

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Churches Together In South Tyneside

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2017

Charity no
(if any)

1153612

Set out on pages

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

L. Anderson

Date:

20.4.18

Name:

LYNN ANDERSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

A.C.I.S., A.C.M.A.

Address:

56 BEACONSIDE

SOUTH SHIELDS

NE36 7PX

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Churches Together South Tyneside

1153612

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/01/2017

To

31/12/2017

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Churches Together General | 555 | - | - | 555 | 506 |
| Donations & Bag Packs | 294 | - | - | 294 | |
| Donations Poverty Alleviation | | | | | |
| Other Project Grant Income | - | 12,147 | - | 12,147 | |
| Poverty Alleviation | - | 7,562 | - | 7,562 | 11,825 |
| Happy at Home Project | 12,180 | 16,748 | - | 28,928 | 35,916 |
| Street Angels Project | 7,211 | 6,000 | - | 13,211 | 6,242 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 20,240 | 42,457 | - | 62,697 | 54,489 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 20,240 | 42,457 | - | 62,697 | 54,489 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Churches Together General | - | - | - | - | |
| Printing, Postage, Office Expenses | 428 | - | - | 428 | 379 |
| Subscriptions | 14 | - | - | 14 | 79 |
| Events | 426 | - | - | 426 | 385 |
| Insurance | 514 | - | - | 514 | 591 |
| Food Banks Transfer | - | 16,062 | - | 16,062 | |
| Poverty Alleviation | - | 3,700 | - | 3,700 | 11,036 |
| Happy at Home | 16,199 | 18,125 | - | 34,324 | 21,581 |
| Street Angels Project | 4,475 | 6,000 | - | 10,475 | 8,441 |
| Sub total | 22,055 | 43,887 | - | 65,942 | 42,492 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 22,055 | 43,887 | - | 65,942 | 42,492 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | - 1,815 | - 1,430 | - | - 3,245 | 11,997 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 25,361 | 16,251 | - | 41,612 | - |
| Cash funds this year end | 23,546 | 14,821 | - | 38,367 | 11,997 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Churches Together | 3,407 | 53 | - |
| | Happy at Home | 13,761 | 13,374 | - |
| | Street Angels | 6,377 | 1,500 | - |
| | Total cash funds | 23,546 | 14,821 | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |

| | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B3 Investment assets | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| B5 Liabilities | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------|
| A Tennet | ANDREY TENNET | 22.4.18 |
| B Askins | BERNADETTE ASKINS | 22.4.18 |

Churches Together in South Tyneside

Annual Report for Financial Year: January 1st 2017– December 31st 2017

Charity's Name:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

Any other name the Charity uses: **Churches Together South Tyneside; CTST**

Charity's Number: 1153612

Charity's Registered Address:

52 Lawe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2AL

Names of Charity's Trustees on Wednesday 25th April 2018

See list of current trustees on AGM agenda; names for 2017- to be added after the meeting

The following were also trustees during the year of this report, but have stood down:

Stuart Bain (resigned January 2018)

Judith Oldroyd (resigned April 2018)

Structure, Governance and management

CTST is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The present constitution of CTST was finalised on August 22 2013. It outlines the objects, powers, policy on income, property and controls about payments, regulations re charity trustees and connected persons, conflicts of interest and loyalty, liabilities, membership, decision making, and meetings.

CTST has trustees and members. Members include representatives of local CT neighbourhood groups, local social action projects and individuals who are interested in the work and want to support the organisation. At the AGM the trustees and officers are elected. The officers comprise of chair, deputy chair and treasurer. The secretary is appointed. New trustees are inducted by the Chair in line with the constitution. Several trustees are involved with other charities and have shared their expertise with the group.

General meetings are held quarterly and are attended by trustees and members; decisions are made at these meetings. Before each meeting an agenda is decided by the chair and secretary and circulated. Other members can add items. Minutes are circulated electronically or by post for those with no internet connection. At quarterly general meetings, working groups may be set up to carry out agreed tasks. Decisions are communicated electronically from these meetings. Each year the trustees and members agree a work plan which outlines the charity's major priorities for action.

