

Annual Report



Meeting the challenge of a global pandemic

The disciples considered children to be a noisy nuisance, expecting them to go and play quietly in a corner. Jesus' attitude was totally different, he welcomed the children, he called them to himself, not just to play with them, but to welcome them into the kingdom of God. He saw them as a precious example to us all. (Luke 18v16)

Our goal at Bridge Builders is to work with local Christians and churches to fulfil Jesus' vision, for the children of Stevenage and wider Hertfordshire. Over many years, staff and volunteers have built up good and trusting relationships with many of the local primary schools so we are in the privileged position of being Christians explaining our faith to children, as part of the Religious Education curriculum.

During this year there have been some significant changes at Bridge Builders. At the end of May, Peter Gordon retired as Honorary Director and kindly agreed to become a Trustee, so we have not lost his invaluable financial expertise. Steph Knell has very ably stepped up to be acting Director and to lead Bridge Builders day to day. We have also said farewell to Alex Horlock and Revd. Don Dowling as Trustees and welcomed Penny Paton, Helen Gale and Judy Brown as new Trustees. I would like to thank Peter for his excellent leadership over the last five years and Alex and Don for the tremendous contribution they have made over many years, and to welcome Penny, Helen and Judy.

Covid 19 has severely restricted how we work together. Early on we took the decision to cancel the final two weeks of The Easter Journey 2020 so as to relieve the pressure on partner churches, volunteers and schools to participate in face-to-face activities.

Steph and her team have done a fantastic job in adapting to the CV19 restrictions producing online assemblies and a virtual version of the Christmas Journey that schools can safely use. We have taken advantage of the Government's furlough schemes, making up the staff pay to 100% from Bridge Builders resources, which we will continue so long as finances allow. Most of our costs are associated with paying the salaries of our staff, and as grant giving bodies tend not to fund salaries or operating costs of established organisations, we are very reliant on local Christians and churches supporting the work of Bridge Builders.

Our focus is to continue to work with local schools, even within the tight constraints of the school curriculum and CV19 restrictions. Using modern technology, we are still able to reach out and tell children about the love of God and the salvation of His son Jesus.

The Trustees would like to thank all of our supporters for their continued and generous support for the work of Bridge Builders through prayer, volunteering and financial gifts.

Anthony Taylor Chair of Trustees

Fundraising

We rely on donations to keep our work going. We cover the £8 cost for each child who attends one of our journeys. There are many different ways in which you can support us:

ONE-OFF
GIFT ★



STANDING
ORDER

Shopping online, select Bridge Builders as your beneficiary and we will receive a donation for every £1 you spend

If you're a UK taxpayer completing a Gift Aid Declaration means your donation is worth 25% more.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

giftaid



 **easyfundraising.org.uk**
feel good shopping



Many Thanks

Allchurches Trust, Broadwater Fair Trading, Bunyan Baptist Church, Churches Together In Stevenage, Hertfordshire County Council, Holy Trinity, Great Ashby Community Church, Hockerill Educational Foundation, Longmeadow Evangelical Church, Ravenstone PCC, St. Andrews Church Hertford, St. Hugh & St. John, St Martin's Knebworth, St. Mary's Graveley, St. Mary's Shephall, St. Nicholas, St. Peter's, Sirius Digital Solutions, Stevenage Borough Council, United Reformed Church, Trinity Church Knebworth, and individual donors for your generous support.

An Interesting Year

As many people have found, the last year has been a strange one. At Bridge Builders, we started the academic year with assemblies and lessons running in the Autumn term. The Christmas Journey had 1085 children signed up from 21 schools, across Stevenage and further afield. Four churches hosted The Christmas Journey, and we are thankful for the opportunity to work with those churches, and for the volunteers who made The Christmas Journey possible.

The Easter Journey also started well, with 1120 children booked into six churches in Stevenage, Knebworth and Hertford. However, the Covid-19 pandemic was starting to have an impact, and after one week of The Easter Journey we made the hard decision to cancel the rest of the event. A week after we made that decision, the whole country was in lockdown. We are aware that it was extremely disappointing for those churches who couldn't be involved, and we are praying that we will be able to work with those churches again in the years to come.

