



Gloucestershire
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Annual Report 2021-22

Governance and Public Benefit

Our trustees are appointed and reappointed at our trustee's meeting in accordance with our constitution. Trustees are appointed for a three year term. All trustees are voluntary and give of their time and expertise without receiving remuneration or benefit. Trustees meet approximately ten times a year.

The charity adheres to all current child protection legislation and adheres to good practice guidelines in all areas of its work. Youth for Christ Gloucestershire is an affiliated member of British Youth for Christ. Whilst operating as an independent charity Youth For Christ Gloucestershire is a chartered ministry of British Youth For Christ and receives support and advice from them.

Our Trustees

Rod Pellereau (Chair person) Rob Goldsmith Steph Rollinson

Helen Howes Yemi Alabi

Our aim

Our aim is to see Good News taken to every young person in Gloucestershire. This will be done in a variety of ways and through many different people. Our approach is to enhance the personal, social and spiritual development of young people through encounters with Christianity. We seek to see young people's lives changed by Jesus. We believe this can only be achieved when we work in partnership with churches, charities and other youth organisations.

Main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Our work provides support for young people of any or no faith group. We seek to provide for their social, personal and spiritual needs. Following a staggered return to a normal routine during the previous year, we were able to continue to develop the work this year. We saw an increase in the number of young people we contacted, as well as increased the frequency of these contacts. Online groups have been replaced with face to face groups, alongside some hybrid groups. We have continued to increase our contacts in schools, but are at a much lower level than pre-covid. We are trying to balance new work we have developed during the pandemic alongside picking up our previous work. Over time, we will establish a balance that see a good combination of the two.

One area of work we have developed this year is a support scheme for young people who are unemployed. This focuses on the individual and is not group based. Support is tailored to the young person's needs and involves mentoring around issues related to job seeking, as well as other areas of support they may need. We have also been able to continue supporting young

people through mentoring support projects in local schools. We continue to receive reports from schools as to the positive impact this mentoring has on young people. We have enhanced this support this year by training our team as Mental Health First Aiders. We have also facilitated some wider mental health training for those involved in youth work with local churches. We have continued to see growth within the youth groups we provide. This growth is a combination of young people returning post covid, but more significantly, a good number of new young people who are looking for connection and support. In our youth groups, we aim to create safe communities that allow young people to develop the confidence and skills to navigate their teenage years and work through the challenges and joys this can bring. Our work with young people from the Christian community enables them to live lives that involve active and positive participation in their peer groups and society in general. These young people are also given the opportunity to develop leadership skills to benefit them in their transition into the workforce. We continue to see significant growth in the young people's confidence and leadership ability involved in our young leaders' training group. We have involvement in our church-based youth work provision through our partnership with Anglican churches in the South Cheltenham area. We are also assisting the West Cheltenham team of churches develop their youth provision. In the first instance, we are running a group for them with the aim of developing a volunteer team. Also, we support a variety of other churches from a broad denominational background through training, advice, resources and practical support.



Director's Report

After a challenging year last year, this year seemed to be a step forward with new hope. Restrictions and uncertainty still played a significant part, but we began to progress in growing back our work.

The year started with the launch of our new project to support young people looking for work. Whilst the pandemic did not bring the levels of unemployment many expected, young people were disproportionately affected. Job-seeking can be challenging for many young people, particularly those with low academic achievement. We have sought to create a support structure for young people that meets their needs. Providing this level of support is more intensive and involves more mentoring than group-based support. We set up the scheme and give support around CV writing, job searching, application writing, interview skills and support in starting work where needed. We provide help with suitable clothes for interviews and starting work where required. In addition, our links with the local foodbank enable us to signpost young people to them where their support is needed. In turn, they have signposted young people to us to receive job-seeking support. The first young person who



Jess was the first young person to be supported by our unemployment project. She has now been in employment for over a year.

came to us got a job very quickly following support around CV writing, interview skills and application support. They told us that other people had described them as a lost cause. We assured them that this was not the case. When they submitted their final application on their first day with us, they whispered under their breath, "And they told me I couldn't do it." She later told someone that Youth for Christ "believed in me". We did indeed, as did one of the employers she applied to, as she got a job and has remained in the role to this day. As we worked with other young people, it became clear that unemployment may be one aspect of their lives for which the young people would need support, but other issues were sometimes more pressing. We have also helped young

people navigate the housing system, avoid rough sleeping and support them in gaining additional professional support. Support for young people facing challenges around mental health issues is an aspect of all of our work, and the unemployment project is no exception.

