

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

England & Wales · Charity number 243931

Details

Other names	BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1965-08-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Jericho Building 196-198 Edward Road Balsall Heath Birmingham B12 9LX
Phone	01216614273
Email	office@birminghamchurches.org.uk
Website	www.birminghamchurches.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO FOSTER COLLABORATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL, PARTICULARLY WORKING TOGETHER IN CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BENEFIT THE NEEDY IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITIES, SERVING THEM REGARDLESS OF RELIGION, CULTURE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, SEXUALITY, DISABILITY OR AGE

Activities: Foster, encourage and develop unity and cooperation between Christian Churches to better serve the wider community of Birmingham and Solihull, regardless of class, status or ethnicity. Supporting refugees and asylum seekers through Restore Offering family learning through BCT Training

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BIRMINGHAM AND ELSEWHERE
- Birmingham City
- Solihull

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£211,955	£229,455	-	-
2023-12-31	£186,906	£216,767	-	-
2022-12-31	£163,658	£208,841	-	-
2021-12-31	£190,943	£152,701	-	-
2020-12-31	£230,845	£164,500	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bishop Boris Paul McCalla		2023-01-19
James Owen Ashley		2024-01-01
REV STEVEN MARK FABER		2016-06-08
Rev David Emanuel Ellis RM-HEBA		2020-10-20
Rev Deverton Antony Douglas		2023-01-19
Rev Novette S Headley		2023-01-19
Right Revd Dr Michael John Volland		2024-07-01
The Most Reverend Bernard Longley		
Venerable Jennifer Clare Tomlinson		2021-06-09

Linked charities

- BIRMINGHAM CHRISTIAN SOCIAL COUNCIL (243931-1)
- BIRMINGHAM UNITED MISSIONARY COUNCIL (243931-2)
- BIRMINGHAM CHRISTIAN YOUTH COUNCIL (243931-3)

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 243931

Accounts

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

31 DECEMBER 2024

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Registered Charity No: 243931

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

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25. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity - Restore

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT

31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Constitution and 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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019).

Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The object of Birmingham Churches Together is to promote mutual understanding and fellowship among the Churches which accept Jesus Christ as God and Saviour for the wellbeing of all the citizens of Birmingham and surrounding areas.

The objectives are achieved through its Ecumenical Development work and its Restore project detailed below. Public benefit is met by actively encouraging members of different denominations to work and worship together and collectively to support those who are disadvantaged, regardless of their beliefs, thereby enabling them to join in and partake in the benefits of the community.

The Trustees' have reviewed the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission and consider that our aims and activities as set out below fulfil the criteria. The trustees consider the guidance on public benefit each year.

Ecumenical Development

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) encourages greater cooperation between Christian churches in order that together they may better serve the people of Birmingham and Solihull. There is increased public benefit when Churches are enabled to partner together to serve the whole community, regardless of status, class or ethnicity. Throughout 2024, Robert Mountford worked as BCT Ecumenical Development Enabler, supported by Maud Grainger in the role of BCT Development and Support Worker. Both Robert and Maud were employed on a part-time basis.

In order to be an effective hub for Birmingham's and Solihull's Christian community, BCT's Ecumenical Development workers continued to strengthen existing connections with a wide variety of organisations and congregations and to build new relationships. BCT frequently receives enquiries as a first port-of-call from a range of churches and organisations seeking to make connections with people of faith in the city. Wherever possible, enquirers are offered points of contact and, when appropriate, information is shared across BCT's media outlets.

During 2024, BCT liaised with the following Churches (listed in alphabetical order): The Apostolic Pastoral Congress, Assemblies of God, Church of England Birmingham, Central England Quakers, the Church of God of Prophecy, the Fellowship of Churches of Christ, the Elim Pentecostal Church, the Heart of England Baptist Association, the New Testament Church of God, the Methodist Church (at both Circuit and District level), the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Salvation Army West Midlands Division, the Serbian Orthodox Church, the United Reformed Church West Midlands Synod and the Wesleyan Holiness Church. In addition to these Churches, local independent congregations were not excluded from the conversation.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2024

BCT liaised with the following Christian organisations (listed in alphabetical order): the Adavu Project, Agapé, the As-One campaign, Betel UK, the Bethel Health and Healing Network, the Birmingham Christian Homelessness Forum, the Birmingham City Leaders' Prayer network, Birmingham City Mission, Birmingham Taize, the Breathe Collective Choir, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Christians Against Poverty, the Cinnamon Network, the City Centre Churches' group, ChaplaincyPlus, Church of Sanctuary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Churches Together in England, Compassion UK, Engage UK, Erdington Churches Together, Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, The Feast, Forge Missional Training, Friends/Neighbours/Changemakers, the Gather network, GOOD NEWS for Everyone! (formerly Gideon's), the Greenhouse at Barnes Close, Healing on the Streets, HOPE Together, Home for Good, Jericho Foundation, KICK, Manresa Link, the Maryvale Institute, the Mission:Mercia network, Near Neighbours, Network Four, Pause for Hope, Places of Welcome, the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Safe Families for Children, the Saltmine Theatre Company, the SEND, Sports Chaplaincy UK, the St Peter's Saltley Trust, Thrive Together Birmingham, Thy Kingdom Come, Time4Brum, Unity Prayer East Birmingham, Urban Devotion Birmingham, the West Midlands Combined Authority, West Midlands Faith in Action, Westminster Theological College, WorkCare West Midlands and the World Prayer Centre.

An ecumenical e-newsletter was issued every six to eight weeks, reaching around 1,100 people on each occasion. Articles, events and job adverts were published on the BCT website on a regular basis. The website was viewed on average by 5,000 users per month. BCT's profile on social media averaged 1,200 followers on Facebook, 200 on Instagram and 1,000 on the X platform (formerly Twitter). The information shared through these media informed local congregations of the wider Christian context and resourced them to engage more effectively in their local neighbourhoods.

During the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18 to 25 January inclusive), 'Pray24Brum' brought together churches from across the Christian traditions to pray for the city. BCT played a leading role among the partners who facilitate the 24-hour prayer relay which took place at Birmingham St Philip's Cathedral on Friday 19/Saturday 20 January 2024. The two-day event also included a well-attended leaders' breakfast on Saturday 20 January.

Throughout 2024, BCT sat alongside other partners in the 'Time4Brum' anti-racism/church-unity group that brings Christian leaders from historic-, new- and Black-majority Churches together. Regular online planning meetings took place through the year, together with monthly online and in-person prayer gatherings. A Time4Brum leaders' gathering took place in Aston on Saturday 13 July and the Annual Celebration service was held at Trinity Birmingham on Sunday 20 October 24.

Throughout 2024, Robert Mountford sat on the board of 'Churches and Industry Group Birmingham/Solihull,' which during the year, merged with 'Coventry & Warwickshire WorkCare' to form the 'WorkCare West Midlands' CIO. The new CIO continued the ministry of promoting, resourcing and supporting workplace chaplaincy through its 40 paid and voluntary chaplains.

The Anglican Bishop of Birmingham and the BCT Ecumenical Development Enabler are the two Members of the 'Friends/Neighbours/Changemakers' (FNC) charity, which enables interfaith conversation and understanding in Birmingham and the Black Country Borough of Sandwell. Robert Mountford supported the work of FNC, which is led by Revd Andrew Smith, in league with a small group of Church of England vicars.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2024

BCT facilitated two celebratory pilgrimages in Birmingham in 2024. A short walk and several short services were held in North Birmingham to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of Assemblies of God at a meeting held in Aston on 1 February 1924. A short pilgrimage walk, plus activities at Selly Oak and Bournville Quaker Meeting Houses, took place in July 2024 to mark the 400th anniversary of the birth of Quaker founder George Fox.

BCT was one of the supporting partners to put together and stage a Carol Service at Aston Villa Football Club on 5 December 2024. Hundreds of people attend the event, including representatives of Aston Villa FC, which was held both indoors and at the Holte End of Villa Park.

At the regional level, BCT organised and facilitated the 24-hour summit of senior West Midlands Church Leaders at Holland House in Worcestershire on 29/30 September 2024. The summit brought together 25 senior West Midlands Church Leaders from across the spectrum of Churches for prayer and conversation.

BCT was a key partner in organising and staging the national 'Church of Sanctuary' conference that was held at The Church at Carrs Lane in Birmingham on Saturday 8 June 2024. Around 150 people from all corners of England gathered to celebrate, encourage and learn more about the work that local churches are doing to support asylum-seekers and refugees.

BCT connected to Churches Together in England (CTE), the overarching national ecumenical network that had 54 member-Churches and 95 member-organisations. Robert and Maud attended the CTE Ecumenical Officers' conference in September 2024 and are in ongoing contact with CTE's staff members, as well as the National Ecumenical Officers of the historic Churches.

2024 proved to be another busy and fruitful year for BCT's Ecumenical Development arm.

Restore

Restore's vision is **for a society into which all refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed, valued, and integrated**. Restore's befriending team of staff and over 100 volunteers worked towards the following outcomes:

- Reduced loneliness and social isolation.
- Increased friendships and social connections with people from Birmingham.
- Improved communication skills in English, particularly conversational English.
- Increased understanding of and adaptation to life in Birmingham and the UK.
- Improved mental health and wellbeing.
- Increased confidence

Befriending is a 3-way relationship between Restore, the trained and DBS-checked volunteer and the refugee or asylum seeker. In 2024, we received 156 new referrals. Those referrals came from 27 agencies, current or former service users and self-referrals. In 2024, **we made 50 new befriending matches**, hitting our annual target of 50 new matches in mid-December despite fewer new volunteers joining the befriending team. At the year-end, there were **100 ongoing befriending matches** of refugees or asylum seekers from 26 countries including Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Iraq and Eritrea. This was in-line with our target of having at least 100 ongoing befriending matches.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2024

What is the impact of befriending?

Qualitative feedback shows how befriending has impacted the lives of refugees and asylum seekers and moved them towards our hoped-for outcomes.

"Having a befriender is good as I have got someone to talk to when I feel lonely. We meet up and explore the world together, leaving me feeling good and blessed."

"It's good to have someone to talk to and feel welcome in this country. I'm grateful to Restore and my befriender."

"She has helped me speak English confidently. We walk together and I speak about my feelings. She helps to improve my English accent. She shows me different places. She helped me register at the library and I borrow books."

"I learnt that I can see my MP during her surgery time and I can talk to her. My befriender showed me tremendous empathy when I had issues of accommodation, and signposted me to where I can get charity accommodation and also signposted me to where I can practise my faith. "

"Thanks to Restore I was able to feel welcome in a country totally foreign to my family and me. I don't feel alone and lonely anymore because of the companionship and compassion of another human being. It was good for me in terms of my mood, I feel better."

"I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful befriender you introduced me to. As an Arab refugee in the UK who initially struggled with the English language, having her support and friendship has made a significant difference in my life. Her kindness, patience, and guidance have helped me navigate this new environment and feel more at home. I have made progress in learning English and feel more confident thanks to her encouragement. Your work is truly making a positive impact."

"Having a befriender has been an incredibly positive experience. It's comforting to have someone to talk to and share thoughts with, especially when feeling isolated or in need of support. I've enjoyed the genuine connection and the feeling of being listened to without judgment. It has been a great opportunity to build trust and create meaningful conversations. If I could change anything, it would be to have more frequent meetings, as they've been so uplifting and valuable to me."

We also seek quantitative feedback. The annual survey of befriended refugees and asylum seekers, gives a broadbrush approach to the impact of befriending against the 6 aimed for outcomes.

100% of those who replied stated that meeting their befriender had helped them feel more welcomed.

100% of those who replied stated that meeting their befriender had helped them feel more confident.

94% of replies stated that meeting their befriender had helped them learn about Birmingham and life in the UK.

94% of replies stated that meeting their befriender had helped their mental health and wellbeing.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2024

89% of replies stated that meeting their befriender had helped them feel less lonely.

89% of replies stated that meeting their befriender had helped them improve their English.

89% replied that having a befriender *would help* other refugees and asylum seekers and 11% replied that having a befriender *may help* other refugees and asylum seekers.

We use a spidergram tool with individual asylum seekers as part of their initial meeting with a befriending staff member. They self-assess against 4 key measures: Measure 1 - English confidence; Measure 2 - Well-being and mental health; Measure 3 - Friendship and community; and Measure 4 - Understanding of the UK.

When a refugee or asylum seeker has been matched to a befriender for at least 6 months, we ask the refugee or asylum seeker to complete a further self-assessment, to discover their progress. The latest spidergram results for those befriended for at least 6 months show the following:

91% of befriendees self-assessed that befriending had helped improve their level of English.

87% of befriendees self-assessed that befriending had helped improve their friendships with local people.

75% of befriendees self-assessed that befriending had helped improve their mental health and wellbeing.

75% of befriendees self-assessed that befriending had helped improve their cultural understanding.

From formal feedback and informal conversations with volunteers we know that many volunteers discover that befriending is rewarding and mutually beneficial. Some quotes from volunteers:

"I am conscious how important my role is in providing a bridge to Birmingham life. Arriving here is a traumatic process for all asylum seekers, even for those who seem well-adjusted, and Restore's befriending provides an invaluable source of support during this very difficult time."

"I joined Restore because I was saddened by the overwhelming circumstances that faced the asylum seekers arriving in this country. It has been a blessing to help someone who comes from such a difficult background and wants to settle and become part of the British community. Both my befriendees have earned my respect for their perseverance and determination to succeed against all the odds. It is so rewarding to see them develop increasing confidence and independence. Often you can do little more than offer a listening ear but then you get a message expressing appreciation and thanks for what seemed such a small gesture and you feel so grateful to play a part in their journey."

"After many coffees, I got to know her story about escaping war and arriving here. She shared lots of heartache and worry about her family. I text to encourage her when she's studying as she is working hard at improving her English. She told me that my friendship means a lot to her, and she feels very cared for. It has been hugely beneficial for both of us, as I also feel uplifted after spending time with her. It has been sobering to understand what she has endured because of war, and she is deeply grateful to people in the UK for giving her a peaceful home."

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2024

The far-right racist, xenophobic and Islamophobic riots in the summer of 2024 were horrendous, particularly for asylum seekers and added to their mental health challenges. The riots highlighted the need to continue befriending to show solidarity with refugees, to rebuild trust and work towards greater community cohesion. We concur with these comments from a volunteer befriender, *"With all the negative rhetoric about refugees and asylum seekers, particularly at the moment, I think that it is so important to be able to provide a welcoming environment to them. It is also important to be able to present an accurate picture to our friends and family, in contrast to what is portrayed in a lot of the media."*

Moving on to **group social activities**, during 2024, 98 men, 74 women and 105 people from families (45 adults and 60 children from 15 countries) attended at least one event. There was a wide range of activities: 27 for men, 26 for women and 7 for families.

The aims of all our group activities are similar to those for befriending:

- Reduced isolation and loneliness.
- Building relationships with other refugees and asylum seekers and with people from Birmingham.
- Improved English language skills, especially conversational English, through providing informal opportunities to develop and practise English language skills.
- Increased understanding of life in Birmingham and the UK through providing opportunities to learn about Birmingham, its history, cultures, and recreational opportunities.
- Improved well-being and mental health.

Both the men's and women's groups enjoyed a broad range of activities including visits to Walsall New Art Gallery, The Lapworth Museum of Geology, Aston Hall, singing workshops with Birmingham Opera Company, Think Tank, music concerts, crafts sessions, walks along the canals and in the Lickey Hills. The men also explored Stratford-upon-Avon.

The programme of occasional group social activities for families, mainly in the school holidays, included trips to Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre, Think Tank and Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park.

What is the impact of group social activities?

Feedback from participants includes comments on the relational, community, well-being and learning outcomes that we hope for. One participant commented, *"With the women's, men's and family events we were able to see and explore many places in wonderful Birmingham, which helped us to get to know the culture, history and wonderful people of this beautiful city."*

Another wrote, *"I joined the women's group and went so many places with them. They were very friendly and helped me to open up and get more involved in the society. It was such a great experience and I am so thankful."*

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2024

One man wrote enthusiastically about the trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, *"I learned a lot of things about the city where William Shakespeare was born. We saw William Shakespeare's house. There were many tourists there, coming from all over the world. We went to the butterfly garden. It was very beautiful. For the first time I saw something like it. We learned about many things."*

We are also grateful to all the organisations who have supported our group activities by providing venues, activities, tours, at reduced costs or free of charge including: Birmingham Museums Trust, The Rep Theatre, The University of Birmingham Exchange, Birmingham Anglican Cathedral, Selly Manor, The Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham Opera Company, Celebrating Sanctuary, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and Fatima House.

Restore ran three **training and awareness raising** courses in February, June and October which were attended by 76 participants, an increase on 64 participants the previous year. Some participants applied to befriend but not as many as in previous years. Volunteer retention and existing volunteers taking on new or additional matches has helped us reach our new matches target.

Even so, feedback was positive and included, *"I thoroughly enjoyed the overview of the differences between asylum seekers and refugees and the process that they have to go through. Another participant wrote, "I found it helpful listening to asylum seekers experiences." And another wrote, "It was extremely beneficial and I learned so much about the different groups of people who come into the country and their needs."*

Restore also raised awareness of refugee and asylum issues through speaking engagements, social media posts, the Refugees Welcome March in Refugee Week, and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's Church of Sanctuary Conference (held in Birmingham) and mailings to supporters. Restore's 25th Anniversary Celebration, in July, was attended by over 100 refugees, asylum seekers, befrienders and supporters.

Restore engaged in **working for change** through active participation in meetings including: Birmingham City Council's City of Sanctuary Partnership Board; Migration Policy and Practice's Communities Thematic Group; and the Birmingham City of Sanctuary (voluntary) Committee. Restore helped to organise the Refugees Welcome March in Refugee Week. Restore was a partner in Birmingham's response to destitution through the Hope Projects.

Restore believes that the global refugee challenge requires all nations, including the UK, to play their part in providing solutions and that an 'offshoring policy' for some asylum seekers reneges on our responsibilities under the UN Refugee Convention 1951 which the UK helped to write. Therefore, as part of the Together with Refugees Coalition, we joined a campaign to seek changes in the Government's Safety of Rwanda Bill.

Catherine Bridgwood moved on from Restore in March 2024 and Jasmine Cullen was appointed as Befriending Co-ordinator and started in mid-April. Sundus Abdi and Nicole Gilmore also moved on and the decision was made to create a combined, new, part-time post of Befriending Women's Worker and Communications Officer with a recruitment process planned for January 2025. We are grateful for all that Catherine, Nicole and Sundus gave to Restore and wish them all well in their studies and future career paths.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2024**

We are extremely grateful for the commitment of befrienders and supporters to Restore's work through monthly standing orders and one-off donations and to several churches who also generously donate to Restore.

During the year, we were hugely grateful to receive financial support from several grant-making trusts and organisations including: National Lottery Community Fund, Inclusive Communities Fund, Barrow Cadbury Trust, Birmingham City Council Sanctuary grants, Roughley Trust, Cole Charitable Trust, South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust, Hilden Charitable Trust; Bishop Radford Trust, George Henry Collins Charity, Richard Kilcuppe's Charity, Grimmit Trust, Henry James Sayer Trust, John Avins Trust, GJW Turner Trust and Refugee Action.

