

The Independent Schools Christian Alliance

Report and Accounts

year ended 31 August 2020

stewardship[®]

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THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	PO Box 17634 Redditch B97 9RW
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Declaration of Trust dated 19 December 1994, amended April 1995
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1047025
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Mr R J Court (Chairman) Mr R Backhouse (resigned June 2020) Rev. A Buckley Mrs S E Griffiths Rev. J Houghton Rev. A Hutchinson Mrs F Knight Mr N Patterson Mr A Spencer Mrs E Taylor Rev. G J Williams J Wright (appointed June 2020)
BANKERS	Barclays Bank plc CAF Bank Ltd
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Jaimée Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Objects of the charity

The charity, is constituted as a trust governed by a trust deed. The charity's principal objects, as set out in its governing document, are to promote and advance evangelical Christian education and to advance education generally, and to advance the Christian religion generally.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

See pages 4 to 6 for full report.

Financial review

During the year income (excluding sale of investments) increased by £1,750, to £37,300, and expenditure decreased by £6,700, to £37,400. As a result the cash held by the charity decreased by £100, to £11,100, of which all is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Reserves policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £44,000 (which equates to approximately 12 months' of unrestricted expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £11,100 and £47,000 in investments. The charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rests with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

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

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

R J Court (Chairman)

Date: 11 March 2021

Review of the Trust's Activities: 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020

The TISCA year begins in tandem with the schools' academic year. The annual mailing was sent out to all members in the first week of September 2019. This included TISCA News and Views (TNV) No. 79, membership renewal forms and a special letter from the Chairman, Robert Court (regarding our 2019 Review process), as well as the latest in our series of Bible Study notes for teachers entitled *Slow Food*. This edition of TNV focused on the June Conference (on *Artificial Intelligence and Human dignity*), a focus on overseas' members and on Christian camps. Response to the mailing was good: **members** renewed their subscription promptly and others joined for the first time. We continued with the policy of preparing formal invoices for schools (and emailing these out with a personalised letter) which have in the past provided generous support for TISCA by paying a subscription as Foundation or Associate Schools of TISCA. The response to this approach was again gratifying, with most of the schools paying up promptly and cheerfully. We now have two Academies in membership and hope to continue to reach out to these 'semi-independent' schools in the future. An encouraging number of individual members now pay their subscriptions by Standing Order, which provides a greater degree of financial security as we look to the future.

The TISCA **Training Day for Prefects in Senior Schools** (age 16 and above) was held at Dean Close School in September 2019. It was again successful, appreciated both by the prefects who attended and by the schools which sent them. The day was led for the fourth time by John Ash, the Dean Close Chaplain, with help from Emma Taylor, Bradley Salisbury, and David Evans (all Senior Leaders at Dean Close). With 40 pupils attending, from 9 different schools, it was our most extensive and popular prefects' training in recent times.

In September 2019 we again organized a **Training Day for Prefects in Prep Schools** or the Junior Departments of all-through schools. This was held at Kingham Hill School, near Oxford. It was headed up by Andrew Savage and Helena Berkeley, both senior staff members at Kingham Hill, with help from the school's senior prefects and Pastoral Assistants (GAP year students). Some 20 prefects attended, from two schools, and it was a profitable and enjoyable day, well run by Kingham Hill. (We have noted that many Junior Schools now run their own, localised, leadership programmes and also there are fewer Prep Schools selecting a small group of Prefects at the start of the academic year. This may impact further such events.)

Evaluation sheets and feedback from Heads suggested that both these Prefects' Training Days were valuable. We accordingly decided to run Training Days again in September 2020.

In October 2019, we worked together with the **Christian Coalition for Education** (CCfE) to put on a day conference at Kingham Hill School on '*Plural Britain*'. There were 50 delegates and we listened to the Head of Broadway Academy (now a TISCA school) speak about the challenges of leading a school in a multi-cultural part of Birmingham. In many senses, this conference was a wonderful precursor for the growing emphasis on racial issues (for some evident in the Black Lives Matter movement) which was a key cultural focus in the UK in 2020. At this same '*Plural Britain*' conference, TISCA began a cooperation with ACT (Association of Christian Teachers) which has been a key consideration for the charity as we go into 2020-21.