CTST has three projects which are directly responsible to the trustees - Happy at Home, Street Angels, Poverty Prevention and Alleviation. These projects have their own committees which manage and monitor their activities. At least one trustee is a member of each project committee. Committee members include volunteers interested in the work. The three projects are supported by part time paid development workers, who support the trustees and volunteers and attend committee meetings. Street Angels and Poverty Prevention and Alleviation projects are each supported by one worker. Happy at Home now has two paid workers. Governance of the Poverty Prevention and Alleviation Project is being reviewed as the charity clarifies its developing partnership with Key. At CTST quarterly meetings, reports are received from the project workers. Updates are also received from two affiliated organisations, previously set up as projects by CTST but now independent charities: Key Project and STARCH (South Tyneside Asylum and Refugee Church Help)

Churches Together also supports other church-related projects by promoting their work, helping recruit volunteers, identifying funding opportunities and inviting them to attend meetings to report on their projects. These projects include Dementia Friendly Churches and Prison Matters.

Approximately 300 volunteers support the work of CTST. They visit isolated frail and elderly people, patrol the streets in the town centre on Saturday nights, collect food for the foodbank and pack / distribute food parcels. They also plan and organise occasional one-off events, run Holiday Hunger programmes, help with the School Uniform Exchange and the Christmas Day event. They also plan and organise occasional one-off events.

Financial review

Principal Funding Sources

1. Donations from local neighbourhood Churches Together groups.
2. Fund raising events e.g. bag packs
3. Grants from trusts and foundations:
Happy at Home: Henry Smith Foundation, The Kellett Fund, (both through the Community Foundation Tyne and Wear) and individual donations
Street Angels: Barbour Foundation, Sunderland Lions, Northumbria Police, Catherine Cookson Foundation, South Shields Pubwatch, Community Foundation and the Police Mutual Fund
Poverty Prevention & Alleviation: Joicey Trust, Hadrian, donations
4. Service Level Agreement – South Tyneside Council / Happy at Home

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to have reserves of 6 months operating costs to enable them to make provision for the vulnerable people that are supported by the projects in the event of funding not being secured. Each project is working towards this goal.

Public Benefit

Churches Together has referred to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. Our charity's activities reflect our aims and objectives, and are designed to provide accessible services and activities that benefit the appropriate sector of the public in accordance with our charitable aims.

Objects

1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN SOUTH TYNESIDE.

CTST seeks to put into practice Christian teaching by carrying out practical social action for the benefit of the whole community with particular regard for the most vulnerable. Its activities give direct help as well as raising awareness of issues facing contemporary society.

2) THE PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY:

- a) Educating the public in different beliefs, including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different faiths.
- b) Promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths

Activities

Happy at Home - a befriending service for isolated elderly people in their homes and at social hubs around the borough.

Poverty Alleviation and Prevention including:

Foodbank Coordination – coordinating three Food banks and three collection points (as below) in South Tyneside, liaising with local supermarkets re food supplies, arranging training and awareness raising of the plight of residents who have no food

Holiday Clubs – food and activities for children and families in financial difficulties

School Uniform Exchange- collecting, storing and exchanging uniform

Directory of Support Services – website now online

Christmas Day Celebration - a Christmas day lunch / tea and entertainment for those who might otherwise be on their own

Raising Awareness –giving talks to churches and community groups

Street Angels - Supporting those who are vulnerable and in need during the night time economy in South Shields Town Centre at weekends

CTST promotes and supports affiliated charities through its networks:

Key Project for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

South Tyneside Asylum Seeker Refugee Church Help (STARCH) - provides practical and personal support for asylum seekers and refugees and a drop in where agencies and asylum seekers and refugees can meet.

CTST promotes and supports the following church related projects:

Dementia Friendly Churches: a part-time project worker is promoting and raising awareness and understanding of dementia among Christian congregations in South Tyneside

Prison Matters: providing support for ex-prisoners settling back into the community

CTST also has a website, social media presence, publishes an annual report of its activities and occasional press releases

CTST works in partnership with South Tyneside Council and community and voluntary sector organisations

Achievements and performance for 2017

The trustees continue to commend the work of the projects, specifically praising the wide range of needs we can respond to in our borough as a unique feature for Churches Together groups. As recorded in the 2016 Report, the achievements of 2017 and the plans for 2018 reflect the commitment, enthusiasm and vision of those involved.