During 2024, we worked towards increasing the involvement of refugees and asylum seekers in Restore's planning, evaluation, and decision-making processes.

The Management Committee and staff team had worked together on a new Strategic Plan in 2023 which set out strategic aims in the areas of governance, operational development, and services, to be implemented from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026. We started implementation during 2024.

Financial review

The costs of Birmingham Churches Together Ecumenical Development work have been met from income of the constituent Groups as stated in the Statement of Financial Activity. The overall activities of Birmingham Churches Together, including Restore, show a deficit for the year of £17,500 (Ecumenical Development £7,889, Restore £9,611). Total funds are now £155,812 (Ecumenical Development £35,684, Restore £120,128).

Reserves Policy

The level of reserves held by Birmingham Churches Together for its Ecumenical Development work and for Restore should be sufficient to cover six months operating costs in addition to sums set aside for proposed specific initiatives. The unrestricted general reserves for both projects amount to £35,684. Six months operating costs are estimated at £118,459 based on the 2025 budget.

Investments

Where investments are held, the Trustees' policy is to hold them as ethically as is possible to bring in Growth and Income without undue risk. Currently no investments are held. Surplus cash funds are being held in interest bearing bank accounts.

Remuneration and expenses of Trustees

It is not the policy of Birmingham Churches Together to remunerate its Trustees. No expenses or remuneration have been paid in either the current year or in 2023.

Risk

Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. These risks are monitored and regularly reviewed.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure, Governance & management

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) is a charity governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by nominated representatives of the Churches who are full members of BCT. The Presidents of BCT are ex-officio members of the Trustees body. A small group of Trustees are appointed to a Co-ordinating Group who oversee the day to day governance of the charity and scrutinise documents in preparation for Trustee meetings. The Trustees directly oversee and manage the strategic development of its Ecumenical work and the Restore project, which is also supported by separate management group. This group nominates a member to serve as a Trustee.

Reference & administrative details

Registered charity name: Birmingham Churches Together

Registered charity number: 243931

Registered address:
The Jericho Building
196-198 Edward Road
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 9LX

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Presidents

Most Revd. Bernard Longley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham
Rev David Emanuel Ellis, Free Churches Moderator

Appointed by members through the Annual General Meeting

Rev Steve Faber, URC Moderator
Venerable Jennifer Tomlinson
Mgr Timothy Francis Menezes (resigned July 2024)
Rev Deverton Antony Douglas
Bishop Boris Paul McCalla
Rev Novette S Headley
James Owen Ashley (appointed January 2024)
Right Revd Dr Michael John Volland (appointed July 2024)

The Membership of Birmingham Churches Together is made up of representatives from:

Anglican Diocese of Birmingham
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham
Birmingham Methodist District

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2024**

Heart of England Baptist Association
West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church
West Midlands Division of the Salvation Army
The Society of Friends Central England Area Meeting
Fellowship of Churches of Christ

The principal staff:

Ecumenical Development Officer, Robert Mountford
Restore Manager, Jeremy Thompson

The Principal Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Karen Hanlan, ACA
1 Saracen Close
Ettington
CV37 7SZ

+ Bernard Longley

Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting
Date

12/6/2025

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2024****Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and 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 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 its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP 2015;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a 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 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 and the provisions of the Constitution. 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Birmingham Churches Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Birmingham Churches Together ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 13 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do 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.



Karen Hanlan, Institute of Chartered Accountants, England & Wales
Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Limited
1 Saracen Close, Ettington, CV37 7SZ

Date 12/6/25

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies (Note 4)	49,546	159,188	208,734	183,548
Charitable Activities	-	178	178	677
Investments - Bank interest	231	2,812	3,043	2,681
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	49,777	162,178	211,955	186,906
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	1,611	17,395	19,006	20,279
Charitable activities	56,055	154,394	210,449	196,488
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure (Note 5)	57,666	171,789	229,455	216,767
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	(7,889)	(9,611)	(17,500)	(29,861)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	43,573	129,739	173,312	203,173
Transfer of funds	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	35,684	120,128	155,812	173,312

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	4,362	2,970
Cash at bank and in hand	9	156,682	175,348
		<u>161,044</u>	<u>178,318</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(5,232)	(5,006)
		<u>155,812</u>	<u>173,312</u>
Net current assets		<u>155,812</u>	<u>173,312</u>
Net assets		<u>155,812</u>	<u>173,312</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	14	120,128	129,739
Unrestricted funds		<u>35,684</u>	<u>43,573</u>
Total charity funds		<u><u>155,812</u></u>	<u><u>173,312</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the
 Birmingham Churches Together
 on TBC

+ *Bernard Lowley*

Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting

.....
 Honorary Treasurer

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

In preparing these financial statements Update Bulletin 1 to the Charities SORP (FRS102) has been adopted and consequently a Statement of Cash flows has not been prepared.

Churches Together Birmingham meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note

Going Concern statement

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue to operate. The validity of this assumption is dependent upon the continuance of support from the charity's key funders and stakeholders and in response to the progress made by the charity in pursuing a viable budget including the obtaining of further grants and donations. The charity's business plan shows that the charity will be able to operate in the foreseeable future. Based on this understanding the trustees believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments, which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are restricted to the use that the monies were received for.

The Designated Fund is a Special Purposes Fund for Ecumenical Development work and is currently used to set aside monies for further Promotions and the Ecumenical Development Officers Sabbatical.

Relationship between Ecumenical Development work and the charity's projects

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees require that the Restore project be self-funding and is not to be supported from the Charity's Ecumenical Development work.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Within the Statement of Financial Activity all funds received for the projects of Restore are accounted for as Restricted Funds. Within each of the projects some funding may be for specific purposes or for general use, this breakdown is identified in note 14.

Unrestricted Funds: Donations and Other Income received which is available for use on any project or activity, as the Trustees shall agree. It is the policy of the Trustees to allocate all unrestricted funds to its Ecumenical Development work, since each project is required to be self-funded.

Designated Funds: The allocation of Unrestricted Funds to a specific activity within its Ecumenical Development work. Such funds which remain after the project has been completed or which have been replaced by Restricted Funds form part of the Unrestricted Funds and may be credited back to that fund.

Restricted Funds: Donations and Other Income, including Grants, which may be used only for the specific project for which they were made available. Any surplus, except where immaterial, is returned to the Donor.

Income

Income represents the amount derived from subscriptions, fundraising, donations and grants and is recognised where the charity is legally entitled to the income, ultimate receipt is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donations are recognised when received.

Income relating to future periods, as a result of donor imposed conditions specifying the time period, has been treated as deferred income.

Income dependent on certain conditions, amounting to more than mere administrative requirements, is recognised when the conditions have been fulfilled.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises the costs of publicity and fundraising activity.
- Expenditure on charitable activity includes the costs of the project delivery undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)****Fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided on Office Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at rates calculated to write off the cost of items of £1,000 or more over the expected life of the asset, usually 3 years. Assets costing Less than £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

Taxation

As a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and in hand and short term deposits repayable on or within a three month notice period.

Debtors

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

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2. GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND

The General Accumulated Fund represent the unrestricted funds of Ecumenical Development only.

3. DESIGNATED FUNDS

There are currently no funds designated for a particular purpose.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2024
	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	-	34,704	34,704
Donations - Churches	-	12,606	12,606
Legacies	-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	46,516	-	46,516
Grants:			
Birmingham City Council		11,293	11,293
Barrow Cadbury	-	20,000	20,000
Inclusive Communities Fund	-	15,000	15,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,000	20,000
Other Grants	-	36,920	36,920
Other	3,030	8,665	11,695
	<u>49,546</u>	<u>159,188</u>	<u>208,734</u>

Previous year	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2023
	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	-	36,120	36,120
Donations - Churches	-	15,772	15,772
Legacies	-	24,786	24,786
Membership subscriptions	29,402	-	29,402
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	27,200	27,200
Other Grants	-	33,550	33,550
Other	3,037	13,681	16,718
	<u>32,439</u>	<u>151,109</u>	<u>183,548</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Cost of raising funds:				
Staff costs	0	6,338	6,338	7,471
Allocation of support costs	1,611	11,057	12,668	12,808
	<u>1,611</u>	<u>17,395</u>	<u>19,006</u>	<u>20,279</u>
Cost of charitable activities:				
Staff costs	38,536	143,337	181,873	169,350
Programme activity costs	-	9,029	9,029	9,568
Travel expenses	2,339	-	2,339	1,832
Rent & insurance	5,411	11,167	16,578	16,389
Meetings/conferences	3,715	-	3,715	3,466
Telephone, print, stationery	425	936	1,361	1,054
Website development	2,294	-	2,294	2,114
Subscriptions	1,110	-	1,110	1,025
Sundry expenses	60	482	542	541
Governance costs - professional fees	676	-	676	457
¹ Accountancy charges	3,100	500	3,600	3,500
Less support costs allocated to raising funds	(1,611)	(11,057)	(12,668)	(12,808)
	<u>56,055</u>	<u>154,394</u>	<u>210,449</u>	<u>196,488</u>
Total expenditure	<u>57,666</u>	<u>171,789</u>	<u>229,455</u>	<u>216,767</u>

¹ Includes fee for Independent Examination of £650 and Finance Support charge of £400

6. STAFF COSTS, TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Salaries	168,591	158,064
National Insurance	9,989	8,823
Pension costs	9,631	9,934
Freelance staff	0	0
Other	0	0
	<u>188,211</u>	<u>176,821</u>

Staff Numbers

Full-time equivalent excluding trustees:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Management, fundraising and admin	1.00	1.00
Project Management	4.06	4.03
	<u>5.06</u>	<u>5.03</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2023: £nil).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil). No expenses relating to travel or subsistence were reimbursed to any trustee during the year (2023: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

The charity contributes into Group Personal Pension Plans for most employees. These pension plans are defined contribution in nature and as required under FRS102 the annual cost is recognised as incurred and included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

			Office Equipment £	
Cost				
At beginning and end of year			5,288	
Depreciation				
At beginning of year			5,288	
Charge for the year			-	
At end of year			5,288	
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2023 & 2024			-	
8. DEBTORS				
	General	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income receivable	554	1,100	1,654	724
Prepayments	1,697	1,011	2,708	2,246
	<u>2,251</u>	<u>2,111</u>	<u>4,362</u>	<u>2,970</u>
9. BANK BALANCES				
	General	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash in Interest Bearing Accounts	7,516	119,004	126,520	144,024
Cash in non-interest Bearing Accounts	29,126	1,036	30,162	31,324
	<u>36,642</u>	<u>120,040</u>	<u>156,682</u>	<u>175,348</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

10. CREDITORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors and Accruals	3,508	3,439
Deferred income	1,724	1,567
	<u>5,232</u>	<u>5,006</u>

11. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There have been no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure in these financial statements.

13. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	2,251	2,111	4,362
Cash	36,642	120,040	156,682
Creditors less than 1 year	(3,209)	(2,023)	(5,232)
	<u>35,684</u>	<u>120,128</u>	<u>155,812</u>

Previous year	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	1,384	1,586	2,970
Cash	46,695	128,653	175,348
Creditors less than 1 year	(4,506)	(500)	(5,006)
	<u>43,573</u>	<u>129,739</u>	<u>173,312</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14 MOVEMENT IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2024 £
Restore					
Restricted: Barrow Cadbury	6,666	20,000	20,000	-	6,666
Birmingham City Council	-	11,293	10,481	-	812
National Lottery Inclusive Communities	-	20,000	6,667	-	13,333
Other work	-	15,000	15,000	-	-
Part-time befriender	1,895	320	320	-	-
Befriending	22,451	-	1,895	-	-
Farmer Development Project	1,882	23,800	35,450	-	10,801
St Johns	120	0	114	-	1,768
	<u>33,014</u>	<u>96,089</u>	<u>95,723</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,380</u>
General Restore Funds	<u>96,725</u>	<u>66,089</u>	<u>76,066</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,748</u>
Total Funds Restore	<u>129,739</u>	<u>162,178</u>	<u>171,789</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,128</u>

Note, the General Funds within Restore are unrestricted within that project.

The purpose of the above funds are to support various projects within Restore activity including a befriending scheme and social activities for refugees and asylum seekers and training of volunteers.

Remaining funds from St Johns relates to funds raised to provide emergency food supplies for refugees.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	32,439	151,109	183,548
Charitable activities	-	677	677
Investments - Bank interest	395	2,286	2,681
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	32,834	154,072	186,906
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	1,505	18,774	20,279
Charitable activities	53,097	143,391	196,488
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	54,602	162,165	216,767
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	(21,768)	(8,093)	(29,861)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	65,341	137,832	203,173
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	43,573	129,739	173,312
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions - Ecumenical Development	40,853	25,744
Subscriptions WMRCF	5,663	3,658
Other income - Summit	3,030	3,037
Bank Interest	231	395
	<u>49,777</u>	<u>32,834</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Ecumenical Development Officer:		
Salary, National Insurance & Pension	38,536	37,261
Traveling expenses	2,339	1,832
	<u>40,875</u>	<u>39,093</u>
Office Salary, National Insurance & Pension	-	-
Rent, Insurance including Heating	5,411	5,369
Meeting and Conference Expenses	3,715	3,466
Printing and Stationery	425	18
Website development and maintenance	2,294	2,114
Churches Together in England	1,110	1,025
Sundry Expenses	60	60
Governance costs - professional fees	676	457
Accountancy Charges	3,100	3,000
	<u>57,666</u>	<u>54,602</u>
Total expenditure	57,666	54,602
Net Expenditure	(7,889)	(21,768)
	<u>43,573</u>	<u>65,341</u>
Fund Balance at 1 January 2024	43,573	65,341
	<u>35,684</u>	<u>43,573</u>
Fund Balance at 31 December 2024	35,684	43,573

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

RESTORE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	General Fund	Restricted/d esignated Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Grants other	13,120	23,800	36,920	33,550
Grants - Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	20,000	20,000	27,200
Grants - Partner Development Trust	-	-	-	4,840
Grants - Birmingham City Council	-	11,293	11,293	-
Grants - Inclusive Communities Fund	-	15,000	15,000	-
Grants - National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,000	20,000	-
Donations - Individuals	34,704	-	34,704	36,120
Donations - Churches	6,930	5,676	12,606	15,772
Gift aid on donations	6,354	-	6,354	5,658
Legacies	-	-	0	24,786
Befriending services	-	320	320	960
Fundraising	1,991	-	1,991	2,223
Bank Interest	2,812	-	2,812	2,286
Other	178	0	178	677
	<u>66,089</u>	<u>96,089</u>	<u>162,178</u>	<u>154,072</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries & wages				
Befrienders	37,267	60,437	97,704	90,168
Co-ordinator	20,827	25,353	46,180	40,916
Administration	8,754	1,118	9,872	12,137
Employment allowance	(4,081)	-	(4,081)	(3,661)
Office Expenses	6,027	5,140	11,167	11,020
Information and Publicity	736	200	936	1,036
Accountancy Charges	500	-	500	500
Programme Activities	5,554	3,475	9,029	9,568
Training - Staff and Volunteer	482	-	482	481
	<u>76,066</u>	<u>95,723</u>	<u>171,789</u>	<u>162,165</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(9,977)</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>(9,611)</u>	<u>(8,093)</u>
Fund Balance at 1 January 2024	96,725	33,014	129,739	137,832
Fund Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>86,748</u>	<u>33,380</u>	<u>120,128</u>	<u>129,739</u>

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 243931

Accounts

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

31 DECEMBER 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Registered Charity No: 243931

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

INDEX

1. Trustees' Annual Report
10. Trustees' Responsibilities statement
11. Independent Examiner's Report
12. Statement of Financial Activities
13. Balance sheet
14. Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts

The following pages do not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements:

23. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity - Ecumenical Development
24. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity - Restore

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT

31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Constitution and 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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019).

Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The object of Birmingham Churches Together is to promote mutual understanding and fellowship among the Churches which accept Jesus Christ as God and Saviour for the wellbeing of all the citizens of Birmingham and surrounding areas.

The objectives are achieved through its Ecumenical Development work and its Restore project detailed below. Public benefit is met by actively encouraging members of different denominations to work and worship together and collectively to support those who are disadvantaged, regardless of their beliefs, thereby enabling them to join in and partake in the benefits of the community.

The Trustees have reviewed the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission and consider that our aims and activities as set out below fulfil the criteria. The Trustees consider the guidance on public benefit each year.

Ecumenical Development

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) encourages greater cooperation between Christian churches in order that together they may better serve the people of Birmingham and Solihull. There is increased public benefit when Churches are enabled to partner to serve the whole community, regardless of status, class or ethnicity. Throughout 2023, Robert Mountford worked as BCT Ecumenical Development Enabler, supported by Maud Grainger in the role of BCT Development and Support Worker. Both Robert and Maud were employed on a part-time basis.

In order to be an effective hub for Birmingham's and Solihull's Christian community, BCT's Ecumenical Development workers continued to strengthen existing connections with a wide variety of organisations and congregations and to build new relationships. BCT frequently receives enquiries as a first port-of-call from a range of churches and organisations seeking to make connections with people of faith in the city. Wherever possible, enquirers are offered points of contact and, when appropriate, information is shared across BCT's social media outlets.

During 2023, BCT liaised with the following Churches (listed in alphabetical order): The Apostolic Faith Mission, the Apostolic Pastoral Congress, Assemblies of God, Church of England Birmingham, Central England Quakers, the Church of God of Prophecy, the Fellowship of the Churches of Christ, the Elim Pentecostal Church, the Heart of England Baptist Association, the New Testament Church of God, the Methodist Church (both the Birmingham Circuit and the Birmingham District), the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Salvation Army West Midlands Division, the

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2023

Serbian Orthodox Church, the United Reformed Church West Midlands Synod and the Wesleyan Holiness Church. In addition to these Churches, local independent congregations were also included in the loop.

BCT liaised with the following Christian organisations (listed in alphabetical order): the Adavu Project, Agapé, the As-One campaign, Betel UK, the Bethel Health and Healing Network, the Birmingham Christian Homelessness Forum, the Birmingham City Leaders' Prayer network, Birmingham City Mission, Birmingham Taize, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Christians Against Poverty, the Cinnamon Network, the City Centre Churches' group, ChaplaincyPlus, Churches and Industry Group Birmingham/Solihull, Church of Sanctuary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Churches Together in England, Compassion UK, Engage UK, Erdington Churches Together, Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, The Feast, Forge Missional Training, Faiths/Neighbours/Changemakers, the Gather network, GOOD NEWS for Everyone! (formerly Gideon's), HOPE Together, Home for Good, Jericho Foundation, the Ladder Apprenticeship Foundation, LOUDfence, Manresa Link, the Maryvale Institute, the Mission:Mercia network, Near Neighbours, Network Four, Pause for Hope, Places of Welcome, the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Safe Families for Children, Safe Spaces for Young People, the Saltmine Theatre Company, the St Peter's Saltley Trust, Thrive Together Birmingham, Thy Kingdom Come, Unity Prayer East Birmingham, Urban Devotion Birmingham, the West Midlands Combined Authority, West Midlands Faith in Action, Westminster Theological College and the World Prayer Centre.

