



COUNTIES

(Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Charity registration number: 264278

Company registration number: 01041761

CONTENTS

page

Report of the trustees	1 – 11
a) Constitution & Objects	
b) Review of Developments during the year:	
- Evangelists	
- Training	
- Church resources	
- Schools' Resources	
c) Results and Financial Review	
d) Challenges faced	
e) General Public Benefit	
f) Risks Policy	
g) Reserves and Investment Policy	
h) Related Parties and Relationships with other Charities	
i) Relations with Financial Supporters	
j) Structure, Governance and Management	
k) Statement of trustees' responsibilities	
Legal and administrative information	12
Report of the Auditor	13 -16
Statement of Financial Activities	17
Balance Sheet	18
Statement of Cashflows	19
Notes to the financial statements	20 – 31

The trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102 2019) Accounting and Reporting by Charities in preparing the annual report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 16 and 17 and comply with the charity's governing documentation and applicable law.

a) Constitution & Objects

The charity is a charitable company, Counties (formerly Counties Evangelistic Work), number 01041761, but is known publicly as Counties. The charity (registered number 264278) was founded in 1899 and was set up as a company on 9 February 1972, limited by guarantee. It is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The object of the charity, as outlined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are "To advance the Christian Faith by such means being charitable as the Trust may determine".

b) Looking to the future

With the adoption of the new mission statement in 2022, 'Making Jesus known: inspiring and equipping local churches,' Counties signaled its intent and belief that in order to fulfil its mission, this must be pursued through deeper relationships and partnerships with local churches across the UK. Counties Trustees have been meeting regularly to develop the vision and strategy that will be necessary for us to better fulfil this mission. The Trustees see this as a significant step and have designated £50,000 to a Restructuring Fund to help fund developments in this area.

The launch of Counties Connect as a network for local churches is key to this development. Counties Connect will exist to support local churches in prioritizing and implementing strategies that deliver on the Great Commission, namely, making disciples, and, as a result, seeing growth in the maturity and numbers of their congregations.

Counties will seek, through Connect, to increase its offer and impact in the provision of training for local churches and the provision of resources to enable them to pursue this goal. We hope to provide training at three key levels to support local church engagement and growth through the work of the Gospel:

1. Training for Church Leadership teams helping them to keep a focus on mission and making disciples.
2. Training for evangelists, enabling local churches to raise and train church based evangelists.
3. Training for congregations, enabling many more people to become effective in being a witness for Christ and a disciple maker.

This is an exciting time in our work and we look forward to sharing our progress in our next annual report.

c) Review of Developments during the year

The following summarises the main developments during 2022/23. Much of the last year has been spent in pursuing and implementing strategies to support the Having adopted the new mission statement, mission. As seen in the detail below, Counties continues to support evangelists and church planters, as well as provide brilliant resources that are used by churches to support their work in local schools. However, a growing focus is the development of Church Support. On 1 January 2023 we took over key responsibility for some of the work of Partnership UK (charity no. 802564). Under the banner 'Counties Connect', we ran a conference attended by over 270 people in October 2023. 'Connect' is the name that will be emerging as a growing network supporting local churches in their work of preaching the Gospel and making disciples.

• Evangelists

Much of Counties' support goes toward the amazing work of Counties Evangelists who continue to be at the forefront of the work. The financial grants they receive varies, depending on circumstances. The total number of self-employed evangelists financially supported with a standard-grant or partial-grant at the year-end was 46, including seniors and widows, which equates to an average for the year of nearly 34 full grants. This has

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

slightly increased in the last 10 years (see chart below). These figures do not include spouses, many of whom are also very active in the work.

In addition, Counties has four **Associate Evangelists** who are able to benefit from fellowship, training and conferences. Although they are able to receive support via the Evangelists fund (see note below) they do not receive regular financial grants from Counties General Fund.

We give thanks for the many years of commitment and service for the Counties seniors and widows who have passed away during the financial year. In addition, during the year, two evangelists left Counties.

The evangelists, in seeking to fulfill the charity's objects, are involved in a host of initiatives. These include holiday clubs for children and seniors; training; drop-in centers for support and advice regarding parenting, relationships and finance; youth camps; focus groups for men; door-to-door outreach; street evangelism; small groups; school visits; visiting prisons and helping ex-offenders; Christian education and preaching. Some evangelists work with all ages and backgrounds, whilst others have a specific focus such as international students, teenagers, children, men, women, migrants, international merchant seafarers or other communities. Some of the more experienced evangelists are involved in mentoring other evangelists or working with churches to help them develop more effective teaching and evangelistic programmes.

During the year to support the work of the evangelists, and to assist in reviewing their ministries, we appointed an Evangelists' Officer part-time. As well as meeting with evangelists and keeping in contact with Cluster leaders, they support the CLG's (Counties Link Groups). Each evangelist has a CLG made up of local church leaders and Christians, and act to offer support and guidance for each evangelist. Evangelists meet at least twice each year in six **regional Cluster groups**: South-West England, South Central England, East of England, Wales, Midlands and North of England. Each Cluster is led by a link evangelist who co-ordinates the gatherings. The purpose of the Clusters is to share personal and pastoral support, to enable training, and to consider the wider strategic opportunities in each region and across the UK. The regional gatherings are attended by the CEO, the Training Officer, and the Trustee(s) within each region.

In addition to these regional gatherings, Counties seeks to continue to have **annual conferences** for the evangelists, trustees and staff. In October 2023 Counties helped to arrange our most recent **Counties Connect conference** for supporters, partner organisations, evangelists, staff, trustees and their families, with 270 people present. In October 2024 we look forward to being involved in the joint Living the Passion conference.

