

# JOIN THE DOTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1202665

## Details

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**Other names** JOIN THE DOTS SOLUTIONS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2023-04-11

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

## Contact

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**Address** 3 Lane Close  
Broadbridge Heath  
Horsham  
West Sussex  
RH12 3UF

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**Email** [admin@jointhedots.solutions](mailto:admin@jointhedots.solutions)

**Website** [www.jointhedots.solutions](http://www.jointhedots.solutions)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT:TO RELIEVE SICKNESS AND PRESERVE MENTAL HEALTH PRINCIPALLY (BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY) FOR PERSONS SUFFERING THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMA, CRISIS OR FAMILY BREAKDOWN, IN PARTICULAR (BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION) BY TRAINING WITH A CHRISTIAN ETHOS, TO CHURCHES AND OTHER FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER AGENCIES OR CHARITIES, TO ENABLE THEM TO OFFER MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF TRAUMA, CRISIS AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN.

**Activities:** We help Christian faith based charities and churches to become trauma informed so that they can be welcoming, accesible places for those who have experienced adversity. We do this by providing training, resources and consultancy.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

## Geography

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- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£8,801	£13,832	-	-
2024-03-31	£16,761	£5,158	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Ruth Stephens</b>	Chair	2023-03-01
Dr Victoria Barrow		2025-05-19
Helen Barker		2025-02-20
Laura Ryder		2022-01-14

**JOIN THE DOTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1202665

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report and accounts

2024 - 2025

J O I N  
| t h e  
D O T S

Equipping  
faith  
organisations  
and their  
teams to  
become  
trauma  
informed

charity number 1202665,  
operating as a CIO

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# Message from the chief executive

As I reflect on 2025, I am struck by the momentum we have gained and the depth of the work we were invited to create and deliver. Partnerships were made and significant growth took place within Join the Dots itself. This year we supported communities and organisations navigating the realities of trauma, including delivering a bespoke exploratory workshop for a church following a major tragedy. This involved inviting highly experienced specialist guest facilitators with whom we may partner again. We delivered workshops at national Anglican conferences, exhibited at Pentecostal and multi-denominational events. Another highlight was developing and delivering a new three-part online training for school chaplains and creating the content for a self-care journal in partnership with another charity. Alongside this, a year-long consultancy with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) charity allowed us to walk closely with their organisation as they embedded trauma-informed practice, culminating in training for their whole staff team.

2025 was also a year of learning what it takes to sustain this work. As demand for our training grew, we recognised the importance of strengthening our foundations: investing in additional trainers, widening our volunteer base, recruiting specialist support for communications, and seeking professional advice on HR processes. All this helped us move towards greater sustainability and resilience for the future. We were able to prepare for the growth and development of infrastructure experienced this year thanks to a generous donation from a corporate partner at the end of 23/24.

We also took time to reflect on our governance, welcoming a new trustee and committing to broader trustee recruitment in the future. These steps are shaping how we move forward, enabling Join the Dots to continue to offer trauma-informed support, that is creative, rooted in care, from a Christian perspective – for the people we equip and for those that they serve.

We look forward to training more organisations in the coming year and providing accessible, monthly webinars on a range of topics. We are excited about fulfilling our vision to see faith organisations become places of integrity and genuine, well informed support, where every person feels safe, valued, and accompanied on their faith journey.



# Our impact



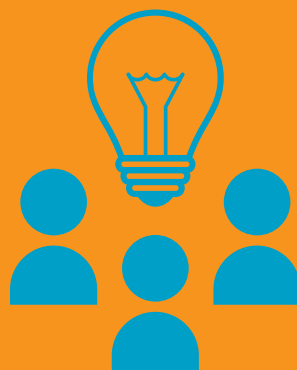
trained 300+ participants

from



delivered high quality content

“A very engaging and informative overview of trauma and attachment. I certainly feel more equipped to implement trauma informed strategies in both my work and church environments. Thank you so much.”