An ecumenical e-newsletter was issued every six to eight weeks, reaching around 1,100 people on each occasion. Articles, events and job adverts were published on the BCT website on a regular basis. The website was viewed on average by 5,000 users per month. BCT's profile on social media stood at 1,000 followers on Facebook, 200 on Instagram and 1,000 on Twitter (now known as X). The information shared through these media informed local congregations of the wider Christian context and resourced them to engage more effectively in their local neighbourhoods.

During the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18 to 25 January inclusive), 'Pray24Brum' brings together churches from across the Christian traditions to pray for the city. Together with other partners, BCT played a coordinative role in the Pray24Brum 24 hours of prayer which took place at St Chad's Cathedral on Friday 20/Saturday 21 January 2023. The two-day event also included a well-attended leaders' breakfast.

Throughout 2023, BCT played a central role in the 'Time4Brum' (formerly 'Time4Change') anti-racism/church-unity group that brings Christian leaders from historic-, new- and Black-majority Churches together. Regular online planning meetings took place through the year, together with monthly online and monthly in-person prayer gatherings. A Time4Brum celebration service was held at Birmingham City Church on Sunday 15 October.

In 2023, Ecumenical Development Enabler Robert Mountford sat on the board of 'Churches and Industry Group Birmingham/Solihull' (CIGB) as it continued its ministry to promote and support workplace chaplaincy through its paid and voluntary chaplains. Throughout the year, the board was actively considering a merger of CIGB with its sister-organisations 'Coventry and

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2023

Warwickshire WorkCare' (CWWC) and the 'Black Country Urban Industrial Mission.' Following extensive discussions, it was agreed to merge CIGB and CWWC into a new 'WorkCare West Midlands' CIO.

The Anglican Bishop of Birmingham and the BCT Ecumenical Development Enabler are the two Members of the 'Faiths/Neighbours/Changemakers' (FNC) charity, which enables interfaith conversation and understanding in Birmingham and the Black Country Borough of Sandwell. Since no Bishop of Birmingham was in post during 2023, Robert Mountford was the only Member available to liaise with FNC director Revd Andrew Smith and other Anglican vicars.

At the regional level, BCT organised and facilitated the 24-hour summit of senior West Midlands Church Leaders at the Woodbrooke Quaker Centre on 1/2 October 2023. Robert Mountford sat on the Board of Reference of the 'Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer' project. Robert and Maud were both involved in plans to stage a 'Church of Sanctuary' conference in Birmingham in June 2024.

At the national level, BCT connected to Churches Together in England (CTE), the overarching national ecumenical network that had 52 member-Churches and 75 member-organisations. Robert and Maud attended the CTE Ecumenical Officers' conference in September 2023. Robert attended the CTE Enabling Group meeting at Swanwick in October. Robert is in ongoing contact with CTE's staff members, as well as the National Ecumenical Officers of the historic Churches.

2023 proved to be another busy and fruitful year for BCT's ecumenical development arm.

Restore

Restore's vision is **for a society into which all refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed, valued, and integrated**. Restore's befriending team of staff and over 100 volunteers worked towards the following outcomes:

- Reduced loneliness and social isolation.
- Increased friendships and social connections with people from Birmingham.
- Improved communication skills in English, particularly conversational English.
- Increased understanding of and adaptation to life in Birmingham and the UK.
- Improved mental health and wellbeing.

Befriending is a 3-way relationship between Restore, the trained and DBS-checked volunteer and the refugee or asylum seeker. In 2023, we received 184 new referrals. Those referrals came from 29 agencies, current or former service users and self-referrals. That was the third highest annual total. In 2023, **we made 45 new befriending matches**, just below our annual target of 50 new matches, and this was due to fewer new volunteers joining the befriending team. At the year-end, there were **106 ongoing befriending matches** of refugees or asylum seekers from 27 countries including Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Iraq, Eritrea, and El Salvador. This exceeded the target of having a least 100 ongoing befriending matches.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2023

What is the impact of befriending?

Qualitative feedback shows how befriending has impacted the lives of refugees and asylum seekers and moved them towards our hoped-for outcomes.

One befriender wrote, "As I am a refugee, I live alone and am new in UK. Befriender service is very helpful, gave me a big opportunity to have a support emotionally, discussion about anything in the UK, help to improve my language and my life is getting better."

Another wrote, "Befriender is good for learning more English. You can't feel alone when you have befriender, and my English is better than before."

A third wrote, "She's very kind and friendly. She makes me feel free to talk and be friendly so I cannot feel lonely. She even helped me with my schoolwork, if I don't understand correctly. I wish her healthy life, so she can help more people who need her help."

A befriender wrote to their volunteer befriender expressing their gratitude, "I am very happy to have met you, you are like my mother, and you always help and guide me, I am very grateful to you, and I appreciate your kindness, God bless you."

Befriending can be both an enriching and eye-opening experience for volunteers. One befriender wrote, "This is one of the most fulfilling things I have ever done. It is a real privilege to be alongside and get to know someone as they seek to build a new life for themselves in the UK. I am constantly impressed with his courage and determination. I don't think I realised how many challenges face asylum seekers. Every time progress is made, there then seems to be another fresh set of problems and challenges to overcome."

Another wrote, "I've loved being a befriender! I've gained a good friend. I've learned a lot about Syrian people and their culture and cuisine. I've learned how difficult life can be when your English isn't too good, you don't have much money to live on and the cost of living is so high!"

A third befriender wrote, "Facing even a minor crisis, like acute toothache, is frightening when you don't know the language and don't know the systems. It is a privilege to be able to come alongside and help a little in these crisis situations."

Befriending can have a ripple effect which impacts the understanding of others and aids community cohesion, "I believe as a country, befriending should be part of every asylum seeker's journey. My work colleagues have changed their attitudes and behaviours and understanding as a result of my interaction. Understanding better helps reduce racism and makes us a better population."

We also seek quantitative feedback. We surveyed befrienders in late 2023 about the impact of befriending and received 39 responses. The results were very encouraging and indicated that befriending does lead to the outcomes we aim for.

100% replied that meeting their befriender had helped them feel more confident.
97% replied that meeting their befriender had helped them feel less lonely.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2023

94% replied that meeting their befriender had helped them feel more welcomed.
 94% replied that meeting their befriender had helped them improve their English.
 94% replied that meeting their befriender had helped them learn about Birmingham and life in the UK.
 92% replied that meeting their befriender had helped them make friends with someone from Birmingham.
 89% replied that meeting their befriender had helped their mental health and wellbeing.
 79% replied that having a befriender would help other refugees and asylum seekers and 21% replied that having a befriender would maybe help other refugees and asylum seekers.

Moving on to **group social activities**, during 2023, 95 men, 95 women and 129 people from families (53 adults and 76 children from 19 countries) attended at least one event. There was a wide range of activities: 29 for men, 26 for women and 6 for families.

The aims of all our group activities are similar to those for befriending:

- Reduced isolation and loneliness and isolation
- Building relationships with other refugees and asylum seekers and with people from Birmingham.
- Improved English language skills, especially conversational English, through providing informal opportunities to develop and practise English language skills.
- Increased understanding of life in Birmingham and the UK through providing opportunities to learn about Birmingham, its history, cultures, and recreational opportunities.
- Improved well-being and mental health.

Both the men's and women's groups enjoyed a broad range of activities including visits to Walsall New Art Gallery, The Lapworth Museum of Geology, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, singing workshops with Birmingham Opera Company, Think Tank, jazz and piano concerts, crafts sessions, walks along the canals and in the Lickey Hills. The women visited Lichfield and the men explored Stratford-upon-Avon. The women's group grew significantly during 2023, with between 20 and 30 women at most sessions.

The programme of occasional group social activities for families, mainly in the school holidays, included trips to Aston Hall, Beaudesert Activity Centre, Think Tank and Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park.

What is the impact of group social activities?

Feedback from participants includes comments on the relational, community, wellbeing and learning outcomes that we hope for. One participant commented, **"The friendly environment, having fun, meeting up with new people and learning more, brings me hope and keeps me active and away from depression."**

Another wrote, **"I got upset and I was worried. Then I got a notification about the men's end-of-the-year party and that relieved me from the overthinking. Then at the event, I engaged with other people, we played games, sang songs, my energy got restored!"**

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2023**

A third participant wrote, **"I enjoyed all the events that I was involved in. Most important to be with the other people and have fun and learned something new every time."**

Another mentioned the learning opportunities, **"I have learnt about British culture and some English language."**

At a family activity, one parent stated, **"You are helping me and my family to make memories."** Parents explained the importance of the events for their family, due to financial and housing constraints, **"The trips really help as I have no money to go out with my family."** Another wrote, **"My family, we all live in one room, so going out on trips is really good for us."**

We are also grateful to all the organisations who have supported our group activities by providing venues, activities, tours, and reduced or free entry including: Birmingham Museums Trust, The Rep Theatre, The Exchange, St Mary's Church Moseley, Six Ways Baptist Church Erdington, Birmingham Anglican Cathedral, Selly Manor, The Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham Opera Company, Celebrating Sanctuary, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and Fatima House.

Restore ran three **training and awareness raising** courses in February, June and October which were attended by 64 participants, some of whom applied to befriend. In the previous 3 years over 90 people had joined the courses, so that drop in numbers was disappointing and something we will be seeking to turn around in 2024.

Even so, feedback was positive and included, **"It was all really interesting and informative. I especially liked hearing people's stories, both of refugees and the situations they face and also of the volunteer and how befriending can really make an impact on individual lives."** Another wrote, **"It's been so useful - the kind of information that more people should get to hear so that we can start to challenge the really negative perceptions of refugees/asylum seekers that some people have. I'm already telling other people about what I've heard."** Restore also raised awareness of refugee and asylum issues through speaking engagements, social media posts, the March for Compassion in Refugee Week, and mailings to supporters. Restore's Annual Celebration, in July, was attended by over 140 refugees, asylum seekers, befrienders and supporters.

Restore engaged in **working for change** through active participation in meetings including: Birmingham City Council's City of Sanctuary Partnership Board; Migration Policy and Practice's Communities Thematic Group; and the Birmingham City of Sanctuary (voluntary) Committee. Restore helped to organise a March for Compassion in Refugee Week. Restore was a partner in Birmingham's response to destitution through the Hope Projects.

Restore believes that the global refugee challenge requires all nations, including the UK, to play their part in providing solutions and that an 'offshoring policy' for some asylum seekers reneges on our responsibilities under the UN Refugee Convention 1951 which the UK helped to write. Therefore, as part of the Together with Refugees Coalition, we joined campaigns seeking to change provisions within the Government's Illegal Migration Bill.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2023

Samitha Liyanage, part-time Communications and Administrative Officer, moved to a full-time post with another organisation in autumn 2023. Sundus Abdi joined the staff team as part-time Communications and Administrative Officer in December 2023.

We are extremely grateful for the commitment of befrienders and supporters to Restore's work through monthly standing orders and one-off donations and to several churches who also generously donate to Restore. We give thanks to the late Susan Scott, a longstanding Restore supporter, who generously left a financial legacy so the work of Restore could continue.

During the year, we were hugely grateful to receive financial support from the following grant-making trusts and organisations: Barrow Cadbury Trust, Eveson Trust, Birmingham City Council, Roughley Trust, Refugee Action, 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, Cole Trust, George Henry Collins Charity, Richard Kilcuppe's's Charity, Grimmitt Trust, Henry James Sayer Trust, GJW Turner Trust and Mazar's Charitable Trust.

During 2023, we worked towards increasing the involvement of refugees and asylum seekers in Restore's planning, evaluation, and decision-making processes.

The Management Committee and staff team worked together on a new Strategic Plan which sets out strategic aims in the areas of governance, operational development, and services, to be implemented from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026.

Financial review

The costs of Birmingham Churches Together Ecumenical Development work have been met from income of the constituent Groups as stated in the Statement of Financial Activity. The overall activities of Birmingham Churches Together, including Restore, show a deficit for the year of £29,861 (Ecumenical Development £21,768, Restore £8,093). Total funds are now £173,312 (Ecumenical Development £43,573, Restore £129,739).

Reserves Policy

The level of reserves held by Birmingham Churches Together for its Ecumenical Development work and for Restore should be sufficient to cover six months operating costs in addition to sums set aside for proposed specific initiatives. The unrestricted general reserves for both projects amount to £140,298. Six months operating costs are estimated at £124,894 based on the 2024 budget. The Ecumenical Development project continued to operate reduced subscriptions for members and a consequent deficit to effectively utilise excess reserves.

Investments

Where investments are held, the Trustees' policy is to hold them as ethically as is possible to bring in Growth and Income without undue risk. Currently no investments are held. Surplus cash funds are being held in interest bearing bank accounts.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2023

Remuneration and expenses of Trustees

It is not the policy of Birmingham Churches Together to remunerate its Trustees. No expenses or remuneration have been paid in either the current year or in 2022.

Risk

Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. These risks are monitored and regularly reviewed.

Structure, Governance & management

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) is a charity governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by nominated representatives of the Churches who are full members of BCT. The Presidents of BCT are ex-officio members of the Trustees body. A small group of Trustees are appointed to a Co-ordinating Group who oversee the day to day governance of the charity and scrutinise documents in preparation for Trustee meetings. The Trustees directly oversee and manage the strategic development of its Ecumenical work and the Restore project, which is also supported by separate management group. This group nominates a member to serve as a Trustee.

Reference & administrative details

Registered charity name: Birmingham Churches Together

Registered charity number: 243931

Registered address:
The Jericho Building
196-198 Edward Road
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 9LX

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Presidents

Most Revd. Bernard Longley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham
Rev David Emanuel Ellis, Free Churches Moderator

Appointed by members through the Annual General Meeting

Rev Steve Faber, URC Moderator
Mauricio Silva (resigned December 2023)

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2023

Venerable Jennifer Tomlinson
 Mgr Timothy Francis Menezes (appointed January 2023)
 Rev Deverton Antony Douglas (appointed January 2023)
 Lieutenant-Colonel Joao Paulo Magalhaes Ramos (appointed January 2023) (resigned
 December 2023)
 Bishop Boris Paul McCalla (appointed January 2023)
 Rev Novette S Headley (appointed January 2023)
 James Owen Ashley (appointed January 2024)

The Membership of Birmingham Churches Together is made up of representatives from:

Anglican Diocese of Birmingham
 Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham
 Birmingham Methodist District
 Heart of England Baptist Association
 West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church
 West Midlands Division of the Salvation Army
 The Society of Friends Central England Area Meeting
 Fellowship of Churches of Christ

The principal staff:


Ecumenical Development Officer, Robert Mountford
 Restore Manager, Jeremy Thompson

The Principal Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd
 West Malling
 Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Karen Hanlan, ACA
 1 Saracen Close
 Ettington
 CV37 7SZ

 Revd D. Ellis
 Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting
 11 / 6 / 2024 Date

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2023****Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and 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 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 its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP 2015;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a 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 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 and the provisions of the Constitution. 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Birmingham Churches Together

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Birmingham Churches Together ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 12 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do 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.



Karen Hanlan, Institute of Chartered Accountants, England & Wales
Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Limited
1 Saracen Close, Ettington, CV37 7SZ

Date 11.6.2024

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED


31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies (Note 4)	32,439	151,109	183,548	162,697
Charitable Activities		677	677	271
Investments - Bank interest	395	2,286	2,681	690
Total Income	<u>32,834</u>	<u>154,072</u>	<u>186,906</u>	<u>163,658</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	1,505	18,774	20,279	19,988
Charitable activities	53,097	143,391	196,488	188,853
Total Expenditure (Note 5)	<u>54,602</u>	<u>162,165</u>	<u>216,767</u>	<u>208,841</u>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	(21,768)	(8,093)	(29,861)	(45,183)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	65,341	137,832	203,173	248,356
Transfer of funds	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>43,573</u></u>	<u><u>129,739</u></u>	<u><u>173,312</u></u>	<u><u>203,173</u></u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	2,970	5,459
Cash at bank and in hand	9	175,348	206,238
		<u>178,318</u>	<u>211,697</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(5,006)	(8,524)
		<u>173,312</u>	<u>203,173</u>
Net current assets		<u>173,312</u>	203,173
Net assets		<u>173,312</u>	<u>203,173</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	14	129,739	137,832
Unrestricted funds		43,573	65,341
Total charity funds		<u><u>173,312</u></u>	<u><u>203,173</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the
Birmingham Churches Together
on 11/06/24


.....
Revd D. Ellis

Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

In preparing these financial statements Update Bulletin 1 to the Charities SORP (FRS102) has been adopted and consequently a Statement of Cash flows has not been prepared.

Churches Together Birmingham meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note

Going Concern statement

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue to operate. The validity of this assumption is dependent upon the continuance of support from the charity's key funders and stakeholders and in response to the progress made by the charity in pursuing a viable budget including the obtaining of further grants and donations. The charity's business plan shows that the charity will be able to operate in the foreseeable future. Based on this understanding the Trustees believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments, which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are restricted to the use that the monies were received for.

The Designated Fund is a Special Purposes Fund for Ecumenical Development work and is currently used to set aside monies for further Promotions and the Ecumenical Development Officers Sabbatical.

Relationship between Ecumenical Development work and the charity's projects

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees require that the Restore project be self-funding and is not to be supported from the Charity's Ecumenical Development work.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Within the Statement of Financial Activity all funds received for the projects of Restore are accounted for as Restricted Funds. Within each of the projects some funding may be for specific purposes or for general use, this breakdown is identified in note 14.

Unrestricted Funds: Donations and Other Income received which is available for use on any project or activity, as the Trustees shall agree. It is the policy of the Trustees to allocate all unrestricted funds to its Ecumenical Development work, since each project is required to be self-funded.

Designated Funds: The allocation of Unrestricted Funds to a specific activity within its Ecumenical Development work. Such funds which remain after the project has been completed or which have been replaced by Restricted Funds form part of the Unrestricted Funds and may be credited back to that fund.

Restricted Funds: Donations and Other Income, including Grants, which may be used only for the specific project for which they were made available. Any surplus, except where immaterial, is returned to the Donor.

Income

Income represents the amount derived from subscriptions, fundraising, donations and grants and is recognised where the charity is legally entitled to the income, ultimate receipt is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donations are recognised when received.

Income relating to future periods, as a result of donor imposed conditions specifying the time period, has been treated as deferred income.

Income dependent on certain conditions, amounting to more than mere administrative requirements, is recognised when the conditions have been fulfilled.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises the costs of publicity and fundraising activity.
- Expenditure on charitable activity includes the costs of the project delivery undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)****Fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided on Office Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at rates calculated to write off the cost of items of £1,000 or more over the expected life of the asset, usually 3 years. Assets costing Less than £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

Taxation

As a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and in hand and short term deposits repayable on or within a three month notice period.

Debtors

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

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2. GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND

The General Accumulated Fund represent the unrestricted funds of Ecumenical Development only.

