

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

England & Wales · Charity number 1200492

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2022-09-27

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY ARE TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH WITH THE AIM OF BRINGING PEOPLE TO A PERSONAL FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST BY:3.1 PROVIDING TRAINED EVANGELISTS AND LAY AGENTS (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CHAPLAINS) TO ASSIST THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION; AND3.2 RELIEVING POVERTY AND DISTRESS, INCLUDING BY (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) PROVIDING PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT,PARTICULARLY AMONG PEOPLE LIVING OR TRAVELLING ON OR AROUND CANALS AND WATERWAYS ACROSS THE UK.NOTHING IN THIS DEED SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CHARITY FOR PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 AND/OR SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008.

Activities: Waterways Chaplains reach out to people in need on our rivers and canals, supporting the increasingnumber of boaters who are signposted to us by the Canals and Rivers Trust Welfare Officers. We also support other boaters who are concerned for someone they have come across in need. We build relationships and help sort more involved issues with boaters alleviating poverty and improving health.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£131,285	£109,763	-	-
2024-03-31	£103,213	£104,426	-	-
2023-03-31	£53,032	£29,150	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CHURCH ARMY		2022-08-17

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

England & Wales - Charity number 1200492

Accounts

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Waterways Chaplaincy
Contents
Year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Trustee's report	2
Independent auditor's report on the financial statements	12
Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	16
Notes to the financial statements	17

**Waterways Chaplaincy
Reference and Administrative Details
Year ended 31 March 2025**

Trustee	The Church Army
Charity registered number	1200492
Principal office	C/O Church Army Wilson Carlile Centre 50 Cavendish Street Sheffield S3 7RZ
Independent auditor	Hawsons Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor Pegasus House 463a Glossop Road Sheffield S10 2QD

Waterways Chaplaincy

Trustee's Report

Year ended 31 March 2025

The trustee presents its annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objects

The objects of the charity are:

To advance the Christian faith with the aim of bringing people to a personal faith in Jesus Christ by:

1. Providing trained evangelists and lay agents (including, but not limited to, Chaplains) to assist the advancement of the Christian religion, and
2. Relieving poverty and distress, including by (but not limited to) providing pastoral care and support, particularly among people living or travelling on or around canals and waterways across the UK

Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

Our Waterways Chaplains proactively reach out to people in need on our rivers and canals.

We support the increasing number of boaters who are 'signposted to us' by a variety of sources. These include the Canal and River Trust Welfare Officers, Licensing Officers, Community Roots workers, the Environment Agency's Navigation Officers, marina owners, health care professionals, police, and many others.

Our main source of contacts, though, still comes from the 'accidental' conversations that occur as the Waterways Chaplains go about their work. All of this work relieves poverty and distress, demonstrates our Christian faith, and highlights how simple acts of kindness can go a long way to advance the Christian religion.

Rather like Street Pastors, Waterways Chaplains are there to serve those they come across. We build and maintain relationships and often help to sort out more involved issues with the boater, such as poverty or health & benefits problems. On occasion this leads to a clear transformation in people's lives, but very often we do not know exactly how we have helped. Faith conversations are often brought up by those we help (see below) and we are ready to respond to their questions; our evangelism is oblique, rarely the purpose of our conversations but regularly the outcome.

Waterways Chaplains walk the waterways within a certain geographical patch near them, or they 'lurk' in marinas or waterside cafes. As trained volunteers, they come from different ecumenical and work backgrounds but are all very connected into their local communities. This local knowledge helps them 'come alongside' people in need with practical help.

The Chaplains offer:

- **Listening:** listening & confidential ear.
- **Signposting:** signpost those in difficulty to local support services e.g. foodbanks.
- **Advocates:** act as advocates when a boater needs someone to unravel issues e.g. difficulties with paying licences, support with bereavement.
- **Emergencies:** take boaters to access emergency medical support e.g. Doctor or hospital, housing.
- **Practical:** help e.g. washing and drying laundry for boaters, helping out after a (rare) boat sinking.
- **Spiritual support:** When asked, Chaplains are willing to pray for and with people and talk about faith.

All the support provided is free of charge.

Waterways Chaplaincy Trustee's Report Year ended 31 March 2025

Review of activities

It has been another great year for the chaplaincy, with a more stable staff structure and a solidifying of background administration. The second half of the year was impacted by the news that the Church Army (our trustee) was about to undergo significant restructuring. The good news is that this restructuring has had little impact on the work of the frontline chaplains.

On 31st March 2025 we had:

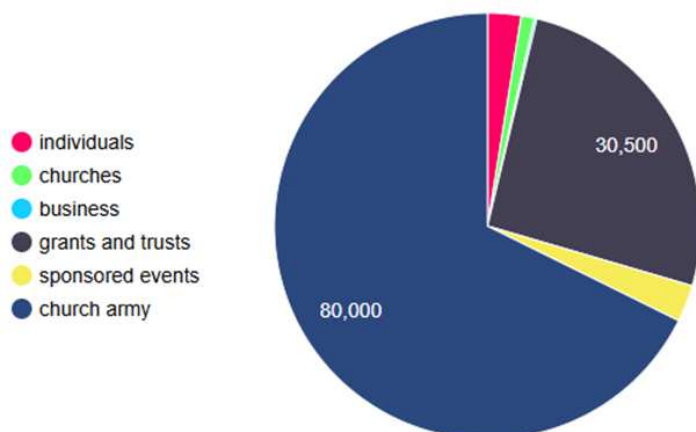
- 101 active waterways chaplains
- 12 supporter churches
- 1 supporter business
- 16 active waterways supporters - this group includes a number of retired chaplains who are keen to continue a relationship with the chaplaincy but can no longer fulfill the needed obligations.

We expect all four of these groups to grow in the coming year.

All of this has allowed us to have around 3,500 meaningful conversations with approximately 3,500 boaters and towpath users. The Waterways chaplaincy has given over 5,000 hours of volunteer time and collectively walked over 5,000 miles of canal side towpath!

The chaplains are arranged into 12 Hubs: Central, East Anglia, Kennet & Avon, London, North Midlands, Northwest, Severn & Avon, West Midlands, Southeast, Staffordshire, Surrey & Hants and Peaks & Derbyshire. We currently have three paid staff: a National Lead Chaplain and a Senior Chaplain for the North and a Senior Chaplain for the South. They work part time.

Funding the work of the chaplaincy continues to need careful consideration, and we are deeply indebted to the Church Army for their support. While we continued to receive some major grant funding, our chaplains and supporters have increasingly risen to own the funding challenge themselves.



Knowing that people often value what they give to, we recognise that the financial pressure on the chaplaincy is having a very positive effect in that every chaplain now owns the future of the chaplaincy and recognises the part they are playing.

The WWC was part of the Church Army's work that Premier Christian Radio featured throughout the year. We have also been featured on Poppyland Radio, in a variety of Diocesan newsletters and denominational articles, and podcasts.

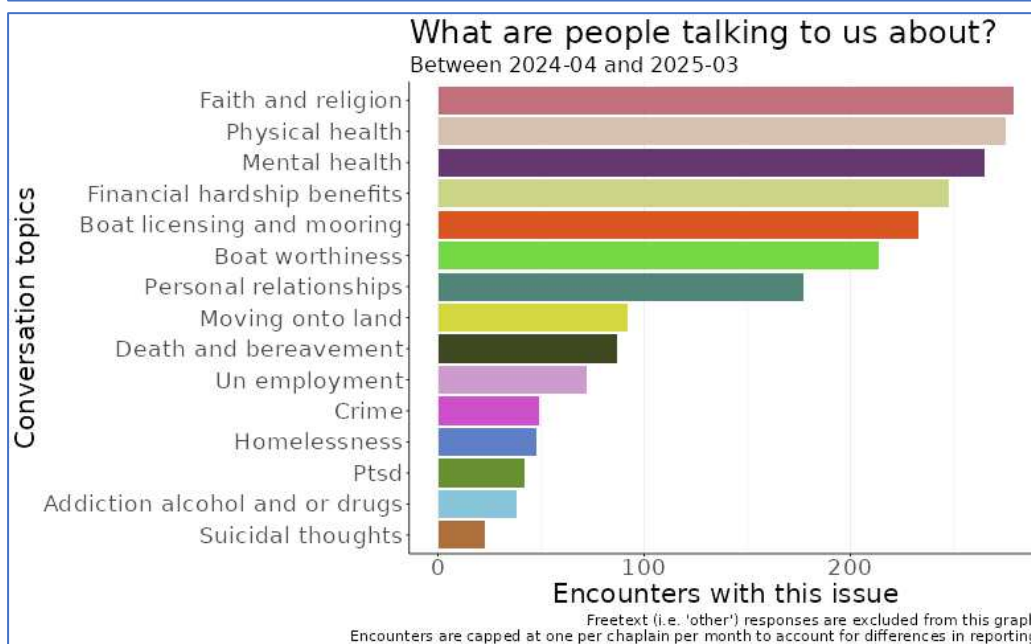
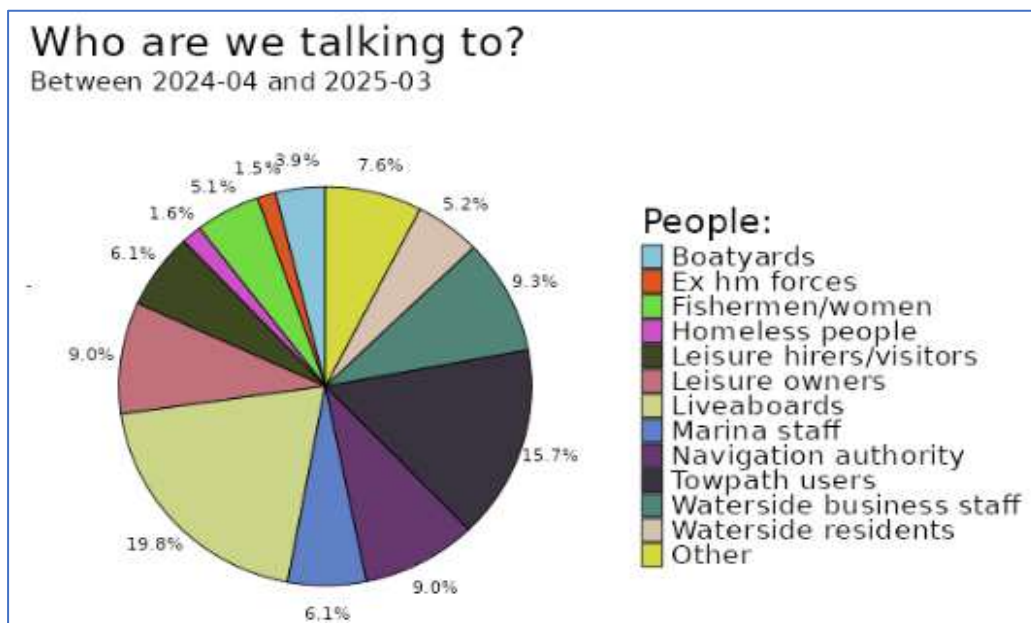
Kim and Paul Hutchinson, Lorriane Newman and Charlie Bushel will also feature on the Ch. 4, Narrow Escapes program that will be aired in the coming months.