Our Volunteers

This year we have had 317 volunteers working with us in our projects, helping 2,782 beneficiaries.

CTST Projects

1. Poverty Alleviation and Prevention

Churches Together Development Worker: Poverty Alleviation and Prevention

CTST and Key collaborate through the work of our shared Development Worker. The two organisations have had preliminary discussions about the possibility of leasing premises from Action

Station for a combined Community Foodbank and the School Uniform Exchange Project. A proposal has been sent to South Tyneside Council.

Foodbanks

Our Foodbanks at Key Project, New Hope Church, Hebburn Helps and the Salvation Army, together with collection points at Grange Road Baptist Church and Living Faith in Jarrow have been able to provide sustenance to over 5000 people this year. We have worked together to respond to the growing problem of food poverty in South Tyneside. We have been fortunate enough to receive the support of many churches and the wider community in our area, who regularly provide financial and practical donations. Morrisons, Tesco and Greggs regularly donate surplus foodstuff and we are appreciative of their support. Our local schools have been even more involved this year with several attending the foodbanks to volunteer their time. We have found our young people to be very understanding of the issues that may cause hunger and we are very happy to facilitate their response to our shared neighbours' needs.

School Uniform Exchange

Many local families struggle to purchase school uniforms so we have set up a new project where outgrown school uniforms are donated and redistributed. 130 families benefitted in 2017.

Holiday Clubs

Holiday clubs proved to be very popular with around 300 children attending one of our four excellent groups throughout the summer. Volunteers worked hard to offer sporting activities, craft, art and learning opportunities to the children before being served with a nutritious lunch. We are also proud that we have been able to extend the provision this year to every half term, with play camps and 'lunch boxes' being offered to children with need.

Christmas Day Celebration

Our Christmas Day celebration once again took place at St Michaels and All Angels Church in South Shields, open to those who might be otherwise be alone and those battling with addictions, often living in unsatisfactory housing. We were also able to feed and clothe some of our communities' most vulnerable people. 30 volunteers attended, setting tables, preparing a delicious three course meal and perhaps most importantly making sure everyone was able to get there and be safely returned home. Our wider community contributed in a most generous fashion, donating lots of gifts so that all guests had thoughtful presents to take home with them. We continue to be encouraged by the goodwill of others to give their time so selflessly to ensure the celebration continues.

2. Street Angels

With our dedicated group of 14 volunteers, Street Angels continue working trying to ensure the safety of those enjoying the nightlife in South Shields at weekends by assisting the homeless, those sleeping rough and those who are vulnerable or in need. We work closely with South Tyneside Community Northumbria Police, Northumbria Ambulance Service, Door supervisors, Taxi Drivers and Pubwatch. We have attended Community Area Forums to give presentations of our work to our local Councillors and residents, as well as to other groups and organisations.

Our volunteers continue to develop their skills and knowledge through our current training programme which includes First Aid, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Conflict Management, Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation.

3. Happy at Home

Our 50 volunteer befrienders continue to visit 60 frail elderly people in their own homes. Funding was found to employ a second part-time development worker which has helped address the need to provide extra support to families and their isolated relatives with "Happy Hubs" at Church halls at different locations throughout the borough each week of the month. There has been an average attendance of 25. A wide range of activities are offered along with lunch. The Hubs are much appreciated. The Happy at Home website has been developed, bringing clearer definitions of categories of befrienders as well as steps to deal with the new data legislation. Funders are acknowledged on the site too. An agreement has been reached with the Customs House (an arts, theatre and cinema complex) to offer befrienders and befriendees with free seats for performances.

Several enjoyed attending the Pantomime in December. We had two successful parties during the year bringing our community of befrienders and befriendees together in the summer and at Christmas. We also ran four 'Christmas Hubs' where we provided entertainment and 'game show games' too in place of the usual activities.