The rest of the year was spent making plans for this academic year, and changing those plans as the pandemic developed! We are grateful for the thinking, and work, that Inga Voss (ExploRE Manager – Journeys) put in towards a Virtual Christmas Journey before she left us at the end of the summer term. That planning has stood us in very good stead as we have started the new academic year.

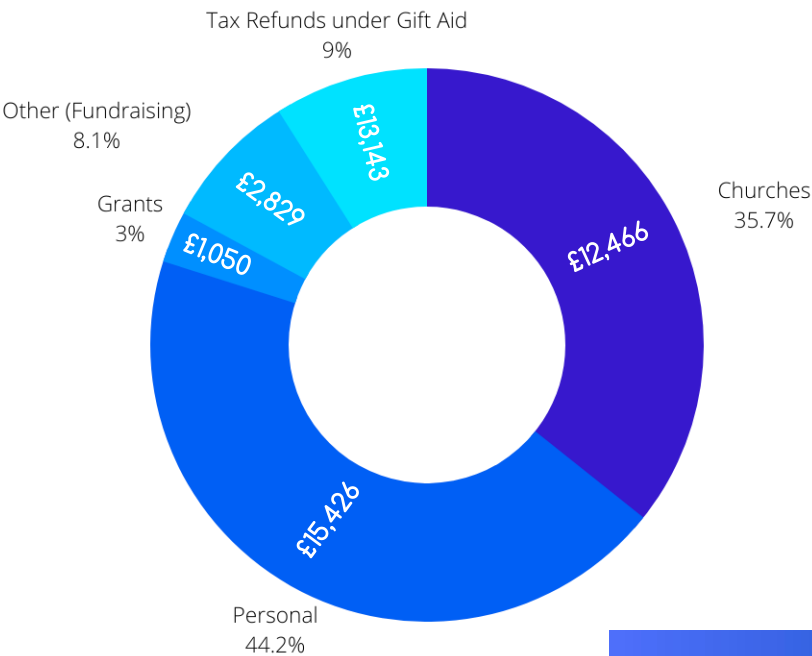
As this new year began we changed the way we worked. Assemblies have been recorded and put on our YouTube channel for schools to access – do have a look. We have also recorded a Virtual Christmas Journey, so children don't miss the opportunity to hear about Jesus this Christmas. Through all these changes, our desire remains the same; to introduce Jesus to the children of Stevenage and beyond. We long for each child to have an opportunity to think about who Jesus is, and for Him to have an impact on their lives. Life may have changed but our mission has not.