**Waterways Chaplaincy
Trustee's Report
Year ended 31 March 2025**

Who Waterways Chaplains work with and the issues they face

Poverty and mental health have been among the key issues reported with other things ranging from boating matters to relationships, employment, and homelessness. Matters of faith and spirituality often come up in conversations as people are often struggling with what seemed to them hopeless situations. We have been involved in funerals for boaters and their families as part of that support, which has been important for the boating community and raises our profile around the waterways. The underpinning principle of this unique chaplaincy is to provide independent and confidential holistic support, which is encouraging and ensures that people feel listened to. Among our volunteers are a mix of retired teachers, GPs, clergy, professionals, and others who are still working but find volunteering a wonderful way to 'give back.'

It is very clear that while many people on and around the waterways are having a great time... a great number of people are not. The Waterways Chaplaincy works with both groups and is beginning to act as a bridge between the two.



Waterways Chaplaincy Trustee's Report Year ended 31 March 2025

The above graphs give some quantitative details about the work that the chaplaincy is doing. The split is similar to previous years, but we have noted a slight increase in 'boat worthiness.' We have just started collecting the data in this way, but over the years to come we expect the analysis of trends to become an important part of our work.

Along with the quantitative data, we collect much qualitative data too. This is published monthly in our e-newsletters that go out to over 300 subscribers. Here are some short snippets.

A sad story from the Norfolk Broads hub by hub lead Mike:

'Very soon a request came from the Broads Authority to assist a boater (BX) whose ropes had been cut due to his 'history' having been discovered. He had been towed, he had no power, to a remote mooring for his own safety. Over the next two and a half years support was provided for BX until Mike very sadly found him dead in the bottom of his boat about a year ago. Shopping, hospital appointments, visits, doctors' appointments, electricity cards, outboard motor delivery for repairs. So much support given and it seems the way this was handled endeared WWC to the Broads Authority and an excellent relationship has developed and Mike gets invited to the Broads Beat Partnership online forum. At that meeting those needing help are identified to the WWC, if the information has not already been passed on. The whole area is covered. Even when BX was found we were able to assist the authorities with his personal information, support and visit his mum and set funeral arrangements in process. She allowed us to have the ashes and with BX's friends scatter them near where he died. Photos were sent to BX's mum, and Mike painted a watercolour of the Broad where the ashes were scattered.'

Some reflections on Matthew 6 and The Beatitudes from Lorriane at the South East hub

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat

'In the last year our region alone has **delivered over 135 food parcels** to hungry boaters and homeless people. On one occasion chaplains supported a boater who couldn't get to the shops anymore due to ill health and they regularly shopped for small items for him, petrol for generator, TV magazine, and bread and milk mostly, as he got the bigger things delivered by the shop and the fuel boat. They also fetched his medicines and one day, as they gave date of birth to pharmacist, they realised that it was his birthday. They got a birthday card, some special foods & snacks and some chocolates. He was very shy and surprised they knew it was his birthday.'

Pip writes a great story from the Kennet & Avon hub:

'Not everyone wished to join the crowd singing carols on the Kennet and Avon towpath at Hungerford last Christmas. One boater said he was content to lie in his bunk and just listen. A crowd of about thirty people, including a live-aboard couple from France, gathered to sing the old words to the well-loved melodies. They were led by boater Steve on his guitar and fortified by delicious mince pies made by another waterways neighbour.

The towpath runs alongside the spacious grounds of the parish church of St. Lawrence, and the curate said it was a happy opportunity to take the church's ministry out to the local boaters instead of expecting them to come into church.

The boater who was moored in front of us didn't come out of his boat, but the following morning told us how much he had enjoyed the singing. Another boater made some of the best mince pies we have ever tasted. Marcia, our curate, said it was one of the best evenings of the year, **because we took church out to the people!!** Great night!'

These three snippets point to the depth and quality of the work that the Waterways Chaplains do everyday.

**Waterways Chaplaincy
Trustee's Report
Year ended 31 March 2025**

Plans for 2025-26

As we moved into April 2025 the key objectives for the coming year were:

1. Continuing to grow the quality and number of chaplains and the geographical spread of the chaplaincy. This will be done through ongoing training and by increasing the expectations in the recruitment process.
2. Working with the Church Army in their training of evangelists by offering contextual placements alongside our chaplains.
3. Increasing the resilience of the financial and prayer support for the chaplaincy, by targeting waterside churches and growing the supporter network.
4. Build relationships with the waterways core industry of boatbuilders, financiers and marinas. This will help us offer care to those areas and will also be a source of funding.

However, in September 2025 the Church Army Board announced that after more than 3 years as part of the Church Army family, the Waterways Chaplaincy will be taking steps towards a new future outside of Church Army's governance. This change comes as part of the refocusing of Church Army's work on training and equipping evangelists, and the strategic decision to simplify and re-size its work.

This has added several overarching priority objectives for the second half of the year:

- to develop a plan for the future governance of Waterways Chaplaincy
- agree a financial support package with Church Army
- agree a timeline and implementation plan for the governance change.

To ensure this transition is as smooth as possible and to secure a strong future, Waterways Chaplaincy has established an interim transition group (ITG) to determine the next steps. This group is being led by the National Lead Chaplain and will be considering the best approach for the future, either within another charity or with a new board to replace Church Army as the sole trustee. The ITG will present its recommendations to the Church Army Board in November 2025.

Chris Upton, National Lead Chaplain

Waterways Chaplaincy Trustee's Report Year ended 31 March 2025

Governance

Church Army provides Waterways the organisational support of HR, payroll, volunteering, policy, financial processing, line management and leadership, with oversight of the work undertaken through a Project Board. Church Army is the sole trustee of Waterways Chaplaincy. It carries all legal and financial responsibilities in respect of Waterways Chaplaincy. The Waterways Project Board has delegated authority from Church Army to oversee the activities of the Waterways Chaplaincy.

In the past 12 months we have increased the chaplaincy's representation on the project board by inviting two senior chaplains to join. Babs Davis is an experienced boater and former Northern regional lead, and David Green is new to the WWC but come with a wealth of experience in mental health and wellbeing.

The project board met quarterly throughout this year, and its membership comprised:

- Director of Mission Operations, (Chair)
- Company Secretary of Church Army
- National Lead Chaplain for Waterways
- Tony Charles – former trustee of EPI Ltd t/a Workplace Matters
- Mission Development Officer, (South and East)
- Two senior Waterways Chaplains

The Waterways Chaplaincy Project Board oversees the strategic direction, legal and financial responsibility and the support for the National Lead Chaplain and the team.

As a project board we are hugely indebted for the hours that our network of chaplains provides for Waterways and our communities. For the many hours walking, listening, supporting, and caring they are valued and appreciated.

The work of Waterways Chaplaincy is needed more than ever within this country. We recognise the immense need that our licensed chaplains are addressing along our waterways of England and Wales. The stories of impact included in this report illustrate the complexity of needs that the Waterways Licensed Chaplains are picking up.

**Emma Sivyler, Mission Development Officer for Church Army
with special oversight for Waterways Chaplaincy**

Financial review

a) Review of period

Income from donations and grants increased to £132k (2024: £103k) as we recognised the full value of 2 new multi-year grants and recognised the remaining 9 months of an existing multi-year grant, changing the approach taken in previous years on the instruction of our new auditor. Part of each of these grants is intended to provide funding for our work in future years and if this element of the income was removed then the amount attributable to activities in 2024-25 would have been £72k and this would have resulted in a deficit of £38k for the year, rather than the £22k surplus shown. The difference of 49k is shown as a debtor in the accounts.

Expenditure of £110k led to a surplus of £22k for the year (2024: £1k deficit)

Total funds carried forward of £44k represents just under 5 months of operating costs which implies we are close to our reserves target of 6 months expenses, but as highlighted above £49k of these funds will be spent in 2025-26 as intended by the grant funders, so the charity effectively has negative free reserves. The intention is to build reserves of 6 months of operating expenses over the coming years.

**Waterways Chaplaincy
Trustee’s Report
Year ended 31 March 2025**

Waterways Chaplaincy therefore continues to rely on the ongoing support of the parent charity Church Army as detailed in the Going Concern statement below. The Project Board is immensely thankful for this ongoing support while work continues to source ongoing grant funders and increase donation and fundraised income to move Waterways to financial sustainability and build back its reserves position over the coming years.

b) Budget for 2025-26

The Project Board has agreed a balanced budget that includes a target for increased donations from individuals, churches, and other supporters in addition to the target for grants from trust funders. At the time of signing these accounts progress has already been made in attracting grants from new funders; several of these are multi-year grants, providing a helpful foundation for the journey to financial sustainability over the coming years.

c) Going concern

The Board recognises there remains a journey ahead to move to financial sustainability and continues its work to grow multi-year grant income while also developing income streams from the boating industry and marinas alongside growing financial support from waterside churches and individuals.

The support of Church Army over the last 3 years has been invaluable and the decision by the Board of Church Army in September 2025 that Waterways Chaplaincy should find a new home outside of the Church Army family has been coupled with an offer of financial support to enable this transition. While the details of this financial support have not yet been finalised, the Project Board has sought and received a letter of comfort from the Board of Church Army – an extract from this reads:

‘The Board of Church Army remains committed to the work of the Waterways Chaplaincy of which Church Army is the sole Trustee. Having made the decision that the future of the Waterways Chaplaincy should be outside of the Church Army family we are committed to supporting this transition and providing funding at a level to be agreed to support the journey to financial sustainability over a 2-year period.

For audit purposes to confirm that Waterways Chaplaincy is a Going Concern we explicitly confirm that Church Army will provide sufficient funds to enable the Waterways Chaplaincy to continue for at least the next 12 months from the date of approval of these accounts.’

The Project Board takes comfort from this express commitment of ongoing support from Church Army in making its Going Concern statement.

d) Reserves policy

Following the move of Waterways Chaplaincy activities into a new charity on 1 January 2023, with Church Army as the sole Trustee, the aim is to work towards holding free reserves equivalent to 6 months operating expenses over the next 4 years.