3. DESIGNATED FUNDS

There are currently no funds designated for a particular purpose.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2023
	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	-	36,120	36,120
Donations - Churches	-	15,772	15,772
Legacies		24,786	24,786
Membership subscriptions	29,402	-	29,402
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	27,200	27,200
Other Grants	-	33,550	33,550
Other	3,037	13,681	16,718
	<u>32,439</u>	<u>151,109</u>	<u>183,548</u>

Previous year	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2022
	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	-	28,825	28,825
Donations - Churches	-	10,341	10,341
Legacies		20,310	20,310
Membership subscriptions	25,359	-	25,359
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	20,000	20,000
CAF Covid Resilience Fund	-	8,793	8,793
National Emergencies Trust		1,005	1,005
Other Grants	-	34,796	34,796
Other	2,306	10,962	13,268
	<u>27,665</u>	<u>135,032</u>	<u>162,697</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Cost of raising funds:				
Staff costs	0	7,471	7,471	7,173
Allocation of support costs	1,505	11,303	12,808	12,815
	<u>1,505</u>	<u>18,774</u>	<u>20,279</u>	<u>19,988</u>
Cost of charitable activities:				
Staff costs	37,261	132,089	169,350	159,992
Programme activity costs	-	9,568	9,568	8,254
Travel expenses	1,832	-	1,832	2,219
Rent & insurance	5,369	11,020	16,389	18,006
Meetings/conferences	3,466	-	3,466	3,580
Telephone, print, stationery	18	1,036	1,054	974
Website development	2,114	-	2,114	3,027
Subscriptions	1,025	-	1,025	525
Sundry expenses	60	481	541	791
Governance costs - professional fees	457	-	457	860
¹ Accountancy charges	3,000	500	3,500	3,440
Less support costs allocated to raising funds	(1,505)	(11,303)	(12,808)	(12,815)
	<u>53,097</u>	<u>143,391</u>	<u>196,488</u>	<u>188,853</u>
Total expenditure	<u>54,602</u>	<u>162,165</u>	<u>216,767</u>	<u>208,841</u>

¹ Includes fee for Independent Examination of £600 and Finance Support charge of £400

6. STAFF COSTS, TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Salaries	158,064	149,893
National Insurance	8,823	8,015
Pension costs	9,934	9,257
Freelance staff	0	0
Other	0	0
	<u>176,821</u>	<u>167,165</u>

Staff Numbers

Full-time equivalent excluding trustees:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management, fundraising and admin	1.00	1.00
Project Management	4.03	3.50
	<u>5.03</u>	<u>4.50</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2022: £nil).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2022: £nil). No expenses relating to travel or subsistence were reimbursed to any trustee during the year (2022: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

The charity contributes into Group Personal Pension Plans for most employees. These pension plans are defined contribution in nature and as required under FRS102 the annual cost is recognised as incurred and included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At beginning and end of year	<u>5,288</u>
Depreciation	
At beginning of year	5,288
Charge for the year	-
At end of year	<u>5,288</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2022 & 2023	<u>-</u>

8. DEBTORS

	General £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income receivable	144	580	724	3,507
Prepayments	1,240	1,006	2,246	1,952
	<u>1,384</u>	<u>1,586</u>	<u>2,970</u>	<u>5,459</u>

9. BANK BALANCES

	General £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Cash in Interest Bearing Accounts	16,302	127,722	144,024	161,804
Cash in non-interest Bearing Accounts	30,393	931	31,324	44,434
	<u>46,695</u>	<u>128,653</u>	<u>175,348</u>	<u>206,238</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10. CREDITORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Creditors and Accruals	3,439	5,722
Deferred income	1,567	2,802
	<u>5,006</u>	<u>8,524</u>

11. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There have been no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure in these financial statements.

13. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	1,384	1,586	2,970
Cash	46,695	128,653	175,348
Creditors less than 1 year	(4,506)	(500)	(5,006)
	<u>43,573</u>	<u>129,739</u>	<u>173,312</u>
Previous year			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	3,963	1,496	5,459
Cash	67,393	138,845	206,238
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,016)	(2,509)	(8,525)
	<u>65,340</u>	<u>137,832</u>	<u>203,172</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14 MOVEMENT IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2023 £
Restore					
Restricted: Barrow Cadbury	6,666	27,200	27,200	-	6,666
Birmingham City Council	1,205	-	1,205	-	-
Other work	-	1,130	1,130	-	-
Part-time befriender	21,882	-	19,987	-	1,895
Befriending	19,005	33,450	30,004	-	22,451
Partner Development Project	-	2,000	118	-	1,882
St Johns	219	5,404	5,503	-	120
	<u>48,977</u>	<u>69,184</u>	<u>85,147</u>	-	<u>33,014</u>
General Restore Funds	<u>88,855</u>	<u>84,888</u>	<u>77,018</u>	-	<u>96,725</u>
Total Funds Restore	<u><u>137,832</u></u>	<u><u>154,072</u></u>	<u><u>162,165</u></u>	-	<u><u>129,739</u></u>

Note, the General Funds within Restore are unrestricted within that project.

The purpose of the above funds are to support various projects within Restore activity including a befriending scheme and social activities for refugees and asylum seekers and training of volunteers.

Remaining funds from St Johns relates to funds raised to provide emergency food supplies for refugees.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	27,665	135,032	162,697
Charitable activities	-	271	271
Investments - Bank interest	124	566	690
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	27,789	135,869	163,658
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	3,006	16,982	19,988
Charitable activities	51,306	137,547	188,853
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	54,312	154,529	208,841
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	(26,523)	(18,660)	(45,183)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	91,864	156,492	248,356
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	65,341	137,832	203,173
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions - Ecumenical Development	25,744	21,658
Subscriptions WMRCF	3,658	3,701
Other income - Summit	3,037	2,306
Bank Interest	395	124
	<u>32,834</u>	<u>27,789</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Ecumenical Development Officer:		
Salary, National Insurance & Pension	37,261	21,169
Traveling expenses	1,832	2,219
	<u>39,093</u>	<u>23,388</u>
Office Salary, National Insurance & Pension	-	13,857
Rent, Insurance including Heating	5,369	4,923
Office Repairs and Renewals	-	1,003
Meeting and Conference Expenses	3,466	3,580
Postage and Telephone	-	-
Printing and Stationery	18	38
Website development and maintenance	2,114	3,027
Churches Together in England	1,025	525
Sundry Expenses	60	111
Governance costs - professional fees	457	860
Accountancy Charges	3,000	3,000
	<u>54,602</u>	<u>54,312</u>
Total expenditure	54,602	54,312
Net Expenditure	(21,768)	(26,523)
Fund Balance at 1 January 2023	65,341	91,864
	<u>43,573</u>	<u>65,341</u>
Fund Balance at 31 December 2023	43,573	65,341

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

RESTORE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	General Fund	Restricted/d esignated Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Grants other	100	33,450	33,550	35,801
Grants - Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	27,200	27,200	20,000
Grants - Partner Development Trust	2,840	2,000	4,840	-
Grants - Birmingham City Council	-	-	-	8,793
Grants - National Emergencies Trust	-	-	-	1,005
Donations - Individuals	36,120	-	36,120	28,825
Donations - Churches	10,368	5,404	15,772	10,341
Gift aid on donations	5,658	-	5,658	4,859
Legacies	24,786	-	24,786	20,310
Befriending services	-	960	960	4,160
Fundraising	2,223	-	2,223	938
Bank Interest	2,286	-	2,286	566
Other	507	170	677	271
	<u>84,888</u>	<u>69,184</u>	<u>154,072</u>	<u>135,869</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries & wages				
Befrienders	38,750	51,418	90,168	88,437
Co-ordinator	11,032	29,884	40,916	41,024
Administration	12,137	-	12,137	6,933
Employment allowance	(3,661)	-	(3,661)	(4,255)
Office Expenses	8,300	2,720	11,020	12,080
Information and Publicity	1,036	-	1,036	936
Accountancy Charges	500	-	500	440
Programme Activities	8,443	1,125	9,568	8,254
Training - Staff and Volunteer	481	-	481	680
	<u>77,018</u>	<u>85,147</u>	<u>162,165</u>	<u>154,529</u>
Net income	7,870	(15,963)	(8,093)	(18,660)
Fund Balance at 1 January 2023	88,855	48,977	137,832	156,492
Fund Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>96,725</u>	<u>33,014</u>	<u>129,739</u>	<u>137,832</u>

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 243931

Accounts

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
31 DECEMBER 2022
TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Registered Charity No: 243931

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

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1. Trustees' Annual Report
10. Trustees Responsibilities statement
11. Independent Examiner's Report
12. Statement of Financial Activities
13. Balance sheet
14. Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts

The following pages do not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements:

23. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity – Ecumenical Development
24. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity – Restore

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT

31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Constitution and 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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019).

Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The object of Birmingham Churches Together is to promote mutual understanding and fellowship among the Churches which accept Jesus Christ as God and Saviour for the wellbeing of all the citizens of Birmingham and surrounding areas.

The objectives are achieved through its Ecumenical Development work and its Restore project detailed below. Public benefit is met by actively encouraging members of different denominations to work and worship together and collectively to support those who are disadvantaged, regardless of their beliefs, thereby enabling them to join in and partake in the benefits of the community.

The Trustees' have reviewed the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission and consider that our aims and activities as set out below fulfil the criteria. The trustees consider the guidance on public benefit each year.

Ecumenical Development

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) encourages greater cooperation between Christian churches in order that together they may better serve the people of Birmingham and Solihull. There is increased public benefit when Churches are enabled to partner to serve the whole community, regardless of status, class or ethnicity. Throughout 2022, Robert Mountford worked as BCT Ecumenical Development Enabler, supported by Maud Grainger in the role of BCT Development and Support Worker. Both Robert and Maud were employed on a part-time basis.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (held from 18 to 25 January each year), 'Pray24Brum' brings together churches from across the Christian traditions to pray for the city. Along with a few other partners, Birmingham Churches Together played a coordinative role in the Pray24Brum 24 hours of unbroken prayer which took place at The Church at Carrs Lane on Friday 21/Saturday 22 January 2022.

Throughout 2022, BCT continued to play a central role in the 'Time4Change' anti-racism group that brought Christian leaders from historic-, new- and Black-majority Churches together. Bi-weekly online planning meetings took place through the year, with in-person conference events in Aston on Thursday 30 June and Saturday 12 November, plus an ecumenical service in Handsworth on Sunday 13 October. Robert Mountford also sat on the boards of Churches and Industry Group Birmingham/Solihull (CIGB) and Friends/Neighbours/Changemakers (FNC).

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2022

Robert Mountford chaired the interdenominational planning group that prepared and delivered a number of initiatives during the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which were staged in the West Midlands from Thursday 28 July to Monday 8 August. Prior to the Games, prayer meetings were held during the spring and early summer; 130 chaplains were trained and vetted; monthly e-newsletters were issued; and outreach groups intending to come to the city from around the world were linked and coordinated. During the Games, two weeks of unbroken worship and prayer took place; chaplains were deployed to support athletes, emergency services, volunteers and visitors; outreach groups were supported; and the 'It's a penalty' anti-trafficking campaign promoted.

An ecumenical e-newsletter was issued every six to eight weeks, reaching around 1,000 people on each occasion. Articles, events and job adverts were published on the BCT website on a regular basis. The website was viewed on average by 5,000 users per month. BCT's profile on social media stood at around 650 followers on Facebook and 1,000 on Twitter. The information shared through these media informed local congregations of the wider Christian context and resourced them to engage more effectively in their local neighbourhoods.

In order to be a hub for Birmingham's and Solihull's Christian community, BCT's Ecumenical Development workers continued to strengthen existing relationships with a wide variety of organisations and congregations - and to build new connections. BCT frequently receives enquiries as a first port-of-call from a range of churches and organisations seeking to make connections with people of faith in the city. Wherever possible, each enquirer is offered points of contact and, when appropriate, information is shared across BCT's social media outlets.

During the year, BCT liaised with the following Churches (listed in alphabetical order): The Apostolic Pastoral Congress, Assemblies of God, Church of England Birmingham, Central England Quakers, the Church of God of Prophecy, the Fellowship of the Churches of Christ, the Elim Pentecostal Church, the Heart of England Baptist Association, the New Testament Church of God, the Methodist Church (both the Birmingham Circuit and the Birmingham District), the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, the Salvation Army West Midlands Division and the United Reformed Church West Midlands Synod. In addition to these Churches, local independent congregations were also included in the loop.

BCT liaised with the following Christian organisations (listed in alphabetical order): the Adavu Project, Agapé, the As-One campaign, Betel UK, the Bethel Health and Healing Network, the Birmingham Christian Homelessness Forum, the Birmingham City Leaders' Prayer network, Birmingham City Mission, Birmingham Taize, Burn 24/7, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Christians Against Poverty, the Cinnamon Network, the City Centre Churches' group, ChaplaincyPlus, Churches and Industry Group Birmingham/Solihull, Church of Sanctuary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Churches Together in England, Compassion UK, Engage UK, Erdington Churches Together, Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, The Feast, Forge Missional Training, 'Friends/Neighbours/Changemakers,' the Gather network, GOOD NEWS for Everyone!, HOPE Together, Home for Good, Jericho Foundation, the Ladder Apprenticeship Foundation, LOUDfence, Manresa Link, the Maryvale Institute, the Mission:Mercia network, Near Neighbours, Network Four, Pause for Hope, Places of Welcome, Premier Radio, Queen's Ecumenical Foundation, Safe Families for Children, Safe Spaces for Young People, the Saltmine Theatre Company, the St Peter's

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2022

Saltley Trust, Thrive Together Birmingham, Thy Kingdom Come, Unity Prayer East Birmingham, Urban Devotion, the West Midlands Combined Authority, West Midlands Faith in Action, Westminster Theological College, the World Prayer Centre and Youth with a Mission.

At the regional level, BCT participated in the conversations between workplace chaplaincies CIGB, the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission and Coventry/Warwickshire Workcare. The financial challenges exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated a serious conversation about the possibility of the merger of the three entities. BCT organised and facilitated the 24-hour summit of the West Midlands most senior Church Leaders at the Woodbrooke Quaker Centre on 2/3 October 2022.

At the national level, BCT continued to connect to Churches Together in England (CTE), the overarching national ecumenical network that had 52 member-Churches and 75 member-organisations. Robert and Maud attended CTE's Triennial Forum at Swanwick (Derbyshire) in March 2022. Robert and Maud attended the CTE Ecumenical Officers' conference in September. Robert attended the CTE Enabling Group meeting at Swanwick in October. Robert is in ongoing contact with CTE's staff members, as well as the National Ecumenical Officers of the historic Churches.

By way of summary, 2022 was an exceptionally busy and fruitful year for Birmingham Churches Together's ecumenical development work.

Restore

Restore's vision is for a society into which all refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed, valued and integrated. Following the restrictions of 2020 and 2021, Restore's befriending team of staff and over 100 volunteers really appreciated being back to consistent face-to-face interactions with refugees and asylum seekers. This made it far easier to work towards the following outcomes:

- reduced loneliness and social isolation;
- increased friendships and social connections with people from Birmingham;
- improved communication skills in English, particularly conversational English; and
- increased intercultural competence through greater understanding of and adaptation to life in the UK.

Befriending is a 3-way relationship between Restore, the volunteer and the refugee or asylum seeker. Restore received more referrals in 2022 than we did during each of the pandemic years. We received referrals from 33 agencies, referrals from current or former service users and self-referrals. In 2022, **we made 51 new befriending matches**, just exceeding our annual target of 50 new matches. At the year-end, there were **115 ongoing befriending matches** of refugees or asylum seekers from 27 countries including Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Eritrea and El Salvador.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2022

What is the impact of befriending?

"We share a lot about our culture and daily life. This definitely helped me with knowing more about the city and improved my English. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to have a befriender and appreciate all the work that Restore does for refugees that makes starting a new life in a completely different country a lot easier."

"What I love most is the befriending. My befriender is more than a 'Mum' to me. She has been really good to me. She's been like a mentor."

"My befriender has introduced a cycling routine, which has helped me mentally and physically, to lessen my worries!"

"Meeting my befriender makes some feel less lonely and I am always excited to meet him once in every other week."

One volunteer befriender wrote about the impact, **"Being able to 'walk' with my befriender in some of her pain, and talk things through, encouraging her in some of the challenges she faces, I believe lightens her burden a little to enable her to carry on. It is a privilege having such a role."**

Another befriender, who is retired, wrote of the mutual benefits, **"My voluntary work has taught me that refugees enrich this country. Also, it helped me to share some of my knowledge and experience and made me feel that I am still able to help my fellow human beings."**

During 2022, we worked at improving our evaluation and monitoring, particularly seeking more feedback from refugees and asylum seekers who were befriended. The results of a survey, with 64 respondents, were very encouraging and indicated that befriending had led to the outcomes we hope for:

- 100% of those who responded indicated that meeting their befriender had helped them to feel more welcomed;
- 97% felt that meeting their befriender had helped them feel less lonely;
- 97% felt that meeting their befriender had helped them improve their English;
- 97% felt that meeting their befriender had helped them learn about life in Birmingham and the UK.

2022 was the first year since 2019 that we were able to run a full complement of group social activities for men, women and families. In 2022, 86 men, 71 women and 134 people from families (52 adults and 82 children) attended at least one event. There was a wide range of activities: 29 for men and 26 for women.

- The aims of all our group activities are similar to those for befriending;
- Reduce isolation and loneliness and isolation through building relationships;
- Provide opportunities to develop and practise English Language skills;
- Provide opportunities to learn about Birmingham - history, culture, recreational opportunities;
- Boost well-being and mental health

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2022

Highlights for the men's activities included attending an Opening Ceremony dress rehearsal for the 2022 Commonwealth Games and playing table tennis outside Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon. Highlights for the women included a river cruise in Stratford-upon-Avon and lots of amazing concerts through Celebrating Sanctuary. Restore also re-established a programme of occasional group activities for families including trips to Aston Hall, Beaudesert Activity Centre, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Think Tank and Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park.

What is the impact of group social activities? The impact of group social activities is encapsulated in this quote: **"I enjoy learning new things and knowing new people."** Here are a few comments relating to men's and women's activities:

"I made new friends who were full of energy and made me get energy from them too."

"I was able to forget what's happening to me personally during the planting exercise and interacting with other women."

A parent commented after a trip to Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre near Cannock, **"It was great, especially for us because we'd not gotten any holiday or picnic during last 3 years in the UK."** Another parent wrote about an Aston Hall trip, **"It was great to see the museum and learn more about history. Sharing with the other families with games and food was magnificent."**

Electronic feedback forms are sent after each event, of those who responded, 94% (159 of 169 responses) stated that they had met new people and made new friends; and almost 87% said they had learnt something new about Birmingham.

We are also grateful to all the organisations who have supported our group activities by providing venues, activities, tours or reduced entry fees or free entry including: Birmingham Museums Trust, Rep Theatre, Birmingham Opera Company, The Exchange, St Mary's Church Moseley, Six Ways Baptist Church, Birmingham Anglican Cathedral, Selly Manor, Celebrating Sanctuary, The Hive, Near Neighbours (Birmingham), Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham Cathedral, Avon Boating (Stratford-upon-Avon), Fatima House, The MAC and PoliNations.

