

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1163427

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Miller & Co
Chartered Accountants
5 Imperial Court
Laporte Way
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU4 8FE

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

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for the Year Ended 31 August 2020**

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**GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page twelve and comply with the Charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 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 published in October 2019.

This charity, Grassroots Programme CIO took over the assets of the former unincorporated charity Grassroots Programme (charity number 1057468) on 1 September 2016. Prior years' reports relating to charity number 1057468 may be obtained from the office at the principal address.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

CHARITY NAME:	Grassroots Programme
STATUS:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Foundation Constitution. Registered Constitution and as a charity on 04 September 2015.
CHARITY NUMBER:	1163427
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS:	47 High Town Road Luton Bedfordshire LU2 0BW
TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS:	Those who served as trustees of the charity during the year were as follows: Rev D Lawson (Chair) Mrs J Bird Rev M Hindley Rev P Horner Mrs R Tetlow Mrs S Marsden (Secretary) Ms D Purfield Mr B Roe (Treasurer)
CHARITY DIRECTOR:	Mr D Jonathan
BANKERS:	The Co-operative Bank Olympic House 6 Olympic Court Salford M8 2QP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS:	Miller & Co Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 5 Imperial Court, Laporte Way Luton Bedfordshire LU4 8FE

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Grassroots Programme is an independent charity. A board of trustees administers the charity. The trustees are responsible for the overall control and management of the charity and meet on a regular basis.

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PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty, set out in the 2011 Charity Act, to have due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Trustees are appointed for a term of five years by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting for which not less than 21 days' notice has been given.

Under the terms of the Constitution, newly appointed trustees are not entitled to act as trustees until they have signed, in the minute book of the trustees, a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of the Charity.

All the trustees are familiar with the work of the charity and an induction is performed for any new trustees.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity as set out in the Constitution are as follows:

- (1) To advance education for the public benefit in global issues to enable greater awareness of factors that will contribute to the relief of needy victims of breaches of human rights in such ways that are charitable in law.
- (2) To advance religion and promote understanding among Christians and those of other faiths.
- (3) To provide opportunities for the advancement of education among all ages, but particularly adults, in such ways that are charitable in law.
- (4) To provide relief of the aged, infirm and poor.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In order to achieve its objectives, the charity runs a number of programmes. During the year it ran the following specific programmes:

Working our way through the Covid-19 Pandemic

The ongoing global Coronavirus pandemic has put everything to test. All have been affected in one way or the other. For GRASSROOTS, it has been a demanding time of constantly liaising with the local authority, public health, Police and others such as Community Voluntary Service (CVS) Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire & Luton Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC), and Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum (BLRF) to ensure that we keep cascading through the places of worship and other faith and community leaders networks, the right and relevant information from time to time as government guidelines have been constantly changing and that we keep encouraging faith communities' continued support in preventing the spread of Covid-19, protecting the most vulnerable in our community, providing reassurance to people, countering their fears and anxieties.

Besides helping in 'excessive death planning' and 'cremation and burials', we have also been supporting and promoting appeals for donations from Luton Food Bank (<http://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/appeal>). The devastating effects of Covid-19 have meant that more families than ever before are using the services of the foodbank.

We encouraged responses particularly from black, Asian & minority ethnic (BAME) communities, to a Public Perception Survey, launched during May 29th – June 21st 2020, by the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) seeking views about how the pandemic has affected the challenges to healthcare and to assess what changes are needed or working well in service delivery.

We have liaised with the Resources Directorate of HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Helen Nellis and publicised her weekly messages and a virtual Service of Thanksgiving to honour volunteers who play a significant role in building kind and cohesive communities. This service can be viewed here <https://youtu.be/Urdq3JM2E0U>.

We helped the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Susan Lousada to create a Wall of Thanks on her website. We promoted Luton Council VE Day 75 Virtual Celebrations held on 8th May, which can still be viewed at <https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/events/Pages/VE-Day-75.aspx?redirectToMobile=True>.

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We supported Places of Worship to go through guidelines about re-opening safely from July 2020 onwards. We presented devotional/scriptural quotes/prayers from Luton's faith communities, in a beautifully design and circulated, as a resource for support, encouragement, comfort and healing. We also promoted Pope Francis call for all faiths and none to fast together with Muslims on 14th May '20 during Ramadan for end of COVID-19 <https://ara.tv/6ga3n>.