Key Risks

The Project Board maintains a Risk Register and highlights key risks to the Trustee – the current key risks and mitigations are as follows:

Key risk	Mitigations
Failure to attract new grant funding and donation income results in operating losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted programme of Grant applications being implemented • Wider fundraising strategy being developed to obtain support from different stakeholders in the canals and waterways • Commitment from Church Army the sole Trustee to provide financial support to sustain Waterways Chaplaincy while sustainable ongoing funding is put in place

**Waterways Chaplaincy
Trustee’s Report
Year ended 31 March 2025**

<p>Loss of key staff due to insecurity of funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Army has agreed to support the ongoing work of Waterways while it identifies and secures sustainable funding • We will work with the Chaplains to help strengthen their stakeholder relationships.
<p>Level of voluntary income including trust income continues to decline in real terms impacting risk appetite to grow the work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to evaluate the work which enables us to offer more evidenced based applications strengthening the opportunities • We will seek to build longer term relationship with the trusts we currently work with • We are developing a strategy to engage churches local to waterways to try and secure new funding from that source • We are seeking to increase the number of individual donors
<p>Reputational risk through failure to protect the vulnerable and marginalised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Safeguarding training screening to reduce risk. • Policies and procedures exist in the chaplaincy to establish good practice. • All staff and volunteers working with vulnerable adults or children have regular safeguarding training updated at least every three years • Continued vigilance and addressing of issues as they arise. • Any allegations handled in line with our policy • We are supported by 31:8 for advice and help when things go wrong

Structure, governance and management

a) Constitution

Waterways Chaplaincy is a registered charity, number 1200492, and is constituted under a Trust deed.

Church Army is the sole trustee of Waterways Chaplaincy. It carries all legal and financial responsibilities in respect of Waterways Chaplaincy. The Church Army Board acts on Church Army’s behalf as trustee and sets the framework.

As well, as being sole trustee, Church Army provides certain services to Waterways Chaplaincy, including executive leadership, accounting, payroll and other HR & Volunteering support services, policies, and other support services.

b) Project Board

The Church Army Board has created the Waterways Chaplaincy Project Board (‘Project Board’) as a sub-committee of the Church Army Board and has delegated to it non-executive responsibility for overseeing the management, operation and development of the Waterways Chaplaincy within agreed parameters.

A report from the Project Board together, with the minutes of each of its meetings, are considered at each quarterly meeting of the Church Army Board of Trustees

During the year the Church Army Director of Operations had executive responsibility for all aspects of the management and operation of the Waterways Chaplaincy and reported Waterways Chaplaincy activities through his executive reporting line into the Church Army Management Group. Towards the end of the year this responsibility passed to Emma Sivyler, a Regional Development Officer with special responsibility for Waterways after Emma’s departure from Church Army in the summer of 2025 this passed to Robin Webb, Director of Finance & Support Services and Company Secretary, who also took over as Chair of the Project Board.

Waterways Chaplaincy Trustee's Report Year ended 31 March 2025

The Project Board and the Waterways Chaplaincy Lead are keen to work with churches from different denominations, the local community, staff, service users and other key stakeholders, and to benefit from their insights.

The Project Board has freedom to act as it sees fit in implementing the decisions of the Church Army Board and in overseeing the management, operation and development of the Waterways Chaplaincy within the following parameters:

- The Project Board is to lead and set strategy, vision and direction of the Project whilst managing the finances of the Project in line with the agreed budget.
- The Project Board is responsible for the appointment of the Waterways Chaplaincy Lead and will select appropriate member(s) to be involved in any recruitment process - through that person holds the Project Management Team accountable for the Project.
- The Project Board is to report annually to the Church Army Board in September, reviewing both developments over the past year and its plans for the following year, including proposals on strategic direction for the Waterways Chaplaincy for approval or amendment by the Church Army Board. The Project Board may refer urgent matters to the Church Army Board or Finance Committee at other times of year.
- The Project Board is to work within the policies and procedures of Church Army with regard to personnel, health and safety, finance, property, insurance and legal compliance except as agreed with the relevant Church Army managers.
- The Project Board is a non-executive Board and does not therefore get involved in the day-to-day running of the project.

The role of the Church Army Board

The Church Army Board reserves to itself the following powers and responsibilities:

- To approve and amend as appropriate the overall strategic direction for Waterways Chaplaincy
- To appoint and remove members of the Project Board
- To approve the annual financial statements of Waterways Chaplaincy
- To approve the annual budget of Waterways Chaplaincy, including capital expenditure
- To set and amend as appropriate the governance framework for Waterways Chaplaincy
- To receive the minutes of meetings of the Project Board
- To advise the Project Board and to respond to questions raised by the Project Board

c) Methods of appointment or election of Trustee

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustee who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

Waterways Chaplaincy
Trustee's Report
Year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The Trustee at the time when this Trustee's report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- the Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

Following a tender process Church Army appointed Hawsons Chartered Accountants as its new auditors for all the charities in the Church Army group for the March 2025 audit.

Approved by order of the Trustee and signed on their behalf by:



John Whitfield

For and on behalf of the Trustee

Date: 24/11/2025

Waterways Chaplaincy Independent Auditor's Report Year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Waterways Chaplaincy (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustee's report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustee is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Waterways Chaplaincy Independent Auditor's Report Year ended 31 March 2025

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustee's report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustee

As explained more fully in the trustee's responsibilities statement on page 11, the trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustee either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly and indirectly affect the financial statements. Based on our understanding of the charity and the environment it operates in, we determined the laws and regulations which were most significant included FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011. We considered the extent to which non-compliance with these laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements, including how fraud might occur. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries to improve the charity's result for the period and management bias in key accounting estimates.

**Waterways Chaplaincy
Independent Auditor's Report
Year ended 31 March 2025**

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and those responsible for legal compliance procedures within the charity to obtain an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and how the charity complies with that framework, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud
- Reviewing minutes of trustee meetings
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations or posted by senior management

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/library/standards-codes-policy/audit-assurance-and-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit> This description forms part of the auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustee, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters which we are required to state to trustees in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Hawsons

.....
Hawsons Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor
Pegasus House
463A Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2QD

08/12/2025
Date:

Hawsons is eligible to act as an auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Waterways Chaplaincy
Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	As restated Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	2	131,285	103,213
Total income		131,285	103,213
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities		(109,763)	(104,426)
Total expenditure		(109,763)	(104,426)
Net movement in funds		21,522	(1,213)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		22,669	23,882
Net movement in funds		21,522	(1,213)
Total funds carried forward		44,191	22,669

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**Waterways Chaplaincy
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2025**

		2025 £	2024 £
	Note		
Current assets			
Debtors	6	48,966	51,730
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(4,775)	(29,061)
Net current assets		44,191	22,669
Total net assets		44,191	22,669
Charity funds			
Unrestricted funds	9	44,191	22,669
Total funds		44,191	22,669

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustee and signed on their behalf by:



Matt Barlow

For and on behalf of the trustee

Date: 24/11/2025



John Whitfield

For and on behalf of the trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 21 form part of these financial statements

Waterways Chaplaincy
Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Waterways Chaplaincy meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Going concern

Due to support pledged from the trustee, the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Waterways Chaplaincy
Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.8 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustee in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	As restated Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Grant and trust income	118,095	51,416
Donations	13,090	51,797
Legacies	100	-
	131,285	103,213

Waterways Chaplaincy
Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Auditor's remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	4,775	5,730

4. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs recharged comprised:		
Wages and salaries	77,445	70,060
Social security costs	6,922	5,013
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	2,936	2,680
	87,303	77,753

Staff costs are recharged from the parent charitable company, The Church Army, for the staff of Waterways Chaplaincy.

No staff member received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the period.

5. Trustee's remuneration and expenses

During the year, the trustee did not receive any remuneration, expenses or other benefits (2024: nil).

6. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts owed by group undertakings	10,564	48,328
Prepayments and accrued income	38,402	3,402
	48,966	51,730

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	4,775	29,061

Waterways Chaplaincy
Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

8. Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening deferred income	24,286	43,666
Resources deferred during the year	-	24,286
Amounts released from previous years	(24,286)	(43,666)
Closing deferred income	<u>-</u>	<u>24,286</u>

Deferred income relates to grant income received in advance.

9. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>				
General funds	22,669	131,285	(109,763)	44,191

Statement of funds – prior period

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	As restated Income £	As restated Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>				
General funds	23,882	103,213	(104,426)	22,669

The 2024 income and expenditure figures have been restated following the reclassification of certain items of income and expenditure from restricted to unrestricted funds.

Waterways Chaplaincy
Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

10. Related party transactions

The sole trustee and parent charitable company is Church Army. A balance of £10,564 (2024: £48,328) is held within debtors owed by Church Army as at the year end.

As well as being sole trustee, Church Army provides certain services to Waterways Chaplaincy, including executive leadership, accounting, payroll and other HR services, policies, and other support services. No charges are made for these services.

There were no other related party transactions.

11. Controlling party

The ultimate controlling party is the sole trustee, Church Army, a charitable company limited by guarantee under company number 00037169 and registered charity number 226226.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

England & Wales - Charity number 1200492

Accounts

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Registered Charity number: 1200492

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY
CONTENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	2
Trustee’s Report	3
Independent Auditor’s Report	12
Statement of Financial Activities	15
Balance Sheet	16
Notes to the Accounts	17

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustee	The Church Army
Charity registered number	1200492
Principal office	C/O Church Army Wilson Carlile Centre 50 Cavendish Street Sheffield S3 7RZ
Independent auditor	BHP LLP Statutory Auditor 2 Rutland Park Sheffield S10 2PD

The Trustee presents their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects

The objects of the charity are:

To advance the Christian faith with the aim of bringing people to a personal faith in Jesus Christ by:

1. Providing trained evangelists and lay agents (including, but not limited to, Chaplains) to assist the advancement of the Christian religion, and
2. Relieving poverty and distress, including by (but not limited to) providing pastoral care and support, particularly among people living or travelling on or around canals and waterways across the UK.

Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

Our Waterways Chaplains proactively reach out to people in need on our rivers and canals. We support the increasing number of boaters who are 'signposted to us' by the Canal and River Trust Welfare Officers, Licencing Officer and other interested parties. We also support other boaters who are concerned for someone they have come across in need.

Rather like Street Pastors, Waterways Chaplains are there to serve those they come across. We build and maintain relationships and often help to sort out more involved issues with the boater such as poverty, or health & benefits problems. On occasion this leads to a clear transformation in people's lives but very often we do not know exactly how we have helped. Faith conversations are often brought up by those we help (see below) and we are ready to respond to their questions; our evangelism is oblique, rarely the purpose of our conversations but regularly the outcome.