Radley College was the venue in mid-November for our annual **Heads' evening** meeting. John Moule, the Warden, hosted 16 of us and gave us a tour of the College (including the chapel which is being extended), a challenging talk on Christian leadership and a sumptuous meal which facilitated excellent fellowship. Also in November, we held the first of 5 planned **regional meetings** for the academic year. This was in 'the north' at Birkdale School in Sheffield. We were delighted to welcome a good contingent from St David's College in Wales, as well as from Bethany School in Sheffield, a member of the Christian Schools Trust (CST) with which we have also been forging links. The theme for this meeting was, '*What will it be like to be a Christian teacher in school in five years' time?*' This was led by the General Secretary. Once again, a good time of fellowship was had over a post-meeting meal.

The Autumn Term 2019, saw the General Secretary and the Development Officer, attend meetings with **CCfE** (Christian Coalition for Education), **CCE** (Centre for Chaplains in Education) and the **EA** (Evangelical Alliance) Forum for Education. We were also able to visit a number of schools for events (as already detailed) and some (such as Thames Christian School) as part of a drive to visit 'TISCA schools'.

At the start of the Spring Term 2020, we attended **regional meetings** in London Central (Dolphin School), London West (Luckley) and the South (Canford). We had over 60 people attend across all three meetings with the Canford gathering being the largest at nearly 30 persons. Again the theme was '*what might life be like for Christian teachers in 5 years' time?*' and we also had presentations from Joe Lowther of '*Kick London*' at Dolphin School, Andy Prichard of Elstree School (and the '*Blockbuster Bible*') at Luckley and from Marcus Paul (former Deputy at Queen's Taunton) at Canford on giving talks in assemblies. Each occasion was very encouraging with much shared and enjoyed over the post-meeting meal. These gatherings really do enable staff who can't manage main meetings to feel a sense of community and belonging to the work of TISCA. One school (Castle Court Prep) also brought non-teaching staff to the Canford meeting and there were a number of governors in attendance across these meetings.

In March 2020, we held our first '**Keynote Conference**' on the theme '*Legal issues and practical advice for Schools with Christian roots or ethos*' which was attended by Heads, Chaplains and Governors. Some 57 people were there (67 booked in) and represented a large cross-section of independent schools (30), including a number from the CST (Christian Schools Trust). The feedback was very positive and next year we plan to provide one for emerging Christian leaders in schools with the help of ACT – and in the same, central, Westminster venue. We were kindly sponsored by *Carnelian Search*, a Christian based 'high

end' employment search company and this allowed us to offer some conference ticket bursaries. We were also grateful to the speakers from the Christian Institute, the ISA (Independent Schools Association), Barlow-Robbins Lawyers and the Christian Legal Centre for giving their time without charge.

In March 2020, the General Secretary was able to attend a **leadership conference** at Windlesham House Prep School – the final in-person event pre 'lockdown' - and in May TISCA was admitted into membership of the Religious Education Council (REC), a national body which advises government on the content of the RE curriculum for schools.

From April through to the end of the academic year, owing to the nationwide lockdown caused by COVID-19, we had to cancel our remaining regional meeting (East Region) and our Annual Conference but we were grateful that the bulk of our in-person events were pre-April 2020. In many ways we became busier **during lockdown**: our monthly online TNV (TISCA News and Views) was launched, another print edition of TNV published in a new format and we were re-branded. Much of these new developments came out of a members' **review** conducted during Autumn 2019 by an online and print survey. This had a very pleasing response and has enabled us to engage even more fully with our members and linked organisations. During the Spring / Summer lockdown 2020, we set up twice weekly Chaplains' 'share and prayer' via Zoom (attended by over 30 chaplains at various times over the period), established a Heads' WhatsApp group – and significantly developed the Chaplains' group. We found ourselves being approached more for support (prayer, advice and resources) by members and some non-members. As with many charities, this time has been challenging but it has also been productive and fruitful.