Restore ran three training and awareness raising courses via Zoom in February, June and October which were attended by 103 participants, some of whom applied to befriend. Feedback included, **"Such clear explanations of the processes for those arriving and ongoing processes. Best I have ever heard. Simple and NOT at all confusing."** And **"Hearing from a befriender (a refugee) was so useful and helped bring what Restore is doing to life. It definitely helped reinforce why I want to volunteer."** Restore also raised awareness of refugee and asylum issues through speaking engagements, social media posts and mailings to supporters. Restore's Annual Celebration, in July, was attended by over 90 refugees, asylum seekers, befrienders and supporters.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2022**

To work for change in the systems and services affecting refugees and asylum seekers, campaigning continued on the provisions within the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill. We worked as part of the Together With Refugees coalition particularly seeking:

- a) that asylum seekers should not be treated differently according to how they travelled to the UK but assessed on their need for protection from persecution;
- b) a numerical annual commitment to resettle at least 10,000 refugees; and
- c) permission to work for asylum seekers, if their asylum claim was not determined within 6 months of applying.

Restore believes that the global refugee challenge requires all nations, including the UK, to play their part in providing solutions and that an 'offshoring policy' for some asylum seekers reneges on our responsibilities under the UN Refugee Convention 1951 which the UK helped to write.

Restore also engaged in working for change through active participation in meetings including: the Birmingham City Council's City of Sanctuary Partnership Board; the Migration Policy and Practice - Birmingham and the Black Country Board and their Opportunities and Communities thematic groups; Birmingham City of Sanctuary

(voluntary) Committee and Birmingham City Council's Working Group for those working with resettled refugees. Restore was a partner in Birmingham's response to destitution through the Hope Projects.

Joshua Smith, part-time Administrative Assistant moved to a full-time post with another organisation in March 2023. The post was reviewed, and Samitha Liyanage was appointed to the new post of Communications and Administrative Officer in September 2022. The part-time post of Befriending Women's Worker was introduced on a 12-month contract in October 2021. This new post effectively increased the capacity of Restore's work with women service users and families. The Management Committee agreed to make the post permanent from October 2023, to maintain that additional capacity and develop the women's work further.

We are extremely grateful for the commitment of befrienders and supporters to Restore's work through monthly standing orders and one-off donations and to several churches who also generously donate to Restore. We give thanks for the service of former longstanding befrienders Heather Le Dieu and Anne Holding (who was also a Management Committee member) who also generously left financial legacies so the work of Restore could continue.

During the year, we were hugely grateful to receive financial support from the following grant-making trusts and organisations: Barrow Cadbury Trust, Eveson Trust, Blakebank Trust, Birmingham City Council, National Emergencies Trust Local Action Fund, South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust, Roughley Trust, 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, Cole Trust, Richard Kilcuppe's Charity, Grimmitt Trust, John Avins Trust and Mazar's Charitable Trust and Refugee Action.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2022

Financial review

The costs of Birmingham Churches Together Ecumenical Development work have been met from income of the constituent Groups as stated in the Statement of Financial Activity. The overall activities of Birmingham Churches Together, including Restore, show a deficit for the year of £45,183 (Ecumenical Development £26,523, Restore £18,660). Total funds are now £203,173 (Ecumenical Development £65,341, Restore £137,832).

Reserves Policy

The level of reserves held by Birmingham Churches Together for its Ecumenical Development work and for Restore should be sufficient to cover six months operating costs in addition to sums set aside for proposed specific initiatives. The unrestricted general reserves for both projects amount to £154,916. Six months operating costs are estimated at £103,000 based on the 2023 budget. The Ecumenical Development project continued to operate reduced subscriptions for members and a consequent deficit to effectively utilise excess reserves.

Investments

Where investments are held, the Trustees' policy is to hold them as ethically as is possible to bring in Growth and Income without undue risk. Currently no investments are held. Surplus cash funds are being held in interest bearing bank accounts.

Remuneration and expenses of Trustees

It is not the policy of Birmingham Churches Together to remunerate its Trustees. No expenses or remuneration have been paid in either the current year or in 2021.

Risk

Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. These risks are monitored and regularly reviewed.

Structure, Governance & management

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) is a charity governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by nominated representatives of the Churches who are full members of BCT. The Presidents of BCT are ex-officio members of the Trustees body. A small group of Trustees are appointed to a Co-ordinating Group who oversee the day to day governance of the charity and scrutinise documents in preparation for Trustee meetings. The Trustees directly oversee and manage the strategic development of its Ecumenical work and the Restore project, which is also supported by separate management group. This group nominates a member to serve as a Trustee.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2022

Reference & administrative details

Registered charity name: Birmingham Churches Together

Registered charity number: 243931

Registered address:
The Jericho Building
196-198 Edward Road
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 9LX

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Presidents

Most Revd. Bernard Longley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham
Rt. Revd. David Urquhart, Anglican Bishop of Birmingham (resigned October 2022)
Rev Ian Howarth, Free Churches Moderator (resigned August 2022)
Rev David Emanuel Ellis, Free Churches Moderator (appointed October 2022)

Appointed by members through the Annual General Meeting

Rev Steve Faber, URC Moderator
Mauricio Silva
Katarzyna Jolliffe (resigned January 2022)
Venerable Jennifer Tomlinson
Mgr Timothy Francis Menezes (appointed January 2023)
Rev Deverton Antony Douglas (appointed January 2023)
Lieutenant-Colonel Joao Paulo Magalhaes Ramos (appointed January 2023)
Bishop Boris Paul McCalla (appointed January 2023)
Rev Novette S Headley (appointed January 2023)

The Membership of Birmingham Churches Together is made up of representatives from:

Anglican Diocese of Birmingham
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham
Birmingham Methodist District
Heart of England Baptist Association
West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church
West Midlands Division of the Salvation Army
The Society of Friends Central England Area Meeting
Fellowship of Churches of Christ

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2022**

The principal staff:

Ecumenical Development Officer, Robert Mountford
Restore Project Coordinator, Jeremy Thompson

The Principal Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Karen Hanlan, ACA
1 Saracen Close
Ettington
CV37 7SZ

Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting

Date



6/6/2023

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
CHARITY NO. 243931
31 DECEMBER 2022

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and 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 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 its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP 2015;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a 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 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 and the provisions of the Constitution. 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Birmingham Churches Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Birmingham Churches Together ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 12 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do 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.



Karen Hanlan, Institute of Chartered Accountants, England & Wales
Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Limited
1 Saracen Close, Ettington, CV37 7SZ

Date 6.6.2023

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies (Note 4)	27,665	135,032	162,697	190,822
Charitable Activities		271	271	105
Investments - Bank interest	124	566	690	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	27,789	135,869	163,658	190,943
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	3,006	16,982	19,988	16,361
Charitable activities	51,306	137,547	188,853	136,340
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure (Note 5)	54,312	154,529	208,841	152,701
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds	(26,523)	(18,660)	(45,183)	38,242
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	91,864	156,492	248,356	210,114
Transfer of funds	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	<u>65,341</u>	<u>137,832</u>	<u>203,173</u>	<u>248,356</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	5,459	13,893
Cash at bank and in hand	9	206,238	251,193
		<u>211,697</u>	<u>265,086</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(8,524)	(16,730)
		<u>203,173</u>	<u>248,356</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>203,173</u>	<u>248,356</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	14	137,832	156,492
Unrestricted funds		65,341	91,864
		<u>203,173</u>	<u>248,356</u>
Total charity funds		<u><u>203,173</u></u>	<u><u>248,356</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the
Birmingham Churches Together
on 6/6 2023



Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022****1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of accounting**

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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

In preparing these financial statements Update Bulletin 1 to the Charities SORP (FRS102) has been adopted and consequently a Statement of Cash flows has not been prepared.

Churches Together Birmingham meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note

Going Concern statement

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue to operate. The validity of this assumption is dependent upon the continuance of support from the charity's key funders and stakeholders and in response to the progress made by the charity in pursuing a viable budget including the obtaining of further grants and donations. The charity's business plan shows that the charity will be able to operate in the foreseeable future. Based on this understanding the trustees believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments, which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are restricted to the use that the monies were received for.

The Designated Fund is a Special Purposes Fund for Ecumenical Development work and is currently used to set aside monies for further Promotions and the Ecumenical Development Officers Sabbatical.

Relationship between Ecumenical Development work and the charity's projects

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees require that the Restore project be self-funding and is not to be supported from the Charity's Ecumenical Development work.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Within the Statement of Financial Activity all funds received for the projects of Restore are accounted for as Restricted Funds. Within each of the projects some funding may be for specific purposes or for general use, this breakdown is identified in note 14.

Unrestricted Funds: Donations and Other Income received which is available for use on any project or activity, as the Trustees shall agree. It is the policy of the Trustees to allocate all unrestricted funds to its Ecumenical Development work, since each project is required to be self-funded.

Designated Funds: The allocation of Unrestricted Funds to a specific activity within its Ecumenical Development work. Such funds which remain after the project has been completed or which have been replaced by Restricted Funds form part of the Unrestricted Funds and may be credited back to that fund.

Restricted Funds: Donations and Other Income, including Grants, which may be used only for the specific project for which they were made available. Any surplus, except where immaterial, is returned to the Donor.

Income

Income represents the amount derived from subscriptions, fundraising, donations and grants and is recognised where the charity is legally entitled to the income, ultimate receipt is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donations are recognised when received.

Income relating to future periods, as a result of donor imposed conditions specifying the time period, has been treated as deferred income.

Income dependent on certain conditions, amounting to more than mere administrative requirements, is recognised when the conditions have been fulfilled.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises the costs of publicity and fundraising activity.
- Expenditure on charitable activity includes the costs of the project delivery undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)****Fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided on Office Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at rates calculated to write off the cost of items of £1,000 or more over the expected life of the asset, usually 3 years. Assets costing Less than £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

Taxation

As a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and in hand and short term deposits repayable on or within a three month notice period.

Debtors

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

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2. GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND

The General Accumulated Fund represent the unrestricted funds of Ecumenical Development only.

3. DESIGNATED FUNDS

There are currently no funds designated for a particular purpose.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2022
	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	-	28,825	28,825
Donations - Churches	-	10,341	10,341
Legacies		20,310	20,310
Membership subscriptions	25,359	-	25,359
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	20,000	20,000
CAF Covid Resilience Fund	-	8,793	8,793
National Emergencies Trust		1,005	1,005
Other Grants	-	34,796	34,796
Other	2,306	10,962	13,268
	<u>27,665</u>	<u>135,032</u>	<u>162,697</u>

Previous year	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2021
	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	-	36,305	36,305
Donations - Churches	-	15,513	15,513
Legacies		1,000	1,000
Membership subscriptions	49,027	-	49,027
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	20,000	20,000
CAF Covid Resilience Fund	-	15,286	15,286
National Emergencies Trust		5,335	5,335
Other Grants	-	28,308	28,308
Other	-	20,048	20,048
	<u>49,027</u>	<u>141,795</u>	<u>190,822</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

5. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Cost of raising funds:				
Staff costs	1,386	5,787	7,173	7,071
Allocation of support costs	1,620	11,195	12,815	9,290
	3,006	16,982	19,988	16,361
Cost of charitable activities:				
Staff costs	33,640	126,352	159,992	113,657
Programme activity costs	-	8,254	8,254	2,063
Travel expenses	2,219	-	2,219	731
Rent & insurance	5,926	12,080	18,006	16,489
Meetings/conferences	3,580	-	3,580	5,000
Telephone, print, stationery	38	936	974	1,033
Website development	3,027	-	3,027	780
Subscriptions	525	-	525	525
Sundry expenses	111	680	791	928
Subscriptions cancelled	-	-	-	-
Governance costs - professional fees	860	-	860	984
¹ Accountancy charges	3,000	440	3,440	3,440
Less support costs allocated to raising funds	(1,620)	(11,195)	(12,815)	(9,290)
	51,306	137,547	188,853	136,340
	54,312	154,529	208,841	152,701

Total expenditure

¹ Includes fee for Independent Examination of £590 and Finance Support charge of £350

6. STAFF COSTS, TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
Salaries	149,893	98,773
National Insurance	8,015	4,357
Pension costs	9,257	5,690
Freelance staff	0	11,789
Other	0	119
	167,165	120,728

Staff Numbers

Full-time equivalent excluding trustees:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Management, fundraising and admin	1.00	0.50
Project Management	3.50	3.50
	4.50	4.00

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2021: £nil).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2021: £nil). No expenses relating to travel or subsistence were reimbursed to any trustee during the year (2021: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: £nil).

The charity contributes into Group Personal Pension Plans for most employees. These pension plans are defined contribution in nature and as required under FRS102 the annual cost is recognised as incurred and included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

			Office Equipment £	
Cost				
At beginning and end of year			5,288	
Depreciation				
At beginning of year			5,288	
Charge for the year			-	
At end of year			5,288	
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2021 & 2022			-	
8. DEBTORS				
	General	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Income receivable	2,940	567	3,507	11,892
Prepayments	1,023	929	1,952	2,001
	<u>3,963</u>	<u>1,496</u>	<u>5,459</u>	<u>13,893</u>
9. BANK BALANCES				
	General	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Cash in Interest Bearing Accounts	23,927	137,877	161,804	177,517
Cash in non-interest Bearing Accounts	43,466	968	44,434	73,676
	<u>67,393</u>	<u>138,845</u>	<u>206,238</u>	<u>251,193</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10. CREDITORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Creditors and Accruals	5,722	1,783
Deferred income	2,802	14,947
	<u>8,524</u>	<u>16,730</u>

11. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There have been no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure in these financial statements.

13. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	3,963	1,496	5,459
Cash	67,393	138,845	206,238
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,015)	(2,509)	(8,524)
	<u>65,341</u>	<u>137,832</u>	<u>203,173</u>

Previous year	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	11,005	2,888	13,893
Cash	96,606	154,587	251,193
Creditors less than 1 year	(15,747)	(983)	(16,730)
	<u>91,864</u>	<u>156,492</u>	<u>248,356</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

14 MOVEMENT IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2022 £
Restore					
Restricted: Barrow Cadbury	6,666	20,000	20,000	-	6,666
Birmingham City Council	-	8,793	7,588	-	1,205
Other work	5,685	5,165	10,850	-	-
Part-time befriender	20,747	20,310	19,175	-	21,882
Befriending	23,700	43,006	47,701	-	19,005
St Johns	284	5,148	5,213	-	219
	<u>57,082</u>	<u>102,422</u>	<u>110,527</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,977</u>
General Restore Funds	<u>99,410</u>	<u>33,447</u>	<u>44,002</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,855</u>
Total Funds Restore	<u>156,492</u>	<u>135,869</u>	<u>154,529</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,832</u>

Note, the General Funds within Restore are unrestricted within that project.

The purpose of the above funds are to support various projects within Restore activity including a befriending scheme and social activities for refugees and asylum seekers and training of volunteers.

Remaining funds from St Johns relates to funds raised to provide emergency food supplies for refugees.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

15. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	49,027	141,795	190,822
Charitable activities	-	105	105
Investments - Bank interest	2	14	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	49,029	141,914	190,943
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	1,460	14,901	16,361
Charitable activities	34,960	101,380	136,340
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	36,420	116,281	152,701
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income and net movement in funds	12,609	25,633	38,242
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	79,255	130,859	210,114
Transfer of funds	0	0	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	91,864	156,492	248,356
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions - Ecumenical Development	21,658	43,542
Subscriptions WMRCF	3,701	5,485
Other income - Summit	2,306	-
Bank Interest	124	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,789	49,029
 EXPENDITURE		
Ecumenical Development Officer:		
Salary, National Insurance & Pension	21,169	8,318
Interim cover for EDO	-	9,907
Traveling expenses	2,219	731
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23,388	18,956
 Office Salary, National Insurance & Pension	 13,857	 0
Communications	0	1,882
Recruitment costs	0	0
Rent, Insurance including Heating	4,923	5,027
Office Repairs and Renewals	1,003	25
Meeting and Conference Expenses	3,580	5,000
Postage and Telephone	0	0
Printing and Stationery	38	33
Website development and maintenance	3,027	780
Churches Together in England	525	525
Sundry Expenses	111	208
Governance costs - professional fees	860	984
Accountancy Charges	3,000	3,000
Subscriptions cancelled	-	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	54,312	36,420
 Net Income	 (26,523)	 12,609
 Fund Balance at 1 January 2022	 91,864	 79,255
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Balance at 31 December 2022	65,341	91,864
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

RESTORE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
INCOME				
Grants other	100	35,701	35,801	35,143
Grants - Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Grants - The National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	-
Grants - CAF Resilience Fund	-	-	-	15,286
Grants - Birmingham City Council	-	8,793	8,793	-
Grants - National Emergencies Trust	-	1,005	1,005	5,335
Donations - Individuals	26,869	1,956	28,825	36,305
Donations - Churches	2,401	7,940	10,341	15,513
Gift aid on donations	2,302	2,557	4,859	7,990
Legacies	-	20,310	20,310	1,000
Befriending services	-	4,160	4,160	320
Fundraising	938	-	938	4,903
Bank Interest	566	-	566	14
Other	271	-	271	105
	<u>33,447</u>	<u>102,422</u>	<u>135,869</u>	<u>141,914</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries & wages				
Befrienders	8,068	80,369	88,437	58,735
Co-ordinator	17,876	23,148	41,024	37,930
Administration	5,933	1,000	6,933	7,868
Employment allowance	(4,255)	-	(4,255)	(3,912)
Office Expenses	8,713	3,367	12,080	11,437
Information and Publicity	936	-	936	1,000
Accountancy Charges	440	-	440	440
Programme Activities	5,611	2,643	8,254	2,063
Training - Staff and Volunteer	680	-	680	720
	<u>44,002</u>	<u>110,527</u>	<u>154,529</u>	<u>116,281</u>
Net expenditure	(10,555)	(8,105)	(18,660)	25,633
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance at 1 January 2022	99,410	57,082	156,492	130,859
	<u>88,855</u>	<u>48,977</u>	<u>137,832</u>	<u>156,492</u>

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 243931

Accounts

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

31 DECEMBER 2021

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Registered Charity No: 243931

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

INDEX

1. Trustees' Annual Report
9. Trustees Responsibilities statement
10. Independent Examiner's Report
11. Statement of Financial Activities
12. Balance sheet
13. Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts

The following pages do not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements:

22. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity – Ecumenical Development
23. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity – Restore

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT

31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Constitution and 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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019).

Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The object of Birmingham Churches Together is to promote mutual understanding and fellowship among the Churches which accept Jesus Christ as God and Saviour for the wellbeing of all the citizens of Birmingham and surrounding areas.

The objectives are achieved through its Ecumenical Development work and its Restore project detailed below. Public benefit is met by actively encouraging members of different denominations to work and worship together and collectively to support those who are disadvantaged, regardless of their beliefs, thereby enabling them to join in and partake in the benefits of the community.