Evangelists' overview from October 2022 to September 2023



Training

- During the year we said goodbye to our Training Officer. This role is being temporarily filled on a part-time basis by our Evangelists Officer. Counties is delighted to continue to see growth and impact of the training initiatives led by Counties Training Officer.
- Counties' **Evangelists Training Programme (ETP)** continues to develop and during the year. One trainee extended their time on the programme, and three new trainees joined ETP. Some of the programme continues to be run online, which has opened up new avenues for training, and we plan to pursue ways to develop this style of learning. We are committed to train evangelists in a variety of settings, and not all will necessarily become Counties evangelists.
- A **Training Development Group** continues to develop Counties' training programme, which included: two residential weeks with the Emerging Evangelists' Institute; Biblical money management (preparing accounts, dealing with HMRC, basic admin skills); schools' work training day; children's work training day; opportunities to train with other organisations e.g. GLO Europe (charity no. SC049681), Crown Jesus Ministries (N.Ireland, charity no. 103411), Open Air Campaigners (charity no. 1174749); Show Jesus (charity no. 1171348); public speaking training; individual training placements with Counties evangelists; monthly reflections; and mentoring meetings.
- Counties runs **TEAM** (Training in Evangelism and Mission) as a one-year programme for young people to take a year out and serve alongside Counties' evangelists and resources, with local church placements in the UK. The programme also includes a 4-week study period at Tilsley College, Motherwell (part of GLO Europe). During the one person joined the programme. The development of TEAM builds on the success of our **One2Lead** training for teens and twenties. This programme has for a number of years run in Chepstow with six weekends spread over two years. One2Lead launched its second venue at Menadue, Tintagel (Cornwall) in the Spring of 2022, and we have plans to launch a third venue in the East of England in March 2024. Over 30 One2Lead students attended the Connect Conference in October 2023, with a special stream aimed at young people. This work has been strengthened through the receipt of a significant one-off donation from a grant making trust towards training younger evangelists. Counties is seeking to invest this in training a new generation of evangelists.
- **Enable** (formerly the **National Training Network**) continued to serve a network of service groups and independent churches in conjunction with partner provider GLO Europe. Counties is also an active partner in a collaborative gap-year programme called **First-Serve**, working with Echoes International (charity no. 1173851) and GLO Europe.

• Church Resources: Counties also provides investment for the development of new evangelistic resources for the church.




- **Neighbourhood Chaplains** equips and encourages churches (Eph. 4.12) in reaching out to people in their communities through house-to-house contact (Acts 20.20) and a variety of community focused projects. This resource includes training sessions and a 'toolkit' for churches with teaching and procedures. Volunteers can be involved in initial contact, befriending or as a 'helping hand'. We give thanks that Counties' effective team has continued to respond to enquiries, train, equip and support churches running Neighbourhood Chaplains. During the financial year **38 churches** attended an 'Inform & Inspire' event; and **6 new churches** were trained, including **56 new chaplains**. At the year-end 23 scheme members are either operational or awaiting launch.



Counties Planting Network: in April 2019 Counties launched the Counties Planting Network, with the vision to work with local churches in the training, equipping and supporting of church planting and replanting teams across the UK. Counties has partnered with M4 Europe, and through the M4 programme

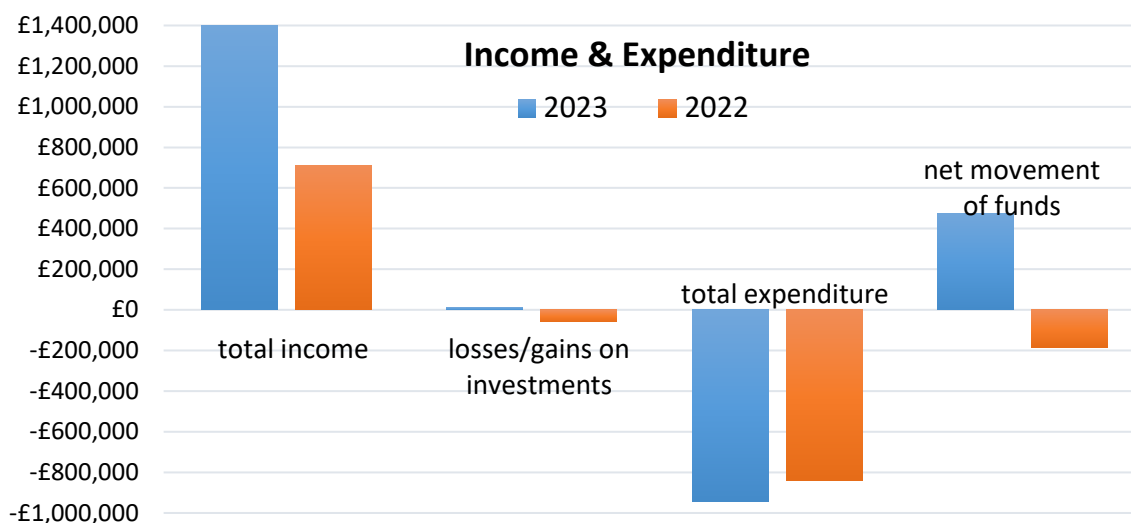


we are able to assess, train and coach church planting team leaders and their teams. M4UK is a partnership with other evangelical groups, enabling us to train Church planting teams. During the financial year the M4UK 'Learning Communities' events in March and September took place in Fulwood Free Methodist Church, Preston. There are currently 7 teams training with M4UK. The teams associated with and mentored by Counties will become part of the new 'Connect' network of churches.