We supported Church of England St Albans Diocese in preparing a Covid-19 Pastoral Care Scheme, for NHS and for communities, across the county of Bedfordshire in which our partner agency Luton Council of Faiths remained one of the key contact points for multi faith needs and services in Luton.

We helped produce the following two resources which have been widely appreciated by people during the lockdown;

- A Guide supporting your Mental Health, Resilience and Well-being while working from home
- My Daily Action Planner

Covid – 19 Impact on Local People

Public Health England (PHE) released the 'Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19' report in June 2020. It highlights some concerning findings around the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said coming from a non-white background was a "major risk factor" for the virus. Luton's faith leaders and faith communities, concerned with justice and fullness of life for all, are asking the local & national government what could we do better to save lives and to ensure that we are all in it together.

Covid – 19 Impact on Places of Worship

No lettings of buildings and facilities severely affected its income to sustain buildings. Hence in a meeting of faith leaders on 26th May, it was agreed that a letter to the Prime Minister be written seeking a specific fund for help. Also re-opening places of worship from 4th July onwards has not been easy; government instructions are very demanding.

Covid – 19 Impact on Luton Council & Voluntary Sector

Luton Council's worst ever budget cuts due to Covid-19, added with economic downturn due to sharp drop in income from the London Luton Airport, is having a massive effect on the Council frontline services and its voluntary sector partners. Campaigning/petitioning/lobbying central government for emergency financial support for Luton has yielded not much result. It remains a big concern in Luton how voluntary, community and faith sector organisations will cope with financial & funding crisis particularly those receiving support from the London Luton Airport income.

Ecumenical Work

Methodist President Visits GRASSROOTS

As part of her visit to the Methodist District of Beds, Essex & Herts, Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, visited GRASSROOTS Luton, the Luton Town Hall and our partner Luton Council of Faiths.

Addressing 40 representatives from Luton's different faith communities gathered at the Hindu Temple & Community Centre in Lewsey Farm, she highlighted the role played by women especially those working behind the scene and their political significance in an ever-changing socio-political landscape. The most effective change comes from the bottom up; yet this is often demeaned as simply social or domestic activity. She also expressed concerns about "othering" and dehumanising people. She said we're all called to love and acknowledge our shared humanity. At times, it's costly, but it's the only way to change the world.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

In commemorating Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians from different denominations gathered to focus together on The Holy Bible, a treasured and timeless Holy Book for Christians of all traditions. The event title was "The God who speaks: Approaches to hearing and reading the Word of God". It was led by Nicholas King SJ, a very well renowned and much celebrated Biblical scholar who has published a translation of the entire Greek Bible into English. Commenting on the current plight of our world, he said, we must never hate anyone whose beliefs are different from us and we must never compete, rather seek to complement one another in the service of God's beautiful creation.

World Day of Prayer 2020 (Formerly called the Women's World Day of Prayer)

The 2020 theme was "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk," based on Christian Scripture Reading from the Gospel of John 5:2-9a. Each year, materials are developed ecumenically and collectively within a certain country in coordination with the World Day of Prayer International Committee. This year it was done in Zimbabwe. In Luton, the service was held at St Mary's Church in which Luton Zimbabwean women presented Zimbabwean tradition and culture. As makers of human fraternity, all who had gathered prayed for the world peace and our environment.

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C of E St Albans Diocese – Archdeaconry Inter Faith Advisers

In accordance with its commitment to engage with and partner with members of other faith communities for the common good and pursuing mission in a global world, the Diocese continues to commission GRASSROOTS Luton to support parishes and clergy through an Inter Faith Adviser in each Archdeaconry and to be a source of advice to encourage, support and network, particularly with those ministering in the multi-faith areas.

Church Related Community Work (CRCW) Project

CRCW is a ministry of the United Reformed Church (URC) concerned with bringing about positive change in local communities. In Luton, the CRCW was called to work with the Bury Park Beech Hill Council of Churches. At the end of project's 10-year term (2010-2020), on 15th Feb 2020, local dignitaries, faith leaders, and community members gathered to bid farewell to Karen Campbell, Luton Church Related Community Worker (CRCW). In this special service it was recognised that many seeds were sown, from which some shoots have developed and flourished. Karen said: "I know my time in Luton has been worth it. There are friendships built across faiths and cultures. I say with confidence that the Luton I leave is not the Luton I came to. In some small way, I know the project has made a difference."