The need for Mental Health training for our team has grown, and we are pleased that this year we have seen a number of the team become Mental Health First Aiders. We have also broadened this training by facilitating a number of volunteers in local churches to become trained in Mental Health support for young people.

With growing needs and awareness that finances for the charity sector were still precarious following the pandemic, we undertook a significant sponsored challenge. Ten people set out to walk the



The team of walkers about to set off on their 100 mile walk, starting at Bath Abbey.. In total they raised over £20,000 for our work.

Cotswold Way (just over 100 miles) in five days. Despite many blisters, the group completed the task and, in the process, raised over £20,000, making a massive difference to us. The team's efforts have enabled us to begin the process of recruiting an additional member of the team.

We have been delivering regular assemblies in local primary schools throughout the year. This regular contact also led to us providing several "transition to secondary school" sessions with Year 6 students and an opportunity to talk to Year 6 students at one school's leaving service. Regular school visits have also opened up opportunities to provide RE lessons in schools. The other area of our work in schools that has continued to grow is our mentoring. We cannot keep up with the level of demand for this service. Whilst we see this as important, we recognise that we are not a mentoring organisation and are aware that this forms a part of our portfolio of work, but we need to keep it in balance with our other work.

Elsewhere, we continue to support the South Cheltenham Churches with a youth worker. Their youth work continues to grow, and Hanna is providing a good service that is seeing young people develop. We have also begun to support the West Cheltenham Parish this year. We are providing a fortnightly youth group whilst they lack volunteers. The intention is that they find new volunteers, and we will support and equip them whilst they grow in confidence to a point where they can take ownership of the group.

Our most significant area of work in supporting churches was our Break Away youth weekend. We first launched Break Away in February 2020. It was our first residential for local church groups. Many churches would struggle to have the resources to run a residential for their group. By running a residential open to all church groups, we provide all the benefits of a residential whilst taking on all the work. It also means that smaller groups experience a residential in a larger group setting. Additionally, it gathers young people from across churches and the region to gather together. After an enforced break, we ran our second residential in 2022. Around 30 young people and leaders attended the weekend. The response was positive, and all the groups wanted to see the residential



Our Breakaway residential was a great success.

happen in 2023. During the weekend, six young people made decisions to follow Jesus. We made a financial loss on the weekend, but we are aware that this will not be the case as it grows. We anticipate that we should at least break even when we run the weekend in 2023.

As part of our commitment to British Youth for

Christ, we have also established and launched a new Youth for Christ centre in Plymouth. We have delivered training in the South West region and are exploring with leaders in Southampton about the possibility of developing a Youth for Christ Centre in the area.

As we finished the year, we were understaffed. The year ahead will be challenging until we can recruit to fill our vacancy. This will temporarily reduce our ability to deliver and require us to focus on the most critical parts of our work. The support from our donors has been fantastic and places us in a good position moving forward. We always walk a delicate balance between stepping out in faith and wise stewardship. Both of these things can work hand in hand, but it can be a challenging balancing act. Without our fantastic supporters, we would not be able to achieve all we do.

The year ahead will bring about a lot of change, but we are as convinced as ever that we are working with a generation of young people who need hope. We know that as we seek to see young people's lives changed by Jesus, we will be able to be part of bringing transformation to their lives.

Paul Bennett Director



Finance report

This financial year has been positive in many ways. Our income saw a significant rise this year. This increase was due to the Cotswold Way Challenge fundraiser. This has led to a significant increase in our reserves. In time, this will be used for further recruitment. It provides a solid base with which we will be able to seed fund a new post. With the cost of living becoming a real issue for people, we are mindful of the fact that a majority of our income comes from individuals, either through regular or occasional donations, or through fundraising events. We are keeping a close eye on the situation and working hard to maintain this income, whilst trying to develop it where possible. So far, people have indicated their desire to continue to support our work.

Whilst we saw a jump in income, the same was true of our expenditure. Following a year more heavily affected by Covid, our youth work delivery grew, along with the cost. The most significant part of this was our Break Away residential. Travel expenses have begun to return to pre-covid levels and we have also invested in youth work for the team and local church volunteers.

As we move in to the new financial year we expect our costs to stabilise in many areas, but are mindful of the cost of living increases being seen. Initially, they will reduce as we seek to fill a recently vacated staff post. We are aware that the current recruitment environment in the sector is challenging, so understand that this post may be vacant for a while.