- **Counties Connect:** In January 2023 Counties took on responsibility for the roles of the Regional Coordinators, previously part of Partnership. These five newly renamed 'Regionnal Connectors' help network with local churches in the following regions: South-West England; North-West England and North Wales; South Wales; East of England; and London & South-East England. This development coincided with the conclusion of a collaborative working group, which has encouraged Counties to seek to establish a new Network for independent local churches, with a focus very much on mission, evangelism, disciple-making and church planting. Dovetailing the work of the Connectors with our existing ministries, and deepening the opportunities for new and extended partnerships with local churches, Counties Connect will be a major strategic focus for the coming years.
- **'Making Jesus known today and tomorrow.'** One significant step was the publication of our new book, with a goal to help Christians and churches to spread the Gospel in 21st century Britain. The book has been written by a variety of Counties evangelists and friends, each sharing from their own experience and area of expertise or specialism. It has been well received and is also a useful marker for our 125th anniversary which falls in 2024.
- **Schools' resources:** A continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been that some of the regular activities churches were engaged in with local schools have taken some time to restart, or have not started back up again. However, we were encouraged that many of the activities have been able to restart.
 - For over twenty years **GSUS Live** has helped secondary school students to explore the themes of fear, forgiveness and rejection through the teachings of Jesus. We give thanks that the two multi-media trailer classrooms helped over half a million students. The trailers were replaced by using the existing programme, but on tablets and in a classroom environment, with a first unit launched in October 2021. This has enabled us to continue bookings. Bookings from organisations has been slow to restart, however we have been seeking to once again enable around thousands of students each year to hear who Jesus is, what he said, what he did and why He is fundamental to the Christian faith. Counties continues to acknowledge the generosity of the sponsoring trust which supported this resource during the financial year. 
 - The **Life exhibition** is an educational resource to help groups of Christians and churches to link with local schools and demonstrates that Jesus Christ is relevant in the 21st century. The main focus of this resource is with **primary schools**. The resource continues to develop to ensure that it is technologically up-to-date and increase the impact. The Life exhibition was launched in March 2006, and since then it has been used for over 284 weeks (Oct. 23), with over 5,400 classes attending, bringing **166,000 pupils** through the exhibition along with over **32,000 other visitors** attending. During the year, Counties received a generous significant one-off donation from a grant making trust of £120,000 for schools' resources. This has enabled us to update our primary school resources so our cutting-edge resources linked to the school RE teaching can help churches connect with their communities and for many years to come. The second Life exhibition unit is planned to be launched in early 2024. 
 - **Key to Life** was a mobile experience sharing the story of Jesus through a series of interactive and immersive lessons and was launched in 2015. After Covid19 visits were able to resume, however booking figures remained lower than pre-Covid with challenges of booking and access into school grounds. This was combined with increasing maintenance costs. During the year, a decision was therefore made after 7 years of faithful service, not to finance an extensive refurbishment but instead resources have been put into the Life exhibition to increase bookings (see above). 

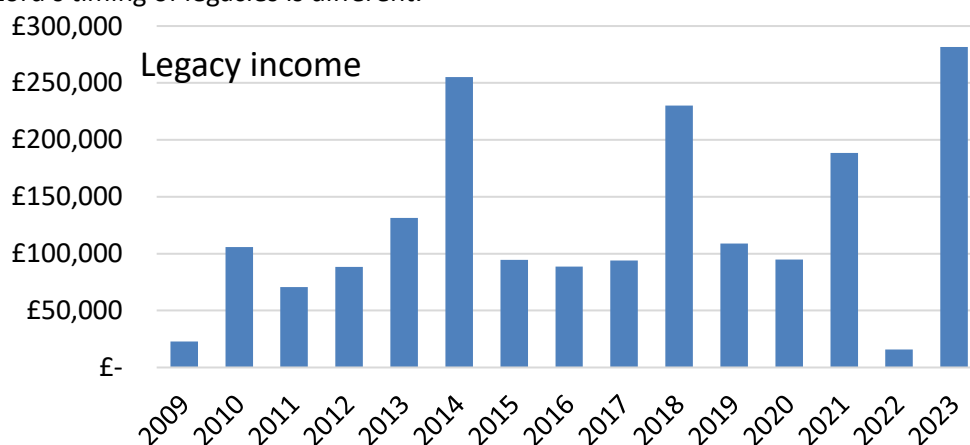
d) Results and Financial Review

This has been an exciting year from a financial perspective as the charity has experienced an overall net surplus of £474,598 compared to a deficit of £183,633 in the previous year. Income and expenditure for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 17. **Income** for the charity has increased to £1,403,818 (2022: £713,025). The most significant events that have given rise to this increase have been a grant from the Weald Trust that has increased the trust income to restricted funds to £316k (2022: £102k), a legacy donation of a property valued at £260k (treated as designated funds), a grant of £65k arising from a church sale, and the sale of part of a property which was previously owned by Counties (£59k). **Expenditure** increased to £942,695 (2022: £837,732). Much of this increase arose from an increase in grants payable to evangelists and direct costs incurred facilitating related activities and training. Inflationary rises in support costs also accounted for some of the increase. Movements on individual funds are summarised in note 17.



Unrestricted Funds shows a net surplus of £340,529, and income for the year greatly increased to £963,076 (in the previous year there was a loss of £101,035 in Unrestricted Funds). The main factors that gave rise to this considerable increase in income and surplus are: legacy income, a church sale income and sale of part of a property.

Legacies cannot be regarded as regular income, needless to say the trustees are grateful to all those who have made provision in their will. The following graph shows how legacies have fluctuated since 2009, but on average the charity has received £125k a year. Without the legacy income stream much of the work of Counties would not be possible. As we never know when legacies will be received, we have to be slightly more cautious than we would like with respect to the use of reserves. This does make it more difficult for the trustees when we set our annual budget. Our approach is to set a budget deficit for the year ahead in faith that legacies will be forthcoming to cover that deficit, but also knowing that there are adequate free reserves available if the Lord's timing of legacies is different.



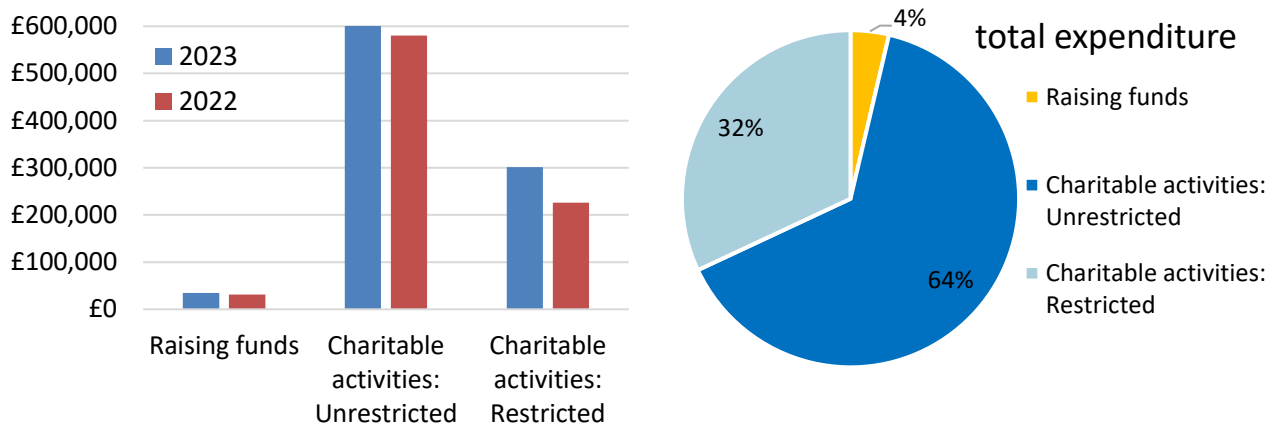
COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The following analysis of total expenditure represents £942,695 (2022: £837,732). Within this Unrestricted Fund expenditure is £635,959, an increase from 2022 which was £608,170. Within Counties we take great care to ensure that we maximise the use of funds for charitable purposes and apply our limited resources to where the need is greatest. This is capably managed by the team at Westbury.



