

# Solace International/InterSolace

## ('Solace'<sup>1</sup>)



## The 2019 Solace International Trustees Annual Report

*(Prepared for presentation at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Organisation held at St. Paul's Anglican Church, St. Paul's Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8NB on Saturday, 7 December, 2019).*

**(This document also serves as the Organisation's Annual General Report for 2019 AD)**

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<sup>1</sup> Solace is registered in the United Kingdom, as **Solace International** and in the Republic of Kenya, as **InterSolace**



*...the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.*

(The Holy Bible's Book of Daniel 11:32b New King James Version [KJV])



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## ***Mission Statement***

With the Lord Jesus Christ as our Flawless Role Model, *Solace*'s Mission is to provide an excellent service positively impacting lives and always glorifying to God. Like our Unfailing Role Model Jesus, we aim to be – but positively so, different things to different people. Our each action will chiefly aim at contributing to the empowerment, development and all-round advancement of the communities wherein *Solace* is engaged whether indirectly or directly. Like Jesus our Unfailing Role Model was Wont to Do, *Solace* will always put the service user/client/customer ('needy') first; the needy will always be who, as well as what, drives us on and our services will generally be moulded around the needy as Guided by the Holy Spirit, Who alone Understands to Perfection our every need as individuals and as people. As our Unfailing Role Model Christ also Did, *Solace* will always aim for the highest standards with God the Highest Standard, our Guide and Focus. We want to be unique in everything we are engaged in; we want to be well-known for our overall excellent quality of service and marvellous personnel; we want to maintain an unassailable position among the best in our chosen fields of endeavour. Simply put, we just want to be the best. And by the Grace of God, we will be the best.



## ***Resolution***

Following its Quarterly Meeting for Autumn 2019, the *Solace International* Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as 'The Solace Board', 'The Board' or 'The Trustees') resolved as follows:

- 1.) The Report outlined alongside and/or below this resolution shall form the main body of the Organisation's Annual Report for 2019;
- 2.) The Report shall be designated and known as 'The 2019 Solace International Trustees Annual Report' or 'TAR 2019', for short;
- 3.) The Report shall be presented at the Organisation's next Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held in the United Kingdom (UK);
- 4.) The 2019 AGM must take place before Christmas Day, 2019;
- 5.) In keeping with *Solace International* ('Solace') convention established in the Year of our Lord 2017, The 2019 Solace International Trustees Annual Report is to be deemed officially complete and therefore closed after Christmas Day, 2019;
- 6.) Official completion and closure shall include insertion of the accompanying report from *InterSolace Organisation* ('Solace Kenya') and any other Solace branch or affiliate in other countries as the case may be;
- 7.) It shall only be declared complete and closed also, once there is no possibility of updates as requested or mandated by the Governments (or relevant departments) of the countries where *Solace* operates.

Signed:

*Dephrose N. Mnyasa*

(for: Secretary, *Solace International*)



## ***Solace: A brief history***

'Solace' is synonymous with a plethora of other words. These include but do not stop at: support, succour, soothing, relief, help, encouragement, ease, consolation, comfort and alleviation. Each synonym has its specially unique meaning, but in their connection to the word 'solace', they are all interrelated. They also give a picture of the various ways in which *Solace* (i.e. *Solace International* and *InterSolace*) continues to play its role.

Out of Kenya-based work engaged in by its founder and current Chief Administrator (CA) during the middle of 2012, *Solace* was born. The idea came from a series of events and charitable activities, key among which was the '*Solace* Enterprise Empowerment Programme' (also called 'SEEP' or 'EEP') and support provided for a newly-widowed Kenya-based sister facing degrading treatment and threats due to her vulnerability.

Loth to let the opportunities for impacting lives and empowering people – not to mention a uniquely innovative way of answering the Great Commission slip into history as a mere footnote of a relationship between a few people, the matter was presented before the LORD and then before His People. Thus, actively supported by *Winners Chapel* (Malindi), *Deliverance Church* (Buruburu) and *Hope Africa* (Syiokimau), *Solace* was born.<sup>2</sup>

Around Easter 2013, at the *Deliverance Church*, Buruburu premises, the Organisation was formally launched. Six months later, *Solace* secured permission from the Government of Kenya to use the name

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<sup>2</sup> The contributions of Pastors Dan Otigo, William Omole, Nahshon (1967-2015), Patrick Wanga Joshua and Wise, as well as Sarah Kaberere (1962-2017), Bishop Henry Onsongo, Anne Kaberere, Babrah Omware, Teresa Joseph, etc., are all acknowledged. The arrangement of names here is in no particular order and does not reflect in any way whatsoever, a complete list of persons who ought to be acknowledged, or of the actions which are herein acknowledged. The names are mentioned here merely as an act of *Solace International* in saying, 'Thank you'. More names may appear – or disappear, in subsequent reports and updates.



'Solace', 'Solace International' and 'InterSolace'.<sup>3</sup> To God's Glory, *Solace* was formally registered by the Nongovernmental Organisations (NGO) Coordination Board of Kenya, in July, 2014, allowing us to turn our focus to the real reason for our existence: helping those in need and honouring God..

Coming around the same period one year later, *Solace* succeeded at the second time of asking, in securing registration to God's Glory as always, by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Today, *Solace* therefore, is registered in both Kenya and the United Kingdom. As in Kenya, we had already been engaged in charitable projects well before we first applied for, and eventually secured, United Kingdom (UK) registration.

Even though not registered anywhere else, we are still making inroads across the world despite a stark paucity of human, financial and general resources. Today, *Solace* is as shown in the previous reports and again in this one, actively engaged in supporting people wherever it reasonably can. This Report is not just a chronicle, but a document of staggered growth, of harsh reality and of eager hope. *Solace* though, is here to stay.