In the project report "Seeds on the Wind" (available on request), Karen concluded; "Church Related Community Work can sometimes feel like a precarious business. It is often unpredictable. Situations can change almost in the blink of an eye. Much time may be invested but apparently bear little fruit, whilst some initiatives seem to spring up and blossom beyond expectation. New shoots can appear seemingly out of nowhere, whilst established pieces of work may unexpectedly die. I can say with confidence that this ministry is not for the faint-hearted!"

Spirituality of Justice

Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, many conferences (some listed below) were planned to raise the prophetic voices of climate change and to transform the thoughts and suggestions of Laudato Si into actions, but due to the Coronavirus pandemic it had to be postponed until 2021.

- Action for Life on Earth
- Scripture in relation to Care of the Earth
- Reclaiming the Politics of the Common Good – Networking with Justice and Peace Organizations

Ecological conversion is a matter of life and death. Greta Thunberg (Swedish activist) said, "This coming decade humanity will decide its future. Let's make it the best one we can." In 2016 Pope Francis had called for "prophetic audacity" – this will involve speaking out, joining advocacy groups in an ongoing process of holding the government to account, which can be and ought to be done in more ways than just casting our votes.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020

On the 23rd January 2020, this year's theme STAND TOGETHER marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia. A well thought out drama entitled "The Ten Stages of Genocide" was acted by Stopsley High School Luton. Sr Maire Hayes shared a Prayer, jointly composed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Senior Imam at the Makkah Mosque and the Chief Rabbi. The prayer sought God's forgiveness for times when we give space to grow the fear and hatred of those who are different from us.

Roman Catholic Inter Faith Coordinators Meeting in Leicester

On 12-13 Nov'19 reflections were shared on our enriching and difficult engagements with people of different faiths. All present, discussed ideas of joint action taking inspiration from the inter faith work reports from Luton shared by Sr. Maire Hayes and the Catholic document "Meeting God in Friend and Stranger". Yasmin Surti, from the Federation of Muslim organizations said we have so much in common; we must nourish our friendships and build a better world.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2020

During the Fairtrade fortnight 24th February – 8th March 2020 GRASSROOTS, Luton Council of Faiths (LCoF) and St Christopher's C of E Church joined forces for the second year in organising a Fairtrade Cake Bake Competition. Contestants from diverse backgrounds, ages and faiths participated with their delicious cakes made with fairtrade ingredients. Everyone present took part in the tasting and judging. Two prizes were rewarded in memory of the Late Mr Natu Bhai Solanki a Hindu Vice Chair of the Luton Council of Faiths and Late Ms Maureen Borbone a Catholic and a committed Fairtrade activist and also a former Trustee of GRASSROOTS.

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Working with Women across Faiths & Cultures

Ghar se Ghar Activity Groups

The Bury Park, Ashcroft and Beech Hill groups continued throughout until the Covid19 situation imposed lockdown. Exercise, relaxation, meditation and discussions on health topics all promoted healthy living. Extra activities and events helped people in making wider social connections, new friendships and stronger social bonds, which was most valuable in maintaining positive mental health and social wellbeing during the Covid 19 lockdown. Following referrals tell the story;

Domestic Violence	Police	Health	Social Services	Housing	Benefits	Counselling	Form Filling	Letter Reading	Letter Writing	Education
1	1	51	19	13	19	21	0	9	1	4

Other Ghar se Ghar Activities

- For those who are assessed as being frail, Healthy Ageing Programme at Beech Hill through a 12 week programme helps people increase their strength, mobility, balance and stability, with a view to improving their physical and mental health and enabling them to maintain healthy and independent lives.
- Some members took part in a research project, "East London Genes and Health". This studies genes of the South Asian population to improve treatment and medicine based on individuals' genes for prevalent conditions such as Diabetes, Hypertension and heart disease.
- Supported by The National Lottery Community Fund, sessions of Qi Qong, mindfulness & HeartMath meditation enabled participants to learn new ways of being healthy and combating stress.
- A coach trip to Waddesdon Manor was educational for most attending first time a Christmas Fair lined with over 80 Artisan stalls. The illuminated Woodland and Winter Light Trails, decorated with lanterns were wonderful.