The trustees are eager to see the work of Counties grow; we have an expectation to appoint more evangelists and hopefully some of those in new areas across the UK. We want to train and support them more effectively so that they are enabled to use their God given gifts to bring the Good News to the nation. We also want to see the range of exciting resources we have better utilised to engage with people and create opportunities for them to hear about the Christian faith. We continue to seek ways to increase and diversify our income base; we have been encouraged that some areas are already bearing fruit.

The areas we have been looking at are:

- **Deputation** In the past year we were encouraged to receive £237k of **Unrestricted income** (note 2) via donation from churches and individuals supporting Counties. This represents around 25% of total unrestricted income and we hope there is capacity for this to increase as we communicate information about the work. We do not wish to take anything away from the direct generous support of evangelists. However, we hope that churches and individuals will also recognise the need to give towards the essential support function offered by the charity as a whole. To this end we have provided resources to evangelists to help promote this when they visit churches in their area.
- **Grants** We have approached a number of charitable trusts with a view to them providing core support for specific aspects of the work of the charity. This is particularly helpful where we are trying to initiate new projects.
- **Legacies** Several years ago we produced a legacy pack to help guide individuals when they are writing or renewing their wills.

The following are **Restricted Funds** where income has been given to Counties for specific use:

- **Evangelists fund** (see note 17): Counties continues to provide a free service to pass on donations received for specific evangelists. We also, where suitable, reclaim the Gift-Aid and pass this onto the evangelist. During the year Evangelists were supported with £86k (2022: £89k) in this way.
- All running costs for **GSUS Live** has been historically met by grants and donations.
- The **Counties Planting Network** fund was set up to promote and assist church planting and training, using the M4 training model (see further information above).
- The **Evangelization Society** (TES) fund is used to receive donations that continue to be made to the charity, previously of the same name, with a view to continue to use these funds for pioneering evangelistic projects undertaken across the UK.
- The **Schools Resources**, and **Training** fund arose as a result of a grant to Counties by the Weald Trust during the financial year. Counties sought this to be used to develop these resources and extend the impact of Counties' activities in these areas. We were not able to spend the funds during the year, but have been identified as expenditure in our budget for the year ending 30 September 2024.

- **Church Support fund** exists to assist local churches and to receive grant funding to help meet the costs of our team of Regional Connectors who connect with and help meet the needs of local churches.

The **Designated Funds** are where the trustees seek to use resources available for specific use:

- The **Restructuring fund** of £50,000 has been designated by the Trustees to help meet the cost of developing our strategic plans and objectives as outlined in section b) Looking to the Future, earlier in this report.
- The **CPN fund** of £30,000 has been designated to set aside funds to meet the budgeted deficit in this area of work in the coming year.
- **Fixed Assets Net Book Value fund**: this fund has been established in the year to account for the net book value of our fixed assets and property investments which are by definition not available as free reserves. The total value of this fund is £355,475 at the year end. This includes income the value of the property (£259,500) that was bequeathed to Counties as part of a legacy. At the year-end the property had not been legally transferred to Counties, it is therefore disclosed as accrued income in the balance sheet.

e) Challenges faced

- i) **Global & national 'Cost of Living Crisis'**: Counties continues to give thanks for continued support from personal donors, churches and trusts, despite the impacts of the pandemic, inflation, the war in Europe and investment values fluctuating. We give thanks for the partnership of churches, trusts and individuals in faithfully supporting the Lord's work via Counties, often with sacrificial giving.
- ii) During the international **Covid19** outbreak and pandemic, although many of the charity's activities were restricted, we looked for new and creative ways to fulfil our charitable goals. Since the end of the pandemic the charities activities have continued to be affected in several ways:
 - **Schools' resources**: during the pandemic many churches were unable to connect with schools, and many of Counties' schools resources bookings were cancelled. We were encouraged that the majority of visits were rearranged, however in the longer term some churches have struggled to restart schools' work.
 - Many of the Counties' **Evangelists** were able to respond during the pandemic via new opportunities in the community including social media activities, preaching on-line via Facebook/Zoom, serving the community, setting up new initiatives. Some of these 'new ways of working' have been able to continue.
 - **Governance & administration**: meetings being held via video calls have continued to be an effective way of connecting across the country including Counties' AGM and Steering Group meetings continuing to be held via video conferencing.
 - Counties **training** has also continued online, including ETP and TEAM.

The Trustees seek to anticipate external challenges and any significant impact on the charity's operations and reserves. The trustees seek for the charity to hold sufficient reserves to be able to meet these challenges.

f) General Public Benefit

The trustees acknowledge the guidance of the Charity Commission in respect of Public Benefit and the Advancement of Religion and have paid due regard to it in the affairs of the charity. Through the varied ministries of the evangelists and our resources we see

- advancement of the objects of the charity, as outlined in the Memorandum & Articles of Association to advance the Christian Faith, in particular bringing people to a personal faith in Jesus Christ and eternal security;
- individuals of all ages finding friendship, hope and healing;
- families being reordered and brought into stability;
- communities being served with practical help;
- encouragement towards personal responsibility and mutual acceptance;
- bringing new Christian believers into local worshipping and supportive communities.