CTST: other activities

Dementia Friendly Churches

Training

Facilitated 9 Dementia Friendly Awareness Sessions and created 130 dementia friends. Churches involved include St Bede's RC Church South Shields, West Harton Methodist Church, All Saints Church Cleadon, St Bede's RC Church Jarrow and St Peter's Church South Shields. 3 sessions have also been facilitated for Happy at Home Befrienders

Action and Reference Group/ Dementia Friendly Enablers

Hosted a successful meeting in November with 27 representatives from 8 Churches across South Tyneside to explore interest in becoming part of this group to share ideas, resources and skills to actively develop dementia friendly churches and projects across the borough

Developing the role of Dementia Friendly Enablers within church and faith groups. Enablers will be volunteers with the role of raising awareness of dementia in churches and encouraging the development of Dementia Friendly Churches and communities.

Terms of Reference for the Action and Reference Group and the Enablers have been devised

Networking/Links

Project Lead is a member of South Tyneside Dementia Action Alliance and is involved in developing Dementia Friendly Communities (Hebburn and Jarrow).

The Project Lead is working actively with Livability to develop the project.

Annual Event: Presentation by Prison Matters

At our Annual Event in June there were presentations by representatives of Prison Matters, a local church led initiative to support former prisoners settling back into the community. People involved in the project explained its aims and the newly established drop in sessions. Representatives from NECA (an addiction recovery and support agency) and the Probation Service joined us.

Welcome event for clergy and ministers

CTST organised a meeting in November 2017 for clergy and ministers. Lunch was provided at the beginning. After an introduction to the new Directory of Support Services, "Information Your Way", there were short presentations about each of the CTST projects, interspersed with Q&A.

Website

The webmaster has invited churches regularly to share information re events and services through the website, social media (Facebook and Twitter), as well as continuing to promote CTST, its projects, church events and services, foodbanks and low-cost meals available in the borough.

General Election Hustings

CTST organised hustings for General Election called in June 2017. The hustings for the Jarrow candidates took place on May 22nd, but because of the tragic events in Manchester Arena (May 22nd) in which two young people from South Tyneside were at the time reported missing and later confirmed to have died, the hustings for South Shields scheduled for May 23rd were cancelled, replaced by a time of quiet and reflection.

Promoting Affiliated Projects (Key and STARCH - independent charities)

Members of the CTST serve as trustees for KEY and STARCH. There are updates from these charities which are fed back to the local CT groups by their representatives.

1) SOUTH TYNESIDE CHURCHES' KEY PROJECT Charity Number: 1108921

KEY has added to their accommodation in 2017, providing more opportunities to house vulnerable young people aged 16-24. Mediation has played a significant role, working toward the prevention of homelessness. KEY now offers a drop-in at South Tyneside College and works very closely with local schools. The Mediation Service has proved to be very effective seeing family environments improving, enabling young people, where possible, to stay at home. It has been so successful that a Family Intervention Worker was recently recruited to support families at the very onset of difficulties arising within the home. KEY continues to work within the theme of Citizenship, believing it important that the young people understand the significant role they hold within our society. With this in mind, and with the support of South Shields MP, Emma Lewell-Buck, KEY arranged a trip to London with a highlight of attending Parliament to see Prime Ministers questions. The young people enjoyed the visit immensely and KEY is already planning activities for this year that will broaden the horizons of the young people.

**2) South Tyneside Refugee and Asylum Seeker Church Help (S.T.A.R.C.H.)
Charity Number: 1100561**

Starch continue in their work with Refugee and Asylum Seekers in the borough, providing information packs for each new arrival with information re amenities and services, as well as their Tuesday drop in. The numbers coming to the borough are increasing, particularly young men. There was a great celebration for Eid with food cooked by 2 members of the local mosque, which also opened a room once a week for activities for refugees. STARCH voiced concern over new legislation that might affect access to NHS services for asylum seekers and refugees. STARCH and CTST were invited to a meeting at the Town Hall re the possible reception of young refugees into the borough.