4 in-person workshops



2 conference workshops

launched resource & accompanying videos

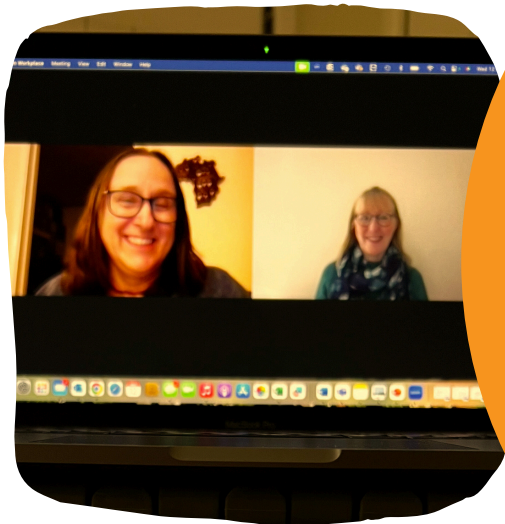


exhibited at **4** conferences & events



**120** care boxes given to childrens & youth workers with church of Ireland Youth Dept. & Missional generation

launched trauma-informed schools chaplaincy training



  
“The training was fantastic - the best training I’ve ever attended for Chaplains. I was quickly able to implement some of the learning”

# Trustees report and financial statements

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION



**Trustees:**

Ruth Stephens  
Laura Ryder  
Lindsay Hassall (resigned 24/02/2025)  
Gioele Serio (resigned 24/05/2024)  
Helen Barker

**Charity registered number:**

1202665

**Registered Office:**

3 Lane Close  
Broadbridge Heath  
Horsham  
RH12 3UF

**Accountant:**

G Schulz & Company Ltd  
Chartered Management Accountants  
G Schulz FCMA CGMA  
3 Lane Close  
Broadbridge Heath  
Horsham  
RH12 3UF

**Bankers:**

The Co-operative Bank  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M4 4BE

# Trustees report and financial statements

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

### **Structure, governance and management**

Join the Dots is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), constitution dated 11 April 2023.

### **Recruitment and appointment of Trustees**

The first trustees were selected by the founder and CEO. Since founding, two trustees have stepped down due to pressure of other commitments, but it is the Charity's intention to add at least two trustees this coming year who will be recruited through word of mouth within partner faith networks followed by nomination.

New trustees receive an induction covering the charity's mission, policies, and responsibilities under charity law.

### **Organisational structure**

The Board of Trustees meets quarterly to oversee strategy, finances, and compliance. Day-to-day operations are managed by our part-time volunteer, director/trustee and a free-lance marketing assistant, both with input from the trustees where necessary.

### **Objectives**

The object of the charity is to relieve sickness and preserve mental health principally (but not exclusively) for persons suffering the effects of trauma, crisis or family breakdown, in particular (but without limitation) by training with a Christian ethos, to churches and other faith-based organisations and other agencies or charities, to enable them to offer more effective support services for survivors of trauma, crisis and family breakdown.

### **Join the Dots does this by:**

- Equipping faith leaders and pastoral workers to respond effectively to trauma.
- Encouraging trauma-informed practices within churches and faith organisations.

### **The practical outworking of this is by:**

- Providing by training and resources about trauma and recovery.
- Providing consultancy to faith organisations in which the Charity facilitates recognition of the widespread impact of trauma and explore practical ways they can respond to trauma

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The charity's work benefits the public by increasing understanding of trauma and enabling faith communities to offer safer, more compassionate responses to those affected.

# Trustees report and financial statements

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### Risk assessment

The trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, particularly regarding safeguarding, data protection, and financial sustainability.

### Mitigation steps include:

- Annual safeguarding and GDPR reviews.
- Financial controls and dual signatories on payments.
- Ongoing evaluation of programme quality and relevance.

### Safeguarding statement

The charity maintains a safeguarding policy and ensures that all trainers, freelance assistants and volunteers complete appropriate background checks and training. All safeguarding concerns are managed in line with best practice and statutory guidance.

### Achievement and performance

The charity continues to fulfil its objectives and has gained momentum over the year, becoming known throughout the UK. For the coming year bookings are coming in and a series of monthly webinars on trauma related topics are planned.