Christian belief offers people a set of values by which to live, to make moral decisions and to interact with others. The majority of Counties arranged events and services are open to the public and these benefits have

helped to meet religious, spiritual and educational needs, as well as supporting and helping individuals irrespective of background and status.

g) Risks Policy

The trustees annually review the principal risks the charity faces including analysing the likelihood and impact of each risk. The Chief Operations Officer carries responsibility as the Risk Assessment Manager. The principal risks currently identified, and strategies for managing these risks are as follows:

- Maintaining relationship with funders - regular contact, briefings and periodic visits
- key donors kept informed of activities - key donors invited to major events.
- Loss of key staff - reasonable notice period in place - annual review by trustees of all salaries/expenses
- major office procedures recorded - appraisals consider future aspirations - backup staff trained in roles.
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults & children - Counties Safeguarding Officer appointed - safeguarding training
- Safeguarding/Child protection policy kept up to date and member of Thirtyone:eight.
- Over dependency on income sources – we are encouraging increases of income from individuals & churches
- regularly monitoring sources of income – proactively and consistency seeking to diversify and increase sources of income.

h) Reserves and Investment Policy

The Charity is reliant on voluntary income, legacy income and investment income which has fluctuated significantly in the past. At their annual **reserves policy** review Counties trustees agreed target level should be:

£300,000	Base reserves of 4-5 months expenditure
+ £400,000	Free reserves to match 3 years of legacy income
= £700,000	total Liquid reserves

The trustees anticipate increasing Base reserves to £350,000 during the next three years. The trustees aim to hold these unrestricted reserves to meet the objectives of:

- Funding the fixed and working capital needs of the charity;
- Enabling the charity to consistently deliver its aims and objectives over the medium term even though its income may fluctuate;
- Facilitating a restructuring or orderly winding up process if the need arose.

The Charity currently holds **liquid reserves**, being those Unrestricted Funds not held as fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed at the balance sheet date of £460,632 (2022 - £466,189). This gives rise to Free Reserves of £160,632 (2022 - £166,189).

When setting the annual budget, the trustees plan to consume existing free reserves over a three-year period in the anticipation that they will be replenished by further legacies, and other income, during that period. The trustees believe that this policy enables the charity to invest in sustainable growth and new strategic developments so that the charity can deliver a consistent quality of work over the years.

The charity is advised on investments by Brewin Dolphin Limited and regular contact is maintained with them by means of reports and an annual visit. They have complete discretion, within stated guidelines, over investment decisions and changes in investment holdings have taken place during the year. Their performances are measured against relevant benchmark portfolios. An Investment Policy is documented and reviewed annually by the trustees. Whilst all major investments are available to the charity, we aim for all investments to be in keeping with the nature of the charity and the views of the trustees.

Day-to-day financial management is the responsibility of the Chief Operations Officer who circulates to the Finance Sub Committee monthly management accounts and cashflows as well as quarterly valuations of the investment portfolio. The latter includes reports outlining performance against benchmarks, a summary of market performance and an investment strategy outlook. The Finance Committee, which comprises four

trustees, the CEO and the Chief Operations Officer, meets at least twice a year and keeps all trustees informed at their meetings. The full body of trustees has to approve any policy changes.

i) Related Parties and Relationships with other Charities

The trustees, who are all Directors, received no remuneration as a result of their office during the year. No Trustee or other person related to the charity, apart from as detailed in note 19, had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

In the furtherance of its objects, the charity has entered into strategic alliances with other charities.

- **Living the Passion:** Counties is involved in planning joint conferences with GLO Europe, Church Growth Trust (charity no. 1138119), Echoes International (charity no. 1173851), and Partnership (charity no. 802564). The next conference will be in October 2024. Smaller regional conferences have also been held.

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j) Relations with Financial Supporters

Counties greatly values the support it receives from individuals, churches and trusts. We could not fulfil our objectives without the financial and prayer support that we receive from these individuals and organisations.

Activities: Counties evangelists and staff spoke in hundreds of churches across the country during the year, and we hosted our first revised Counties Family Day. During the last year, 79 new supporters joined us in mission by making their first donation to Counties. We continue to build towards Counties' future by encouraging regular support, including 12 people who began to give regular standing orders to Counties. We give thanks that donations to some of our newer initiatives e.g. Key to Life, Neighbourhood Chaplains & Counties Planting Network, continued to grow. In the past year Counties did not use commercial fundraisers.

Protection: We seek to be respectful and relational in all our interactions with our supporters. We seek to build trust with our supporters by being honest and transparent in all our communications. We acknowledge all donations (unless we are asked not to) and communicate the impact of donations to supporters through our annual report letter, annual calendar, magazines, e-newsletters and bespoke publications. Individuals are asked to opt-in to receive communications from Counties, unless they reasonably meet the criteria of legitimate interest, where there is clear evidence of their recent interest in our work. We provide opportunities for individuals to opt-out from any communications in clear and easy ways.

Complaints: Fundraising complaints are handled through our standard complaints' procedure. No complaints relating to fundraising were received during the year.

k) Structure, Governance and Management

The charity does not have share capital and is limited by guarantee of the members. All trustees are members along with the chair, secretary and treasurer of each Counties Link Group, where such offices are filled. Members meet annually at the AGM when the affairs of the charity are considered and detailed reports are presented on various activities.

The trustees meet at least quarterly, and control the overall administration and policy decisions. Every effort is made to ensure that the trustees, all of whom are committed Christians with an interest in the promotion of the Christian faith, includes trustees of varied professional skills, qualifications and experience who are drawn from various parts of the UK. Due regard is given to the recruitment of new trustees who will ensure continuity. The trustees, from time to time, appoint sub-committees to deal with specific areas of the work. These usually constitute one or more trustees where appropriate, administrative staff and other suitably qualified individuals who usually form part of the general charitable body.

Potential new trustees are nominated and if selected are interviewed by representative(s) of the trustees, with their appointment being confirmed at the AGM. All new trustees are provided with a portfolio of papers giving appropriate information including policies and procedures, together with Charity Commission publications. They are also provided with training as appropriate. All trustees serve for a three-year period but may stand for re-election. The trustees wish to express thanks to A Taylor-Roberts who resigned from the trustees during the year.

