This includes specialist English Language tuition, summer camp coordinator and overall project coordinator costs
6. This includes food, crafts, teaching resources

Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Cash assets - Bank Account = £5338.65

At the end of 2022 there were no liabilities/creditors.