### Main activities during the year

- Delivered seven online training sessions and workshops to churches and faith-based organisations with 96 participants in total.
- Delivered four in person, whole day workshops.
- Delivered workshops at two conferences.
- Produced the content for a reflective self-care wellbeing journal and accompanying videos. These were produced in partnership with other charities: Missional Generation and CIYD. These resources are now available on our website.
- Provided organisational consultations and resources for a partner organisation: TLG including a full day training for their whole staff team.
- There have been regular, quarterly board meetings.
- During the 2024-5 year the charity has developed relationships with individuals who are very keen to see our objectives fulfilled. This has meant that our volunteer base has grown in preparation to exhibit at festivals and conferences.
- Early in 2025 the charity took on a part time freelance marketing assistant who coordinates advertising for events and assists with all communication with prospective clients.
- The charity also took on a freelance social media specialist to increase our presence online.

# Trustees report and financial statements

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### Highlights for the year

- Trained over 300 participants from over 50 churches and organisations.
- Launched a new resource, Self-care for Youth Workers with accompanying videos.
- Launched a 3-part trauma informed chaplains training for school chaplains.
- Expanded network to include two more volunteers who assist at festivals and promotional events.
- Received positive feedback from many participants.

### Testimonials

"The training was fantastic - the best training I've ever attended for Chaplains. The facilitators understood chaplaincy!!! It was on the level I needed for my context and my job. I was quickly able to implement and use some of the learning. THANK YOU SO MUCH". School Chaplain

"An excellent training day that was skilfully facilitated by Ruth. Clear and informative and will change my thinking and practice". Staff member TLG

### Plans for the future

- Secure grant funding to develop online trauma training modules for remote access.
- Expand partnerships with other churches and faith organisations
- Secure grant funding to support CPD accreditation of Join the Dots' workshops
- Continue evaluation and improvement of training materials

### Financial review

Income for the year amounted to £8,801 (2024 - £16,761) and expenditure £13,832 (2024 - £5,158). The deficit of £5,031 was added to fund brought forward, with the year-end unrestricted fund balance being £6,572.

### Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to maintain reserves sufficient to cover at least three months of core operating costs, estimated at £3,300.

### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that 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.

# Trustees report and financial statements

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 10 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
Ruth Stephens  
Trustee

# Trustees report and financial statements

## Independent Examiner's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Join The Dots

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year to 31 March 2025 set out on pages 7 to 14.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....

G W Schulz FCMA CGMA

10 November 2025

G Schulz & Company Ltd  
Chartered Management Accountants  
3 Lane Close  
Broadbridge Heath  
Horsham  
RH12 3UF

# Trustees report and financial statements

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	400	-	400	12,625
Charitable activities	3	8,401	-	8,401	4,136
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>8,801</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,801</b>	<b>16,761</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable activities	4	13,832	-	13,832	5,158
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>13,832</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,832</b>	<b>5,158</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS AND GAINS</b>		<b>(5,031)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,031)</b>	<b>11,603</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(5,031)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,031)</b>	<b>11,603</b>
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>		<i>11,603</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>11,603</i>	<i>-</i>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	8	<b>6,572</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,572</b>	<b>11,603</b>

# Trustees report and financial statements

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	6	82		3,695	
Cash at bank and in hand		8,553		8,882	
		<u>8,635</u>		<u>12,577</u>	
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	7	<u>(2,063)</u>		<u>(974)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>			<u>6,572</u>		<u>11,603</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>6,572</u>		<u>11,603</u>
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>					
Restricted funds	9		-		-
Unrestricted funds	9		6,572		11,603
			<u>6,572</u>		<u>11,603</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>6,572</u>		<u>11,603</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10 November 2025 and signed on their behalf, by:



.....  
Ruth Stephens  
Trustee

# Trustees report and financial statements

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Join The Dots constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

#### **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.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

#### **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.

#### **Debtors**

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

#### **Cash at Bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### **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.

