

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL

England & Wales · Charity number 1205042

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-10-03

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

Contact

Address Bexhill Foodbank
19-20 Station Road
Bexhill-On-Sea
TN40 1RE

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT[S] OF THE CIO ARE 1. THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT 2. TO FURTHER SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE AND CONNECTED TO THE CHARITABLE WORK OF THE CHARITY IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THE RELIEF OF NEED IN THE COMMUNITY OF BEXHILL AND ROTHER FOR THOSE IN NEED BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH OR OTHER SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE THROUGH THE RUNNING OF FOODBANKS AND COMMUNITY HUB.

Activities: Our aims: The advancement of the Christian Faith for the public benefit; and To further such charitable purposes as are exclusively charitable and connected to the charitable work of the charity for those in need in Bexhill & Rother including the running of the Advice Centre and Foodbanks in Bexhill & Battle.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- East Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£288,881	£231,304	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jonathan Jeremy Frais	Chair	2023-10-03
Charmaine Hill		
Corinne Patricia Elaine Gadsden		2023-10-03
Rev Philip Arthur Hodgins		2025-03-31
Rev'd Carol Ann Cockcroft		2023-10-03
Ruth Alison Lawrie		2024-06-26

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL

England & Wales - Charity number 1205042

Accounts

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042**

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
CONTENT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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1. Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objectives:

Churches Together in Bexhill objectives are

- The advancement of the Christian Faith for the public benefit
- To further such charitable purposes as are exclusively charitable and connected to the charity in particular but not exclusively the relief of need in the community of Bexhill and Rother for those in need by reason of their youth or other social or economic disadvantage through the running Foodbanks and community hub.

Activities Undertaken:

During the year, the charity undertook the following activities in pursuit of its objectives:

- Joint worship events
- Community foodbank support
- Inter-church prayer gatherings and outreach activities

Public Benefit:

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its activities for the year.

2. Achievements and Performance

This year (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025), the charity achieved the following key outcomes:

- Hosted a town-wide Good Friday walk of witness with over 300 participants
- Held monthly ecumenical prayer meetings with growing attendance
- Facilitated grant distribution to Ukrainians using the Hub for Ukraine Bexhill
- Bexhill foodbank fed 6670 people in Bexhill (87%) and Battle (13%), 37% of which were children. 6670 people convert to around 80,000 meals provided.
- We are very proud to be bucking the national trend of increasing numbers of people using the foodbank. We have not seen a drop in the number of new users of the foodbank, but due to our financial inclusion work that has been running since late 2022, we are now able to stop usage figures from rising.

Our Financial Capability Advisor works with our clients to ascertain the underlying causes of what is making them need the foodbank, and then he works with the client to take positive steps to change their circumstances. We also work in partnership with other local charities like Christians Against Poverty and Energise Sussex Coast to ensure our clients can easily access the help they need for their specific circumstances.

Challenges included the opening of the Advice Centre, closure of the unincorporated charity, Churches Together in Bexhill, Charity Number 1149860, which were managed through enhanced volunteer coordination and closer planning meetings.

3. Financial Review

Income and Expenditure Summary:

- Total income: £288,881
- Total expenditure: £231,304
- Surplus: £57,577

We are extremely grateful to churches, schools, community groups, small businesses and Individuals from Rother who regularly donate and collect food to us. We particularly wish to thank The Crucible Foundation for their generous donation of £56,000 towards the running costs of the Advice Service.

We are extremely privileged to have the input of over 85 volunteers during the year and are grateful to everyone who has supported the foodbank with time and energy. The volunteer contributions can be quantified as over 5,890 hours, with an estimated valuation more than £72,000

Reserves Policy:

The charity aims to maintain free reserves of £115,000 to cover 6 months of operational costs. At 31 March 2025, free reserves stood at £285,780, which meets the target.

4. Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have identified the following major risks:

- Dependence on grant income
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Availability of shared facilities

Mitigation measures include diversifying income sources, volunteer training initiatives, and securing formal agreements for venue use.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document:

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by a constitution dated 3rd October 2023.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment:

Trustees are appointed under the terms of the constitution, either by nomination or election at the AGM. New trustees receive an induction pack and training as required.

Management: Day-to-day operations are delegated to the Food Bank Manager, under the oversight of the board of trustees.

6. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Churches Together in Bexhill

Charity number: 1205042

Principal office address: Bexhill Foodbank, 19-20 Station Road, Bexhill, East Sussex TN40 1RE

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees during the year: Rev Jonathan Frais
 Rev Carol Cockcroft
 Rev Philip Hodgins (Co-opted March 2025)
 Corinne Gadsden
 Charmaine Hill
 Ruth Lawrie
 Sally Parry
 Lisa Young

Independent examiner: Mark Chetwynd

Bankers: HSBC
 Barclays

Bexhill & Battle Foodbank continues to be a member of The Trussell trust (charity 1110522 and company 05434524 England & Wales), a national support group for local foodbanks. Active membership of this body provided a wide forum for the exchange of information, training and support at local and national levels.

7. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Charities SORP (FRS 102). They are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Name: J. J. Frais
Position (e.g. Chair): Chair
Date: 30-6-25

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Churches Together in Bexhill

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Churches Together in Bexhill ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 13

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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts do not accord with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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.



Mark Chetwynd
Member of Institute of Chartered Accountant of England & Wales

Date: 4 July 2025

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Year Ended 31 March 2025			Year Ended 31 March 2024
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income					
Income from Donations and Legacies					
Foodbank	4	204,266	24,476	228,742	138,398
Ukraine Hub		-	10,466	10,466	16,689
General		515	-	515	1,073
Income from Charitable Activities					
Foodbank	5	-	44,821	44,821	50,739
Investment Income					
General		4,337	-	4,337	3,884
Total		<u>209,118</u>	<u>79,763</u>	<u>288,881</u>	<u>210,783</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Foodbank		171,453	53,375	224,828	172,612
Ukraine Hub		-	5,014	5,014	15,443
General		1,462	-	1,462	2,709
Total	6	<u>172,915</u>	<u>58,389</u>	<u>231,304</u>	<u>190,763</u>
NET INCOME		<u>36,203</u>	<u>21,374</u>	<u>57,577</u>	<u>20,020</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>249,577</u>	<u>25,887</u>	<u>275,464</u>	<u>255,444</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>285,780</u>	<u>47,261</u>	<u>333,041</u>	<u>275,464</u>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
 REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
 BALANCE SHEET
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		As at 31 March 2025			As at 31 March 2024
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	9	9,935	18,250	28,185	492
Current assets					
Prepayments		-	1,103	1,103	-
Cash at bank and in hand	10	279,577	91,748	371,325	324,661
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(3,732)	(63,840)	(67,572)	(49,689)
Net current assets		<u>275,845</u>	<u>29,011</u>	<u>304,856</u>	<u>274,972</u>
Total net assets		<u>285,780</u>	<u>47,261</u>	<u>333,041</u>	<u>275,464</u>
Funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds		-	47,261	47,261	25,887
Unrestricted funds		285,780	-	285,780	249,577
		<u>285,780</u>	<u>47,261</u>	<u>333,041</u>	<u>275,464</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30/6/25 and were signed on its behalf by:

J.J. Frazer

Trustee

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019 (“Charities SORP”), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust’s ability to continue as a going concern. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity was incorporated on 3 October 2023 and began trading on 1 April 2024.

2. TRANSFER OF ACTIVITIES AND USE OF MERGER ACCOUNTING

Background and Accounting Treatment

On 1 April 2024, the assets, liabilities, and operations of Churches together in Bexhill, an incorporated charity (registered charity number: 1149860) were transferred to Churches together in Bexhill (registered charity number: 1205042), a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”) established to continue the work of the former charity.

The trustees determined that the transfer meets the conditions for merger accounting as set out in the Charities SORP (FRS 102), module 27. This is because:

- The charitable purposes and activities of the new CIO remained the same as those of the unincorporated charity;
- All assets, liabilities, and activities were transferred at their book values;
- The trustees and key management personnel continued unchanged;
- The transfer was undertaken for the benefit of the charity’s beneficiaries, not for the advantage of any party;
- No consideration was paid.

Accordingly, the financial statements of the CIO have been prepared as though the activities of the unincorporated charity had always been carried on by the CIO. All comparative figures in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 relate to the results of the Churches together in Bexhill, an incorporated charity (registered charity number 1149860).

Net assets transferred as at 1 April 2024

	£
Tangible fixed assets	492
Cash and cash equivalents	324,661
Creditors	(49,689)
Net assets transferred	<u>275,464</u>

All comparative figures in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 relate to the results of the Churches together in Bexhill, an incorporated charity (registered charity number 1149860)

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (“SoFA”) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognized to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Income from interest

This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable, and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalized if they can be used for more than one year. They are valued at cost.

Individual fixed assets are capitalized at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Leasehold improvements	5 years
Fixture and Fittings and equipment	3 years

Operating leases

The charity classifies the lease of office space as operating leases; the title to the office remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Cash at bank and cash in hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognized where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

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 recognized at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement.