There is a small salaried staff administering the day-to-day affairs of the charity and the office is located at 30 Haynes Road, Westbury, BA13 3HD. The trustees on the finance committee meet independently with the auditors to ensure an independent view is received on how the office team maintains the finances of the charity. General management of the charity is in the hands of the CEO and COO.

Arrangements for setting key management personnel pay: the trustees review all staff salaries annually, including advice from Counties' H.R. group which includes four trustees.

I) Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Counties for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and of the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to make themselves aware of that information.

Trustees information

Trustees, who are Directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are given on page 11. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102 2015) and in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. Approved by the Board of trustees and signed on its behalf by

R Canham
(Trustees Chair)

Date:

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES:	S R Bennett R E Canham (chair) J Davies S McQuoid C Taylor P Singleton A Taylor-Roberts (resigned August 2023) J Wilkes
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	J G M Erwin
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER & COMPANY SECRETARY	J Brooks-Martin
EVANGELISTS in attendance at trustees at year end	P Curley P Willmott
REGISTERED OFFICE	30 Haynes Road Westbury BA13 3HD
BANKERS	Barclays Bank plc 32 Market Place Warminster BA12 9AR
AUDITOR	Burton Sweet Limited The Clock Tower, 5 Farleigh Court Old Weston Road, Flax Bourton BRISTOL BS48 1UR
INVESTMENT BROKERS AND ADVISERS	Brewin Dolphin Limited 12 Smithfield Street London EC1A 9BD

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNTIES YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Counties (the "Charity") for the year ended 30 September 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 30 September 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNTIES YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If based, on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report the fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable law requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Other matter

The corresponding figures presented in these financial statements are unaudited.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNTIES YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with those charged with governance and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements of the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment, pensions, environmental and health and safety legislation; and
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, inspecting legal correspondence and remaining alert during the audit for any indications of non-compliance.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of those charged with governance and other management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- testing journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessing whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigating the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNTIES
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state in them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ed Marsh BSc (Hons) FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Burton Sweet Limited

Statutory Auditor

The Clock Tower

5 Farleigh Court

Old Weston Road

Flax Bourton

Bristol BS48 1UR

Date:

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted				
	Notes	Free Reserves funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and gifts	2	612,170	-	434,031	1,046,201	666,387
Legacies		275,500	-	5,991	281,491	15,824
Investments	3	12,161	-	-	12,161	9,645
Charitable activities						
<i>Resources</i>		115	-	720	835	(881)
Other income		63,130	-	-	63,130	22,050
Total income		963,076	-	440,742	1,403,818	713,025
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4	29,182	-	5,477	34,659	31,360
Charitable activities	5	606,777	-	301,259	908,036	806,372
Total expenditure		635,959	-	306,736	942,695	837,732
Gains/(Losses) on investments	11	13,475	-	-	13,475	(58,926)
Net Income/(Expenditure)		340,592	-	134,006	474,598	(183,633)
Transfers between funds	17	(457,679)	435,475	22,204	-	-
Net movement in funds	6	(117,087)	435,475	156,210	474,598	(183,633)
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds brought forward	17	577,719	-	40,663	618,382	802,015
Funds carried forward	17	460,632	435,475	196,873	1,092,980	618,382

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Prior year fund comparatives are shown in note 9.

The notes on pages 20 to 31 form part of these financial statements

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Company number 01041761

		2023	2022
	Note	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	95,975	111,530
Investments	11	356,414	335,445
Total fixed assets		<u>452,389</u>	<u>446,975</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	279,733	25,951
Cash and bank balances		373,902	150,620
Total current assets		<u>653,635</u>	<u>176,571</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(13,044)</u>	<u>(5,164)</u>
Net current assets		640,591	171,407
Net assets		<u>1,092,980</u>	<u>618,382</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds			
<i>Free reserves funds</i>	18	460,632	577,719
<i>Designated funds</i>	18	435,475	-
Restricted funds	18	196,873	40,663
Total funds		<u>1,092,980</u>	<u>618,382</u>

Approved by the board of Trustees and Directors and signed on its behalf by

R E Canham

S R Bennett

Date:

The notes on pages 20 to 31 form part of these financial statements

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash outflow from operating activities	15	156,600	(108,728)
Non-operational cash flows:			
Investing activities			
Fixed asset additions		(13,371)	(27,223)
Payments for investments		(18,097)	(26,570)
Proceeds from the sale of investments		4,808	16,163
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		78,782	22,050
Investment income		12,161	9,645
Investment management charges		(3,396)	(3,599)
		<u>60,887</u>	<u>(9,534)</u>
Net cash inflow/(outflow) for the year	16	<u><u>217,487</u></u>	<u><u>(118,262)</u></u>

Cashflow Restrictions

Charity law prohibits the use of net cash inflows on any endowed or other restricted fund to offset net cash outflows on any fund outside its own objects, except on special authority. In practice, this restriction has not had any effect on cash flows for the year.

The notes on pages 20 to 31 form part of these financial statements

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention (except for investments which have been included at fair value) and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined under FRS102.

b) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charitable company are either:-

- Unrestricted funds - these funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.
- Restricted funds - these funds can only be used for the specific purpose designated by the donor.
- Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Other than legacies, all income is included when receivable.
- Legacies are not included in the financial statements until the amount receivable is known and confirmed.
- Government grants in relation to Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme were recognised in the year as grant income.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accrual basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

- Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. These costs are included within support costs.

Support costs have been allocated on the basis of staff time or the estimated use of facilities.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Expenditure on assets with an estimated economic life of more than twelve months and a cost of more than £1,000 is capitalised.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. No depreciation is charge on freehold land.