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<sup>3</sup> Permission to use the name 'Solace International' was later withdrawn, but we were informed that we would be allowed to use the name if the Organisation met the condition of paying the sum of sixteen thousand Kenya Shillings (KSh16,000), because the word 'International' is deemed 'special' and therefore 'expensive'. The Trustees made the decision that paying such an amount for one word, was unnecessary and therefore the decision was made to adopt the name 'InterSolace' (a reverse mix of *Solace* and *International*). The NGO Board at its discretion but without consulting us, added the word 'Organisation', which is how we are now officially registered and known in Kenya (i.e. *InterSolace Organisation*).



## ***Our Vision: What we see as our reason for being***

*Solace* is a small Vessel in the Hands of the Almighty God Who Deigns to Use us in Blessing His Creation and Furthering the Christian Faith.<sup>4</sup> Through us He Offers Divine Solace, Touching lives in and through education, volunteering, enterprise, nutrition, spirituality and everywhere else as He Pleases. At *Solace* we're about helping –not for helping's sake or out of sheer pity, but for God's Sake. Through us (among many other Tools at His Ever-Wise, Ever-Abundant and Ever-Good Disposal), the LORD:

- Empowers the vulnerable through advocacy and provision of low-cost and free services;
- Reminds His People and Demonstrates amply, that everyone deserves a chance;
- Emphasises that poverty is not a fixed state from which there is no escape;
- Helps those we support see that prosperity is both attainable and within reach and that...;
- ...'prosperity' and 'poverty' are issues which go well beyond the financial;
- Encourages beneficiaries of *Solace* to be helpful – that is, be a Blessing, to others as well;
- Glorifies Himself the Almighty and Only True God through our work.

**This is what we see. This is our vision.**

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<sup>4</sup> *Solace* is not affiliated to any Christian denomination and takes the official position that for all their merits, denominations are divisive – more like tribes in a primitive society wherein members of each tribe see themselves as the 'superior breed', 'pure race' or 'Chosen ones'; they thus feel justified and even obliged, to look down on other tribes as being 'lower' or 'less' than themselves. For *Solace*, there is only One Church, only One Lord Jesus Christ and only One God.





### ***Our current list of Trustees, etc.***

Due to the Organisation's perceived need for Trustees to be largely drawn from the nations where *Solace* is officially registered – and that need contrasted against the near-impossibility of having them together all in one place at the same time, *Solace* has one Board of Trustees, but two sets of Trustees – a bit like a church having several parishes even in far-off places, but remaining one church. One set of *Solace* Trustees is based in the Republic of Kenya. They are referred to in this document as 'the Kenya Trustees'. In the same light, the other set of Trustees for the Organisation, being based in the United Kingdom (UK), are referred to in this document as 'the UK Trustees'. The Kenya Trustees are: Ericris ('Cris') Maina (Chair) OT,<sup>5</sup> Teresa ('Terry') Kaberere (Secretary). Samuel ('Pastor Sam') Wamweya (Treasurer), Wanjiru Joseph, OT, Eugene Nwokorie and Babrah Omware, OT. The UK Trustees are: Emmanuel Awuzurudike, OT Chimu Immaculeta Brown, OT, Lorraine Podiephatshwa, Naina Lamptey, Glenford Evans and Joseph Nwokorie. Dephrose Mnyasa is the *Solace* Chief Administrator's Personal Assistant (CAPA) and oversees from Kenya, the administrative affairs of the Organisation. Joseph Dos Santos is the Organisation's Chief Administrator.

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<sup>5</sup> OT = Outgoing.



## ***Charitable objects***

The objects of *Solace* are:

- a.) To benefit the public;
- b.) The advancement of the Christian Faith (this, in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in such ways as the *Solace* Trustees from time to time may think fit);
- c.) The prevention or relief of poverty (especially, though not exclusively, in the economically disadvantaged areas of Africa, its Diaspora, Asia and Latin America by providing items, goods, education and support the chief aim of which is enabling individuals to generate for themselves, sustainable incomes and be self-sufficient.

## ***Solace's aims and activities***

The aims of *Solace* are captured in our Vision, Mission Statement and Activities. A brief recap of the those documents shows that the Organisation aims to:

- Be and remain, an international organisation operating across several continents of the world;
- Further the Christian Faith through the use of apostolic and deaconate means;
- Empower all people(s) whom we offer support, against poverty in all its forms through a careful study and understanding of 'poverty' in the relevant contexts as well as through the the formulation and delivery of relevant educational-cum-training programmes, the making of small grants and the highlighting of Holy Bible-based good practice and Principles;
- Work with other groups and individuals to achieve the above aims as well as to support other groups and individuals engaged in work similar to ours;



- Honour and testify of God the Almighty Owner of Everything, through our actions and activities.

### ***Activities (What the charity does)***

*Solace* in furtherance of its aims, engages in general charitable purposes as well as the following:

- a.) Education and training;
- b.) The prevention or relief of poverty;
- c.) Religious activities;
- d.) Economic/community development/employment;
- e.) Human rights, religious or racial harmony, equality and/or diversity.

### ***Who the charity helps***

*Solace* helps the general public and Mankind. This means that we are not particular or discriminatory about who we help. The help we give is however subject to a number of variables. These are chiefly:

- (1.) The availability of relevant human, financial and other resources;
- (2.) Strict criteria which has been set forth in the Organisation's Constitution, *Beneficiaries Policy* and/or other governing documents;
- (3.) Any other criteria laid down by the *Solace* Board of Trustees.