# Trustees report and financial statements

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

### 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.

### Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees 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 £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Donations and gifts	400	-	400	12,543
Gift aid	-	-	-	82
	<u>400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>12,625</u>

## 3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Consultancy	2,400	-	2,400	150
Workshop and training	4,899	-	4,899	3,628
Expenses recharged	986	-	986	358
Resource sales	116	-	116	-
	<u>8,401</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,401</u>	<u>4,136</u>

# Trustees report and financial statements

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

### 4. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Advertising and marketing	1,514	-	1,514	904
Marketing freelance	3,378	-	3,378	819
Consultancy freelance	4,030	-	4,030	375
Website	582	-	582	193
Insurance	1,275	-	1,275	945
Software, postage, stationery	592	-	592	321
Training	215	-	215	57
Subscriptions	186	-	186	-
Travel and subsistence	1,078	-	1,078	-
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	106
Bank charges	4	-	4	-
Professional and legal fees	678	-	678	500
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	56
Independent examination	300	-	300	882
	<u>13,832</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,832</u>	<u>5,158</u>

### 5. TRUSTEE EXPENSES

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

During the year, one trustee received £1,355 for consultancy fees (2024 - £375).

During the year, no Trustees received reimbursement of expenses other than those incurred on behalf of the charity (2024 - NIL).

### 6. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	82	1,944
Prepayments	-	1,751
	<u>82</u>	<u>3,695</u>

### 7. CREDITORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,698	974
Accruals and deferred income	365	-
	<u>2,063</u>	<u>974</u>

# Trustees report and financial statements

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

### 8. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Current year	Brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers in/out £	Carried forward £
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
General funds	11,603	8,801	(13,832)	-	6,572
<b>Restricted funds:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>11,603</u>	<u>8,801</u>	<u>(13,832)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,572</u>
<b>Prior year</b>	<b>Brought forward £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers in/out £</b>	<b>Carried forward £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
General funds	-	16,761	(5,158)	-	11,603
<b>Restricted funds:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>16,761</u>	<u>(5,158)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,603</u>

### 9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Current year	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Current assets	8,635	-	8,635
Creditors due within one year	(2,063)	-	(2,063)
	<u>6,572</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,572</u>
<b>Prior year</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Current assets	12,577	-	12,577
Creditors due within one year	(974)	-	(974)
	<u>11,603</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,603</u>



Join the Dots exists to enable local churches, youth ministries, schools' teams and charities who serve people in need, to be more accessible to those whose lives have been impacted by trauma.

**JOIN THE DOTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1202665

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# Accounts

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND**  
**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024**  
**FOR**  
**JOIN THE DOTS**

# JOIN THE DOTS

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# **JOIN THE DOTS**

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024**

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 11th April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

### **INCORPORATION**

The charitable company was incorporated on 11th April 2023.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

#### **Registered Company number**

(England and Wales)

#### **Registered Charity number**

1202665

#### **Registered office**

8 The Gilligans  
Burgess Hill  
East Sussex  
RH158TD

#### **Trustees**

R Stephens  
L Ryder  
Rev L Hassall

# JOIN THE DOTS

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024

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### Our Story

Join the Dots was set up in 2020, with a series of pilot training webinars with youth workers. Our CEO, Ruth, saw the need for Christian faith organisations to become equipped. After networking with other churches and Christian charities, she was invited to deliver training to a wider variety of groups who support people with a trauma background. After seeking trustees and developing systems, we became a charity in April 2023.

### Why we exist

Join the Dots equips faith organisations and their teams to become trauma informed. Christian outreach and discipleship invariably involves supporting people with both seen and unseen trauma. The effects of this trauma may result in challenging behaviours, difficulties feeling secure, feeling safe, and ultimately struggles with growing in the Christian faith and engaging in community life. Christians are passionate about helping people to experience the fullness of life that Jesus brings and additional, specialist training can equip them to better support people in that process, ensuring that the most vulnerable do not miss out on the essential services of Christian organisations due to a lack of understanding of the impact of trauma.

**Our vision** is to enable local churches, youth ministries, schools' teams and charities, to be more accessible to those whose lives have been impacted by trauma. We want to see Christian ministries across the UK be aware, feel empowered to understand, and equipped to support those whose lives have been affected by trauma.

### Activities and impact during the year 2023-24

Since the formation of Join the Dots as a registered Charity, we have been building new contacts, developing and delivering more training. Our impact is slowly growing, and we have been encouraged by the interest shown in our work. There are several pieces of work on the pipeline for 2024-25.

