

## **Churches Together in South Tyneside**

### **Annual Report for Financial Year: January 1st 2018– December 31st 2018**

#### **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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Ross Allen, Jane Arthurs, Bernadette Askins, Stephen Slade, Audrey Tennet, Hilary Thompson, Ann Trollope

Gilly Maude resigned from the Trustees with effect from Wed 15<sup>th</sup> May

No other trustees have stood down during the year of this report.

### **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.

At CTST quarterly meetings, reports are received from the project workers. In addition, updates are 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 317 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.

## **Financial review**

### **Principal Funding Sources**

1. Donations from local neighbourhood Churches Together groups.
2. Fund raising events
3. Grants from trusts and foundations:  
Churches Together in South Tyneside; Guy Readman Foundation (via Community Foundation). This award was divided equally between the three CTST Community Projects.  
Happy at Home: Kellett Fund, Big Lottery (Awards for All), Masonic Trust in Hebburn, Barchester Foundation. Sainsbury's community champions  
Street Angels: South Tyneside Community Safety Team, Barbour Foundation, Sunderland Lions, Northumbria Police, Catherine Cookson Foundation, South Shields Pubwatch, Community Foundation and the Police Mutual Fund  
Poverty Prevention & Alleviation: Seedbed, Reeds Grassroots, Linden Family, donations from individuals and organisations  
Mentor a Mum: Home Office
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. Reserves also cover possible future costs of redundancies.

### **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** – 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 Project** - collecting, storing and exchanging uniform

**Directory of Support Services** – ‘*Information Your Way*’ website now online

**Raising Awareness** – giving talks to churches, schools 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-offenders 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

CTST addresses topical and ethical issues at its annual event and by organising hustings before general elections

## Achievements and performance for 2018

*The trustees continue to commend highly 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. The commitment, enthusiasm and vision of those involved is reflected clearly in the report.*

### Our Volunteers

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

### CTST Projects

## **Poverty Alleviation and Prevention**

### **Fun, Food and Friendship Holiday Clubs**

The coordination of a Dept of Education grant for 'Fun, Food and Friendship' in South Tyneside has been a major achievement for 2018. Working with partners, the funding and collaboration allowed us to run approx. 4,500 sessions for youngsters in the summer holidays.

### **Foodbank**

The plans to consolidate the Bread of Life and Key Foodbanks at Action Station in Boldon Lane South Shields have moved forward and are expected to be completed early 2019. We have received support from many churches and the wider community, who provide financial and practical donations. Morrisons, Tesco and Greggs regularly donate surplus foodstuff. Local schools continue to be involved with awareness-raising visits and volunteering.

### **School Uniform Project**

Many local families struggle to purchase school uniforms, so we have set up a new project where outgrown school uniforms are donated and redistributed. Approximately 190 families benefitted in 2018.

### **KEY/CTST Partnership**

CTST and Key continue to collaborate to deliver the Poverty Alleviation Project. A formal system to monitor the partnership has been established.

### **Building relationships between Faith Communities**

Mentor a Mum: women from the Christian and Muslim communities getting together to learn about one another's faith, traditions and cultures and take part in family trips.

### **Street Angels**

Partnership: In 2018 Street Angels, Northumbria Police and Pubwatch signed a Partnership Agreement which means we are working much more closely together and sharing information. I attend the monthly Pubwatch meetings. Pubwatch is an important forum for the licencing trade, its members include representatives from the pubs, bars and clubs, door supervisors as well as ST Community Safety Team, ST Licensing Department and Northumbria Police. The forum provides useful information about events, incidents, security advice and safety information.

Funding: Successful funding applications during 2018 has made the project more financially secure and we have carried forward more than £10,000 at the end of year balance. With additional funding from South Tyneside Community Safety Team we have were able to provide this facility on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Black Eye Friday and New Year's Eve. It was very useful and helpful to us as we were able to take people with injuries or people who were very intoxicated and unable to get home to get assistance and treatment from qualified medical staff close by.

Record Keeping: We have changed the way we record the information of events and incidents to make sure our funders get the information they require on their monitoring forms. I attend the following regular meetings: Healthnet - Health and Wellbeing Network - South Tyneside Alcohol Strategy Partnership -

### **Happy at Home**

Our 50 volunteer befrienders continue to visit 60 frail elderly people in their own homes. Our "Happy Hubs" are a huge success and the number of people who attend them is growing. We continue to organise theatre and panto trips (with transport) for those who can attend. In December the Happy at Home Project was nominated for the Queens Award for Voluntary Services and met with two Deputy Lieutenants of Tyne and Wear to describe the work that the volunteers do and the benefits they receive from volunteering.

## **CTST: other activities**

### **Dementia Friendly Churches**

#### **Dementia Friendly Awareness Training**

Facilitated 4 Dementia Friendly Awareness sessions and created a further 30 dementia friends which now totals 160 since commencement of the project. Churches involved include St Bede's RC Church South Shields, West Harton Methodist Church, All Saints Church Cleadon, St Bede's RC Church Jarrow, St Peters Church Jarrow. Further sessions have also been facilitated for Happy at Home Befrienders.

#### **Intergenerational Working**

Developed links with local Schools, Brownie and Cubs groups to commence Dementia Friendly training in May 2019.