## ***How the charity works***

There are several ways by which we work to achieve the above, the main one being that:

- a.) *Solace* makes grants to individuals and to organisations;
- b.) We also provide human resources;
- c.) Finally, *Solace* provides advocacy and advice/information as well as other relevant services.

In keeping with practice established in the original *Solace* Trustees Annual Report and maintained thereafter, as well as for ease of communication, this report uses the information bulleted under *Activities: What the Charity does* as subheadings in the two sections ('Successes', 'Failures') below. Also, in line with established *Solace* convention, the information under the other subheadings ('Who the charity helps', 'How the charity works' and 'Charitable objects') contributes to fleshing out the report in the relevant sections.



## ***The journey continued: Our successes***

By the Grace of God, the Ever-Merciful, Ever-Abundant and Ever-Generous Love Almighty, *Solace* has experienced success in several areas. The successes referred to in this report are quite reflective of the Biblical phrase “lest any man should boast”,<sup>6</sup> given that they are all the more magnified by the fact that the Organisation has received no corporate funding, very little public support, relatively few donations and minimal publicity. We appreciate the LORD Almighty for His Goodness as Manifested through this charity in the manner outlined among a host of myriad other ways, in the following pages.

*Solace* measures its successes and failures against what we have set out to achieve – goals which can be found set forth in the Organisation’s basic information as outlined on the Charity Commission’s website and replicated in this report. The official (that is, Government-held) information in Kenya regarding *Solace*, is roughly the same as that of the UK, although the Kenya Government does not currently publish such information on any website. That same information has also guided the report’s appraisal of failures and setbacks.

<b><i>Area 1:<sup>7</sup> Education and training</i></b>	
<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Details</i></b>
	At <i>Solace</i> , we believe that the more educated you are, the better able you will be to serve God properly, contribute to your community and do your best for your loved ones. We also believe that the road out of poverty, corruption and wanton violence (whether domestic, political, religious, ethnic or other) is through education. Most of all, God Wants us to be (better) educated, to be

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<sup>6</sup> The Letter attributed to Saint Paul of Tarsus and marked for attention of the Church in Ephesus (Eph) 2:9.

<sup>7</sup> These areas are marked with numbers for purposes of making the book easier to read. They do not reflect any kind of order or priority list.



<p><b>Seminars and workshops</b></p>	<p>better informed and ultimately, to be more Empowered. “My People perish” He Says, “from lack of knowledge”.<sup>8</sup> As such, at <i>Solace</i>, we regularly put on free training programmes. Depending on the topic and space, the programmes last from half a day (such as with ‘Helping children settle in their new surroundings’) to twelve weeks (e.g. ‘<i>Solace</i> Enterprise Empowerment Programme’).</p> <p>As part of the training programmes we deliver (usually completely free of charge<sup>9</sup>) <i>Solace</i> uses the Christian Sacred Scriptures (commonly known as ‘the Holy Bible’), as well as a kaleidoscopic plethora of written and non-written sources. Experience teaches us nonetheless, that not all our training programmes are of equal popularity everywhere. The education programmes for example, generally attract more attention in the UK whereas the favourite of our programmes in Kenya are usually the economic programmes. Our success in the area of training via seminars and workshops has been in adapting what we do to meet the needs of the relevant communities, avoiding the temptation to foist purely British values on our beneficiaries in Kenya or Kenyan ones on the United Kingdom. As and when it Pleases the LORD that <i>Solace</i> expands into other lands, we will keep this in mind. A full list of what programmes we offer accompanies this report (see: ‘Appendix 2: <i>Solace</i>’s list of free training programmes’).</p>
	<p><i>Solace</i> has collected and distributed since 2014, over one thousand books. About a fifth came from the Founder, a further seven-tenths of these have been donations from members of the public, while the rest has come from <i>Solace</i> purchases. The books tend to be mainly educational with a heavy bias for primary school-age readers. However, we have also distributed a good number</p>

<sup>8</sup> Hos 4:6

<sup>9</sup> Where fees are applied, these are usually nominal and generally waived or reduced if the debtor so requests.



<b>Books</b>	<p>of entertainment books such as novels, novellas and old periodicals. We believe that reading enhances education, but reading would not be easy if it had to be without entertainment. For this reason, we have not restricted our work in this area to only academic textbooks or Christian religious publications. <i>Solace</i> continues to negotiate with schools and bookshops, both Christian and non-Christian, for more donations. The point is made here, that we have also distributed a few bibles.</p>
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<b>Area: The prevention or relief of poverty (UK)</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
	<p>For the UK and probably, most of the Western world, poverty is compartmentalised. Those who know better than we do, tell us for instance, that there is 'fuel poverty', 'housing poverty' and among a host of other 'poverties', 'food poverty'. What we and several other charities have discovered nonetheless is that, irrespective of how it is described , understood or perceived, many UK families are unable to afford decent meals. You may be aware that one of the signs of neglect in cases of child abuse is the continuous starvation and/or malnourishment of a child. The truth probably unexplored though, is that in so many cases, families can simply not afford food to eat while also paying their rents, utility bills, insurance and other costs.</p> <p>Of course, we have also discovered that although to God's Glory, there are many food banks and other food provisions (e.g. soup kitchens), some families are too embarrassed, ashamed or even afraid to come forward with – or even admit, their need for help with food. In response to this added vulnerability of</p>