Steph Knell Acting Director

Income & Expenditure

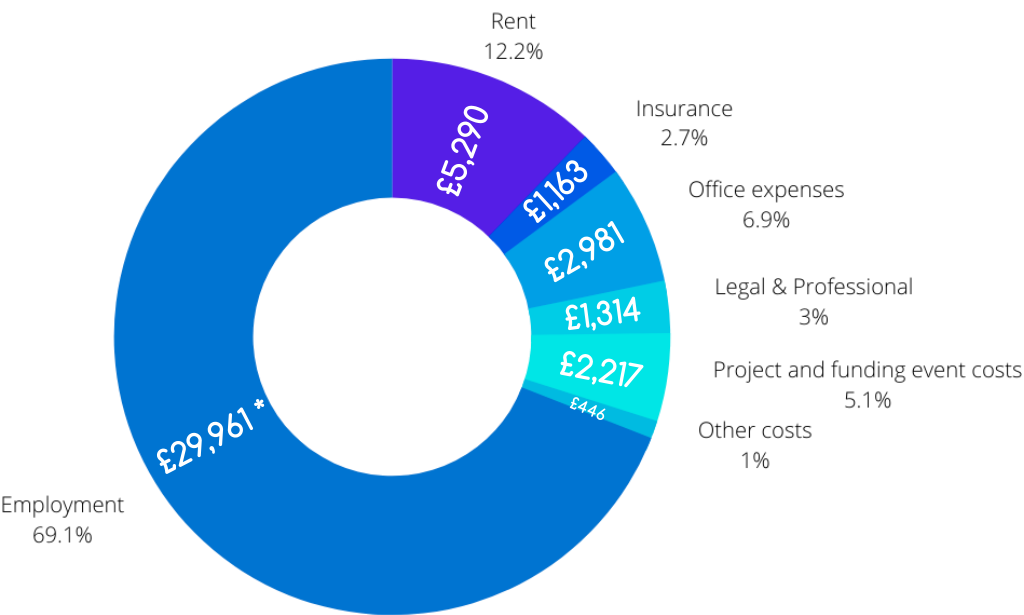
2019-2020

Income



Total income £34,915

Expenditure



* Offset of £4,658 HMRC JRS Grant

Total expenditure £38,714

The Christmas Journey

2019

An Encouragement

We have received many wonderful and encouraging comments from teachers, children and visitors who came along to The Christmas Journey.

"I learnt there were different people at the birth of Jesus. I learnt that Jesus was a king."



"It was lovely to see the children engaging with the Christmas story and they enjoyed the activities and having their completed passports to take home. Congratulations to all the volunteers from local churches who join to give them this experience and remind them of the true meaning of Christmas. "

"We loved our visit. Having the opportunity to see the story in a church environment was very beneficial. We loved the volunteers' enthusiasm."



The Team

Staff Team

Mr Peter Gordon—Honorary Director (retired June 2020)

Mrs Stephanie Knell—Acting Director from June 2020 / ExploRE Manager

Mrs Janice Hawketts—Finance and IT Manager

Miss Natalie James—Schools Worker

Mrs Karen Ashton—Administrator

Mrs Amanda Bryant—Communications officer and administrator

Trustees

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)

Mr Peter Gordon (June 2020)

Revd Don Dowling (resigned Jul 20)

Revd. Steven Cooper

Mrs Alexandra Horlock (resigned Dec 19)

Mrs Penny Paton

Mrs Helen Gale

Mrs Judy Brown



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St Paul's Methodist Church, Turpins Rise, Stevenage, SG2 8QR

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2020

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2020

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bridge Builders Christian Trust
St Paul's Methodist Church
Turpins Rise
Stevenage
Herts. SG2 8QR

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust dated 1 March 2001

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 10888:

TRUSTEES

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)
Rev. Donald Dowling (resigned 14 July 2020)
Rev. Steven Cooper
Mrs Alexandra Horlock (Resigned 12 Dec 2019)
Mrs Helen Gale (appointed 26 Sept 2019)
Mrs Penelope Paton (appointed (26 Sept 2019)
Mrs Judith Brown (appointed 26 Mar 2020)
Mr Peter Gordon (appointed 1 June 2020)

BANKERS

Barclays Bank
Unit 3, The Forum Centre
Stevenage, SG1 1ES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mr William Anderson

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Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2020

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the charity

To advance the Christian faith

To advance education in accordance with Christian principles

To provide facilities in the interest of social welfare

The vision of the Trust is that all children will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, and to look forward with hope as they experience Christian love in action.

The mission is to reach out to primary school children, and introduce them to Christian faith and love through conducting Christian Assemblies and teaching Christian religious education in schools in conjunction with local churches, and by organising themed visits to churches.

Government

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet formally six times each year to monitor the activities of the charity, to set policy and overall direction.

There are currently six Trustees. New trustees are appointed by the Trustees who seek committed Christians with broad experience representing a wide range of denominations.

Day to day operations are run by a part time Acting Director supported by a number of part-time highly motivated professionals working in schools or supporting the activities from the central resource centre.

Review of Activities

During the year just completed some **4,500** children have been involved in activities led by Bridge Builders in schools and churches. These activities have included visits of 1085 year 2 children to three churches where they learn about the characters and the events around the Christmas Journey, many attending assemblies in schools. This year RE lessons were delivered to years 1 through 5 in one schools reaching 540 children.

This year out of the 1120 children that were booked to come to Easter Journey only 290 were able to attend the two hosting churches during the first week as we had to cancel after this first week due to the Coronavirus COVID19 pandemic.

Financial Review

In the year to 31st August 2020 the Trust had income of £34,915 and expenditures of £38,714 leaving a deficit in the year of £3,799.