Annual depreciation rates are as follows:

Freehold property	Over 50 years
Office & computer equipment	33% straight line
GSUS Live exhibitions	20% straight line
Key to Life exhibitions	20% straight line
Life exhibitions	33% straight line

Freehold property is held at cost.

f) Debtors

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)**g) Creditors**

Creditors and provisions 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. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts due.

h) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are included at their market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation are included separately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

i) Going Concern

These financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. No material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern have been identified by the Trustees.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

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

2 Income from donations and gifts

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Trust grants:			
Trust grants (anonymous)	375,200	315,973	691,173
Church planting grants	-	19,500	19,500
Donations and gifts from individuals	228,261	89,953	318,214
Gift aid received	8,709	8,605	17,314
	<u>612,170</u>	<u>434,031</u>	<u>1,046,201</u>

Prior year comparative

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Trust grants:			
Trust grants (anonymous)	318,100	102,091	420,191
Church planting grants	-	15,400	15,400
Donations and gifts from individuals	133,564	79,219	212,783
Gift aid received	8,833	9,180	18,013
	<u>460,497</u>	<u>205,890</u>	<u>666,387</u>

Counties is exceedingly grateful for the ongoing support of individuals, churches and grant making trusts. Many of these trusts prefer to remain anonymous.

3 Investment income

	Free Reserves funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Quoted investments	10,890	-	10,890
Bank interest	1,271	-	1,271
	<u>12,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,161</u>

Prior year comparatives

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Quoted investments	9,641	-	9,641
Bank interest	4	-	4
	<u>9,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,645</u>

All investment income arises from assets held in the UK.

4 Expenditure on raising funds

	Free Reserves funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Salaries and office assistance	16,123	3,205	19,328
News magazine (inc. postage)	2,483	45	2,528
Website and internet	5,737	29	5,766
Promotion and publicity	1,443	2,198	3,641
Investment management costs	3,396	-	3,396
	<u>29,182</u>	<u>5,477</u>	<u>34,659</u>

Prior year comparative

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Salaries and office assistance	15,900	3,120	19,020
News magazine (inc. postage)	2,879	58	2,937
Website and internet	4,429	210	4,639
Promotion and publicity	1,165	-	1,165
Investment management costs	3,599	-	3,599
	<u>27,972</u>	<u>3,388</u>	<u>31,360</u>

5 Analysis of charitable expenditure

	Grants payable	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Evangelists and training	392,776	177,523	114,950	685,249
Schools Resources	-	128,066	94,721	222,787
	<u>392,776</u>	<u>305,589</u>	<u>209,671</u>	<u>908,036</u>

Prior year comparatives

	Grants payable	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Evangelists and training	382,642	101,799	100,584	585,025
Schools Resources	-	139,053	82,294	221,347
	<u>382,642</u>	<u>240,852</u>	<u>182,878</u>	<u>806,372</u>

Counties provides monthly gifts, as funds allow, to a number of evangelists the charity is in long-term association with. These amounts vary regularly. The average number of evangelists financially supported during the year was 46 (2022: 49). All grants made in the year were to individuals.

Support costs

	Evangelists and training	Schools Resources	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Personnel costs including wages	68,954	56,417	125,371
Premises costs	3,782	3,093	6,875
Office expenses	24,649	20,841	45,490
Depreciation costs	7,301	5,973	13,274
Governance costs	10,264	8,397	18,661
	<u>114,950</u>	<u>94,721</u>	<u>209,671</u>

Prior year comparative

	Evangelists and training	Schools Resources	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Personnel costs including wages	63,173	51,682	114,855
Premises costs	2,897	2,367	5,264
Office expenses	23,108	18,912	42,020
Depreciation costs	6,621	5,418	12,039
Governance costs	4,785	3,915	8,700
	<u>100,584</u>	<u>82,294</u>	<u>182,878</u>

6 Net (expenditure)/income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	13,274	12,040
Auditor's fees	12,850	-
Independent examiner's fees	-	4,254
- prior year (over)/under accrual	-	560
Reimbursement of Trustees' travel and subsistence expenses: for trustees' meetings and duties to 5 Trustees (2022: 6 Trustees)	2,957	2,589

No trustees received remuneration during this year or in the previous year.

7 Staff costs and numbers

The aggregate payroll costs were:

	2023	2022
	£	£
		Restated
Wages and salaries	225,392	183,281
Social security costs	14,341	13,141
Pension contributions	16,393	12,329
Benefits in kind	4,714	7,106
	260,840	215,857

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of average headcount, was 9 (2022: 7).

Key management personnel received employment benefits in the year of £89,521 (2022: £82,136).

8 Taxation

The company is registered as a charity and is therefore not liable to corporation tax on its charitable income as long as it is applied for charitable purposes. It is not considered there are any activities giving rise to a tax liability.

9 Fund comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income from:			
Donations and gifts	460,497	205,890	666,387
Legacies	15,824	-	15,824
Investments	9,645	-	9,645
Charitable activities			
<i>Resources</i>	(881)	-	(881)
Other income	22,050	-	22,050
Total income	507,135	205,890	713,025
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	27,972	3,388	31,360
Charitable activities	580,198	226,174	806,372
Total expenditure	608,170	229,562	837,732
Gains/(Losses) on investments	(58,926)	-	(58,926)
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	(159,961)	(23,672)	(183,633)
Transfers between funds	(35,915)	35,915	-
	(195,876)	12,243	(183,633)
Reconciliation of funds			
Funds brought forward	773,595	28,420	802,015
Funds carried forward	577,719	40,663	618,382

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £	GSUS Live exhibition £	Key to Life exhibition £	LIFE exhibition £	Office & computer equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 Oct 2022	113,250	110,756	183,468	335,896	33,657	777,027
Additions	-	-	-	-	13,371	13,371
Disposals	(20,000)	-	(126,281)	-	-	(146,281)
At 30 Sept 2023	93,250	110,756	57,187	335,896	47,028	644,117
Depreciation						
At 1 Oct 2022	36,367	79,526	183,468	332,952	33,184	665,497
Charge for year	1,281	7,458	-	1,111	3,424	13,274
Disposals	(4,348)	-	(126,281)	-	-	(130,629)
At 30 Sept 2023	33,300	86,984	57,187	334,063	36,608	548,142
Net book value						
At 30 Sept 2023	59,950	23,772	-	1,833	10,420	95,975
At 30 Sept 2022	76,883	31,230	-	2,944	473	111,530

11 Investments

	Cash £	Funds £	Total 2023 £
Market Value at 1 October 2022	14,788	320,657	335,445
Additions	(18,097)	18,097	-
Disposal proceeds	4,808	(4,808)	-
Realised gains/(losses) on investments	-	752	752
Management fees	(3,396)	-	(3,396)
Dividends & interest	10,890	-	10,890
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	-	12,723	12,723
Market Value at 30 September 2023	8,993	347,421	356,414
Historical cost at 30 September 2023	8,993	353,066	362,059

All investments are held in the UK.