<p><b>Foodbank</b></p>	<p>those in need, what <i>Solace</i> has tended to do, is operate what the Organisation refers to as 'the foodbank with a difference' – a floating food bank which goes in search of the needy rather than waiting for the needy to find it. This has its challenges but it also has its advantages.</p> <p>One demerit of the system is that we cannot move around with too much food. It also requires more volunteer hours and this approach makes it difficult to document who we are helping and how effective our project is. The strong points possibly outweigh the drawbacks, however. We are for instance, able to reach more people by travelling outside our comfort zone. People who do not speak English but are in need nonetheless, have especially found this service valuable. Besides English-speakers of various nationalities, we have helped through this programme, Romanians and French speakers, among other nationalities.</p> <p>Despite the drawbacks already highlighted, the system we are using also allows us to offer food without recourse to discouraging form-filling, humiliating long waits and unnecessary references from GPs, social workers, etc., as obtains with some other food banks. Our approach boosts self-confidence, enhances dignity, reduces stress, eases pressure and encourages harmony in our service users. It also frees up time for the beneficiary. Time spent on visiting food banks, waiting and then getting back home – which we estimate to be on average, two hours per person, can be saved through our 'Foodbank with a difference' and then channelled instead, into more helpful or fruitful endeavours. We believe that people who have lost food wealth (as opposed to food poverty) should not have to also lose other more precious things such as dignity and time. Most of all, with our unique floating foodbank, we are able to operate a lot more like Jesus and the early Church did: moving not just with the times but with the people. Jesus did not always Wait for those in need to come</p>
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	to Him: He more often than not, Moved around, Making Himself both available and accessible to the people in need of His Goodness.
<b>School support</b>	<i>Solace</i> is supporting three schools in Kenya to educate orphans and children from very poor backgrounds. Two of them are located in the capital, while the third is located outside the capital. We supported two others at the country's Coast region but have now terminated the support. A deal to support a further two schools in Nairobi is moving quite slowly. Of the two we are currently supporting in Nairobi, <i>Solace</i> is working on a deal to part-own one or where possible, take it over completely. The support we provide varies, depending on the school. With the school outside Nairobi, our focus has been on 'sponsoring' a number of children through school by paying for their school fees, school uniforms and other school-related needs, including but not restricted to, money for extra tuition. With the first Nairobi school, we are focusing on supporting some pupils through school and also guiding the school on capacity building through having the right governing documents. Finally, we are exploring the possibility of twinning the schools we support with schools in the UK.
	We are supporting parents experiencing poverty to deal with their situation by breaking free from the cycle/bondage of poverty. In doing so, we are placing the priority on single parents. We are adopting several approaches to achieve this including but not only the <i>Solace</i> Enterprise Empowerment Programme (SEEP). The workshops and seminars which are a key part of the SEEP are both intellectually sound and Bible-based, yet presented in a way that people with minimum education may benefit from it while those with high education levels may not feel condescended to. There is a new version of the SEEP which is secular in content and relies on texts other than the Christian Sacred Scriptures. The aim of formulating such an alternative yet similar-in-content-and-quality programme is to reach out to as many more people as we possibly



<b>Poverty-busting</b>	can, without alienating them through the implication that the SEEP is a Christian programme only or that enterprise is unique to Christianity. We also incorporate an employability element into the SEEP where those who may feel that they are not suited to running a business will be helped with their CVs, interview tips and application forms. Finally, subject to the availability of funds, we also help members of our target group(s) set up small businesses. In addition to making small grants, we enable them focus on building their businesses in the first year by taking on some of the otherwise distracting burdens they may face. For instance, we paid the school fees of some children while the mothers built their new businesses; we also secured medical insurance for many poor mothers and mothers-to-be. In addition, we have helped with official registration of businesses. Women who have been victims of domestic violence are especially supported to gain or maintain independence through the running of their own enterprises.
<b>Collaboration</b>	We are building relationships with other organisations – including corporate, charitable, academic, religious and unregistered community groups both in Kenya and the UK. <sup>10</sup> This will allow us to help even more people in other areas without having to take on the financial and other costs of registration and opening offices everywhere. It is also a chance to support other organisations to achieve their own visions, aims and objectives. We are for instance, working with NGOs in Kenya, including SOS <i>Children's Village</i> , a charity in Pakistan and several groups in Congo, Botswana and elsewhere. Many of the arrangements are informal and in some cases, either indirect or at a very foetal

<sup>10</sup> Our letterheads reflect this as we tend to include at their bases, logos of most organisations we have worked or partnered with. Some groups are yet to be added though. They will be inserted as time goes on, subject to approval by the Trustees acting on the advice of the Chief Administrator. These include but are not restricted to: Africa Youth Development Association (AYDA), Be Different 365, Born Again Revival Tabernacle International, Circle of Parents, Full Gospel Churches of Kenya, Deliverance Church, Heads2Gether, Hope Africa Community, House of Prayer For All Nations, Kenya Assemblies of God, Restoration World Revival Church and Winners Chapel, among others.



	stage. However, interagency working remains a key aspect of the <i>Solace</i> modus operandi. In the UK, <i>Solace</i> is part of and/or engaged with the Black and Minority Ethnic Forum (BME Forum), Croydon Food Network (CFN), Croydon Voluntary Association (CVA), Faiths Together in Croydon (FTiC), Kingston Voluntary Action (KVA) and Lambeth Voluntary Action (LVAC). We have also had engagements with Merton Library.
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<b><i>Area: The prevention or relief of poverty (Kenya and elsewhere)</i></b>	
<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Details</i></b>
<b><i>Chokoras</i></b>	<i>Chokoras</i> or 'street children/street kids' as they are known in Kenya, are children (typically aged between six and fifteen years old) who for a variety of reasons (e.g. abuse, being orphaned, victims of crime, running away from home, drug addiction, etc.) are forced to live on the streets. They often move around in dishevelled packs of between five and forty persons. They are particularly vulnerable to violent criminals and are also usually easy targets for lynch groups when a theft or other petty crime has occurred but the perpetrators are unknown or unclear. <sup>11</sup> Criminal and terror gangs also find them easy to aim for. We do not have the capacity for rehabilitating them, but <i>Solace</i> has provided food and money to many <i>chokoras</i> , as well as