Waterways Chaplains walk the waterways within a certain geographical patch near them, or they lurk in marinas or waterside cafes. They are trained volunteers, who are assigned a mentor for the first few months and are from different ecumenical and work backgrounds. Chaplains may be partly retired who now want to volunteer to help their community, or they just walk their dog along canals or rivers and see a need along their "stretch".

As Chaplains, we are all very connected into our local communities and our local Churches. We aim to proactively 'come alongside' boaters in need with a chat and a cup of coffee and support any further needs that may arise.

The Chaplains offer:

- **Listening:** listening & confidential ear.
- **Signposting:** sign post those in difficulty to local support services e.g. foodbanks.
- **Advocates:** act as advocates when a boater needs someone to unravel issues e.g. difficulties with paying licences, support with bereavement.
- **Emergencies:** take boaters to access emergency medical support e.g. Doctor or hospital, housing.
- **Practical:** help e.g. washing and drying laundry for boaters, helping out after a (rare) boat sinking.
- **Spiritual support:** When asked, Chaplains are willing to pray for and with people and talk about faith.

All of the support provided is free of charge to the people we help.

The Trustee has referred to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when reviewing the charity's objectives and aims.

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the charity

"The chaplaincy provides excellent support to boaters, and are well regarded, and very well spoken of both, in the boating community, and within the Trust. I have been immensely impressed by the Chaplaincy leadership team as well as the dedication of all the chaplains from the senior team through to local chaplains, often going above and beyond to get help and support where needed.

There has never been a greater need for support than now, the ever-increasing demands on people's finances, the impacts on the cost-of-living crisis, along with delays in accessing medical support would indicate that we can only expect to see a rise in the requests for support from our boating customers."

Sean Williams - Welfare & Safeguarding Officer Canal and River Trust. 5th October 2023

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY
TRUSTEE'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

This supporting comment sets the context and indicates the impact that Waterways Chaplains have on the communities who live or spend their leisure time on canals and rivers where they minister.

Waterways Chaplains and where they work

Waterways Chaplains offers support to those who use and live on the UK waterways and canals. Chaplains are volunteers from local churches who regularly visit the waterways offering companionship and a listening ear to individuals and businesses.

This year has been a time of consolidation (though thankfully the effects of the COVID pandemic are beginning to wane) and restaffing after the retirement of the National Lead Rev Mark Chester and the Southern Lead Rev Sarah Hayes. In July 2023 Rev Chris Upton took over from Mark, and Rev Mark Macaulay from Sarah. Our administrator retired in January 2024 and his work has been covered by the head office staff of the Church Army.

On 31 March there were 118 active Waterways Chaplains and at the time of writing there are 108. We think this is due to natural retirement of some older chaplains and the changing staffing of the WWC. A number of new chaplains are coming on board in the North of England and this is very welcome. The chaplains are still arranged into 12 Hubs: Central, East Anglia, Kennet & Avon, London, North Midlands, Northwest, Severn & Avon, South, Southeast, Staffordshire, Surrey & Hants but Lancashire has closed and the Peaks and Derbyshire has opened.

Each hub is led by a Senior Waterways Chaplain, and they meet monthly, face to face or online and some a mixture. The hubs are a place of support, fellowship, and encouragement, and the Senior WWCs play a crucial role in the recruitment, training and pastoral support of chaplains in their hubs.

We currently have three paid staff: a National Lead Chaplain and a Senior Chaplain for the North and a Senior Chaplain for the South. They work part time.

Funding for the Waterways Chaplaincy comes primarily from a grant from The Benefact Trust. We are working hard to raise the profile of the chaplaincy with the hope that this will lead to a more sustainable funding basis, with contributions coming from both churches and individuals but also businesses and charitable institutions. We are heavily indebted to the Chaplains themselves, who not only give of their time but claim little or no expenses.

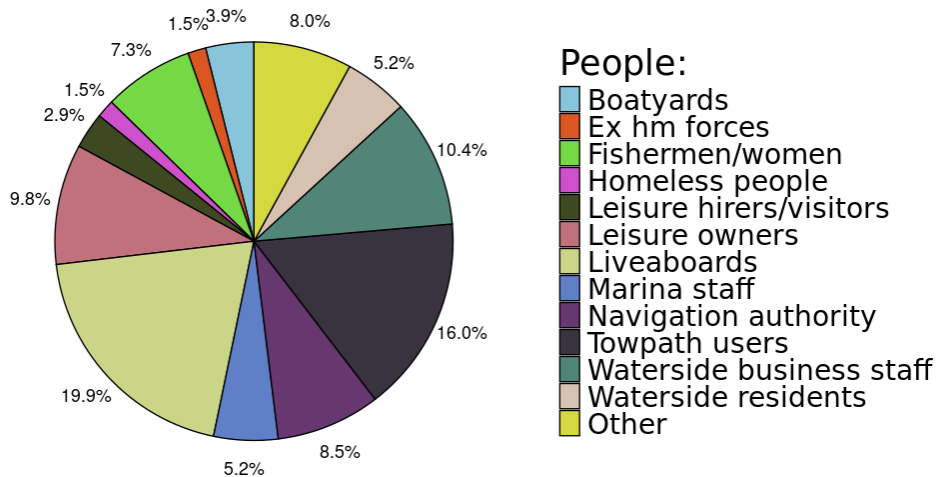
Who Waterways Chaplains work with and the issues they face.

Poverty and mental health have been among the key issues reported with other things ranging from boating matters to relationships, employment, and homelessness. Matters of faith and spirituality often come up in conversations as people often were struggling with what seemed to them hopeless situations. We have been involved in funerals for boaters and their families as part of that support, which has been important for the boating community and gives our work profile among that group. The underpinning principle of this unique chaplaincy is to provide independent and confidential holistic support, which is encouraging and ensures that people feel listened to. Among our volunteers are a mix of retired teachers, GPs, clergy, professionals, and others who are still working but find volunteering a wonderful way to 'give back.'

In January 2024 we changed our reporting system to make it easier and quicker for chaplains to report via a smartphone. The key difference that we noticed in the last year was the rise in conversations about mental health. We think that this is a worrying trend possibly linked to the Covid pandemic and the Cost-of-Living crisis. Noting this we invited Sanctuary Mental Health CEO Corin Pilling to lead us in some training at our national training days in January and February.

Who are we talking to?

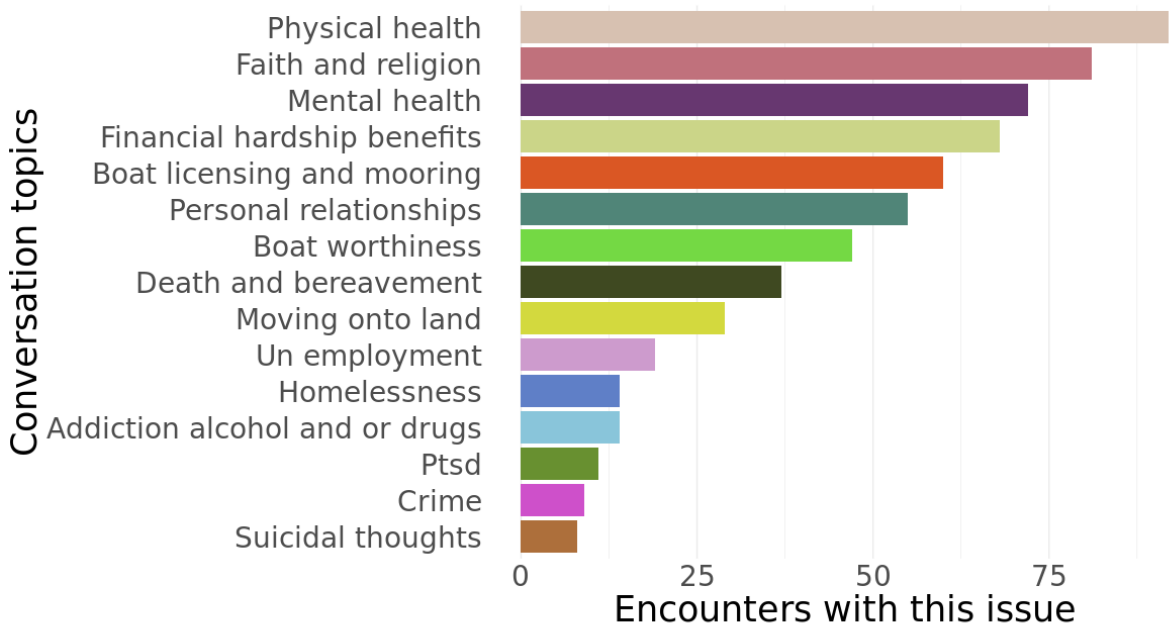
Between 2024-01 and 2024-05



Encounters are capped at one per chaplain per month to account for differences in reporting.

What are we talking about?

Between 2024-01 and 2024-05



Encounters are capped at one per chaplain per month to account for differences in reporting. Freetext (i.e. 'other') responses are excluded from this graph.

Stories of impact that Waterways licensed chaplains are having:

These three stories have all come from our newly reestablished monthly e-newsletters.

From Charles

Whilst walking along the towpath, I came across a tired looking boat. Wondering whether it had been abandoned, I enquired with the neighbours and they put me right... someone was actually living aboard. As the owner wasn't around, I simply left a WWC leaflet and my phone number.

Some weeks later I received a text. "Hi, you left a leaflet on my boat. Can we meet up?"

We met several times in a local café and chatted, sometimes for hours and talked about many things: boat worthiness, relationships, work, Christian faith etc, etc. After a couple of months, he started coming with me to the local church. I think he was rediscovering the faith he had in his younger years. He still comes on a Sunday occasionally, bringing his family with him.

From Helen

I met a boater by chance while showing a prospective chaplain along a stretch of canal towpath. The boater's friend, aware of our chaplaincy, mentioned that their friend needed our help to sort things out.

The boater was a continuous cruiser, grappling with financial challenges and the complexities of life. In the previous year, they had resigned from their agency job with dreams of self-employment but lacked the know-how to make it happen. With dwindling funds and mounting stress, they found themselves in a difficult spot. Despite managing through the winter with assistance from a fellow boater, they needed more support.

I arranged to meet them for a longer chat to assess how we could assist. Each visit was to a different location since the boater was constantly on the move. Through these visits, I explored vast stretches of countryside and canal, forging a deeper connection.