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accrued income	275,141	20,654
Other debtors and prepayments	4,592	5,297
	<u>279,733</u>	<u>25,951</u>

Debtors includes grants due at the balance sheet date, received after the year end.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	194	482
Accruals	12,850	4,682
	<u>13,044</u>	<u>5,164</u>

14 Operating leases

At 30 September 2023 the organisation had total minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	Vehicles	Vehicles
	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts payable:		
Within 1 year	13,435	2,007
Between 2 to 5 years	<u>34,112</u>	<u>-</u>

15 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Statement of Financial Activities: Net movement in funds	474,598	(183,633)
Investment income	(12,161)	(9,645)
Investment management costs	3,396	3,599
Depreciation	13,274	12,040
Net movement from sale of fixed assets	(63,130)	(22,050)
Realised net (gain)/losses on sales of investments	(752)	1,107
Unrealised net (gain)/losses on investments	(12,723)	57,819
Increase / (decrease) in creditors: current liabilities	7,880	799
(Increase) /decrease in debtors	(253,782)	31,236
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	156,600	(108,728)

16 Analysis of changes in cash during the year

	2023	2022	Change
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	373,902	150,620	223,282
Cash held within investments	8,993	14,788	(5,795)
	382,895	165,408	217,487
	2022	2021	Change
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	150,620	264,425	(113,805)
Cash held within investments	14,788	19,245	(4,457)
	165,408	283,670	(118,262)

COUNTIES (Formerly Counties Evangelistic Work)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

17 Movement in funds

Current Year

	At 1 Oct 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains & losses £	Transfers £	At 30 Sep 2023 £
Restricted funds						
Evangelists	-	86,083	(86,625)	-	542	-
GSUS Live fund	22,296	70,805	(63,476)	-	(5,871)	23,754
Church Planting Network fund	-	25,896	(66,800)	-	40,904	-
The Evangelization Society	18,367	720	(2,000)	-	-	17,087
School Resources and Training	-	191,194	(22,876)	-	(13,371)	154,947
Church Support	-	66,044	(64,959)	-	-	1,085
	40,663	440,742	(306,736)	-	22,204	196,873
Unrestricted funds						
General free reserves funds	577,719	963,076	(635,959)	13,475	(457,679)	460,632
Designated funds						
Restructuring	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Church Planting Network (CPN) fund	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Fixed Assets NBV	-	-	-	-	355,475	355,475
	577,719	963,076	(635,959)	13,475	(22,204)	896,107
Total funds	618,382	1,403,818	(942,695)	13,475	-	1,092,980

Prior Year

	At 1 Oct 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains & losses £	Transfers £	At 30 Sep 2022 £
Restricted funds						
Evangelists	-	88,968	(88,968)	-	-	-
GSUS Live fund	-	95,765	(71,207)	-	(2,262)	22,296
Church Planting Network fund	8,309	20,363	(67,271)	-	38,599	-
The Evangelization Society	20,111	794	(2,116)	-	(422)	18,367
	28,420	205,890	(229,562)	-	35,915	40,663
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	773,595	507,135	(608,170)	(58,926)	(35,915)	577,719
	773,595	507,135	(608,170)	(58,926)	(35,915)	577,719
Total funds	802,015	713,025	(837,732)	(58,926)	-	618,382

General fund

This is the main fund of the charity, which receives donations, investment and other income not received specifically for one of the funds. The fund provides support for the evangelists and also finances publicity and development and the overall running of the charity.

In the circumstances, all amounts received within the general fund have been treated as unrestricted income.

17 Movement in funds (continued)

Restricted Funds

Evangelists fund

When the Trustees invite an individual to join Counties as an Evangelist, in effect a restricted fund is created for the Evangelist and their activities that further the purposes of the charity.

GSUS Live fund

The fund exists to finance the running costs of the GSUS Live units.

Church Planting Network fund

The fund exists to enable the planting and replanting of vibrant new churches that make Jesus known across England and Wales.

The Evangelization Society (TES)

These funds are restricted and are to be utilised to fund grants towards evangelistic projects that are a one-off, innovative and pioneering in nature. This is consistent with the previous aims and objectives of TES.

Church Support

Exists to assist local churches, partly via our team of Regional Connectors.

School Resources and Training

This fund has been created as a result of a grant from the Weald Trust which is restricted in its use for the support of schools resources and training.

Designated Funds

Restructuring

This fund has been designated to help meet the cost of developing our strategic plans and objectives in the coming year.

Church Planting Network (CPN) fund

This fund has been designated to set aside funds to meet the budgeted deficit in this area of work in the coming year.

Fixed Assets NBV

This fund has been established in the year to account for the net book value of our fixed assets and property investments which are by definition not available as free reserves.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets £	Investments £	Other Net assets £	Total 2023 £
Restricted funds	-	-	196,873	196,873
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	-	356,414	104,218	460,632
Designated funds	95,975	-	339,500	435,475
	<u>95,975</u>	<u>356,414</u>	<u>640,591</u>	<u>1,092,980</u>

Prior year comparatives

	Tangible Fixed assets £	Investments £	Other Net assets £	Total 2022 £
Restricted funds	-	-	40,663	40,663
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	111,530	335,445	130,744	577,719
	<u>111,530</u>	<u>335,445</u>	<u>171,407</u>	<u>618,382</u>

19 Related party transactions

Phil Davies is an evangelist supported by Counties and is the brother of a trustee James Davies. The total paid to Phil Davies in the year was £4,350: (2022 £4,250).

Counties has for many years held a 20.62% interest in 41 Leigh Road, the property occupied by one of our officers, Jonathan Brooks-Martin. During the year Jonathan and his wife purchased this interest from Counties for £59,283 based on two independent valuations that the trustees obtained and with the approval of the Charity Commission.

20 Share capital

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The members' liability is limited to £1 each.