#### **Dementia Friendly Churches Health Check**

Facilitated health check at St Bede's RC Church and St Paul and St John's Church Hall. Livability Health Check focuses on church buildings, congregation, and their communities and neighbourhoods. It allows churches to get a baseline of where they currently are in terms of being inclusive, welcoming places for people with dementia and their carers and where it needs to aim. Project lead has offered to facilitate the health check with other churches in South Tyneside.

#### **Action and Reference Group/ Dementia Friendly Enablers**

Terms of Reference for Action Group and Dementia Friendly Enablers have been agreed. Aim to establish group in 2019 to further the development of the project.

#### **Networking/ Links**

Project Lead is a member of the Dementia Action Alliance Group and is involved in developing Dementia Friendly Communities South Tyneside. Project lead continues to work with Livability to advance the project. Project Lead is actively involved with Happy Hubs to develop dementia inclusiveness.

#### **Annual Event: Modern Slavery**

Our annual event, attended by 30 people from local churches and the wider community, focussed on Modern Slavery because there was concern about some arrests in South Tyneside and members had personal connections with a trafficked person. Speakers included Revd. Gemma Samson (Durham Diocese – Lead, Modern Day Slavery), Leah Collinson (South Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board) and a video of 'Stephen' trafficked from Vietnam aged 10 years. Everyone was made more aware of their duty of safeguarding by reporting suspicious activity e.g. car-washes and nail bars, spotting cannabis factories and pop-up brothels. Follow-ups included an offer of accommodation to Northumbria police for interviewing victims of trafficking.

#### **Promoting Affiliated Projects (KEY, STARCH and Prison Matters - independent charities)**

Members of the CTST serve as trustees for independent charities which have developed from Churches Together - KEY, STARCH and Prison Matters. There are updates from these charities which are fed back to the local CT groups by their representatives.

**SOUTH TYNESIDE CHURCHES' KEY PROJECT Charity Number: 1108921**

Alongside its usual work, Key Project was involved in much planning in 2018, working towards developments that came into fruition in early 2019. These included:  
Planning, funding and recruitment for Askins Lodge. 17 bed unit Supported accommodation based in Hebburn  
Negotiations and planning around moving the Foodbank from Wawn Street to Boldon Lane  
Key supported over 250 young people and their families last year and distributed 500 food packs.

**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, providing information packs for each new arrival with information re amenities and services, as well as their Tuesday drop in. A local school provided a base for English and sewing lessons, the latter funded by a grant from a neighbouring church. There was an outing to Jarrow Hall and EMTRAC supported a Holiday Club.

**Prison Matters Charity Number: 1179904**

Prison Matters ran a programme in 2017-18 to raise awareness of the need for support for ex-offenders returning to South Tyneside (including focussing on this topic at our Annual Event in 2017, which involved Probation and North East Council for Addictions. Next, a weekly drop-in was set up, at the Independent Methodist Church in Hebburn. It is run by volunteers from local churches and ex-offender beneficiaries. This has been very successful in providing personal support, friendship and sign-posting. The drop-in is attended by approx. 10 -12 people. In July 2018, Prison Matters was registered by the Charity Commission and trustees were appointed. A good working relationship has been established with Open Gate, a regional charity which supports women leaving prison. Grants have been secured to employ a p/t. development worker to support the trustees to develop the project and to purchase four tablets to use for job searches and to apply for benefits. The development worker post was advertised in December 2018 and the appointment will be made in January 2019.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Churches Together South Tyneside

1153612

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/01/2018

To

31/12/2018

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Churches Together General	420		-	420	555
Donations & Bag Packs		300	-	300	294
Donations Poverty Alleviation		316	-	316	
Other Project Grant Income - Inter Project Poverty Alleviation		32,715	-	32,715	12,147
Happy at Home Project	16,749	31,158	-	47,907	28,928
Street Angels Project		12,334	-	12,334	13,211
			-	-	
			-	-	
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	17,169	76,823	-	93,992	62,697
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	17,169	76,823	-	93,992	62,697
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Churches Together General	-	-	-	-	
Printing, Postage, Office Expenses	498			498	428
Subscriptions				-	14
Events	343			343	426
Insurance	358			358	514
Food Banks Transfer				-	16,062
Poverty Alleviation		5,100		5,100	3,700
Inter Project Happy at Home		14,016		14,016	
Inter Project Street Angels		5,000		5,000	
Happy at Home Project	12,863	30,599		43,462	34,324
Street Angels Project		9,748.26		9,748	10,475
<b>Sub total</b>	14,062	64,463	-	78,525	65,943
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	14,062	64,463	-	78,525	65,943
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	3,107	12,359	-	15,466	3,246
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	17,168	21,514	-	38,682	41,612
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	20,275	33,874	-	54,149	38,366



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Churches Together	2,628	9,162	-
	Happy at Home	21,138	10,444	-
	Street Angels		10,779	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>23,766</b>	<b>30,384</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	A. Tennet B. Askins	AUDREY TENNET BERNADETTE ASKINS	17/4/19 17/4/19	





# 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 2018

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1153612

**Set out on pages**

(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:**

11.5.19

**Name:**

LYNN ANDERSON

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

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