

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

31 DECEMBER 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Registered Charity No: 243931

BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

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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

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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

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

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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

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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 at least 100 ongoing befriending matches.

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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 befriendees 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.

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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!**"

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

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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.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

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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.

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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)

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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

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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	32,834	154,072	186,906	163,658
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)	54,602	162,165	216,767	208,841
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	43,573	129,739	173,312	203,173

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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)
Net current assets		<u>173,312</u>	<u>203,173</u>
Net assets		<u>173,312</u>	<u>203,173</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	14	129,739	137,832
Unrestricted funds		<u>43,573</u>	<u>65,341</u>
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


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Revd D. Ellis

Trustee and Chair of the Annual General Meeting

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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.

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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
	1,505	18,774	20,279	19,988
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)
	53,097	143,391	196,488	188,853
Total expenditure	54,602	162,165	216,767	208,841

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
	176,821	167,165

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
	5.03	4.50

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>-</u>	<u>33,014</u>
General Restore Funds	<u>88,855</u>	<u>84,888</u>	<u>77,018</u>	<u>-</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>-</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/>

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
	<hr/> 32,834	<hr/> 27,789
EXPENDITURE		
Ecumenical Development Officer:		
Salary, National Insurance & Pension	37,261	21,169
Traveling expenses	1,832	2,219
	<hr/> 39,093	<hr/> 23,388
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
	<hr/> 54,602	<hr/> 54,312
Total expenditure	54,602	54,312
Net Expenditure	(21,768)	(26,523)
Fund Balance at 1 January 2023	65,341	91,864
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Balance at 31 December 2023	43,573	65,341
	<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 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
Befreinding 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>

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