We organised a food parcel with the help of another chaplain and assisted in making a Universal Credit application. I provided transportation to the job center for two interviews and helped with shopping once funds became available.

I'm pleased to report that the boater is now much more in control of their life and feels positive about the future. They also expressed interest in church and faith, actively seeking opportunities to be involved. They even considered cycling to church when mooring points allowed.

It was truly fulfilling to be of service to this boater and witness their journey toward positivity and stability.

From Steven and Amanda (probationer chaplains)

A request via the website came to us in our first week and this really helped us to settle into the role. During our first two months we have found we have been comforters, form obtainers, food shoppers, dog walkers. We have washed and dried laundry, delivered many parcels (from the marina to liveaboards), charity shop drop off's, as well as getting registration to doctors surgeries.

Stand out points so far - generally being there to speak to, seeing the loneliness of what had originally seemed to us an idyllic lifestyle, it quickly became apparent that many people have become very isolated.

Even when we were told by our fellow Waterways Chaplains a bit of what to expect, we were not quite fully aware of the lack of living space available, the lack of street lighting on tow paths and the potential for people to feel very isolated and lonely. The isolation struck us the most... that an hour or two of our time may be the only contact that someone will have for days on end. That access to the doctor and supermarket, (which we take for granted) is not afforded to many people who live on the waterways.

Transition of Waterways Chaplaincy into Church Army family

The last 12 months has seen the ongoing transition of the Waterways Chaplaincy from being part of Workplace Matters into the family of Church Army. The formal transfer took place on January the 1st 2023 when Church Army took over the staff, volunteers and activities from EPI Limited t/a Workplace Matters, but this came after 18 months of building closer relationships and exploring the best option to secure the future for Waterways, building on a longstanding relationship where Church Army had provided administrative and leadership support to EPI Ltd over many years.

Since then the employees have moved onto the Church Army payroll. So, after many years of close collaboration between Workplace Matters and Church Army; Church Army now provides Waterways the organisational support of HR, payroll, volunteering, policy, financial processing, line management and leadership, with oversight of the work undertaken through a Project Board. Church Army is the sole trustee of Waterways Chaplaincy. It carries all legal and financial responsibilities in respect of Waterways Chaplaincy. The Waterways Project Board has delegated authority form Church Army to oversee the activities of the Waterways Chaplaincy.

We have in the past twelve months seen the retirement of our National Lead Chaplain Mark Chester in November 2023. We are hugely grateful for all that he has given to Waterways Chaplaincy and how the work to support people on our Waterways has grown through his leadership, organisation, example and care.

We successfully appointed Rev Chris Upton to the role of National Lead Chaplain for Waterways. He has settled into his role well and is leading the network and the senior chaplains within Waterways. Emma Sivyver as Mission Development Officer for Church Army has now taken over the responsibility of line management for the National Lead Chaplain. The project board has now been meeting quarterly throughout this year and it consists of:

- Director of Mission Operations, (Chair)
- Company Secretary of Church Army
- National Lead Chaplain for Waterways
- Tony Charles – former trustee of EPI Ltd t/a Workplace Matters
- Mission Development Officer, (South and East)

The Waterways Chaplaincy Project Board oversees the strategic direction, legal and financial responsibility and the support for the National Lead Chaplain and the team.

We are seeking to add the voices of Licensed Chaplains to the Project Board in the coming year to strengthen the connection between the chaplains and the governance of the chaplaincy.

Since the transition the work of Waterways has continued to grow and have significant impact upon the communities with which we serve.

As a project board we are hugely indebted for the hours that our network of licensed chaplains provides for Waterways and our communities. For the many hours walking, listening, supporting, and caring they are valued and appreciated. The work of Waterways Chaplaincy is needed more than ever within this country. We recognise the immense need that our licensed chaplains are addressing along our waterways of England and Wales. The stories of impact included in this report illustrate the complexity of needs that the Waterways Licensed Chaplains are picking up.

Plans for the future

With the move into the Church Army family being consolidated over the last year and with new staff having come onboard the future of the WWC looks good. There are still significant risks around funding but these are being addressed.

Areas of focus continue to be:

- 1) Continuing to grow the quality and number of chaplains and the geographical spread of the chaplaincy. This will be done through ongoing training and by increasing the expectations in the recruitment process.
- 2) Increasing the resilience of the financial and prayer support for the chaplaincy, specifically to enable the important staffing resources needed to match the expansion in the number of chaplains and the complexity of the work delivered.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY
TRUSTEE'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Neither of these will happen quickly, but we are confident that the direction of travel is slow and steady, and this neatly reflects the style and pace of our core user group!

Financial review

a. Review of the year

These accounts reflect the first full year within the Church Army family to 31 March 2024, whereas the prior period represented the 3 months from 1 Jan 2023 to 31 March 2023 the period from the transition date of Waterways into Church Army to the end of the accounting period.

Income from donations and grants totalled £103k – this included a £46k receipt from EPI Limited t/a Workplace Matters the charity that previously operated Waterways Chaplaincy prior to its transfer into the Church Army family in January 2023.

Expenditure of £104k led to a small loss of £1k for the year.

Funds carried forward totalled £23k representing just 2 months operating costs and the Project Board is thankful for the ongoing support of Church Army, the sole Trustee, as detailed in the Going Concern statement below, while work continues to source ongoing grant funders and increase donation and fundraised income to move Waterways to financial sustainability.

b. Going concern

Recognising the challenges this year in obtaining new grant funding to sustain the work following expiry of current grants, the Project Board has sought and received a letter of comfort from the Board of Church Army – an extract from this reads:

'The Board of Church Army remains committed to the work of the Waterways Chaplaincy of which Church Army is the sole Trustee.'

Church Army recognises that the journey to sustainability may take more than one year and commits to providing the funding required to continue operating the Waterways Chaplaincy should any shortfall in fundraising occur. For audit purposes to confirm that Waterways Chaplaincy is a Going Concern we explicitly confirm this commitment for at least the next 12 months.'

The Project Board takes comfort from this express commitment of ongoing support from Church Army in making its Going Concern statement.

c. Reserves policy

Following the move of Waterways Chaplaincy activities into a new charity on 1 January 2023, with Church Army as the sole Trustee, the aim is to work towards holding free reserves equivalent to 6 months operating expenses over the next 3 years. This planned approach is made possible by the ongoing support of Church Army. At the year end free reserves are £23k.

Key Risks

The Project Board maintains a Risk Register and highlights key risks to the Trustee – the current key risks and mitigations are as follows:

Key risk	Mitigations
<p>Failure to attract new grant funding and donation income results in operating losses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted programme of Grant applications being implemented • Wider fundraising strategy being developed to obtain support from different stakeholders in the canals and waterways • Commitment from Church Army the sole Trustee to provide financial support to sustain Waterways Chaplaincy while sustainable ongoing funding is put in place

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY
TRUSTEE'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

<p>Loss of key staff due to insecurity of funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Army has agreed to support the ongoing work of Waterways while it identifies and secures sustainable funding • We will work with the Chaplains to help strengthen their stakeholder relationships.
<p>Level of voluntary income including trust income continues to decline in real terms impacting risk appetite to grow the work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to evaluate the work which enables us to offer more evidenced based applications strengthening the opportunities • We will seek to build longer term relationship with the trusts we currently work with • We are currently develop a strategy for reaching local churches to try and secure new funding from that source • We are seeking to increase the number of individual donors
<p>Reputational risk through failure to protect the vulnerable and marginalised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Safeguarding training screening to reduce risk. • Policies and procedures exist in the chaplaincy to establish good practice. • All staff and volunteers working with vulnerable adults or children have regular safeguarding training updated at least every three years • Continued vigilance and addressing of issues as they arise. • Any allegations handled in line with our policy • We are supported by 31:8 for advice and help when things go wrong

Structure, governance and management

a) Constitution

Waterways Chaplaincy is a registered charity, number 1200492, and is constituted under a Trust deed.

Church Army is the sole trustee of Waterways Chaplaincy. It carries all legal and financial responsibilities in respect of Waterways Chaplaincy. The Church Army Board acts on Church Army's behalf as trustee and sets the framework.

As well, as being sole trustee, Church Army provides certain services to Waterways Chaplaincy, including executive leadership, accounting, payroll and other HR services, policies, and other support services.

b) Project Board

The Church Army Board has created the Waterways Chaplaincy Project Board ('Project Board') as a sub-committee of the Church Army Board and has delegated to it non-executive responsibility for overseeing the management, operation and development of the Waterways Chaplaincy within agreed parameters.

The Church Army Director of Operations has executive responsibility for all aspects of the management and operation of the Waterways Chaplaincy and will report Waterways Chaplaincy activities through his executive reporting line into the Church Army Management Group.

The Project Board and the Waterways Chaplaincy Lead are keen to work with churches from different denominations, the local community, staff, service users and other key stakeholders, and to benefit from their insights.

The Project Board has freedom to act as it sees fit in implementing the decisions of the Church Army Board and in overseeing the management, operation and development of the Waterways Chaplaincy within the following parameters:

- The Project Board is to lead and set strategy, vision and direction of the Project whilst managing the finances of the Project in line with the agreed budget.
- The Project Board is responsible for the appointment of the Waterways Chaplaincy Lead and will select appropriate member(s) to be involved in any recruitment process - through that person holds the Project Management Team accountable for the Project.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- The Project Board is to report annually to the Church Army Board in September, reviewing both developments over the past year and its plans for the following year, including proposals on strategic direction for the Waterways Chaplaincy for approval or amendment by the Church Army Board. The Project Board may refer urgent matters to the Church Army Board or Finance Committee at other times of year.
- The Project Board is to work within the policies and procedures of Church Army with regard to personnel, health and safety, finance, property, insurance and legal compliance except as agreed with the relevant Church Army managers.
- The Project Board is a non-executive Board and does not therefore get involved in the day-to-day running of the project.

The role of the Church Army Board

The Church Army Board reserves to itself the following powers and responsibilities:

- To approve and amend as appropriate the overall strategic direction for Waterways Chaplaincy
- To appoint and remove members of the Project Board
- To approve the annual financial statements of Waterways Chaplaincy
- To approve the annual budget of Waterways Chaplaincy, including capital expenditure
- To set and amend as appropriate the governance framework for Waterways Chaplaincy
- To receive the minutes of meetings of the Project Board
- To advise the Project Board and to respond to questions raised by the Project Board

c) Methods of appointment or election of Trustee

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustee who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The Trustee at the time when this Trustee's report is approved has confirmed that so far as that Trustee is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- the Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY
TRUSTEE'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Auditor

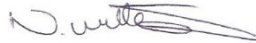
Following a tender process Church Army has appointed Hawsons as its new auditors for all the charities in the Church Army group for the March 2025 audit.