The Trustees' have reviewed the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission and consider that our aims and activities as set out below fulfil the criteria. The trustees consider the guidance on public benefit each year.

Ecumenical Development

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) encourages greater cooperation between Christian churches in order that they may better serve the people of Birmingham and Solihull. There is increased public benefit when Churches are enabled to work together in partnership serving the whole community, regardless of status, class or ethnicity.

For the first nine months of 2021, Robert Mountford, Ecumenical Officer for the Black Country and Staffordshire, continued to work as interim, part-time BCT Ecumenical Officer, in which he was helped by interim part-time BCT Communications Officer Lou Bayliss. From October 2021, Robert became part-time BCT Ecumenical Development Enabler, Lou Bayliss left BCT and Maud Grainger took on the role of part-time BCT Development and Support Worker.

During the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 'Pray24Brum' brings together churches from across the Christian traditions to pray for the city. Due to ongoing Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, these 24 hours of unbroken prayer had to take place online in January 2021. Throughout the year, BCT continued to play a central part in the 'Time4Change' anti-racism group that had brought Christian leaders from historic-, new- and Black-majority Churches together in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd in the USA on 25 May 2020. Several online events took place through the year, as well as a large in-person gathering at St Andrew's Football Stadium on 17 October.

BCT remained a lead partner in the planning group that is enabling the city's congregations and Christian organisations to prepare for the arrival of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The areas

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2021

under consideration included young people, health-and-wellbeing, chaplaincy, anti-human-trafficking, prayer and outreach. Robert chaired the Church Engagement and Legacy sub-stream of the wider Churches' planning group.

BCT connects to Churches Together in England, the national overarching ecumenical network. Robert attended the CTE Ecumenical Officers' conference at Swanwick in September and CTE Enabling Group meeting, which took place at Swanwick in October. He is in ongoing contact with CTE's staff members, as well as the National Ecumenical Officers of the historic Churches. The two-way conversation between regional and national ecumenism is of great value.

The Birmingham Ecumenical e-Newsletter was issued every six to eight weeks, reaching around 1,000 people on each occasion. Articles, events and job adverts were published on the BCT website on a regular basis. The website was viewed on average by 5,000 users per month. BCT's profile on social media stood at around 650 followers on Facebook and 1,000 on Twitter. The information shared through these media informed local congregations of the wider Christian context and resourced them to engage more effectively in their local neighbourhoods.

In order to be a hub for Birmingham's and Solihull's Christian community, BCT's Ecumenical Development workers continued to strengthen existing relationships with a wide variety of organisations and congregations - and to develop new connections. BCT frequently receives enquiries as a first port-of-call from a range of churches and organisations seeking to strengthen connection and relationship with people of faith in the city. Each contact is offered points of connection and, when appropriate, information is shared across BCT's social media outlets.

During the year, BCT liaised with the following Churches (listed in alphabetical order): The Anglican Diocese of Birmingham, the Apostolic Pastoral Congress, Assemblies of God, Central England Quakers, the Church of God of Prophecy, the Churches of Christ, the Elim Pentecostal Church, the Heart of England Baptist Association, the New Testament Church of God, the Methodist Church (both the Birmingham Circuit and the Birmingham District), the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, the Salvation Army and the United Reformed Church.

BCT also liaised with the following organisations (in alphabetical order): the Adavu Project, Agapé, the As-One campaign, Betel UK, the Bethel Health and Healing Network, the Birmingham Christian Homelessness Forum, the Birmingham City Leaders' Prayer network, Birmingham City Mission, Birmingham Taize, Burn 24/7, CAFOD, Christian Aid, the Cinnamon Network, the City Centre Churches' group, ChaplaincyPlus, Churches and Industry Group Birmingham, Church of Sanctuary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Churches Together in England, the Church Urban Fund, Compassion UK, Engage UK, Erdington Churches Together, Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, The Feast, Forge Missional Training, 'Friends/Neighbours/Changemakers,' the Gather network, HOPE Together, Home for Good, Jericho Foundation, the Ladder Apprenticeship Foundation, Manresa Link, the Maryvale Institute, the Message Trust, the Mission:Mercia network, Near Neighbours, Newman University, Pause for Hope, Places of Welcome, Premier Radio, Queen's Ecumenical Foundation, Safe Families for Children, Safe Spaces for Young People, the Saltmine Theatre Company, the St Peter's Saltley Trust, Thrive Together Birmingham, Thy

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2021

Kingdom Come, Unity Prayer East Birmingham, Urban Devotion, the West Midlands Combined Authority, West Midlands Faith in Action, Westminster Theological College and the World Prayer Centre.

Restore

We built on our experience of adapting befriending to lockdowns during 2020. Once again, our team of trained, compassionate and DBS-checked volunteer befrienders reverted to remote interactions using video calls or phone calls for the first part of 2021. As restrictions eased, we gradually opened up befriending again.

Befriending aims for the following outcomes:

- reduced loneliness and social isolation;
- increased friendships and social connections with people from Birmingham;
- improved communication skills in English, particularly conversational English; and
- increased intercultural competence through greater understanding of and adaptation to life in the UK.

What is the impact of befriending?

One asylum seeker recently wrote, "My Befriender turned out to be the best friend I ever had in my life. She is very kind-hearted and takes very good care of me. She is always ready to listen to me at any time and has helped me to regain my self-confidence by her kind support. A befriended resettled refugee wrote: "Meeting my befriender helped me a lot during the lockdown when we had weekly video calls to chat and it was amazing how we had so much in common. We even lived in the same area so it was easy to go for walks when lockdown eased a little bit. We now meet in person and we share a lot about our culture and daily life. This definitely helped me with knowing more about the city and improved my English. I always have her when I wanted to know about anything: places to visit, things to do in the city and so on. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to have a befriender and appreciate all the work that Restore does for refugees that makes starting a new life in a completely different country a lot easier."

A volunteer wrote, "I have learnt so much, he has provided me with a broader insight and understanding of other cultures and befriending has made me more compassionate and empathetic of others." Another befriender wrote about the emphasis on helping with English, "Befriending is a great opportunity to provide informal advice about English. All three of the men whom I have befriended through Restore have been very interested in developing their English language skills and in integrating, and I have learnt a lot also in the process."

During early 2021, most of our new referrals were asylum seekers or refugees who had come through the asylum application process. That changed later in the year, when the UK Resettlement Scheme restarted and with the arrival of resettled Afghan refugees. Through partnership with Refugee Action, we have been referred Syrian and Afghan resettled or relocated refugees. We continue to offer our services to asylum seekers.

In 2021, we met our annual target of 50 new befriending matches just before Christmas. This was despite the constraints of the pandemic. At the end of the year there were 124 ongoing befriending matches.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2021

We had been running our Men's group social activities on Zoom since June 2020. However, from June 2021, we moved these back to face-to-face events. Being mindful of the Covid crisis, over the summer the focus was on the great outdoors, particularly appropriate after the last 18 months of lockdowns! We pioneered several of our own city centre walks as well as enjoying the tranquillity and peace of Edgbaston Reservoir, the vastness of Sutton Park and crazy golf at Cannon Hill Park. Whilst Zoom meetings had been greatly appreciated, witnessing conversations and the forging of new friendships in person was very precious. One man wrote: "I found myself connecting well with fellow asylum seekers and our esteemed volunteers. I found myself opening up and regaining more confidence." During the autumn, we moved to indoor venues again. There were 26 men's events in 2021 - 16 in the community and 10 by Zoom and 62 men attended at least one session.

After a long break since March 2020, Restore's women's group social activities restarted at the end of August, initially once a month. It has been extremely encouraging to see the group form and gel very quickly as it meets a need. As with the men's work, these activities build community, reduce isolation, help with conversational English and understanding the city - its history and cultures - as well as being fun! Women's activities increased to twice a month from November. There were 7 events from August 2021 onwards and 25 women attended at least one of those sessions.

We also organised a couple of small-scale family activities to Birmingham Botanical Gardens for 39 participants in August which included a treasure hunt and exploring the adventure play area.

Restore ran two awareness raising and training courses via Zoom in June and October attended by 96 people. Feedback included: "I've learnt so much just from the information session, it was really effective" and "Thanks so much introducing us to a befriended refugee and for all you are doing to make the UK a friendlier place for those seeking asylum." Some participants from Manchester and London joined us to inform their new befriending work. One of those participants wrote, "Thanks so much again for allowing us to attend your training and see how you approach it. And for your generosity with your materials and time. We appreciate it so much, have learnt from it and it will be hugely helpful as we go forward." Restore also raised awareness of refugee and asylum issues through Zoom speaking engagements (including to a group of trainee midwives at Birmingham City University as part of a module on global health and to two regional Amnesty International meetings), social media posts and mailings to supporters.

When the Government produced its New Plan for Immigration and then its proposed Nationality and Borders Bill, the refugee support sector galvanized opposition to the punitive measures and the Together With Refugees coalition was formed. Restore joined that movement and campaigned for change. The symbol of the coalition was the orange heart which featured prominently during the Day of Action in October linked to the Bill going to the House of Commons.

Restore also engaged in working for change through active participation in meetings of the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership's Voluntary Sector Working Group, Birmingham City Council's City of Sanctuary Partnership Board, the Migration Policy and Practice - Birmingham and the Black Country Board, Birmingham City Council's Migration Forum, Birmingham City of Sanctuary (voluntary) Committee, Birmingham City Council's Working Group for resettled Syrians and resettled Afghans and the refugee support sector's Destitution Steering Group. Restore was a partner in Birmingham's response to destitution through the Hope Projects. We signpost to the

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2021**

services of many other organisations including St Chad's Sanctuary, the British Red Cross, the Refugee and Migrant Centre and Brushstrokes.

As Geraldine Hunt retired as part-time Admin Assistant at the end of December 2020 and Rachel Dale, Befriending Co-ordinator, moved on to another organisation in January 2021, Restore embarked on recruitment processes. We appointed Joshua Smith as Administrative Assistant in February and Catherine Bridgwood as Befriending Co-ordinator and Lead Befriending Women's Worker in April. Lockdown, staff changes and induction of other new staff delayed the appointment to the new post of part-time Befriending Women's Worker. Nicole Gilmore took up that new role in October and we are already benefitting from increased capacity for our women's work.

We are extremely grateful for the generous commitment of befrienders, support of groups, offers in-kind and donations from churches. We are also very grateful for the commitment to Restore's work through monthly standing orders and one-off donations from supporters. Run4Refugees, a key source of community fundraising before the pandemic, was unable to proceed again in 2021. However, several people took up the Captain Tom 100 Challenge (an initiative of the London Marathon to help charities replace lost income due to the cancellation of large public events) and raised funds for Restore. All these strands of financial commitment provide a diverse funding base which is often looked on favourably by grant making trusts.

During the year, we were hugely grateful to receive financial support from the following grant-making trusts: Barrow Cadbury Trust, Charities Aid Foundation (Coronavirus) Resilience Fund, National Emergencies Trust Local Action Fund (match funding via a Crowdfunder scheme), South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust, Roughley Trust, Allen Lane Foundation, 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, Cole Trust, David Budenburg's Charity, George Henry Collins Charity, Richard Kilcuppe's Charity, Grimmitt Trust, Share My Language Digital Fund, John Avins Trust, Joseph Hopkins Charity and Mazar's Charitable Trust.

Financial review

The costs of Birmingham Churches Together Ecumenical Development work have been met from income of the constituent Groups as stated in the Statement of Financial Activity. The overall activities of Birmingham Churches Together, including Restore, show a surplus for the year of £38,242 (Ecumenical Development £12,609, Restore £25,633). Total funds are now £248,356 (Ecumenical Development £91,864, Restore £156,492). Both projects continued to navigate the Covid 19 pandemic successfully, closely monitoring costs and income levels to ensure sustainability.

Reserves Policy

The level of reserves held by Birmingham Churches Together for its Ecumenical Development work and for Restore should be sufficient to cover six months operating costs in addition to sums set aside for proposed specific initiatives. For the organisation overall, all funds held by Restore are regarded as 'restricted' to the project. At the project level however, Restore holds both unrestricted and restricted funds.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2021**

The unrestricted general reserves for Birmingham Churches Together is therefore £91,864. This is all held by Ecumenical Development which has estimated six months operating costs of £27,000 based on the 2022 budget. Restore has unrestricted general reserves of £99,410 and estimated six months operating costs of £76,000. The Ecumenical Development project has reduced subscriptions for members by 50% for 2022, resulting in a deficit of £28,000, in order to effectively utilise excess reserves. Other excess reserves are used to offset fluctuations in the level of restricted funding for core work and also available for any new developments.

Investments

Where investments are held, the Trustees' policy is to hold them as ethically as is possible to bring in Growth and Income without undue risk. Currently no investments are held. Surplus cash funds are being held in interest bearing bank accounts.

Remuneration and expenses of Trustees

It is the policy of Birmingham Churches Together not to remunerate its Trustees. No expenses or remuneration have been paid in either the current year or in 2020.

Risk

Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. These risks are monitored and regularly reviewed.

Structure, Governance & management

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) is a charity governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by nominated representatives of the Churches who are full members of BCT. The Presidents of BCT are ex-officio members of the Trustees body. A small group of Trustees are appointed to a Co-ordinating Group who oversee the day to day governance of the charity and scrutinise documents in preparation for Trustee meetings. The Trustees directly oversee and manage the strategic development of its Ecumenical work. BCT's projects of Restore and Birmingham Churches Together Training are supported by separate management groups. These groups nominate a member to serve as a Trustee.

Although BCT does not offer specific training for Trustees, those appointed can avail themselves of the training offered through member churches.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2021

Reference & administrative details

Registered charity name: Birmingham Churches Together

Registered charity number: 243931

Registered address:
The Jericho Building
196-198 Edward Road
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 9LX

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Presidents

Most Revd. Bernard Longley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham
Rt. Revd. David Urquhart, Anglican Bishop of Birmingham
Rev Ian Howarth, Free Churches Moderator and Chair of the Co-ordinating Committee

Appointed by members through the Annual General Meeting

Rev Steve Faber, URC Moderator
Sister Margaret Walsh (resigned June 2021)
Mauricio Silva
Katarzyna Jolliffe (resigned January 2022)
Rev David Ellis, Baptist Regional Minister
Preb Jennifer Tomlinson (appointed 9 June 2021)

The Membership of Birmingham Churches Together is made up of representatives from:

Anglican Diocese of Birmingham
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham
Birmingham Methodist District
Heart of England Baptist Association
West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church
West Midlands Division of the Salvation Army
The Society of Friends Central England Area Meeting
Fellowship of Churches of Christ

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2021**

The principal staff:

Ecumenical Development Officer, Robert Mountford
Restore Project Coordinator, Jeremy Thompson

The Principal Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Karen Hanlan, ACA
1 Saracen Close
Ettington
CV37 7SZ

Karen Hanlan 8.6.22

Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
CHARITY NO. 243931
31 DECEMBER 2021

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and 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 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 its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP 2015;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a 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 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 and the provisions of the Constitution. 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Birmingham Churches Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Birmingham Churches Together ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do 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.



Karen Hanlan, Institute of Chartered Accountants, England & Wales
Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Limited
1 Saracen Close, Ettington, CV37 7SZ

Date 8-6-22

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies (Note 4)	49,027	141,795	190,822	230,758
Charitable Activities		105	105	0
Investments - Bank interest	2	14	16	87
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	49,029	141,914	190,943	230,845
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	1,460	14,901	16,361	15,301
Charitable activities	34,960	101,380	136,340	149,199
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure (Note 5)	36,420	116,281	152,701	164,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income and net movement in funds	12,609	25,633	38,242	66,345
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	79,255	130,859	210,114	143,769
Transfer of funds	0	0	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	<u>91,864</u>	<u>156,492</u>	<u>248,356</u>	<u>210,114</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	13,893	14,322
Cash at bank and in hand	9	251,193	203,099
		<u>265,086</u>	<u>217,421</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(16,730)</u>	<u>(7,307)</u>
Net current assets		<u>248,356</u>	<u>210,114</u>
Net assets		<u>248,356</u>	<u>210,114</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	14	156,492	130,859
Unrestricted funds		<u>91,864</u>	<u>79,255</u>
Total charity funds		<u><u>248,356</u></u>	<u><u>210,114</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the
 Birmingham Churches Together
 on 8TH JUNE 2022



Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021****1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of accounting**

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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

In preparing these financial statements Update Bulletin 1 to the Charities SORP (FRS102) has been adopted and consequently a Statement of Cash flows has not been prepared.

Churches Together Birmingham meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note

Going Concern statement

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue to operate. The validity of this assumption is dependent upon the continuance of support from the charity's key funders and stakeholders and in response to the progress made by the charity in pursuing a viable budget including the obtaining of further grants and donations. The charity's business plan shows that the charity will be able to operate in the foreseeable future. Based on this understanding the trustees believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments, which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are restricted to the use that the monies were received for.

The Designated Fund is a Special Purposes Fund for Ecumenical Development work and is currently used to set aside monies for further Promotions and the Ecumenical Development Officers Sabbatical.

Relationship between Ecumenical Development work and the charity's projects

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees require that the Restore project be self-funding and is not to be supported from the Charity's Ecumenical Development work.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Within the Statement of Financial Activity all funds received for the projects of Restore are accounted for as Restricted Funds. Within each of the projects some funding may be for specific purposes or for general use, this breakdown is identified in note 14.

Unrestricted Funds: Donations and Other Income received which is available for use on any project or activity, as the Trustees shall agree. It is the policy of the Trustees to allocate all unrestricted funds to its Ecumenical Development work, since each project is required to be self-funded.

Designated Funds: The allocation of Unrestricted Funds to a specific activity within its Ecumenical Development work. Such funds which remain after the project has been completed or which have been replaced by Restricted Funds form part of the Unrestricted Funds and may be credited back to that fund.

Restricted Funds: Donations and Other Income, including Grants, which may be used only for the specific project for which they were made available. Any surplus, except where immaterial, is returned to the Donor.

Income

Income represents the amount derived from subscriptions, fundraising, donations and grants and is recognised where the charity is legally entitled to the income, ultimate receipt is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donations are recognised when received.

Income relating to future periods, as a result of donor imposed conditions specifying the time period, has been treated as deferred income.

Income dependent on certain conditions, amounting to more than mere administrative requirements, is recognised when the conditions have been fulfilled.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises the costs of publicity and fundraising activity.
- Expenditure on charitable activity includes the costs of the project delivery undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**Fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided on Office Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at rates calculated to write off the cost of items of £1,000 or more over the expected life of the asset, usually 3 years. Assets costing Less than £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

Taxation

As a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and in hand and short term deposits repayable on or within a three month notice period.

Debtors

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

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2. GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND

The General Accumulated Fund represent the unrestricted funds of Ecumenical Development only.