We would like to thank all those who have given to our work to ensure that we can continue to see young people's lives changed by Jesus.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GLOUCESTERSHIRE				
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022				
	Notes	2021/2022	2020/2021	
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	1	1317	2,708	
	<i>Total fixed assets</i>	1317	2,708	
Current Assets				
Debtors	2	3424	1,537	
Cash at bank and in hand	3	42030	23,346	
	<i>Total current assets</i>	45455	24,883	
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	3111	2,104	
	<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	42344	22,779	
	<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>	43661	25,487	
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year				
TOTAL NET ASSETS OR LIABILITIES		43661	25,487	

Reserves

Opening reserves	25486	16,480
Surplus/(deficit) for year	18175	9,006
Closing reserves	43661	25,486

Independent Examiner:

AJEK FCA

Date: 6.1.23

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Notes to the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	2021/2022	2020/2021
1 Tangible Assets		
Furniture, IT, etc	13,223	13,108
Accumulated depreciation	11,906	10,400
	<u>1,317</u>	<u>2,708</u>
2 Debtors		
Prepaid Expense	124	27
Accounts receivable	2,268	484
Deposit held by landlord	500	500
Recoverable Gift Aid	532	526
	<u>3,424</u>	<u>1537</u>
3 Cash at bank and in hand		
RBS - Current a/c	3,954	3,137
CAF Cash	3,037	7,686
CAF Gold	35,029	12,523
Paypal	11	0
	<u>42,030</u>	<u>23,346</u>
4 Creditors (due within one year)		
Accounts payable	409	634
Accrued expenses	2,702	1470
	<u>3,111</u>	<u>2104</u>

Amount due to HMRC for NI & tax was overstated by £121.92 and has been restated for the 2020/21 accounts to correct the retained income at the beginning of the year

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Statement of financial activities as at 31 March 2022

	2021/2022	2020/2021
Income from:		
Donations and legacies	55,893	56,922
Charitable activities	65,830	41,182
Investments	9	10
TOTAL	121,732	98,114
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	102,052	86,999
TOTAL	102,052	86,999
Net gains/(losses) on investments	0	0
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	19,681	11,115
Other recognised gains/(losses)		
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of assets	1,506	2,109
NET Movement in funds	18,175	9,006

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2022

	2021/2022	2020/2021
INCOME		
Donations and Legacies		
Gift aided donations	24,540	24,828
GASDS	803	20
Non gift aided donations	10,164	12,243
Church donations	13,139	11,063
Trusts	0	0
Other - Companies	300	300
Legacy donations	0	0
Gift Aid Receivable	6,748	7,113
Local Grants	200	1,355
	55,893	56,922
Charitable activities		
Fundraising events	23,141	4,406
Resources - YFC	756	1,569
Sales of resources	100	65
Church Partnership	27,394	25,109
Job retention scheme	275	8,657
Statutory sick pay	0	377
Other income - Youth Activities	4,847	0
Other income	9,318	999
	65,830	41,182
Investments		
Bank Interest	9	10
Bank Transfers/Balance Sheet	0	0
	9	10

EXPENDITURE	2021/2022	2020/2021
Charitable activities		
Advertising	0	48
Affiliation fees	125	154
Bank fees	111	69
Cost of fundraising events	1,212	4
Equipment purchased (not assets)	551	1,139
Equipment Lease or Rental	1,628	1,344
Flowers & gifts	113	144
Gross Salaries & Wages	77,386	72,721
Insurance – Property & Contents	842	802
IT Costs	528	531
Local Ministries	478	5
National insurance contributions - employers	2,411	1,836
Office cleaning materials	0	183
Pension contributions - employer	2,219	2,117
Postage & Delivery	469	574
Printing and Stationery	475	494
Refreshments	91	6
Rent Expense	3,600	3,600
Repairs & Maintenance	3	0
Resources for resale	0	0
Staff expenses	1,001	267
Telephone & Internet	620	1,417
Training	2,044	227
Travel Expense	1,034	13
YFC Resources	810	1,001
Youth work activities	4,225	-1,697
Other expenses	75	0
	102,052	86,999
Gains/(losses) on fixed assets		
Depreciation for the year	1,506	2,109
	1,506	2,109
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	18,175	9,006

Youth For Christ Gloucestershire, 115 St. George's Road
Cheltenham. GL50 3ED
01242 524408
office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk
www.yfcgloucestershire.co.uk
Charity no: 1163587



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