The Trustee thanks BHP LLP, the outgoing auditor for their advice, guidance and support over the last 9 years including the last 2 years for Waterways.

Approved by order of the Trustee and signed on their behalf by:



Signer ID: TSME4YQXYF...



Signer ID: CPK83FJNRT...

John Whitfield
For and on behalf of the Trustee

Neville Willerton, Director of Mission Operations – Church Army
Chair of Waterways Project Board

Date: 03/12/2024 GMT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Waterways Chaplaincy (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustee's report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustee is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustee's report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustee

As explained more fully in the trustee's responsibilities statement, the trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustee either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the Senior Statutory Auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the entity through discussions with the trustee and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity, including safeguarding legislation, health and safety and data protection laws;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal costs; and
- we ensured identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY (CONTINUED)

We assessed the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustee, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustee those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Signer ID: CZYRUVFAHR...

BHP LLP

Statutory Auditor

2 Rutland Park

Sheffield

S10 2PD

Date: 04/12/2024 GMT

BHP LLP is eligible to act as an auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	51,797	51,416	103,213	53,023
Other trading activities	3	-	-	-	9
Total income		51,797	51,416	103,213	53,032
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	(53,010)	(51,416)	(104,426)	29,150
Total expenditure		(53,010)	(51,416)	(104,426)	29,150
Net movement in funds		(1,213)	-	(1,213)	23,882
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		23,882	-	23,882	-
Net movement in funds		(1,213)	-	(1,213)	23,882
Total funds carried forward		22,669	-	22,669	23,882

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	8	51,730	72,323
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(29,061)	(48,441)
Net current assets		22,669	23,882
Total net assets		22,669	23,882
Charity funds			
Unrestricted funds	11	22,669	23,882
Total funds		22,669	23,882

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustee and signed on their behalf by:



Signer ID: CPK83FJNRT...

Neville Willerton

For and on behalf of the Trustee

Date: 03/12/2024 GMT



Signer ID: TSME4YQXYF...

John Whitfield

For and on behalf of the Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Waterways Chaplaincy meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Going concern

Due to support pledged from the Trustee, the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.8 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	51,797	51,416	103,213	53,023
Total 2023	36,148	16,875		

3. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Other income	-	-	-	9
Total 2023	9	-		

4. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Direct costs	53,010	51,416	104,426	29,150
Total 2023	12,275	16,875		

5. Auditor's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	5,730	2,440
Fees payable to the charity's auditor in respect of:		
All non-audit services not included above	-	2,335

6. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	70,060	15,247
Social security costs	5,013	1,031
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	2,680	94
	77,753	16,372

Wages costs are recharged from the parent charitable company, The Church Army, for the employees of Waterways Chaplaincy.

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the period was nil.

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the period.

7. Trustee's remuneration and expenses

During the year, the Trustee did not receive any remuneration or other benefits (2023: nil).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023: nil).

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8.	Debtors	2024	2023
		£	£
	Amounts owed by group undertakings	48,328	72,214
	Other debtors	3,402	109
		51,730	72,323
<hr/>			
9.	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Accruals and deferred income	29,061	48,441
<hr/>			
10	Deferred income		2024
			£
	Opening deferred income		43,666
	Resources deferred during the year		24,286
	Amounts released from previous years		(43,666)
	Closing deferred income		24,286
<hr/>			

Deferred income relates to grant income received in advance.

11. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>				
General funds	23,882	51,797	(53,010)	22,669
<i>Restricted funds</i>				
Benefact Trust	-	25,833	(22,833)	-
Tudor Trust	-	14,333	(14,333)	-
Laing Trust	-	11,250	(11,250)	-
Total of funds	23,882	103,213	(104,426)	22,669

Restricted funds are for the running and development of the chaplaincy.

11. Statement of funds - continued

Statement of funds – prior period

	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	36,157	(12,275)	23,882
Restricted funds			
Benefact Trust	7,750	(7,750)	-
Tudor Trust	5,375	(5,375)	-
Laing Trust	3,750	(3,750)	-
Total of funds	53,032	(29,150)	-

12. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance b/f 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance c/f 31 March 2024 £
General funds	23,882	51,797	(53,010)	22,669
Restricted funds	-	51,416	(51,416)	-
	23,882	103,213	(104,426)	22,669

Summary of funds – prior period

	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance c/f 31 March 2023 £
General funds	36,175	(12,275)	23,882
Restricted funds	16,875	(16,875)	-
	53,032	(29,150)	23,882

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Current assets	-	51,730	51,730
Creditors due within one year	-	(29,061)	(29,061)
Total	-	22,669	22,669

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Current assets	72,323	72,323
Creditors due within one year	(48,441)	(48,441)
Total	23,882	23,882

13. Related party transactions

The sole trustee and parent charitable company is Church Army. A balance of £48,328 (2023: £72,214) is held within debtors owed by Church Army as at the year end.

As well as being sole trustee, Church Army provides certain services to Waterways Chaplaincy, including executive leadership, accounting, payroll and other HR services, policies, and other support services. No charges are made for these services.

There were no other related party transactions.

14. Controlling party

The ultimate controlling party is the sole trustee, Church Army, a charitable company limited by guarantee under company number 00037169 and registered charity number 226226.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

England & Wales - Charity number 1200492

Accounts

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Trustee's report	2 - 11
Independent auditor's report on the financial statements	12 - 14
Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	16
Notes to the financial statements	17 - 22

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustee The Church Army (appointed 27 September 2022)

Charity registered number 1200492

Principal office C/O Church Army
Wilson Carlile Centre
50 Cavendish Street
Sheffield
S3 7RZ

Independent auditor BHP LLP
Statutory Auditor
2 Rutland Park
Sheffield
S10 2PD

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustee presents their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the period 27 September 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

a. Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

Our Waterways Chaplains proactively reach out to people in need on our rivers and canals. We support the increasing number of boaters who are 'signposted to us' by the Canals and Rivers Trust Welfare Officers. We also support other boaters who are concerned for someone they have come across in need and other Waterways Chaplains.

Rather like Street Pastors, Waterways Chaplains are there to serve those they come across. We build and maintain relationships and often help to sort out more involved issues with the boater such as poverty, or health & benefits problems. This leads to transformation in people's lives and the opportunity to spiritually be reactive and pray for or with them.

Waterways Chaplains walk the waterways within a certain geographical patch near them. They are trained volunteers, who are assigned a mentor for the first few months and are from different ecumenical and work backgrounds. Chaplains may be partly retired who now want to volunteer to help their community or they just walk their dog along canals or rivers and see a need along their "stretch".

As Chaplains, we are all very connected into our local communities and our local Churches. We aim to proactively 'come alongside' boaters in need with a chat and a cup of coffee and support any further needs that may arise.

The Chaplains offer:

- **Listening:** listening & confidential ear.
- **Signposting:** sign post those in difficulty to local support services e.g. foodbanks.
- **Advocates:** act as advocates when a boater needs someone to unravel issues e.g. difficulties with paying licences, support with bereavement.
- **Emergencies:** take boaters to access emergency medical support e.g. Doctor or hospital, housing.
- **Practical:** help e.g. washing and drying laundry for boaters, helping out after a (rare) boat sinking.

All of the support provided is free of charge to the people we help.

The Trustee has referred to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when reviewing the charity's objectives and aims.

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the charity

"The chaplaincy provides excellent support to boaters, and are well regarded, and very well spoken of both, in the boating community, and within the Trust. I have been immensely impressed by the Chaplaincy leadership team as well as the dedication of all the chaplains from the senior team through to local chaplains, often going above and beyond to get help and support where needed.

There has never been a greater need for support than now, the ever-increasing demands on people's finances, the impacts on the cost-of-living crisis, along with delays in accessing medical support would indicate that we can only expect to see a rise in the requests for support from our boating customers."

Sean Williams - Welfare & Safeguarding Officer Canal and River Trust. 5th October 2023

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

This supporting comment from the Canal and River Trust both sets the context and indicates the impact that Waterways Chaplains have on the communities who live or spend their leisure time on canals and rivers where they minister.

This report covers the activity of the Waterways Chaplaincy from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 however, we recognise that for the purposes of this Annual Report, Waterways Chaplaincy became a new unincorporated trust, with Church Army Board as the sole trustee, on 27th September 2022.

Waterways Chaplains and where they work

Waterways Chaplains offers support to those who use and live on the UK waterways and canals. Chaplains are volunteers from local churches who regularly visit the waterways offering companionship and a listening ear to individuals and businesses.

This year has been a time of rebuilding numbers of Waterways Chaplains following the COVID pandemic. On 1st September 2022 there were 95 active Waterways Chaplains which was a decrease from 101 the previous year. Growth continued throughout 2022/2023 and at the time of writing there are 118 active Waterways Chaplains.

The chaplains are arranged into 12 Hubs: Central, East Anglia, Kennet & Avon, Lancashire, London, North Midlands, Northwest, Severn & Avon, South, Southeast, Staffordshire, Surrey & Hants.

Each hub is led by a Senior Waterways Chaplain, and they meet monthly, face to face online and some a mixture. The hubs are a place of support, fellowship, and encouragement, and the Senior WWCs play a crucial role in the recruitment, training and pastoral support of chaplains in their hubs.