3. DESIGNATED FUNDS

There are currently no funds designated for a particular purpose.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2021
	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	-	36,305	36,305
Donations - Churches	-	15,513	15,513
Legacies		1,000	1,000
Membership subscriptions	49,027	-	49,027
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	20,000	20,000
CAF Covid Resilience Fund	-	15,286	15,286
National Emergencies Trust		5,335	5,335
Other Grants	-	28,308	28,308
Other	-	20,048	20,048
	<u>49,027</u>	<u>141,795</u>	<u>190,822</u>

Previous year	Unrestricted	Restricted Total	2020
	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	-	35,633	35,633
Donations - Churches	-	20,424	20,424
Legacies		10,400	10,400
Membership subscriptions	58,730	-	58,730
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	21,000	21,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,836	20,836
Heart of England Covid Resilience Fund		3,000	3,000
Other Grants	-	52,450	52,450
Other	-	8,285	8,285
	<u>58,730</u>	<u>172,028</u>	<u>230,758</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

5. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Cost of raising funds:				
Staff costs	0	7,071	7,071	7,834
Allocation of support costs	1,460	7,830	9,290	7,466
	<u>1,460</u>	<u>14,901</u>	<u>16,361</u>	<u>15,300</u>
Cost of charitable activities:				
Staff costs	20,107	93,550	113,657	130,808
Programme activity costs	-	2,063	2,063	1,263
Travel expenses	731	-	731	253
Rent & insurance	5,052	11,437	16,489	15,177
Meetings/conferences	5,000	-	5,000	-
Telephone, print, stationery	33	1,000	1,033	974
Website development	780	-	780	2,704
Subscriptions	525	-	525	525
Sundry expenses	208	720	928	1,678
Subscriptions cancelled	-	-	-	-
Governance costs - professional fees	984	-	984	1,000
¹ Accountancy charges	3,000	440	3,440	2,285
Less support costs allocated to raising funds	(1,460)	(7,830)	(9,290)	(7,467)
	<u>34,960</u>	<u>101,380</u>	<u>136,340</u>	<u>149,200</u>
	<u>36,420</u>	<u>116,281</u>	<u>152,701</u>	<u>164,500</u>

Total expenditure

¹ Includes fee for Independent Examination of £590 and Finance Support charge of £350

6. STAFF COSTS, TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£
Salaries	98,773	114,372
National Insurance	4,357	5,146
Pension costs	5,690	8,031
Freelance staff	11,789	10,963
Other	119	130
	<u>120,728</u>	<u>138,642</u>

Staff Numbers

Full-time equivalent excluding trustees:

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Management, fundraising and admin	0.50	0.50
Project Management	3.50	4.50
	<u>4.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2020: £nil).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil). No expenses relating to travel or subsistence were reimbursed to any trustee during the year (2020: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

The charity contributes into Group Personal Pension Plans for most employees. These pension plans are defined contribution in nature and as required under FRS102 the annual cost is recognised as incurred and included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At beginning and end of year	<u>5,288</u>
Depreciation	
At beginning of year	5,288
Charge for the year	-
At end of year	<u>5,288</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2020 & 2021	<u>-</u>

8. DEBTORS

	General £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Income receivable	10,334	1,558	11,892	12,681
Prepayments	671	1,330	2,001	1,641
	<u>11,005</u>	<u>2,888</u>	<u>13,893</u>	<u>14,322</u>

9. BANK BALANCES

	General £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Cash in Interest Bearing Accounts	23,836	153,681	177,517	152,678
Cash in non-interest Bearing Accounts	72,770	906	73,676	50,421
	<u>96,606</u>	<u>154,587</u>	<u>251,193</u>	<u>203,099</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

10. CREDITORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Creditors and Accruals	1,783	7,307
Deferred income	14,947	-
	<u>16,730</u>	<u>7,307</u>

11. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There have been no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure in these financial statements.

13. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	11,005	2,888	13,893
Cash	96,606	154,587	251,193
Creditors less than 1 year	(15,747)	(983)	(16,730)
	<u>91,864</u>	<u>156,492</u>	<u>248,356</u>
Previous year	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	12,785	1,537	14,322
Cash	73,337	129,762	203,099
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,867)	(440)	(7,307)
	<u>79,255</u>	<u>130,859</u>	<u>210,114</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

14 MOVEMENT IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2021 £
Restore					
Restricted: Barrow Cadbury	6,666	20,000	20,000	-	6,666
CAF Resilience fund	-	15,286	15,286	-	-
Other work	350	7,155	1,820	-	5,685
Part-time befriender	18,402	5,943	3,598	-	20,747
Befriending	14,000	32,200	22,500	-	23,700
St Johns	649	4,996	5,361	-	284
	<u>40,067</u>	<u>85,580</u>	<u>68,565</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,082</u>
General Restore Funds	<u>90,792</u>	<u>56,334</u>	<u>47,716</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>99,410</u>
Total Funds Restore	<u>130,859</u>	<u>141,914</u>	<u>116,281</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>156,492</u>

Note, the General Funds within Restore are unrestricted within that project.

The purpose of the above funds are to support various projects within Restore activity including a befriending scheme and social activities for refugees and asylum seekers and training of volunteers.

Remaining funds from St Johns relates to funds raised to provide emergency food supplies for refugees.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

15. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	58,730	172,028	230,758
Charitable activities	-	0	0
Investments - Bank interest	19	68	87
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	58,749	172,096	230,845
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	2,105	13,196	15,301
Charitable activities	40,686	108,513	149,199
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	42,791	121,709	164,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income and net movement in funds	15,958	50,387	66,345
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	63,297	80,472	143,769
Transfer of funds	0	0	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	79,255	130,859	210,114
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
 ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT
 DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions - Ecumenical Development	43,542	52,920
Subscriptions WMRCF	5,485	5,810
Bank Interest	2	19
	<u>49,029</u>	<u>58,749</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Ecumenical Development Officer:		
Salary, National Insurance & Pension	8,318	10,715
Interim cover for EDO	9,907	8,360
Traveling expenses	731	253
	<u>18,956</u>	<u>19,328</u>
Office Salary, National Insurance & Pension	0	12,854
Communications	1,882	2,603
Recruitment costs	0	718
Rent, Insurance including Heating	5,027	4,916
Office Repairs and Renewals	25	0
Meeting and Conference Expenses	5,000	0
Postage and Telephone	0	38
Printing and Stationery	33	0
Website development and maintenance	780	2,704
Churches Together in England	525	525
Sundry Expenses	208	709
Governance costs - professional fees	984	1,000
Accountancy Charges	3,000	1,700
Subscriptions cancelled	-	0
	<u>36,420</u>	<u>47,095</u>
Total expenditure	36,420	47,095
Net Income	12,609	11,654
Fund Balance at 1 January 2021	79,255	67,601
	<u>91,864</u>	<u>79,255</u>
Fund Balance at 31 December 2021	91,864	79,255

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

RESTORE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
INCOME				
Grants other	6,393	28,750	35,143	52,450
Grants - Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	20,000	20,000	21,000
Grants - The National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	20,836
Grants - CAF Resilience Fund	-	15,286	15,286	-
Grants - Heart of England Covid Resilience Fund	-	-	-	3,000
Grants - National Emergencies Trust	-	5,335	5,335	-
Donations - Individuals	31,355	4,950	36,305	29,017
Donations - Churches	10,517	4,996	15,513	20,424
Gift aid on donations	3,047	4,943	7,990	6,616
Legacies	-	1,000	1,000	10,400
Befriending services	-	320	320	1,360
Fundraising	4,903	-	4,903	6,925
Bank Interest	14	-	14	68
Other	105	-	105	0
	<u>56,334</u>	<u>85,580</u>	<u>141,914</u>	<u>172,096</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries & wages				
Befrienders	25,320	33,415	58,735	62,715
Co-ordinator	9,645	28,285	37,930	36,878
Administration	6,868	1,000	7,868	8,386
Employment allowance	(3,912)	-	(3,912)	(3,869)
Office Expenses	6,062	5,375	11,437	10,261
Information and Publicity	1,000	-	1,000	936
Accountancy Charges	440	-	440	584
Programme Activities	1,573	490	2,063	1,263
Training - Staff and Volunteer	720	-	720	251
	<u>47,716</u>	<u>68,565</u>	<u>116,281</u>	<u>117,405</u>
Net expenditure	8,618	17,015	25,633	54,691
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance at 1 January 2021	90,792	40,067	130,859	76,168
	<u>99,410</u>	<u>57,082</u>	<u>156,492</u>	<u>130,859</u>

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 243931

Accounts

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

31 DECEMBER 2020

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Registered Charity No: 243931

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

INDEX

1. Trustees' Annual Report
8. Trustees Responsibilities statement
9. Independent Examiner's Report
10. Statement of Financial Activities
11. Balance sheet
12. Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts

The following pages do not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements:

22. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity - Ecumenical Development
23. Detailed Statement of Financial Activity - Restore

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT****31 DECEMBER 2020**

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Constitution and 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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019).

Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The object of Birmingham Churches Together is to promote mutual understanding and fellowship among the Churches which accept Jesus Christ as God and Saviour for the wellbeing of all the citizens of Birmingham and surrounding areas.

The objectives are achieved through its Ecumenical Development work and its Restore project detailed below. Public benefit is met by actively encouraging members of different denominations to work and worship together and collectively to support those who are disadvantaged, regardless of their beliefs, thereby enabling them to join in and partake in the benefits of the community.

The Trustees' have reviewed the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission and consider that our aims and activities as set out below fulfil the criteria. The trustees consider the guidance on public benefit each year.

Ecumenical Development

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) encourages greater cooperation between Christian churches in order that they may better serve the people of Birmingham and Solihull. There is increased public benefit when Churches are enabled to work together in partnership serving the whole community, regardless of status, class or ethnicity.

After 14 years in post, Ecumenical Development Officer Revd Colin Marsh retired on 31 March 2020. Colin's retirement coincided with the imposition of the first national Covid-19 lockdown, which, along with the ensuing significant decrease in income experienced by BCT's sponsoring Churches, caused the recruitment of Colin's successor to be put on hold. Robert Mountford, Ecumenical Officer for the Black Country and Staffordshire, took on an interim, part-time role as BCT Ecumenical Officer. He was helped in the work by interim Communications Officer Lou Bayliss. The interim arrangement continued throughout 2020. Together, Robert and Lou were able to maintain and develop the ministry of BCT in Birmingham and Solihull, albeit with gaps due to their limited time availability.

A major priority in Ecumenical Development is relevant and helpful communication. During the Covid-19 pandemic, with lockdowns and/or travel restrictions in place for much of the year, the importance - and the possibilities - of electronic communication increased dramatically. The Birmingham Ecumenical e-Newsletter was issued every six to eight weeks, reaching 1,100 people on each occasion. Articles, events and job adverts are published on the BCT website on a regular basis.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2020

The website was viewed on average by 5,000 users per month. BCT's profile on social media stood at around 650 followers on Facebook and 1,000 on Twitter. The information shared through these media informs local congregations of the wider Christian context and resources them to engage more effectively in their local neighbourhoods.

BCT partnered with St Chad's Cathedral to put on 24 hours of unbroken prayer in January 2020. Pray24Brum brought together churches from across the Christian traditions to pray for the city. BCT remains a lead partner in a Churches' planning group helping the city's faith community to connect with the organising committee of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The planning group will also act as a conduit for information relevant to the wider faith community across the West Midlands region. During the second half of 2020, BCT played its part in the development of the new 'Time4Change' group. The death of George Floyd in the USA on 25 May 2020 drew international attention, not least in the UK. A group of leaders drawn from Birmingham's historic, new and Black-majority Churches engaged in conversation, which led to regular online meetings and the production of a 15-point, anti-racism 'Birmingham Charter.'

In order to fulfil their role as a hub for Birmingham's and Solihull's Christian community, BCT's Ecumenical Development workers continued to strengthen existing relationships with a wide variety of organisations and congregations - and to develop new connections. BCT frequently receives enquiries as a first port-of-call from a range of churches and organisations seeking to strengthen connection and relationship with people of faith in the city. Each contact is offered points of connection and, when appropriate, information is shared across BCT's electronic communications.

During the year, BCT liaised with the following Churches (listed in alphabetical order): The Anglican Diocese of Birmingham, the Apostolic Pastoral Congress, Assemblies of God, Central England Quakers, the Church of God of Prophecy, the Churches of Christ, the Elim Pentecostal Church, the Heart of England Baptist Association, the Methodist Church (both the Birmingham Circuit and the Birmingham District), the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, the Salvation Army, the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church and the United Reformed Church.

BCT also liaised with the following organisations (in alphabetical order): A Call To Action, the Adavu Project, the As-one campaign, Betel, Birmingham Christian Homeless Forum, the Birmingham City Leaders' Prayer network, Birmingham City Mission, Birmingham Taize, Burn 24/7, Christian Aid, the Cinnamon Network, City Centre Churches, ChaplaincyPlus, Churches and Industry Group Birmingham, Church of Sanctuary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Churches Together in England, the Church Urban Fund, Compassion UK, Ecumenical Estates Group, Ethical Money Churches, Erdington Churches Together, the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, the Feast, Forge Missional Training, 'Friends/Neighbours/Changemakers,' HeartEdge, Hope Together, Home for Good, Jericho Foundation, Kitchen Table Talks, the Ladder Apprenticeship Foundation, Manresa Link, the Maryvale Institute, the Message Trust, Narthex

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2020**

Sparkhill, Near Neighbours, Newman University, Pause for Hope, Places of Welcome, Premier Radio, Queen's Ecumenical Foundation, Safe Families for Children, Safe Spaces for Young People, the Saltmine Trust, Shine Youth, the St Peter's Saltley Trust, the Trauma Healing Institute, Thrive Together Birmingham, Thy Kingdom Come, Unity Prayer East Birmingham, Urban Devotion, West Midlands Faith in Action and the World Prayer Centre.

Restore

2020 began with strategic aims to appoint a Befriending Women's Worker to add capacity to the women's work; to strengthen funding and look for longer term funding; to continue to develop an intentional but informal English language element in our men's and women's group social activities; and to develop our befriending scheme and make 50 new matches during the year. This all followed on from our renewed vision launched in autumn 2019. Restore's vision is for a society into which all refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed, valued and integrated.

So, from the beginning of 2020 we continued the development of men's and women's activities, matched more volunteer befrienders, ran a training course for new volunteers and started to see income coming in from funding applications.

However, no-one had envisaged that we would need to respond to a pandemic or the challenges of lockdown and social distancing from 23 March. How could an organisation focused on face-to-face befriending adapt to lockdown and social distancing?

At a Connection Coalition webinar on loneliness, we heard a really stark statement "the health impact of loneliness has been found to be comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, equal to a 26 per cent increase in the likelihood of mortality". That underlined the importance of maintaining and building supportive relationships at this time of increased isolation for many.

Restore asked our volunteers to move from face-to-face to remote befriending, contacting their befriendees using WhatsApp video calls. We also knew other refugees and asylum seekers who were on their own, without any other family members. As they would benefit from a befriender, we started a temporary remote befriending scheme on 1 April where we invited existing volunteers to take on additional befriendees during lockdown and video call them once a week. We also matched new volunteers from our February training course. Volunteers have been creative with one teaching chess remotely and others having cooking lessons from their befriendees online.

During 2020, we received 107 new referrals which is lower than usual. The resettlement scheme for Syrian refugees was halted in March so we lost a major source of referrals. However, we gained referrals of asylum seekers being housed in initial accommodation for far longer than usual.

By the end of 2020 Restore had made a total of 67 new matches in 2020: 13 were started before the pandemic and 54 after lockdown. That is the second highest total ever and we are proud of all that our staff and volunteers have accomplished to support refugees and asylum seekers through this challenging time. Many of those temporary matches have continued and become longer term matches. At the end of 2020, we had 117 ongoing befriending matches from 2020 and earlier years.

What is the impact of befriending? One refugee recently wrote, "I thought that protection can be provided on legal and physical grounds. However, I realised that Restore provides another valuable

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2020**

form of protection which is the spiritual one. Restore embraced me and made my isolated lonely life, viable and sociable. I felt that Restore saved me from trauma and found my befriender was more than a friend but an angel and brother." One beneficiary, who was finding lockdown challenging due to health issues said, "I'm waiting for Tuesday every week! It's good when I speak with my befriender." An asylum seeker with low level mental health issues said after a call "Even now I feel a lot better because you talked to me, thank you so much!" Befriending also impacts the volunteer, "Being a befriender helps me to enjoy the diversity of Birmingham, to see life from another perspective and to feel that I am playing a tiny part in making my city more welcoming."

Restore ran 2 awareness raising and training courses with 90 people attending. In October, we ran our first training course via Zoom. 60 participants attended beating our previous course record of 41 attendees. This also opened the course up to a few people from other parts of the country, at least one of whom was interested in becoming a remote befriender.

In the first 3 months of 2020, we were able to run some group social activities in the community: 6 men's events, 3 women's events with 35 women attending at least one event and a family party in February half-term attended by 54 adults and children. We were aware of the ongoing challenge of having fewer male volunteers than female volunteers which means that fewer male clients are befriended than female clients. So in June, we restarted men's group activities via Zoom and since then there have been 14 Zoom events. Over the whole year there were 20 men's events with 66 men attending at least one session.

Restore engaged in working for change work through active participation in meetings of the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership's Voluntary Sector Working Group, Birmingham City Council's City of Sanctuary Partnership Board, the Steering committee for Migration Policy and Practice: Birmingham and the Black Country, Birmingham City Council's Migration Forum, Birmingham City of Sanctuary (voluntary) Committee and the refugee support sector's Destitution Steering Group. Restore was a partner in Birmingham's response to destitution through the Hope Projects and with Celebrating Sanctuary promoted Refugee Week and refugee arts. Restore is a partner in the Lift the Ban campaign that is lobbying the Government to give asylum seekers the right to work after 6-months in the asylum system. We signpost to the services of many other organisations including St Chad's Sanctuary, the Hope Projects, the British Red Cross, Refugee and Migrant Centre and the Central England Community Law Centre – Birmingham.

The year ended with some staffing changes. Geraldine Hunt retired as part-time Admin Assistant at the end of December after 10.5 years' service. Rachel Dale, Befriending Co-ordinator, gave notice that she would move to a new job with an anti-trafficking project on 10 January 2021, after 6 years with Restore. We are grateful to both Geraldine and Rachel to all they have contributed to the service of Restore, refugees and asylum seekers.

We are extremely grateful for the generous commitment of befrienders, support of groups, offers in-kind and financial giving from individuals, churches and community fundraising events. Despite the challenges faced by many charities nearly all areas of funding for Restore increased during 2020 compared to the previous year.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2020**

We were delighted to receive grants specifically to help us through the coronavirus crisis from the National Lottery Community Fund (via a Coronavirus Community Support Fund grant) and from the Heart of England Community Foundation Coronavirus Resilience Fund. During the year we were hugely grateful to receive financial support from the following grant-making trusts: Barrow Cadbury Trust, South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust, Roughley Trust, William A Cadbury Trust, Allen Lane Foundation, 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, W F Southall Trust, Ashworth Trust, Cole Trust, George Henry Collins Charity, Richard Kilcuppe's Charity, Grimmitt Trust, Archer Trust, Leigh Trust, Alfred Haines Trust, G J W Turner Trust, Bernard Piggott Trust, Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust, John Avins Trust, Movement for Good (Ecclesiastical Insurance), Bite Sized Pieces Trust and Garrod Family Trust.