### Training delivered

#### In person workshops

We delivered the workshop 'Self Care for Teams' with a team of church leaders, who in turn support over 100 people in their congregation and are very active in reaching out to their local community. In addition, we delivered this training with the leaders of a church led, schools team who support many children in their local schools. A four-part training 'An Introduction to understanding ACES in the context of faith settings' was facilitated with a church who are very active in supporting families in their local community. This was extremely well received.

#### Feedback received

"The training was extremely informative, giving a basic understanding of what trauma is, understanding attachment and providing practical strategies to support children and adults.

It gave us a far greater awareness of supporting children and adults with trauma experiences. It also really helped us in delivering our SEND provisions in our community family outreach. We came away with a clearer understanding of how trauma presents and with tools to provide a place that supports and journeys with people who have experienced it"

#### Webinars

Webinars are trainings that we produce for anyone with interest to attend and are bookable via popular booking platforms. Participants have varied from church leaders, youth leaders, to interested individuals wanting to have a better understanding for themselves.

We delivered four webinar trainings across the period, with around 50 attendees. Titles included Introduction to ACES for faith settings, Attachment, safety and Identity, Looking at sensory needs and a free taster webinar on what a trauma sensitive culture could look like.

#### Feedback received

"I found this training really helpful and have been left with lots of things to further consider when thinking about the setting at work in what things I may be able to put in place to make our sessions more trauma informed"

"The facilitator was very engaging and gave good open, clear conversations around trauma without complicating it."

#### Consultancy

In addition to our training, we also provide a consultancy service to faith organisations. During the period, we launched a piece of consultancy work around trauma informed practice for a large charity that equips churches who support vulnerable children.

## JOIN THE DOTS

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024

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#### Other events

In addition to our training and webinars, we were also invited to raise awareness through guest appearances at two key events run by other charities. First, a Facebook Live meeting about childhood trauma and children's work, with a large group of people from a charity that supports Christian parents and children's workers. The second, was delivery of a short taster talk at an event attended by a large network of children's workers about the basics of trauma and supporting individuals in need.

#### Investing in our organisational development

2023/24 saw us gather much momentum in growing a wider team. Some of these are volunteers who are committing to assist at exhibitions in the coming year. We identified two potential highly skilled and qualified trainers with whom we are exploring ways to work together.

We have continued to create, and implement appropriate policies and procedures for good governance. These include finance procedures for expenditure and gift aid, alongside policies for safeguarding, volunteer engagement, conflict of interest, complaints and risk assessments. We have invested in freelance admin support to develop our systems and processes to ensure we have the right infrastructure for the growth that we envisage in the coming year.

#### Looking Ahead

We are working towards running one public webinar per month with an average of 20 attending each. To achieve this we need to invest more time in expanding our relational network as well as marketing through social media and regular newsletters to our mailing list.

Invitations have already come in to facilitate training with a church, schools work team and two conferences. We also plan to exhibit at four conferences in the coming months, the goal of which is to widen our network, increase trauma awareness, promote a trauma informed approach and connect with people who would like to receive our training or promote our offering.

We have an invitation to partner with another charity in creating written and video content for some self-care resources. Self-care is an important topic in addressing prevention of re-traumatisation and burnout so that those in Christian compassion ministry can be effective and have longevity. We see these resources as vital in equipping individuals who support those who have experienced adversity.

Further developments in increasing our infrastructure will be taking place as well. This includes onboarding some additional volunteers who will support us at exhibitions and potential additional trainers.

#### Where we would like to be

We love working with Christian workers who are in the trenches, reaching out to young people, adults and families, many of whom have broken, challenging lives. Our training provides a solid foundation and practical tools so that they can impact more lives for God's kingdom and confidently support those who have experienced adversity.

Small charities like ours make a significant contribution to the UK as a whole because we equip those on the ground to make a greater impact.

Overall, in the next 12 months we would like to:

1. Deliver 15 training events - a mix of online webinars, and in person training requested by organisations and faith groups.
2. Develop our marketing plans and understanding to broaden our reach and raise awareness of our work.
3. Grow our finances to be able to resource the charity with administration, finance and marketing support.