Precious Pearls 2020 Theme: Women Caring for Mother Earth

Held on 5th March 2020, this annual event programme included Praise for Creation, Bee-keeping, Hug a Tree, Live Simply, Veganism, Eco Crafts, Poem titled 'Recycling Rant', Energy Usage, Climate Change & Eco Projects by LEAF (Luton Environmental Action Forum), Edible High Town undertaking. As always, there was a vast array of talent on display including poetry, piano recitals, singing and dancing to add joy to the occasion.

Circle Dancing

Besides Hockwell Ring Community Centre, Blenheim Baptist & High Town Methodist Church Halls, Circle Dance sessions also benefitted Southfields Primary School, Wigmore Church Harvest Festival, World Day of Prayer and Ghar se Ghar groups. Highlights include "Enas Mythos" a Greek dance of welcome, give a sense of togetherness; "Under Paris Skies" a live street accordion recording transported everyone to France; "Punjabi Love Affair" resounded to Bombay beats; a lovely meditation to Tibetan Incantations gave a sense of inner stillness & peace and "Bells of Norwich," with lyrics by Sidney Carter, reminded everyone that "All shall be well again, I know."

Inter Faith Relations

Annual Luton Peace Walk 2019

The 23rd Luton Annual Peace Walk coincided this year with the International Peace Day on 21st September 2019. Nearly 200 people & 60 children from 7 schools joined in visiting St Luke's C of E Church, Hockwell Ring Mosque, High Street Methodist Church and Al-Hikmah Prayer Hall. School Children led a meditation using HeartMath technique synchronising brain and heart, a Circle Dance harmonising the breath and physical energy and shared their learning from Guidelines for Dialogue run by The Feast programme. This year's International Peace Day theme Climate Change was expressed in the Peace Artwork Competition in which eight schools' entries were exhibited and appreciated on the day.

Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week begins with Remembrance Sunday and runs until the following Sunday with over 650+ activities across the country as reported by the National Interfaith network. In Luton, a local Imam, Rabbi and Vicar participated in a Remembrance Sunday Service at Luton Town Hall. We also brought families together for Hats of Faiths book storytelling session held at Tokko Youth Centre and William Austin Jr School.

Multi Faith Panel Discussion for Airport Chaplains

On 19th November 2019, at London Luton Airport Chaplaincy over 40 airport chaplains from across the UK and Ireland attended a multi-faith panel discussion, led by GRASSROOTS, on how best to meet the varying spiritual needs of passengers in the aftermath of an emergency, a key role of the airport chaplaincy service.

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UN 75th Anniversary Celebrations – New School Assemblies

Peace Child International (PCI) is a UK based charity focusing on sustainable development and youth empowerment. It has UN Economic and Social Council Consultative status. To mark UN's 75th Anniversary, in partnership with PCI, we held school assemblies educating young people about UN's role in bringing peace and justice in our world. Children raised concerns about environment, refugees, homelessness and NO WAR has been their loud and clear message.

Reading Terror Attack

Following the stabbings in Reading on 20th June 2020, in a statement published locally, Luton's faith communities shared solidarity with people in Reading, sending a strong message of defiance to all extremists, that we will not be divided. A letter expressing solidarity from Luton's Mayor to Reading's Mayor was also a commendable effort.

Near Neighbours (NN) Programme

Near Neighbours (NN) Grants

In its 9th year, during June-October 2019, 18 NN projects have been funded in Luton. Some fantastic projects included – Safeguarding & Prejudice training by FACES (Faiths Against Child Sexual Exploitation), the Big Music Co. ran a Flash Mob sing-along in the Luton Mall, Black and minority ethnic (BAME) network set up by Luton Irish Forum, St Thomas Parish nurse delivering health awareness sessions, Mary Seacole Housing Association delivered a football project for Asylum seekers and refugees, Hats of Faiths storytelling by Luton Council of Faiths, a unique Horse Angels project linking primary school children with the care of horses and a series of partnerships across Luton sharing Windrush stories.