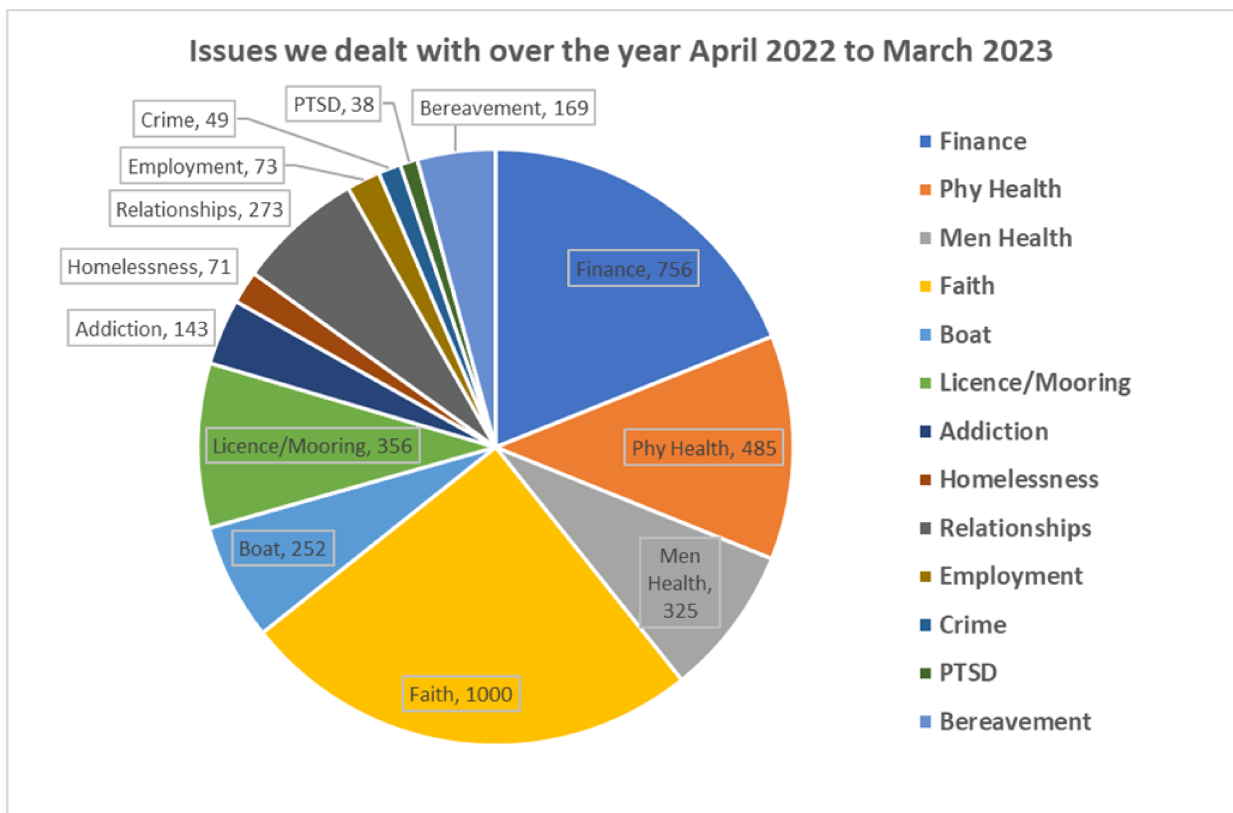
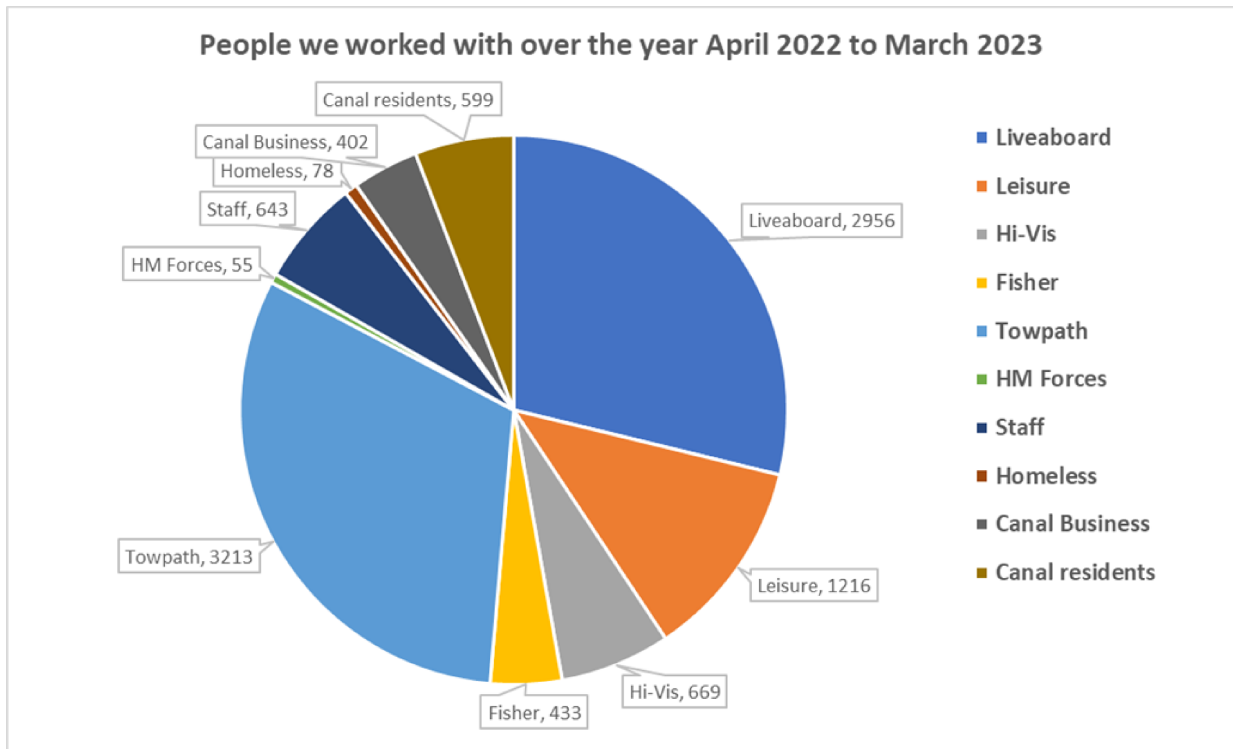
We currently have three paid staff: a National Senior Chaplain and a Senior Chaplain for the North and a Senior Chaplain for the South. They work part time.

Funding for the Waterways Chaplaincy comes primarily from grants from the Tudor Trust, Maurice and Hilda Laing Trust and The Benefact Trust. We are also indebted to several churches and individuals who support the work financially and many of the Chaplains themselves, who not only give of their time but claim little or no expenses.

Who Waterways Chaplains work with and the issues they face

Poverty and mental health have been among the key issues reported with other things ranging from boating matters to relationships, employment, and homelessness. Matters of faith and spirituality often come up in conversations as people often were struggling with what seemed to them hopeless situations. We have been involved in funerals for boaters and their families as part of that support, which has been important for the boating community and gives our work profile among that group. The underpinning principle of this unique chaplaincy is to provide independent and confidential support, which is encouraging and ensures that people feel listened to. Among our volunteers across both chaplaincies are a mix of retired teachers, GPs, clergy, professionals, and others who are still working but find volunteering a wonderful way to 'give back.'

Achievements and performance (continued)



WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

Stories of impact that Waterways licensed chaplains are having:

The last word should go to our chaplains, sharing the ways that they are changing lives:

From L in the Southeast hub: There was a boat fire at Stansted Abbots. 3 boats burned. Only one was occupied. A young man lost everything apart from the clothes he stood up in and his phone. It was going to be his birthday the following day! L went the following day with clothing, bedding and toiletries and a birthday cake for him and he was visibly moved with the provision.

From Continuous cruiser WWCs S and F: Since being commissioned in Bethany Baptist Church, Cardiff, last July, we have ministered to a huge range of people on the canals. For most, this has consisted of a cheery wave or friendly chat on the towpath. For others, this has involved a 7hr conversation about the purpose and meaning of life, help with bike maintenance, or support with crippling financial and health issues. Where relevant, we give out information about local services and pocket New Testaments. One thing that has struck us during this time, has been the value of 'living amongst'. Most of the opportunities that arise, occur because we are 'there'. Occasionally, the chaplaincy will send through referrals, but mostly, the conversations start because someone is moored next to us, meets us at a lock, or is walking the towpath. We do not seek out these encounters and never 'push' our faith on others, but, as chaplains, we are open about the hope that is within us and willing to listen and care for those around us.

From D and C in the North Midlands: we were alerted, by a towpath user we know, to the distress of a boater, whom we also know, who had been attacked by another boater. We went to see the distressed boater, who was very pleased to see us. Having previously given him an NT and Psalms, we asked him if he found them helpful, and he said he liked Psalm 23, but preferred the Authorised Version. So we printed that out and also Psalm 139, for which he was very grateful. He knows we keep praying for him, and when the boater who had attacked him was given notice to quit his mooring, our friend thought that was an answer to prayer.

Chris Upton, National lead Chaplain – October 2023

Transition of Waterways Chaplaincy into Church Army family:

The last 12 months has seen the transition of the Waterways Chaplaincy from being part of Workplace Matters into the family of Church Army.

The formal transfer took place on January the 1st 2023 when Church Army took over the staff, volunteers and activities from EPI Limited t/a Workplace Matters, but this came after 18 months of building closer relationships and exploring the best option to secure the future for Waterways, building on a longstanding relationship where Church Army had provided administrative and leadership support to EPI Ltd over many years.

Since then the employees have moved onto the Church Army payroll. So, after many years of close collaboration between Workplace Matters and Church Army; Church Army now provides Waterways the organisational support of HR, payroll, volunteering, policy, financial processing, line management and leadership, with oversight of the work undertaken through a Project Board. Church Army is the sole trustee of Waterways Chaplaincy. It carries all legal and financial responsibilities in respect of Waterways Chaplaincy. The Waterways Project Board has delegated authority from Church Army to oversee the activities of the Waterways Chaplaincy.

We have in the past twelve months seen the retirement of our National Lead Chaplain in Mark Chester. We are hugely grateful for all that he has given to Waterways Chaplaincy and how the work to support people on our Waterways has grown through his leadership, organisation, example and care. We will celebrate Mark's work and thank him personally at the National Celebration for Waterways in November 2023.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

We have now successfully appointed Rev Chris Upton to the role of National Lead Chaplain for Waterways. He has settled into his role well and is leading the network and the senior chaplains within Waterways. Emma Sivyer as Mission Development Officer for Church Army has now taken over the responsibility of line management for the National Lead Chaplain.

The project board has now been meeting quarterly throughout this year and it consists of:

- Director of Mission Operations, (Chair)
- Chief Operating Officer (as company secretary of Church Army)
- National Lead Chaplain for Waterways
- Tony Charles
- Mission Development Officer, (South and East)
- Operations Team Administrator, (as minute taker)

The Waterways Chaplaincy Project Board oversees the strategic direction, legal and financial responsibility and the support for the National Lead Chaplain and the team.

Since the transition the work of Waterways has continued to grow and have significant impact upon the communities with which we serve.

As a project board we are hugely indebted for the hours that our network of licensed chaplains provides for Waterways and our communities. For the many hours walking, listening, supporting, and caring they are valued and appreciated.

The work of Waterways Chaplaincy is needed more than ever within this country. We recognise the immense need that our licensed chaplains are addressing along our waterways of England and Wales. The stories of impact (that are recorded below) illustrate the complexity of needs that the Waterways Licensed Chaplains are picking up.

Stories of Impact from our Waterways licensed chaplains:

'I have noticed a dramatic and severe downturn in personal finances of liveaboards recently. I have an arrangement with several local food banks and this month is the first time I have had to authorise multiple food parcels and other necessities.'