<sup>11</sup> This is not to say that the street children are entirely innocent. In their desperation, they have been known to commit serious crimes such as violent robbery, severe assaults and the occasional rape. However, *Solace* takes the position that nonetheless, street children are as a whole (despite the unfortunate and opprobrious actions of a minority within the group), quite vulnerable, being easy targets for every kind of criminal and violent person (which in part explains why street children tend to move in packs...safety in numbers). They, it must also be remembered, are minors.



	<p>companionship which in the absence of formal counselling, has proven quite helpful – especially in the cold and lonely – even dangerous hours of the night when most law-abiding adults are gone home, law enforcement agents are scarce and the streets are quite bare, very dangerous and truly lonely.</p>
<b><i>Clothes supply</i></b>	<p>In the last year, we supplied up to eight thousand free clothes to those in need. For the first time, we were also able to supply free shoes as well, to those in dire need of them. The shoes we so supplied, numbered around four hundred in total. <i>Solace</i> has also arranged for several individuals and groups including a local slum school, to visit the <i>Solace</i> office for the collection from our office, of a further consignment of thousands more clothes. This is a very important aspect of our work in the prevention or relief of poverty in Kenya where a large section of its people live below the poverty line and the buying of clothes is such a mountainous problem for many families.</p>
<b><i>Cash grants</i></b>	<p>It is an inevitable aspect of our work that we make cash grants wherever and whenever we can. The grants are however, usually small and even so, only where there is no other alternative. All grants are subject to the availability of funds as well as strict criteria as laid out in our Beneficiaries Policy and the decision of the Trustees.</p>
<b><i>Cash loans</i></b>	<p>We do not give cash loans. The reason for this is that in our experience, loans more often than not, entrench poverty, rather than relieve it; loans can and do cause personal as well as psychological problems for recipients unable to repay – including telling of lies, avoiding contact with us and causing problems with the aim of avoiding repayment altogether. Finally, the cost in cash and human resources of chasing up loan repayments is astronomical. The idea of replacing loans with small grants which would be made on the condition among</p>



	<p>other criteria that the recipient matches the cash with resources of their own was borrowed from <i>SOS Children's Village</i>, one of the NGOs we are collaborating with in Kenya. Their experience in dealing with poverty issues has proved invaluable and is hereby with deep gratitude, acknowledged.</p>
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<b>Area: Religious activities</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b><i>Pastors' breakfasts</i></b>	<p><i>Solace</i> has organised periodic Pastors' breakfasts in the UK. The average space between each was originally set informally at six weeks. In 2018 and 2019 however, that gap has widened considerably as we pursued other priorities and partnerships, to the point that across twenty months, we have hosted only two such meetings. It is anticipated however, that in 2020, we will revert to the old once-every-six-weeks-on-average format. The breakfasts are free of charge and no donations are requested or collected. The aim of the breakfasts is to give pastors in the local area, a chance to know each other better and grow spiritually. This has however, only happened in the UK. We are yet to organise a single pastors' breakfast in Kenya. There is currently no plan to change this.</p>
<b><i>Gathering of God's Servants</i></b>	<p>Similar to the Pastors' breakfasts but with a wider catchment and a narrower focus, the 'Gathering of God's Servants' is a programme where Christian leaders (not just pastors) come together and explore ways of working together through the challenges which work against collaboration in discharging the Great Commission. We have held informal gatherings like this in Kenya, the</p>



	most recent being the <i>Solace</i> praisefest of Autumn 2019.
<b><i>The 'Towards' Reports</i></b>	Every year since 2012, <i>Solace</i> has contributed to the capacity-building of at least one church. The support offered in this regard ranges widely from helping to set up a youth and teens ministry ( <i>Winners Chapel</i> , Malindi, Kenya), through to observing what could be going wrong in a church and suggesting ways to put it right ( <i>Hope Africa</i> , Syiokimau, Kenya) to simple church planting ( <i>Born Again Revival Tabernacle International</i> [BARTI] UK and Kenya). In all, we have so far provided such support for at least ten churches and Christian ministries. The support usually culminates in a report with a title that begins: 'Towards' (e.g. 'Towards A Better Youth Ministry', 'Towards Clearer Communications', 'Towards A Stronger Church', etc.). <sup>i</sup> The reports allow us to build, maintain and present a colourful portfolio of our work in this unique area of Christian ministry, while furnishing the ministries involved, their leaderships as well as others corporate and individual, who may learn from them, with the unique tool of an interested outsider's keen eye as they seek to glorify God and meet people's expectations through the work they do.
<b><i>Chaplaincy</i></b>	As part of our work, we have offered chaplaincy services to two schools in Kenya: <i>One Republic High School</i> (ORHS), Malindi – an engagement which was short-lived and the longer-lasting engagement at the elite <i>Ashleys Hair and Beauty Academy</i> owned and run by Teresa ('Terry') Mungai, organiser of Kenya's national beauty pageant. Our chaplaincy services enabled <i>Solace</i> to support students through prayer, counselling and music as well as contribute to the schools' academic content through engagement with tutorial staff and cameo tutorial appearances, in addition to a booklet on prospecting for clients which <i>Solace</i> prepared specifically for <i>Ashleys</i> . This is not altogether unique for <i>Solace</i> : during our brief engagement with <i>ORHS</i> , <i>Solace</i> prepared for and presented to <i>ORHS</i> , a 120-page rulebook: <i>The ORHS Board of Governors</i>