Real People Honest Talk (RPHT) Sessions & Big Conversation Event

Due to its positive impact, popularity and demand the programme delivered 12 sessions with 4 different groups and a 'Big Conversation' event was held on 28th October 2019. A wide range of topics have been explored and discussed e.g. how to influence press and the social media, the rise of the far right, freedom of speech, lack of youth services, unemployment, knife crime, gangs, drugs, homelessness, mental health and climate change etc. Our 3rd Big Conversation event, on the theme of Environment & Climate change, involved 3 keynote speakers, and round-table discussions, asking people to think about how does this affect me and what can I do about it? We also hosted the Cricket World Cup Trophy won by England in 2019 – Thanks to Cricket East and Wicketz for the opportunity to be involved in the Luton Tour.

NN Grants Review & Networking Session

This event went very well. Feedback from participants was really positive. It was encouraging to hear that new people were meeting who had never met before. Grant recipients promoted their activities and became aware of others' inspiring projects. People are now asked to develop case studies for the Near Neighbours newsletter.

Places of Welcome (PoW)

This is a growing network of hospitality, run by local community groups who want to make sure that everyone in their area has a place to go for a friendly face, a cup of tea and a conversation. Age Concern Luton became the 1st local PoW in Luton and now Bury Park Beech Hill Council of Churches have also opened its doors.

Other Activities

In April 2020, at the start of the lockdown, people were sent the NN postcard saying "Kindness is Contagious" to display in their front window, to show their care for one's neighbour. NN funded project called Edible High Town has been turning the derelict land patches into vibrant green spaces. In lockdown, its initiative 'A ray of sunshine' gave away Sunflower plants to get communities interested in gardening and to see who grows the tallest sunflower. The project was identified and hosted by the BBC Look East on its website.

Black Lives Matter (BLM)

It is commendable that the BLM protests worldwide continued, despite pandemic restrictions, for over 3 months after George Floyd's killing in Minneapolis (US) on May 25, 2020. In Luton, nearly 2000 people from different faiths and ethnicities joined in the Black Lives Matter protest held on Sat 6th June at 2pm at the Luton Town Hall War Memorial. It was led by a group of (important to note) black and white young people. And just like any other protest, it was also attracting anarchists and people who would likely be disruptive and rogue. It was therefore crucial and important that Luton's faith leaders offered stewarding of the protest, very well coordinated by Peter Adams, Director, St Mary's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation and supported by GRASSROOTS. This prevented the voices of extreme and their unjustified actions from hijacking the event and our young people were not criminalised.

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It is encouraging that nationally, there is not a single Church denomination which did not speak out in support of the BLM movement principles. The global and national Christian ecumenical bodies such as World Council of Churches (WCC), Council for World Mission (CWM) & Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI) have all been actively creating online spaces for relevant discussions in promoting racial justice and in enabling Christians to ponder on questions;

How will anti-racism enable us to read the Bible in new ways?

Where is Jesus leading church to engage in anti-racist work?

What would it take for you or your 'institution' to engage in anti-racist work?

Do Black Lives Matter to us as individuals or in our Churches/Organisations/work-places?

Do we know why should it matter to us?

Since the protests, there have been debates if white lives matter too and shouldn't all lives matter. Debates are good but it often pushes towards extreme and polarising positions. Instead 'contemplative reflection' can help us move towards a 'compassionate understanding', which can lead to positive and much better outcomes.

Rev. Al Sharpton in another ITV's Good Morning Britain show on 24th June 2020 said, "This is not about black versus white, it's about right versus wrong. There's never been any argument that white lives matter. There's never been any debate. When a white life is taken, it is litigated, prosecuted and if convicted, incarcerated. The problem is it has not been equal on the other side. There has been no need to say white lives matter, that has been a given and the system has worked that way. It has not worked that way for black lives. We are not saying black lives matter more, we are saying black lives matter as much, equally and should be treated the same."

It is said, racism is an economic problem as money and wealth are inextricably linked to ethnicity, so it is not enough to 'not be a racist', but be an anti-racist too.

Often media and society's prejudice lead us to think BAME communities take more from Britain than they give to it. It is time we acknowledge that from slave trade to Windrush and from Brexit to Coronavirus, Britain's well-being and survival has depended on immigrants and on BAME communities, as we see, how many of them in NHS have risked, and laid down their lives, in their efforts to save Britain from the Coronavirus.

Like gender justice cannot be achieved without men involved in it, racism and white supremacy cannot be changed without the participation and action of white people. Therefore it is worth hearing the words of Sallie McFague an American feminist Christian theologian, who said, "We, all of us, are being called to do something unprecedented. We are being called to think about "everything that is," for we now know that everything is interrelated and that the well-being of each is connected to the well-being of the whole. This suggests a "planetary agenda" for all the religions, all the various fields of expertise."