A massive thank you to everyone who supported Restore financially in 2020. We ended the year in a healthy financial position having received some funding restricted for 2021 and other funds designated for a new part-time Befriending Women's Worker post.

Financial review

The costs of Birmingham Churches Together Ecumenical Development work have been met from income of the constituent Groups as stated in the Statement of Financial Activity. The overall activities of Birmingham Churches Together, including Restore, show a surplus for the year of £66,345 (Ecumenical Development £11,654, Restore £54,691). Total funds are now £210,114 (Ecumenical Development £79,255, Restore £130,859). Both projects have navigated the Covid 19 pandemic successfully so far, closely monitoring costs and income levels to ensure sustainability and accessing additional funds where possible. Trustees will continue to assess the impact on an ongoing basis and respond accordingly.

Reserves Policy

The level of reserves held by Birmingham Churches Together for its Ecumenical Development work and for Restore should be sufficient to cover six months operating costs in addition to sums set aside for proposed specific campaigns. The unrestricted reserves for Ecumenical Development work amount to £79,255. Restore's general reserves amount to £90,792. Six months operating costs are estimated at £75,000 based on the 2021 budget, the excess is used to offset fluctuations in the level of restricted funding for core work and is also available for any new initiatives.

Investments

Where investments are held, the Trustees' policy is to hold them as ethically as is possible to bring in Growth and Income without undue risk. Currently no investments are held. Surplus cash funds are being held in interest bearing bank accounts.

Remuneration and expenses of Trustees

It is not the policy of Birmingham Churches Together to remunerate its Trustees. No expenses or remuneration have been paid in either the current year or in 2019.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHARITY NO. 243931

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

31 DECEMBER 2020

Risk

Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. These risks are monitored and regularly reviewed.

Structure, Governance & management

Birmingham Churches Together (BCT) is a charity governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting by nominated representatives of the Churches who are full members of BCT. The Presidents of BCT are ex-officio members of the Trustees body. A small group of Trustees are appointed to a Co-ordinating Group who oversee the day to day governance of the charity and scrutinise documents in preparation for Trustee meetings. The Trustees directly oversee and manage the strategic development of its Ecumenical work. BCT's projects of Restore and Birmingham Churches Together Training are supported by separate management groups. These groups nominate a member to serve as a Trustee.

Although BCT does not offer specific training for Trustees, those appointed can avail themselves of the training offered through member churches.

Reference & administrative details

Registered charity name: Birmingham Churches Together

Registered charity number: 243931

Registered address:
The Jericho Building
196-198 Edward Road
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 9LX

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Presidents

Most Revd. Bernard Longley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham
Rt. Revd. David Urquhart, Anglican Bishop of Birmingham
Rev Ian Howarth, Free Churches Moderator and Chair of the Co-ordinating Committee

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**CHARITY NO. 243931****TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)****31 DECEMBER 2020**

Appointed by members through the Annual General Meeting

Rev Steve Faber, URC Moderator

Sister Margaret Walsh

Mauricio Silva

Katarzyna Jolliffe

Rev David Emanuel Ellis, Baptist Regional Minister (appointed 20/10/20)

The Membership of Birmingham Churches Together is made up of representatives from:

Anglican Diocese of Birmingham

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham

Birmingham Methodist District

Heart of England Baptist Association

West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church

West Midlands Division of the Salvation Army

The Society of Friends Central England Area Meeting

Fellowship of Churches of Christ

The principal staff:

Ecumenical Development Officer, Robert Mountford

Restore Project Coordinator, Jeremy Thompson

The Principal Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd

West Malling

Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Karen Hanlan, ACA

12 Waterloo Close

Wellesbourne

CV35 9JG



Ian Howarth Trustee

8th June 2021

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
CHARITY NO. 243931
31 DECEMBER 2020

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and 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 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 its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP 2015;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a 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 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 and the provisions of the Constitution. 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Birmingham Churches Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Birmingham Churches Together ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 10 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do 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.



Karen Hanlan, Institute of Chartered Accountants, England & Wales
Karen Hanlan Independent Examiner Limited
12 Waterloo Close
Wellesbourne
CV35 9JG

Date 8th June 2021

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2020

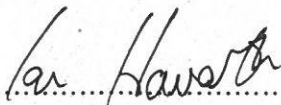
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies (Note 4)	58,730	172,028	230,758	147,943
Charitable activities (Note 5)	-	-	-	369
Investments - Bank interest	19	68	87	173
Total Income	<u>58,749</u>	<u>172,096</u>	<u>230,845</u>	<u>148,485</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	2,105	13,196	15,301	16,517
Charitable activities	40,686	108,513	149,199	247,102
Total Expenditure (Note 6)	<u>42,791</u>	<u>121,709</u>	<u>164,500</u>	<u>263,619</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds	<u>15,958</u>	<u>50,387</u>	<u>66,345</u>	<u>(115,134)</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	63,297	80,472	143,769	258,903
Transfer of funds	0	0	-	-
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>79,255</u></u>	<u><u>130,859</u></u>	<u><u>210,114</u></u>	<u><u>143,769</u></u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	14,322	10,025
Cash at bank and in hand	10	203,099	135,459
		<u>217,421</u>	<u>145,484</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(7,307)	(1,715)
Net current assets		<u>210,114</u>	<u>143,769</u>
Net assets		<u>210,114</u>	<u>143,769</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	15a	130,859	80,472
Unrestricted designated funds	3	-	4,040
Unrestricted general funds		79,255	59,257
Total charity funds		<u>210,114</u>	<u>143,769</u>

Approved on behalf of the
Birmingham Churches Together
on 8th June 2021


.....

Ian Howarth, Trustee

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019****1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of accounting**

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 (FRS102) (updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

In preparing these financial statements Update Bulletin 1 to the Charities SORP (FRS102) has been adopted and consequently a Statement of Cash flows has not been prepared.

Churches Together Birmingham meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note

Going Concern statement

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue to operate. The validity of this assumption is dependent upon the continuance of support from the charity's key funders and stakeholders and in response to the progress made by the charity in pursuing a viable budget including the obtaining of further grants and donations. The charity's business plan shows that the charity will be able to operate in the foreseeable future. Based on this understanding the trustees believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments, which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are restricted to the use that the monies were received for.

The Designated Fund is a Special Purposes Fund for Ecumenical Development work and is currently used to set aside monies for further Promotions and the Ecumenical Development Officers Sabbatical.

Relationship between Ecumenical Development work and the charity's projects

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees require that the Restore project be self-funding and is not to be supported from the Charity's Ecumenical Development work.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Within the Statement of Financial Activity all funds received for the projects of Restore are accounted for as Restricted Funds. Within each of the projects some funding may be for specific purposes or for general use, this breakdown is identified in note 14b.

Unrestricted Funds: Donations and Other Income received which is available for use on any project or activity, as the Trustees shall agree. It is the policy of the Trustees to allocate all unrestricted funds to its Ecumenical Development work, since each project is required to be self-funded.

Designated Funds: The allocation of Unrestricted Funds to a specific activity within its Ecumenical Development work. Such funds which remain after the project has been completed or which have been replaced by Restricted Funds form part of the Unrestricted Funds and may be credited back to that fund.

Restricted Funds: Donations and Other Income, including Grants, which may be used only for the specific project for which they were made available. Any surplus, except where immaterial, is returned to the Donor.

Income

Income represents the amount derived from subscriptions, fundraising, donations and grants and is recognised where the charity is legally entitled to the income, ultimate receipt is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donations are recognised when received.

Income relating to future periods, as a result of donor imposed conditions specifying the time period, has been treated as deferred income.

Income dependent on certain conditions, amounting to more than mere administrative requirements, is recognised when the conditions have been fulfilled.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises the costs of publicity and fundraising activity.
- Expenditure on charitable activity includes the costs of the project delivery undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)****Fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided on Office Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at rates calculated to write off the cost of items of £1,000 or more over the expected life of the asset, usually 3 years. Assets costing Less than £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

Taxation

As a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and in hand and short term deposits repayable on or within a three month notice period.

Debtors

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

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2. GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND

The General Accumulated Fund represent the unrestricted funds of Ecumenical Development only.

3. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Designated Funds represented the funds of Ecumenical Development and at the beginning of the year stood at £4,040, being £2,400 website update and £1,640 being the remaining funds of the BCT Training project on closure, these funds were spent during 2020.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	2020
			£
Donations - individuals	-	35,633	35,633
Donations - Churches	-	20,424	20,424
Legacies		10,400	10,400
Membership subscriptions	58,730	-	58,730
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	21,000	21,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,836	20,836
Heart of England Covid Resilience Fund		3,000	3,000
Other Grants	-	52,450	52,450
Other	-	8,285	8,285
	<u>58,730</u>	<u>172,028</u>	<u>230,758</u>

Previous year	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	2019
			£
Donations - individuals	-	26,264	26,264
Donations - Churches	-	13,721	13,721
Membership subscriptions	62,790	-	62,790
Grants:			
Barrow Cadbury	-	19,000	19,000
Other Grants	-	21,000	21,000
Other	-	5,168	5,168
	<u>62,790</u>	<u>85,153</u>	<u>147,943</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Previous year	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	2019
			£
Grants:			
Miscellaneous	-	369	369
	<u>-</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>369</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

6. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2020	Total
	£	£		£	2019
					£
Cost of raising funds:					
Staff costs	1,285	6,549		7,834	7,076
Allocation of support costs	819	6,647		7,466	9,441
	<u>2,105</u>	<u>13,196</u>		<u>15,301</u>	<u>16,517</u>
Cost of charitable activities:					
Staff costs	28,943	101,865		130,808	163,608
Grants on closure of Training project	-	-		-	17,000
Amounts returned to funder	-	-		-	31,200
Programme activity costs	-	1,263		1,263	5,389
Travel expenses	253	-		253	2,538
Rent & insurance	4,916	10,261		15,177	17,835
Meetings/conferences	-	-		-	414
Telephone, print, stationery	38	936		974	499
Website development	2,704	-		2,704	10,074
Subscriptions	525	-		525	525
Sundry expenses	1,427	251		1,678	1,142
Subscriptions cancelled	-	-		-	3,520
Governance costs - professional fees	1,000	-		1,000	-
¹ Accountancy charges	1,700	584		2,284	2,799
Less support costs allocated to raising funds	(819)	(6,648)		(7,467)	(9,441)
	<u>40,686</u>	<u>108,513</u>		<u>149,199</u>	<u>247,102</u>
Total expenditure					
	<u>42,791</u>	<u>121,709</u>		<u>164,500</u>	<u>263,619</u>

¹ Includes fee for Independent Examination of £590 and Finance Support charge of £350

7. STAFF COSTS, TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	Total	Total
	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries	114,372	139,441
National Insurance	5,146	7,918
Pension costs	8,031	15,305
Freelance staff	10,963	7,958
Other	130	62
	<u>138,642</u>	<u>170,684</u>

Staff Numbers

Full-time equivalent excluding trustees:

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
Management, fundraising and admin	0.50	1.50
Project Management	4.50	5.00
	<u>5.00</u>	<u>6.50</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2019: £nil).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2019: £nil). No expenses relating to travel or subsistence were reimbursed to any trustee during the year (2019: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2019: £nil).

The charity contributes into Group Personal Pension Plans for most employees. These pension plans are defined contribution in nature and as required under FRS102 the annual cost is recognised as incurred and included in the Statement of Financial Activities. One member of staff is a member of the Clergy Pension Fund however access to the fund is via the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance and as such the Charity is not responsible for any liabilities in relation to the scheme's deficit and contributions are simply reimbursed to the Diocese.

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At beginning and end of year	<u>5,288</u>
Depreciation	
At beginning of year	5,288
Charge for the year	-
At end of year	<u>5,288</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2019 & 2020	<u>-</u>

9. DEBTORS

	General £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Income receivable	12,093	588	12,681	8,548
Prepayments	692	949	1,641	1,477
	<u>12,785</u>	<u>1,537</u>	<u>14,322</u>	<u>10,025</u>

10. BANK BALANCES

	General £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Cash in Interest Bearing Accounts	23,834	128,844	152,678	96,890
Cash in non-interest Bearing Accounts	49,503	918	50,421	38,569
	<u>73,337</u>	<u>129,762</u>	<u>203,099</u>	<u>135,459</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11. CREDITORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Creditors and Accruals	7,307	1,715
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>7,307</u>	<u>1,715</u>

12. CONTROLLING INTERESTS

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There have been no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure in these financial statements.

14. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	12,785	1,537	14,322
Cash	73,337	129,762	203,099
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,867)	(440)	(7,307)
	<u>79,255</u>	<u>130,859</u>	<u>210,114</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2019 Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Debtors	7,315	2,710	10,025
Cash	57,164	78,295	135,459
Creditors less than 1 year	(1,182)	(533)	(1,715)
	<u>63,297</u>	<u>80,472</u>	<u>143,769</u>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

15a. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Represent the overall income and expenditure of the Charity's self-supporting project Restore:

<u>Income</u>	WMRCF	Restore	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,836	20,836	-
Other grants	-	76,450	76,450	40,000
Donations - churches	-	20,424	20,424	13,721
Donations - individuals & fundraising	-	42,558	42,558	31,432
Legacies	-	10,400	10,400	-
Other	-	1,360	1,360	369
Dividends and interest	-	68	68	126
Total Income	-	172,096	172,096	85,648
 <u>Expenditure</u>				
Raising funds	-	13,196	13,196	14,601
Charitable Activity	4,304	104,209	108,513	175,459
Total Expenditure	4,304	117,405	121,709	190,060
Net expenditure	(4,304)	54,691	50,387	(104,412)
Funds brought forward	4,304	76,168	80,472	186,524
Transfer on closure of Training project	-	-	-	(1,640)
Funds carried forward	-	130,859	130,859	80,472

Restricted Grants included in the Funds of Restore include a Grant from Barrow Cadbury Trust

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

15b. MOVEMENT IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Restore					
Restricted: Barrow Cadbury	6,666	21,000	21,000	-	6,666
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,836	20,836	-	-
Other work	-	6,960	6,610	-	350
Part-time befriender	-	18,402	-	-	18,402
Befriending	-	40,000	26,000	-	14,000
St Johns	808	4,996	5,155	-	649
	<u>7,474</u>	<u>112,194</u>	<u>79,601</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,067</u>
General Restore Funds	<u>68,694</u>	<u>59,902</u>	<u>37,804</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,792</u>
Total Funds Restore	<u>76,168</u>	<u>172,096</u>	<u>117,405</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130,859</u>
Ecumenical					
Restricted: WMRCF	4,304	-	4,304	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	<u>80,472</u>	<u>172,096</u>	<u>121,709</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130,859</u>

Note, the General Funds within Restore are unrestricted within that project.

The purpose of the above funds are to support various projects within Restore activity including a befriending scheme and social activities for refugees and asylum seekers and training of volunteers.

Remaining funds from St Johns relates to funds raised to provide emergency food supplies for refugees.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

16. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	62,790	85,153	147,943
Charitable activities	-	369	369
Investments - Bank interest	47	126	173
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	62,837	85,648	148,485
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	1,916	14,601	16,517
Charitable activities	71,642	175,460	247,102
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	73,558	190,061	263,619
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income and net movement in funds	(10,721)	(104,413)	(115,134)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	72,378	186,525	258,903
Transfer of funds	1,640	(1,640)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	63,297	80,472	143,769
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER
ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
INCOME					
Subscriptions - Ecumenical Development	52,920	-	-	52,920	55,240
Subscriptions WMRCF	5,810	-	-	5,810	7,550
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest	19	-	-	19	47
	<u>58,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,749</u>	<u>62,837</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Ecumenical Development Officer:					
Salary, National Insurance & Pension	6,411	-	4,304	10,715	39,873
Interim cover for EDO	6,720	1,640	-	8,360	-
Traveling expenses	253	-	-	253	933
	<u>13,384</u>	<u>1,640</u>	<u>4,304</u>	<u>19,328</u>	<u>40,806</u>
Office Salary, National Insurance & Pension	12,854	-	-	12,854	10,976
Communications	2,603	-	-	2,603	0
Recruitment costs	718	-	-	718	0
Rent, Insurance including Heating	4,916	-	-	4,916	4,746
Office Repairs and Renewals	-	-	-	-	32
Meeting and Conference Expenses	-	-	-	-	414
Postage and Telephone	38	-	-	38	(44)
Printing and Stationery	-	-	-	-	15
Website development and maintenance	304	2,400	-	2,704	10,074
Churches Together in England	525	-	-	525	525
Sundry Expenses	709	-	-	709	694
Governance costs - professional fees	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Accountancy Charges	1,700	-	-	1,700	1,800
Subscriptions cancelled	-	-	-	-	3,520
	<u>38,751</u>	<u>4,040</u>	<u>4,304</u>	<u>47,095</u>	<u>73,558</u>
Total expenditure	38,751	4,040	4,304	47,095	73,558
Net Income/(Expenditure)	19,998	(4,040)	(4,304)	11,654	(10,721)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer of funds from BCT Training	-	-	-	-	1,640
Fund Balance at 1 January 2020	59,257	4,040	4,304	67,601	76,682
	<u>79,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,255</u>	<u>67,601</u>
Fund Balance at 31 December 2020	79,255	-	-	79,255	67,601

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

RESTORE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
INCOME				
Grants other	10,200	42,250	52,450	21,000
Grants - Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	21,000	21,000	19,000
Grants - The National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,836	20,836	-
Grants - Heart of England Covid Resilience Fund	-	3,000	3,000	-
Donations - Individuals	25,017	4,000	29,017	19,876
Donations - Churches	12,076	8,348	20,424	13,721
Gift aid on donations	5,616	1,000	6,616	6,388
Legacies	-	10,400	10,400	-
Befriending services	-	1,360	1,360	-
Fundraising	6,925	-	6,925	5,168
Bank Interest	68	-	68	126
Other	0	-	0	369
	<u>59,902</u>	<u>112,194</u>	<u>172,096</u>	<u>85,648</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries & wages				
Befrienders	15,875	46,840	62,715	59,504
Co-ordinator	10,682	26,196	36,878	34,875
Administration	7,186	1,200	8,386	7,626
Employment allowance	(3,869)	-	(3,869)	(2,578)
Office Expenses	5,055	5,206	10,261	10,609
Information and Publicity	936	-	936	528
Accountancy Charges	584	-	584	400
Programme Activities	1,104	159	1,263	5,389
Training - Staff and Volunteer	251	-	251	320
	<u>37,804</u>	<u>79,601</u>	<u>117,405</u>	<u>116,673</u>
Net expenditure	22,098	32,593	54,691	(31,025)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance at 1 January 2020	68,694	7,474	76,168	107,193
Fund Balance at 31 December 2020	<u>90,792</u>	<u>40,067</u>	<u>130,859</u>	<u>76,168</u>

This statement is for information only and does not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements.