	<i>Governing Document.</i>
<b><i>Preaching engagements</i></b>	Although <i>Solace</i> is not a church, our work in the furtherance of the Gospel has brought us to the attention of several Christian leaders who have been glad to honour our Founder and by extension, <i>Solace</i> , with the privilege of speaking God's Word from their pulpits. Between 2017 and 2019, there have been more than thirty such engagements in both the UK and Kenya. We have also had the privilege of granting interviews to two small broadcasters.
<b><i>Evangelisation</i></b>	In the area of evangelisation, <i>Solace</i> continues to work with other ministries to reach out to God's People on the streets of England and Kenya. In addition as already indicated above, our training programmes generally contain Bible-based Christian material, although we have put together some non-Bible-based alternatives.
<b><i>Bible distribution</i></b>	<i>Solace</i> continues to acquire through a variety of means including purchase and donations, bibles which are then distributed free of charge, to those who need but cannot afford to buy them. We recently received from St Francis Church of England Parish, Monks Hill (Selsdon), a donation of ten bibles. We continue to pass such gifts on to those who need them. We have also supplied about fifty children's bibles in Kenya since 2017. Such unique efforts are of course, quite expensive in terms of time and funds, but we are as always, quite glad to be of service to the LORD and His People in this way.
	<i>Solace</i> continues to support directly and indirectly, with cash and other resources, a variety of Christian charities. We also work hard to sensitise Christians to the fact that giving to other Christian charities is part of the



<b>Support for other Christian charities; General ministry support</b>	obligation of giving to the Work of the LORD. In 2019, we began adding profiles of Christian charities at the backs of our publications and plan to do more of that when our newsletter and website are finally launched. In addition, <i>Solace</i> continues to support even more ministries across the world with a monthly tithe on income generated, as mandated in the <i>Solace Tithe and Tithing Policy</i> .
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<b>Area: Economic/community development/employment</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Collaborations</b>	Our work in this area continues to be evidenced by outcomes. We are engaged as stated above, with CVA, Croydon Food Network, LVAC, etc. in addition, we have been almost from the start, part of the now-famous ‘Rubbish meetings’ hosted by a kaleidoscope of community luminaries, including Reverend Catherine Tucker (Holy Saviour Church, Broad Green and <i>Citizens</i> . The same point has also been made already regarding our work with <i>Groots</i> , <i>SOS Children’s Village</i> and churches.

<b>Area: Human rights, religious or racial harmony, equality or diversity</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
	Our work in this area has been that of succour-provision for those affected, sensitising communities during our preaching and educational engagements, as well as supporting like we have stated above, those whom we can, to gain





<b>Domestic violence</b>	<p>or regain and maintain, independence through entrepreneurship. We are still in the process of putting together a new programme in collaboration with <i>Groots</i>, Kenya, which will help men understand how to deal with issues leading up to domestic violence before they escalate. In line with true Christian teaching, the programme will also seek to help and encourage prospective victims of domestic violence to take some responsibility for preventing and stopping the blight, through being more careful and sensitive about what they say and do. In that regard also, informal feelers have been sent out to the England-based <i>Mighty Men of Valour</i> (MMV) and <i>African Youth Development Association</i> (AYDA) who we understand to have a solid record in handling domestic violence issues. Since (contrary to the widely-accepted viewpoint), domestic violence is not restricted to cases of men harming women, we are also considering a similar programme for women and currently looking for organisations with which we can effectively partner in this regard.</p>
<b>Employee abuse</b>	<p>Employee abuse is a widespread human problem to be found all over the world. We are actively engaged in supporting victims wherever and whenever we can. For reasons of confidentiality and sensitivity however, we regret that we cannot give any details in this report, other than to state that this is a problem that has actually resulted in threats to <i>Solace</i> staff, but which irrespective of the dangers involved, we will continue to challenge robustly, to the Glory of God Who has Ruled that: “a worker is worthy of their wages”.<sup>12</sup></p>
<b>Letters and advocacy</b>	<p>One of the aspects of poverty not often viewed as being connected to the problem, is advocacy. Many people are poor because they have no strong voice and no one to speak out/up for them. At <i>Solace</i>, we have continued however, to provide understated but quite effective support in this area for</p>

<sup>12</sup> The Holy Bible's Gospel According to Saint Luke (Lk) 10:7 and Saint Paul's First Letter (possibly) to Timothy (1Tim 5:18).



	members of the public. We have found though, that the need for this service tends to vary according to country and culture. In addition. <i>Solace</i> continues to help many prospective job seekers, produce very presentable CVs, cover letters and personal statements. It is the LORD's Doing.
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<b>Area: General</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Family</b>	<i>Solace</i> provides a free service in which we bring estranged family members back together. One of our greatest successes was the reconciliation in 2017, of a father and daughter who had not spoken for almost fifteen years and had actually lost contact with each other. The daughter approached us and through social media as well as other lines of enquiry, we managed to track him down in another part of the country and link them with each other again.
<b>Targeting</b>	<i>Solace</i> works with individuals as well as communities. We are aware that certain persons in need of the support which charities provide, fail to meet specific criteria and so are unable to receive the help they need. We endeavour where possible, identify such individuals and then provide relevant support within our means.
	<i>Solace</i> has continued to enhance its capacity-building through the compilation and application of relevant policies. We now have around twenty policies which among others, include the following policies: Accounts, Beneficiaries, Child Protection, Complaints, Conflict of Interest, Data Protection, Enterprise



<b><i>Policies</i></b>	Empowerment, Equal Opportunities, Invoice, Office Share, Tithe and Tithing and Volunteer policies.
<b><i>Integrity</i></b>	Despite the almost indescribable financial pressures we are under, <i>Solace</i> has refused to cut corners such as engaging in bribery. Bribery has remained an almost immovable issue in Kenya. In the UK, <i>Solace</i> invariably returns all donations where doubts exist or persist, as to the source and/or motive of the donations.