4. DONATIONS TO THE FOODBANK

	For the year ended 31 March 2025	For the year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Donations to Bexhill foodbank	148,793	81,923
Donations to Battle foodbank	6,572	10,847
Non performance related grants	64,972	34,627
Gift aid	8,405	11,001
	<u>228,742</u>	<u>138,398</u>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5. PERFORMANCE RELATED GRANTS

	For the year ended 31 March 2025	For the year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Trussell Trust	44,821	50,739
	<u>44,821</u>	<u>50,739</u>

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	For the year ended 31 March 2025	For the year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Foodbank		
Foodbank operating costs	164,350	117,415
Grant distribution	21,457	12,148
Financial inclusion advice	29,520	37,560
Depreciation	3,212	59
Support costs	5,289	4,290
Governance costs	1,000	1,140
Ukraine		
Ukraine grant distribution and expenses	5,014	15,443
General		
General expenses	1,462	2,709
	<u>231,304</u>	<u>190,763</u>

During the year ended 31 March 2025, expenditure on fundraising activities was £nil (2024: £nil)

The trustees identify those costs relating to governance and general support of the charity. These costs are all apportioned to the foodbank in the year end 31 March 2025 and year ended 31 March 2024. Refer to the table below for the basis for apportionment and the analysis of support costs

	For the year ended 31 March 2025	For the year ended 31 March 2024	
	£	£	
Employee costs	883	669	Allocated on time
General office costs	1,852	526	Pro rata to staff full time equivalents
Legal and professional fees	2,554	3,095	Invoiced amount
	<u>5,289</u>	<u>4,290</u>	

During the year ended 31 March 2025 and 2024, governance costs consisted of independent reviewer fees as disclosed in note 8.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. EMPLOYEE COSTS

	For the year ended 31 March 2025	For the year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	70,683	43,913
Social Security costs	501	-
Pension costs	2,989	2,411
	<u>74,173</u>	<u>46,324</u>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

The total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity was £33,952 (2024: £26,750) For specific amounts paid to trustees, see Note 15.

The average headcount during the year was 3 (2024: 2). All employees worked on charitable activities

8. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	For the year ended 31 March 2025	For the year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	1,000	1,140
Other fees	280	-
	<u>1,280</u>	<u>1,140</u>

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Leasehold improvements	Fixture and Fittings, and Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
As at 1 April 2023	-	-	-
Additions	-	551	551
As at 31 March 2024	-	551	551
Additions	23,940	6,965	30,905
As at 31 March 2025	<u>23,940</u>	<u>7,516</u>	<u>31,456</u>
Accumulated Depreciation			
	£	£	£
As at 1 April 2023	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	(59)	(59)
As at 31 March 2024	-	(59)	(59)
Charge for the year	(2,220)	(992)	(3,212)
As at 31 March 2025	<u>(2,220)</u>	<u>(1,051)</u>	<u>(3,271)</u>
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2024	-	492	492
As at 31 March 2025	<u>21,720</u>	<u>6,465</u>	<u>28,185</u>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	As at 31 March 2025	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£
Cash at bank	371,216	324,661
Petty Cash	109	-
	<u>371,325</u>	<u>324,661</u>

11. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

	As at 31 March 2025	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£
Payments received on account for performance-related grants	63,840	37,975
Taxation and social security	1,396	911
Accruals	2,336	10,530
Other creditors	-	273
	<u>67,572</u>	<u>49,689</u>

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

The charity's financial instruments comprise cash balances, and payables that arise directly from its charitable activities. The fair value of all financial assets and financial liabilities is not materially different to the book value.

The charity remains reliant on grant funding and public donations to support its core activities. A reduction in funding or economic uncertainty could impact the charity's ability to meet local need. To mitigate this, we are actively seeking to diversify income streams and build relationships with a wider base of funders, while maintaining an appropriate reserves policy.

13. OPERATING LEASES

The charity had total commitments under non-cancellable building operating leases as follows:

	As at 31 March 2025	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£
Within one year	14,004	-
Between 1 and 5 years	43,179	-
	<u>57,183</u>	<u>-</u>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

The purpose for which funds are held can be analysed as follows:

	As at 1 April 2024	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	249,577	209,118	(172,915)	285,780
	249,577	209,118	(172,915)	285,780
Restricted fund				
Foodbank	12,715	69,297	(53,375)	28,637
Ukraine Hub	13,172	10,466	(5,014)	18,624
	25,887	79,763	(58,389)	47,261
Total funds	275,464	288,881	(231,304)	333,041

	As at 1 April 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	236,988	137,170	(124,581)	249,577
	236,988	137,170	(124,581)	249,577
Restricted fund				
Foodbank	6,530	56,924	(50,739)	12,715
Ukraine Hub	11,926	16,689	(15,443)	13,172
	18,456	73,613	(66,182)	25,887
Total funds	255,444	210,783	(190,763)	275,464

15. TRUSTEE AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

In the year ended 31 March 2025, the charity paid £952 (2024: £nil) to Charmaine Hill, a trustee, for financial inclusivity advisory services.