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the finances of the charity, including those related to Covid-19 and are satisfied that systems are in place to reduce exposure to the major risks.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have a policy of aiming to retain reserves equivalent to six months average expenditure. This is due to the uncertain nature of funding received. The free reserves at the year-end were £37,093.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Trustees remain committed to the growth of the Grassroots Programme and the possibilities of expanding the presence of Grassroots Programme to other parts of the country. However, this is dependent upon the charity securing additional funds.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity had total income of £123,791 (2019 £176,489). The main sources of income were grants of £112,000 (2019 £151,430). The charity had total expenditure of £130,053 (2019 £135,462). Direct charitable expenditure on projects totalled £126,991 (2019 £132,059) and governance costs totalled £3,062 (2019 £3,403). There was net income on the unrestricted fund of £18,585 and net expenditure of £24,847 on the restricted fund after transfers between funds. Total funds at the end of the year were £63,440.

The trustees would like to record their thanks to all individuals and associations who supported the charity during the year. All details of the income and expenditure of the charity are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities and the notes to the accounts. In the opinion of the trustees the charity was in a satisfactory financial position at the year end.

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the 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 the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- 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 the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the 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.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:



Rev D Lawson
Chair



B Roe
Treasurer

Date: 12 November 2020

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
to the Trustees of Grassroots Programme

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020 which are set out on pages 10 to 20.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts 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 in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn.

We understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I 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 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.



R A Cox FCA
Miller & Co
Chartered Accountants
5 Imperial Court
Laporte Way, Luton
Bedfordshire
LU4 8FE

12 November 2020

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
		£	£	£	£
<u>INCOME FROM</u>					
Grants	2	59,000	53,000	112,000	151,430
Donations	3	1,654	5,380	7,034	19,221
Investment income		34	-	34	49
Sale of Fairtrade goods		4,723	-	4,723	5,789
TOTAL INCOME		65,411	58,380	123,791	176,489
<u>EXPENDITURE ON</u>					
Charitable activities	4	46,805	83,248	130,053	135,462
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		46,805	83,248	130,053	135,462
Net income / expenditure		18,606	(24,868)	(6,262)	41,027
Transfers between funds		(21)	21	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		18,585	(24,847)	(6,262)	41,027
Reconciliation of funds					
Funds brought forward at 1 September 2019		26,791	42,911	69,702	28,675
Funds carried forward at 31 August 2020		£45,376	£18,064	£63,440	£69,702

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

BALANCE SHEET
31 August 2020

	Note	2020		2019
		£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Stock	8	425		750
Debtors	9	23,366		1,397
COIF Funds		7,657		7,622
Cash at bank		<u>34,955</u>		<u>61,983</u>
		66,403		71,752
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>2,963</u>		<u>2,050</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>63,440</u>	<u>69,702</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>£63,440</u>	<u>£69,702</u>
FUNDS:				
Unrestricted general fund	12		45,376	42,911
Restricted funds	12		<u>18,064</u>	<u>26,791</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>£63,440</u>	<u>£69,702</u>

The financial statements on pages 10 to 20 were approved by the board of trustees on 12 November 2020.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:



Rev D Lawson
Chair



Mr B Roe
Treasurer

12 November 2020

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information and basis of preparation

Grassroots Programme is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the 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 issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound. The address of the principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not had a significant impact on the charity's finances in the current year. Some sources of funds were potentially affected but this was mitigated by reduced costs where activities had to be cancelled or curtailed by the Coronavirus. In the next financial year, it is estimated that perhaps a further 10-15% of funding may be lost due to reductions in grants because of the pandemic. However, the trustees have considered the financial position of the Charity for 12 months from the date the financial statements are approved and have concluded that no adjustments are required to the carrying value of its assets and that cash balances and reserves are adequate to maintain its activities. They are also of the opinion that there are no material uncertainties relating to going concern.

Unrestricted and restricted funds

Unrestricted funds are grants and other income received for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are those funds which are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor or the trustees. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the funds, together with a fair allocation of administration and support costs. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income recognition

Donations and other income are recognised when received. Grants are recognised when received or when the charity has legal entitlement to them, the amount can be reliably measured and there is sufficient certainty of receipt them.