It is important to note, that these are just some, rather than all, of our successes. *Solace* is indefatigable as it seeks to keep working and recording more successes: little maybe, unseen sometimes, but real nonetheless and always worth celebrating, to the Glory of God the Almighty Father of all Creation, our Only Solace and the One from Whom all good things come..



## ***The journey continued: Our failures***

We have been humbled to the Glory of God, by disappointment in several areas. These have been outlined below, using the same format as above in the case of 'Successes'.

<b><i>Area: Education and training</i></b>	
<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Details</i></b>
<b><i>Books</i></b>	As noted previously, we are not getting enough books for distribution. The demand for books far outstrips the supply we are managing. Part of the problem has been the financial costs of shipping so many books, but we have also struggled to pull in enough book donations. <i>Solace</i> needs to explore more avenues for addressing these drawbacks such as liaising with national bookshops, engaging more schools and making the public more aware of the need for books in the countries which by the Grace of God and to His Glory, we are supporting.
<b><i>Training programmes</i></b>	Our training programmes, even when free, are not generating the audience and participation numbers they should. Some (such as our recent programme for parents of school-age children held in collaboration with <i>Circle of Parents</i> ) have even attracted an attendance/participation of zero. This obviously, is not good enough and so we are exploring ways to turn the situation around. A special committee has been set up by the Trustees in this regard.

<b><i>Area: The prevention or relief of poverty (UK)</i></b>	
<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Details</i></b>
	A huge part of our work is in the alleviation and ultimate defeat of poverty. It is a job we take extremely seriously. As noted above, we give out material reliefs



<b>Material and cash reliefs</b>	<p>such as clothes and financial reliefs in the form of small grants. This is a laudable but dubitable approach as has been pointed out by many experts. <i>The Economist</i> for instance, notes that: "Giving money directly to poor people works surprisingly well. But it cannot deal with the deeper causes of poverty". <i>Give Directly</i> – an organisation which simply gives money to the poor, has also found that money alone cannot solve the problem of poverty. <i>Solace</i> is in a dilemma here as we try to understand how best to help individuals and their communities out of poverty. Sometimes the amount of need we are dealing with threatens to bury the organisation in a poverty of its own and this is something which the Trustees are constantly looking at to ensure the organisation remains viable. In addition, we are finding that the understanding of poverty continues to differ from country to country. This presents an added challenge in the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult if not totally impossible for the organisation to adopt a generic intercontinental approach to poverty alleviation.</p>
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### **Area: Religious activities**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Pastors' breakfasts and</b>	<p>Although <i>Solace</i> is a Christian charity, we are finding that due to the dichotomous nature of Christianity's doctrinal potpourri as well as issues to do with personality, politics and ethnicity, the <i>Solace</i> Pastors' breakfasts are not as well attended as we would prefer for them to be. We continue to find also, that the 'Towards' Reports we took so much time, money and effort to prepare remain mostly unread and therefore their contents are rarely implemented, with the unfortunate but quite predictable result that the issues addressed by the reports continue to bedevil the relevant entities. We see this as a failure</p>



<b><i>other activities</i></b>	<p>because for such an issue to persist so pervasively (only one of the eight reports has fully been read and considered), there must be something we are not doing right.<sup>13</sup> <i>Solace</i> is looking at ways of making the reports more attractive – or ceasing this aspect of our work altogether. Our bible distribution is both erratic and haphazard, for an organisation with a plethora of policies, it is an uncomfortably stark fact that there are no rules or documents governing how we collect bibles, what versions we prefer, who we give them to, how we identify need and reasons for giving them, etc. This is also an issue which we seek to address shortly. However, two years after first highlighting these issues in an annual report, the Organisation has not made any progress in those areas. Minutes of Trustees’ meetings in fact show, that none of these issues was ever on the agenda within the last two years – over one hundred weeks.</p>
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<b><i>Area: Economic/community development/employment</i></b>	
<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Details</i></b>
	<p>We have long recognised, that working together is an aspect of charitable work which will benefit all stakeholders greatly and so should be encouraged. It is also an essential aspect of Christianity which places great emphasis on unity “for there has God Commanded the Blessing”.<sup>14</sup> It is indeed true that <i>Solace</i> continues to see the benefits of collaboration; it is also true however, that we</p>

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<sup>13</sup> We have noted for instance, that in at least three of the ‘Towards’ reports, the leaders who received them, wanted us to give an oral summary of the reports to enable them circumvent the need for reading the documents in question

<sup>14</sup> The Holy Bible’s One Hundred and Thirty-Third Psalm (Ps) 133:3.