Over the course of the year we had two changes in our **Trustees' body**: Richard Backhouse (Principal at Berkhamsted School) stepped down as he took up more responsibility with the HMC (Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference) ; Joanna Wright (Head at King Edward's Witley) has joined the Trustees.

Our **objectives** are set to reflect the educational and charitable aims of TISCA. In setting our objectives and planning our activities the TISCA Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. They are satisfied that the activities described above provide clear and substantial public benefit.

Alastair Reid
General Secretary
December 2020

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Independent Schools Christian Alliance ('the charity') for the year ended 31 August 2020 on pages 8 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jaimée Young

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 15 March 2021

THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			Total	Total
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts					
Donations, legacies and grants	13,730	-	-	13,730	8,507
Gift aid receipts	1,514	-	-	1,514	3,783
Conference and other events	6,332	-	-	6,332	11,284
Membership subscriptions:					
School membership	13,005	-	-	13,005	8,665
Prefects Training	1,235	-	-	1,235	1,265
Investment income	1,471	-	-	1,471	1,637
Other	16	-	-	16	411
	<u>37,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,302</u>	<u>35,551</u>
Capital and similar receipts					
Sale of investments	-	-	-	-	8,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total receipts	<u>37,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,302</u>	<u>43,551</u>
Payments					
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2 37,379	-	25	37,404	44,111
Total payments	<u>37,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>37,404</u>	<u>44,111</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers	(77)	-	(25)	(102)	(561)
Transfers between funds	4 -	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>(77)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(25)</u>	<u>(102)</u>	<u>(561)</u>
Cash funds as at last year end	11,152	-	25	11,177	11,738
Cash funds at this year end	A <u>11,075</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,075</u>	<u>11,177</u>

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	funds	2020	2019
	funds	funds	funds		
	£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds					
Held at Bank	4,075	-	-	4,075	4,177
Held in term deposits	7,000	-	-	7,000	7,000
	<u>11,075</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,075</u>	<u>11,177</u>
B Investments					
COIF Charities Investment Fund: 2,815.37 (2018: 3,333.55) income shares					
Unit price (pence per unit)				1,678	1,631
Market value at 30 June 2020	<u>47,240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,240</u>	<u>45,924</u>
C Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	228	-	-	228	283
Prepaid conference events (postponed due to lockdown)	2,376	-	-	2,376	-
	<u>2,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,604</u>	<u>283</u>
D Liabilities					
PAYE and pension	414	-	-	414	422
Fee for Independent Examination	696	-	-	696	690
Conference attendance fees received in advance	955	-	-	955	940
	<u>2,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,065</u>	<u>2,052</u>

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

by R J Court (Chairman) date 11 March 2021

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated	Funds	2020	2019
		funds	funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly						
Employment costs	Note 3	25,155	-	-	25,155	26,573
Conference costs		5,021	-	-	5,021	9,507
Software and support		816	-	-	816	501
Insurance		866	-	-	866	749
Printing		1,151	-	-	1,151	1,404
Postage and stationery		1,789	-	-	1,789	1,433
Accounts and examination		690	-	-	690	660
Travel		911	-	-	911	102
Regional and trustee expenses		263	-	-	263	-
Bursary and other grants		-	-	-	-	2,200
Other costs		717	-	25	742	983
		<u>37,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>37,404</u>	<u>44,111</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

At the year end the charity had two employees, to whom the employment costs above refer.

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

4 Movement of funds

	Balance at 31Aug2019	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31Aug2020
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	11,152	37,302	(37,379)	-	11,075
	<u>11,152</u>	<u>37,302</u>	<u>(37,379)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,075</u>
Restricted funds					
Gift for employee	25	-	(25)	-	-
	<u>25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(25)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>11,177</u>	<u>37,302</u>	<u>(37,404)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,075</u>