Expenditure recognition

Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities. Support costs comprise those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objectives of the charity. Governance costs relate to trustees' expenses, legal charges, independent examiners fees and attributable expenses of governing the charity. The trustees give all their time free of charge.

Expenditure is recognised when the amount can be reliably measured, there is a legal obligation to make it and it is probable that settlement will be required.

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income as incurred.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for certain employees. Contributions in respect of pensions are charged to income in the year in which they are paid.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Grants, other debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price.

Stock

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell.

Fixed assets

The charity has a policy of capitalising fixed asset expenditure over £1,000.

2. INCOME FROM GRANTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Grants for general purposes				
Methodist Church Beds, Essex & Herts District	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
URC - MIG (Thames North Synod)	17,000	-	17,000	-
Diocese of St. Albans	10,000	-	10,000	20,000
Luton Council of Faiths	10,000	-	10,000	12,000
Society of All Saints	-	-	-	10,000
Northampton RC Diocese	12,000	-	12,000	12,000
Working with Women across Faiths & Cultures				
Allder Trust	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Church Urban Fund (Near Neighbours)				
Near Neighbours Fund Projects	-	48,000	48,000	69,180
Events				
Awards for All	-	-	-	9,750
Westhill Endowment	-	-	-	3,000
Vauxhall Motors	-	-	-	500
	59,000	53,000	112,000	151,430

Income from grants in 2019 totalled £151,430 of which £87,430 was attributable to restricted funds and £64,000 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020**

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations				
General	1,654	-	1,654	4,597
IDAI	-	-	-	1,104
Working with Women	-	1,120	1,120	2,732
Legacies	-	-	-	5,398
Other				
Bury Park Beech Hill Council of Churches	-	4,260	4,260	5,390
	<u>1,654</u>	<u>5,380</u>	<u>7,034</u>	<u>19,221</u>

Income from donations and legacies in 2019 totalled £19,221 of which £9,226 was attributable to restricted funds and £9,995 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

4. ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Basis of Allocation	Mission Education & Advancement £	Restricted Funds £	Governance Costs £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Costs directly allocated to activities						
Staff costs (note 5)	Direct	-	34,944	-	34,944	35,123
Programme expenses	Direct	6,027	34,903	-	40,930	40,942
Cost of goods sold	Direct	4,599	-	-	4,599	5,141
Trustee expenses	Direct	-	-	103	103	284
Independent examiners fee	Direct	-	-	1,254	1,254	1,230
Insurance	Direct	677	-	-	677	599
Support costs allocated to activities						
Staff costs (note 5)	Time	23,570	13,401	563	37,534	40,157
Administrator	Time	-	-	-	-	365
Rent and rates	Usage	6,538	-	-	6,538	6,529
Postage	Usage	-	-	291	291	104
Stationery and printing	Usage	361	-	800	1,161	1,260
Telephone	Usage	969	-	51	1,020	1,005
Office running expenses	Usage	732	-	-	732	1,207
Email and website	Usage	104	-	-	104	293
Computer expenses	Usage	121	-	-	121	845
Sundry expenses	Usage	15	-	-	15	348
Subscriptions	Usage	30	-	-	30	30
		43,743	83,248	3,062	130,053	135,462

Expenditure in 2019 totalled £135,462 of which £71,091 was attributable to restricted funds and £64,371 to unrestricted funds which included £3,403 relating to governance costs.

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

4a. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Basis of Allocation	Near Neighbours	Bury Park Beech Hill CRCW	IDAI	Working with Women	Events	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Costs directly allocated to activities							
Staff costs (note 5)	34,944	-	-	-	-	34,944	35,123
Programme expenses	14,448	4,325	1,125	8,838	6,167	34,903	25,719
Support costs allocated to activities							
Staff costs - Co-ordinator (note 5)	7,744	2,457	-	-	3,200	13,401	10,249
	57,136	6,782	1,125	8,838	9,367	83,248	71,091

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

5. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
Charity director	34,500	34,500
Community workers	32,000	32,000
Employers National Insurance	2,308	4,793
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Pension contributions	68,808	71,293
	3,670	3,670
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>72,478</u>	<u>74,963</u>

Defined contribution pension expense is allocated to activities based on the time apportionment of the relevant employee.