The income derived mainly from personal giving, including associated Gift Aid £18,569; from local partnering churches, £12,467 and from sale of lessons £500

Expenditure in the year was mainly for payroll costs, £29,961 offset by the HMRC JRS Grant £4,658 when some staff were furloughed due to the Covid19 pandemic; Rent of Resource Centre, £5,290; Insurance £1,163 and HR consultancy £1,314.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have decided that a reserve of cash and other current assets less current liabilities is held, sufficient to fund an orderly wind down of the activities of the Charity, should that ever become necessary. Currently this reserve is estimated to be a minimum of £20,000. At the end of the accounting year reserves stood at £32,405, £3,495 of which is committed to the completion of an IT related project part funded by a grant from Allchurches Trust.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the income & expenditure of the charity for the year.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Anthony Taylor

19 January 2021

Anthony Taylor
Chair of Trustees

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2020

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bridge Builders Christian Trust for the year ended 31 August 2020 on pages 5 to 7 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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.

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.

William Anderson

William Anderson
Address:
6 The Green
Park Lane
Old Knebworth
Herts. SG3 6QN

Date: *19 January 2021*

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2020

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted General	2020 £	2019 £
Income					
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Grants and gifts received		1,438	27,505	28,944	22,968
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		39	3,104	3,143	2,827
		<u>1,477</u>	<u>30,609</u>	<u>32,086</u>	<u>25,795</u>
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received			53	53	47
Other		697	2,080	2,777	4,001
Total Income		<u>2,174</u>	<u>32,742</u>	<u>34,915</u>	<u>29,843</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Payment in furtherance of the Trust's objectives</i>					
Direct costs	2	27,683	11,031	38,714	43,749
Total Expenditure		<u>27,683</u>	<u>11,031</u>	<u>38,714</u>	<u>43,749</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		£ (25,509)	£ 21,711	£ (3,799)	£ (13,906)
Transfers between funds	4	£ 25,509	£ (25,509)	£ -	£ -
Net Movement in Funds		£ -	£ (3,799)	£ (3,799)	£ (13,906)
Balances brought forward		£ 3,495	£ 32,709	£ 36,204	£ 50,110
Balances carried Forward		<u>£ 3,495</u>	<u>£ 28,910</u>	<u>£ 32,405</u>	<u>£ 36,204</u>

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2020

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1. Bank & Cash Balances	2020	2019
	£	£
Held at Bank	30,334	35,323
Cash float	24	73
	<u>30,358</u>	<u>35,396</u>
 2. Other Assets & Liabilities		
<i>Assets</i>		
Debtors	1,926	1,574
Other monetary assets	188	188
	<u>2,114</u>	<u>1,762</u>
 <i>Liabilities</i>		
Creditors & Accruals	66	954
	<u>66</u>	<u>954</u>

Except where indicated in note 4 or above, all the assets and liabilities are in respect of the charity's unrestricted funds.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by *Anthony Taylor*

Anthony Taylor

date *19 January 2021*

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

For the Year Ended 31st August 2020

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNT

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Direct costs

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Employment costs (Note 3)	-	29,961	29,961	29,248
HMRC JRS Grant		(4,658)	(4,658)	-
Rent	5,290	-	5,290	5,210
Insurance	1,163	-	1,163	1,138
Office Expenses	2,929	52	2,981	2,927
Legal & Professional	1,314	-	1,314	1,797
Materials and Resources	70	2,147	2,217	1,589
Minor Equipment	-	-	-	654
	-	-	-	-
Independent examination	265	181	446	1,187
Other costs	11,031	27,683	38,714	43,750

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were nil.

3. Employees

The charity had 6 part time employees up to 31st July 2020 and at 31 August 2020 there were 5 part time employees, to whom the employment costs above refer.

HMRC Job Retention Scheme (JRS) was introduced in March 2020 in response to the Covid19 pandemic

No amounts were paid or are payable to any trustee or to any person connected to them.

4. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 31st Aug 19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Aug 20 £
Restricted Funds					
ExploRE		2,174	(27,683)	25,509	-
IT Project	3,495				3,495
Total Restricted	3,495	2,174	(27,683)	25,509	3,495
Unrestricted Funds					
General Reserves	32,709	32,742	(11,031)	(25,509)	28,910
Total All Funds	36,204	34,915	(38,714)	-	32,405