#### To do this we need the following resources

Finances to cover the following costs

##### a) People

- \* Our principle trainer (part time)
- \* Administrator (part time)
- \* Fundraising support (ad hoc)
- \* Associate trainers who will initially be taken on as free-lance contractors (as the demand for training increases).

##### b) Physical resources:

- \* Basic stationary
- \* Printer for occasional use
- \* Banners and advertising materials for displays at conferences etc.

# JOIN THE DOTS

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024

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Action to be taken/systems to put in place:

- a) Standardise the course material to ensure quality control and ease of use.
- b) Get course material accredited for CPD purposes.
- c) A social media schedule
- d) Creation of operating procedures such as budget control, investment and borrowing, HR, risk management.
- e) Recruit two further trustees
- f) Creation of trustee welcome pack
- g) Creation of volunteer welcome pack and guidelines

With these resources, we believe that we can make a significant impact in faith based organisations who in turn will offer better support to people in need. We also believe that when churches and charities have greater trauma awareness and operate from a trauma informed approach, there will be a reduction in abuses of power and trauma at the hands of Christian leaders.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 11 Dec 2024 ..... and signed on its behalf by:

*Ruth Stephens*

.....  
Ruth Stephens (Wed, 11th Dec 2024 14:44:40 GMT)  
R Stephens - Trustee

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOIN THE DOTS

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## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Join the dots ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the period 11th April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Hassall



Date: .....

**JOIN THE DOTS****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024**

		<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted fund £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>	<b>Notes</b>			
Donations and legacies		12,625	-	12,625
Other trading activities	2	3,778	-	3,778
Other income		358	-	358
<b>Total</b>		<u>16,761</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,761</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Main		3,435	-	3,435
Other		1,723	-	1,723
<b>Total</b>		<u>5,158</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,158</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<u>11,603</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,603</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>11,603</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,603</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

# JOIN THE DOTS

## BALANCE SHEET 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	4	1,944	-	1,944
Prepayments and accrued income		1,751	-	1,751
Cash at bank		8,882	-	8,882
		<u>12,577</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,577</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(974)	-	(974)
		<u>11,603</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,603</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
		<u>11,603</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,603</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>11,603</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,603</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>11,603</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,603</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	6			
Unrestricted funds				<u>11,603</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>11,603</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 31st March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ..... and were signed on its behalf by:

*Ruth Stephens*

Ruth Stephens Trustee  
11th Dec 2024  
14:44:40 GMT)

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

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

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

Consultancy Income  
Training income

£  
**150**  
**3,628**  

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**3,778**  

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**3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31st March 2024.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31st March 2024.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024

<b>4.</b>	<b>DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>		
	Trade debtors		£ <u>1,944</u>
<b>5.</b>	<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>		
	Trade creditors		£ <u>974</u>

<b>6.</b>	<b>MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		
		<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>At 31.3.24</b>
		£	£
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
	Unrestricted	11,603	11,603
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>11,603</u>	<u>11,603</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Movement in funds</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted	16,761	(5,158)	11,603
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>16,761</u>	<u>(5,158)</u>	<u>11,603</u>

**7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 31st March 2024.

## JOIN THE DOTS

### DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 11TH APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024

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	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>	
<b>Donations and legacies</b>	
Gifts	1
Donations	12,542
Gift aid	82
	<hr/>
	12,625
<b>Other trading activities</b>	
Consultancy Income	150
Training income	3,628
	<hr/>
	3,778
<b>Other income</b>	
Expense Recharges	358
	<hr/>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>16,761</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>Charitable activities</b>	
Advertising	904
Sundries	147
Training cost	57
	<hr/>
	1,108
<b>Other</b>	
Computer costs	514
Consultancy	375
Direct cost	834
	<hr/>
	1,723
<b>Support costs</b>	
<b>Management</b>	
Other Professional Costs	50
<b>Finance</b>	
Insurance	945
<b>Governance costs</b>	
Accountancy and legal fees	1,332
	<hr/>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>5,158</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>11,603</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements



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