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2019 same).

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

Administration	1	1
Charitable activities	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

No trustees received any remuneration during the year. Travel costs amounting to £103 (2019 £284) were reimbursed to two (2019 two) trustees.

No trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2019 same).

7. TAXATION

As a charity, Grassroots Programme is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within sections 521 to 536 of the Income Tax Act 2007 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020**

8. STOCK

	2020	2019
	£	£
Finished goods	425	750
	425	750
	425	750

Stock represents fair-trade goods for sale. Stock amounts recognised in expenses are £4,599 (2019 £5,141).

9. DEBTORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other debtors	-	1,298
Prepayments	116	99
Accrued income	23,250	-
	23,366	1,397
	23,366	1,397

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals	1,254	1,230
Taxation and social security	1,167	301
Other creditors	542	519
	2,963	2,050
	2,963	2,050

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Net current assets	45,376	18,064	63,440
	45,376	18,064	63,440
	45,376	18,064	63,440
	£	£	£
Net current assets	26,791	42,911	69,702
	26,791	42,911	69,702
	26,791	42,911	69,702

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted Funds					
Working with Women	5,065	6,120	(8,838)	-	2,347
Bury Park Beech Hill CRCW	2,522	4,260	(6,782)	-	-
IDAI	1,104	-	(1,125)	21	-
Near Neighbours	18,762	48,000	(57,136)	658	10,284
Events	15,458	-	(9,367)	(658)	5,433
	<u>42,911</u>	<u>58,380</u>	<u>(83,248)</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>18,064</u>
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	24,481	53,411	(40,778)	(21)	37,093
Designated funds: Spirituality of Justice	2,310	12,000	(6,027)	-	8,283
	<u>26,791</u>	<u>65,411</u>	<u>(46,805)</u>	<u>(21)</u>	<u>45,376</u>
Total Funds	<u>69,702</u>	<u>123,791</u>	<u>(130,053)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,440</u>

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Restricted Funds					
Working with Women	5,913	7,732	(8,580)	-	5,065
Spirituality of Justice	5,133	-	-	(5,133)	-
Bury Park Beech Hill CRCW	2,615	5,390	(5,483)	-	2,522
IDAI	-	1,104	-	-	1,104
Near Neighbours	3,910	69,180	(54,328)	-	18,762
Events	3,726	13,250	(2,700)	1,182	15,458
	<u>21,297</u>	<u>96,656</u>	<u>(71,091)</u>	<u>(3,951)</u>	<u>42,911</u>
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	7,378	67,433	(49,148)	(1,182)	24,481
Designated funds: Spirituality of Justice	-	12,400	(15,223)	5,133	2,310
	<u>7,378</u>	<u>79,833</u>	<u>(64,371)</u>	<u>3,951</u>	<u>26,791</u>
Total Funds	<u>28,675</u>	<u>176,489</u>	<u>(135,462)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,702</u>

GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

Spirituality of Justice was historically funded by CAFOD being restricted funds. Once that funding ended Northampton RC Diocese funds were used to fund this project and were recorded as restricted funds. However, following a reassessment by the trustees, it was determined that these funds are actually unrestricted, hence the reason for the transfer of £5,133 between restricted and unrestricted funds last year.

Subsequently the trustees set up a designated fund for Spirituality of Justice - being for the promotion of interfaith work across the town.

The balances on the restricted funds will be used to continue the work of the projects in accordance with the terms of the funders. Details of the funds are as follows:

Working with women – Work with women across faiths and cultures for their holistic wellbeing.

Bury Park Beech Hill CRCW – Engaging people in Church Related Community Work.

Near Neighbours – Bringing neighbours together for ‘social action’ and ‘social interaction’.

IDAI – disaster relief following cyclone Idai in Mozambique.

Other Events – includes Luton Borough Council re Maureen Drummond: Providing care for the lonely during the Christmas festive period; Awards for All: Strengthening cohesion in Luton acknowledging work undertaken by GRASSROOTS so far; Westhill Endowment: re Multifaith Storytelling and Vauxhall Motors; Hockwell Ring Community Centre project providing food and entertainment through shared interest.

13. RELATED PARTIES AND CONTROLLING PARTY

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure. (2019 £nil). The charity is controlled by the Trustees.

14. COMMITMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
Within one year	1,500	1,500
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>