'We met R when he was fishing and in need of power for his mobile phone. 2 days later we met him again shortly before we left the boat for a week.'

'He has a number of challenges including alcohol and a difficult home situation which resulted in him sleeping rough (a tent alongside the canal) whilst staying in contact with his wife who lives nearby. We invited him to boat sit for us for the week and were able to leave him with a John's gospel to read. When we returned to the boat he had a meal with us on board and we were able to share with him that our generosity springs from a relationship with our heavenly father who is more generous and loving than we could ever be.'

'After some difficulty I managed to locate a couple in difficulty on a narrowboat. I was firstly alerted to their plight by a friend who delivers fuel to live a boards on the Thames. They contacted us via the website and I visited them to see how I could help. They have had engine problems which is serious as the Thames is in flood and they had spent a lot of money addressing this. They had also been fined for overstaying so were financially hard up. They wanted fuel for their wood burning stove, which I was able to provide the next day.'

'Assisting a boater, who is a stroke victim and cannot read or write, to complete his licensing application'.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

These stories are a fraction of the impact that our community of Licensed Chaplains are having across our Waterways.

Financial review

a. Review of period

These accounts represent 3 months activity from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023, the period from the transition date of Waterways into Church Army to the end of the accounting period.

During the period Waterways Chaplaincy received a grant from Laing Trust and an interim payment of £80,000 from Workplace Matters including grants made before the start of the period for waterways work. All monies received are banked in the Church Army central bank account, and are therefore included in these accounts as debtors.

Some of the grant monies are for use over a period that stretches beyond March 2023. This portion has been excluded from the income from the period and moved into creditors.

An amount of £45,814 is expected to be received during 2023/24, being the final settlement with Workplace Matters – this is recognised as a contingent asset as at the date of this report.

b. Going Concern

Due to support pledged from the Trustee, the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

c. Reserves policy

Following the move of Waterways Chaplaincy activities into a new charity on 1 January 2023, with Church Army as the sole Trustee, the aim is to work towards holding free reserves equivalent to 6 months operating expenses over the next 3 years. This planned approach is made possible by the ongoing support of Church Army. At the year end free reserves were £23,882.

Key Risks

The Project Board maintains a Risk Register and highlights key risks to the Trustee – the current key risks and mitigations are as follows:

Key risk	Mitigations
Loss of key staff due to insecurity of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have in place funding for all of the part time Waterways Chaplains for 2023 and for a further two years for one of those posts.• We are negotiating with the other and looking at other sources of funding.• Church Army may provide bridging funding if necessary.• We will work with the Chaplains to help strengthen their stakeholder relationships.
Level of voluntary income including trust income continues to decline in real terms impacting risk appetite to grow the work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We continue to evaluate the work which enables us to offer more evidenced based applications strengthening the opportunities• We will seek to build longer term relationship with the trusts we currently work with• We are currently developing a strategy for reaching local churches to try and secure new funding from that source• We are seeking to increase the number of individual donors
Reputational risk through failure to protect the vulnerable and marginalised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Safeguarding training screening to reduce risk.• Policies and procedures exist in the chaplaincy to establish good practice.• All staff and volunteers working with vulnerable adults or children have regular safeguarding training updated at least every three years• Continued vigilance and addressing of issues as they arise.• Any allegations handled in line with our policy• We are supported by 31:8 for advice and help when things go wrong

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Waterways Chaplaincy is a registered charity, number 1200492, and is constituted under a Trust deed. Church Army is the sole trustee of Waterways Chaplaincy. It carries all legal and financial responsibilities in respect of Waterways Chaplaincy. The Church Army Board acts on Church Army's behalf as trustee and sets the framework.

As well, as being sole trustee, Church Army provides certain services to Waterways Chaplaincy, including executive leadership, accounting, payroll and other HR services, policies, and other support services.

b. Project Board

The Church Army Board has created the Waterways Chaplaincy Project Board ('Project Board') as a sub-committee of the Church Army Board and has delegated to it non-executive responsibility for overseeing the management, operation and development of the Waterways Chaplaincy within agreed parameters.

The Church Army Director of Operations has executive responsibility for all aspects of the management and operation of the Waterways Chaplaincy and will report Waterways Chaplaincy activities through his executive reporting line into the Church Army Management Group.

The Project Board and the Waterways Chaplaincy Lead are keen to work with churches from different denominations, the local community, staff, service users and other key stakeholders, and to benefit from their insights.

The Project Board has freedom to act as it sees fit in implementing the decisions of the Church Army Board and in overseeing the management, operation and development of the Waterways Chaplaincy within the following parameters:

- The Project Board is to lead and set strategy, vision and direction of the Project whilst managing the finances of the Project in line with the agreed budget.
- The Project Board is responsible for the appointment of the Waterways Chaplaincy Lead and will select appropriate member(s) to be involved in any recruitment process - through that person holds the Project Management Team accountable for the Project.
- The Project Board is to report annually to the Church Army Board in September, reviewing both developments over the past year and its plans for the following year, including proposals on strategic direction for the Waterways Chaplaincy for approval or amendment by the Church Army Board. The Project Board may refer urgent matters to the Church Army Board or Finance Committee at other times of year.
- The Project Board is to work within the policies and procedures of Church Army with regard to personnel, health and safety, finance, property, insurance and legal compliance except as agreed with the relevant Church Army managers.
- The Project Board is a non-executive Board and does not therefore get involved in the day-to-day running of the project.

The role of the Church Army Board

The Church Army Board reserves to itself the following powers and responsibilities:

- To approve and amend as appropriate the overall strategic direction for Waterways Chaplaincy
- To appoint and remove members of the Project Board
- To approve the annual financial statements of Waterways Chaplaincy
- To approve the annual budget of Waterways Chaplaincy, including capital expenditure
- To set and amend as appropriate the governance framework for Waterways Chaplaincy

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

- To receive the minutes of meetings of the Project Board
- To advise the Project Board and to respond to questions raised by the Project Board

c. Methods of appointment or election of Trustee

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustee who is elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

Plans for future periods

Plans for 2023-24

With the move into the Church Army family in January 2023, and with our current National Senior Chaplain set to step down in July 2023 it is a time of significant change. Much time and effort are being put into stabilising the chaplaincy and into the search for and appointment of a new National Lead Chaplain.

Given all this there are still other areas of focus:

- 1) Continuing to grow the number of chaplains and the geographical spread of the chaplaincy
- 2) Raising the financial and prayer support for the chaplaincy, specifically to enable the important staffing resource to grow to match the expansion in the number of chaplains
- 3) Develop the training and support offered to licensed chaplains, recognising the complex issues they are increasingly encountering

None of these will happen quickly, but we are confident that the direction of travel is slow and steady, and this neatly reflects the style and pace of our core user group!

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The Trustee at the time when this Trustee's report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

The auditor, BHP LLP, has indicated his willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustee will propose a motion reappointing the auditor at a meeting of the Trustee.

Approved by order of the Trustee and signed on their behalf by:

Neville Willerton
For and on behalf of the Trustee
Date:

John Whitfield
For and on behalf of the Trustee

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

We have audited the financial statements of Waterways Chaplaincy (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustee's report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustee's report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY (CONTINUED)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustee's report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustee's responsibilities statement, the trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustee either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the entity through discussions with the trustee and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity, including safeguarding legislation, health and safety and data protection laws;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal costs; and
- we ensured identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY (CONTINUED)

We assessed the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

BHP LLP

Statutory Auditor
2 Rutland Park
Sheffield
S10 2PD

Date:

BHP LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	2	36,148	16,875	53,023
Other trading activities	3	9	-	9
Total income		36,157	16,875	53,032
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	4	12,275	16,875	29,150
Total expenditure		12,275	16,875	29,150
Net movement in funds		23,882	-	23,882
Reconciliation of funds:				
Net movement in funds		23,882	-	23,882
Total funds carried forward		23,882	-	23,882

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £
Current assets		
Debtors	8	72,323
		<u>72,323</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(48,441)
		<u>23,882</u>
Net current assets		<u>23,882</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>23,882</u></u>
Charity funds		
Unrestricted funds	10	23,882
		<u>23,882</u>
Total funds		<u><u>23,882</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustee and signed on their behalf by:

Neville Willerton
For and on behalf of the Trustee
Date:

John Whitfield
For and on behalf of the Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Waterways Chaplaincy meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Going concern

Due to support pledged from the Trustee, the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.8 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	36,148	16,875	53,023

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3. Income from other trading activities**Income from fundraising events**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Other income	9	9

4. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**Summary by fund type**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs	12,275	16,875	29,150

5. Auditor's remuneration

	2023 £
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	2,440
Fees payable to the charity's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	2,335

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6. Staff costs

	2023 £
Wages and salaries	15,247
Social security costs	1,031
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	94
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	16,372
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Wages costs are recharged from the parent charitable company, The Church Army, for the employees of Waterways Chaplaincy.

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the period was nil.

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the period.

7. Trustee's remuneration and expenses

During the period, the Trustee did not receive any remuneration or other benefits.

During the period ended 31 March 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred.

8. Debtors

	2023 £
Amounts owed by group undertakings	72,214
Other debtors	109
	<hr/>
	72,323
	<hr/> <hr/>

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023
	£
Accruals and deferred income	48,441

	2023
	£
Resources deferred during the period	43,666

10. Statement of funds**Statement of funds - current period**

	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>			
General funds	36,157	(12,275)	23,882
<i>Restricted funds</i>			
Benefact Trust	7,750	(7,750)	-
Tudor Trust	5,375	(5,375)	-
Laing Trust	3,750	(3,750)	-
	16,875	(16,875)	-
<i>Total of funds</i>	53,032	(29,150)	23,882

Restricted funds are for the running and development of the chaplaincy.

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current period

	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General funds	36,157	(12,275)	23,882
Restricted funds	16,875	(16,875)	-
	<u>53,032</u>	<u>(29,150)</u>	<u>23,882</u>

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Current assets	72,323	72,323
Creditors due within one year	(48,441)	(48,441)
Total	<u>23,882</u>	<u>23,882</u>

13. Related party transactions

The sole trustee and parent charitable company is Church Army. A balance of £72,214 is held within debtors owed by Church Army as at 31 March 2023.

As well, as being sole trustee, Church Army provides certain services to Waterways Chaplaincy, including executive leadership, accounting, payroll and other HR services, policies, and other support services. No charges are made for these services.

14. Controlling party

The ultimate controlling party is the sole trustee, Church Army, a charitable company limited by guarantee under company number 00037169 and registered charity number 226226.