<b>Collaborations</b>	<p>are yet to reach our full potential regarding such engagements, with like-minded organisations in the UK, Kenya and elsewhere.<sup>15</sup> In addition, negotiations for working together appear to be taking too long. For instance (as noted in our previous annual reports), a collaborative effort between <i>Deliverance Church</i>, Kahawa, Kenya, took eighteen months to arrange, while seventeen months after initial talks began, our attempt at collaboration with several corporate bodies in Kenya are yet to yield any real fruit. Discussions with UK organisations appear to be also moving with inordinate and unfathomable slowness. The challenge for <i>Solace</i> here is not simply the stalled, staggered or stopped negotiations, but the very crucial need for gaining a clearer awareness of the collaboration landscape, as this would enable <i>Solace</i> to choose prospective partners more carefully, while avoiding the temptation of drawn-out negotiations which seem to waste human, financial and other resources, interminably, such as in the cases cited above.</p>
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<b>Area: Human rights, religious or racial harmony, equality or diversity</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Threats</b>	<p>To the Glory of God, in the period spanning 2017 to date, there have been no other threats against <i>Solace</i> staff. This is especially a relief in Kenya where the threat of anti-Christian violence and terrorism remains high, despite the country having a population posting an overwhelming Christian majority of more than eighty per cent. We however have mentioned this under 'Our failures', rather</p>

<sup>15</sup> Already feelers have been sent out to pastors, churches and other groups (not necessarily Christian) who seek to work with *Solace*. These have come from places such as Zambia, Vietnam, South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Pakistan, Nepal and Malawi.



	<p>than 'Our successes' because we have not identified what led to a total disappearance of the threats. This means that should the issue arise again, we are not in a position to apply lessons learnt, since there are no lessons to learn or at least, none have been learnt on this matter. Thus while we acknowledge with deep humility and gratitude, Divine Protection, we pray for Wisdom to know and understand more, otherwise, our failure to protect staff at such times will continue leading to the added failure of being unable and unwilling for foreign volunteers to visit and support <i>Solace</i> in Kenya.</p>
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<b>Area: General</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<p>We have been unable to set up a website since our inception, or to establish a strong social media presence. We also have no newsletter. In other words, we have not necessarily taken steps to ensure <i>Solace</i> and the wonderful work we do, receive as much publicity as possible. This in turn, continually leads to a further failure in our remaining unnoticed by – and/or unattractive to, donors, sponsors and other entities who are undeniably necessary in the life of any and every charitable organisation. The Trustees are set to address this matter so that in the next annual report, this matter will move from our failures to at long last, one of our successes.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>In our last report, it was stated that:</p> <p><i>The point has been made already, that Solace receives no funding from any source. This is a failure because there is funding available but we have neither identified nor applied for any so far. We have also not registered for Gift Aid – a failure which cost us over three thousand Pounds in 2016 alone.</i></p> <p>The matter has unfortunately persisted in the sense that we have not received</p>





	any funding and our income for the current year has continued to fall. <sup>16</sup> On a positive note (though not positive enough to count as a success yet), Solace has identified several grant makers and is in the process of applying solo and as part of collaborative effort with other groups, to the identified grant makers, for funding.
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This report has endeavoured to present all the failures as far as we can recall. Thus, to the best of our knowledge, nothing has been left out. It is important to note that *Solace* perceives these failures, not as ends of a journey, but stops along the way, to be addressed accordingly, by the Grace of God.

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<sup>16</sup> In the absence of funding, the Founder a freelance writer, donates around ninety-five per cent of all his income to *Solace*, a sizable portion of which is spent on our work and interests in Kenya.



## Financial report

<i><b>Month</b></i>	<i><b>Money In</b></i>	<i><b>Money Out</b></i>
October (2018)	420.44	253.49
November (2018)	194.69	333.29
December (2018)	100	246
January (2019)	66	148.38
February (2019)	2,014	1,750.33
March (2019)	55	95.42
April (2019)	375	325.03
May (2019)	235	241.91
June (2019)	250	94
July (2019)	420	590.72
August (2019)	220	170.37
September (2019)	50	81.15
<b>Total</b>	4,401.13	4,329.60
<b>Net total = £72</b>		



## Conclusion

The above report shows that while *Solace* continues to make inroads in such a manner as to suggest and correctly so, that the organisation is punching above its weight, there can be no escaping the fact that the organisation still has a long way to go before it can be taken seriously by most people expert at judging such things, as a big player in the charity/NGO sector. The organisation is short in a plethora of areas: short of corporate sponsors, short of regular donors, short of volunteers, short on a variety of other personnel, short on big achievements and short on a multitude of resources – some of which are basic and essential to the life of a not-for-profit organisation. That said, the organisation is not short on optimism; it is also not short on sharp minds and bright ideas. *Solace* is not short on faith and confidence. The current teething problems are perceived throughout the organisation as stepping-stones – however slippery and craggy, to the point of success towards which we are definitely headed. *Solace* is so convinced of its future success that there are plans to physically expand the organisation even further afield – well beyond Kenya and the UK where its only offices are.

The influence of *Solace* is as can be seen above (e.g. 'Collaborations'), by no means insignificant. We are constantly reaching out to peoples in other lands via the good offices of better-placed individuals and groups. This however does not and cannot, be a substitute for a more tangible presence in some of those countries when and as the LORD Pleases. That said, the Will of God is and shall always be, the key focus of *Solace International/InterSolace*. We are operating by His Grace, in His Presence, with His Provision, under His Guidance, at His Pleasure, for His Will and to His Glory. It is in this that we take solace, knowing that what we have set out to achieve and what we have been Called/Set to achieve are one. There can be no doubt that greater and tougher challenges lie ahead, but there can also be no doubt, that while there still remain people in need whose lives we can impact in God's Name for the better, *Solace* will continue to operate: determined, diligent and dedicated. We count it an honour to serve in the manner we do and with those we do. We are also honoured to know that the LORD will Continue to Bless and Flourish the work of our hands. *Solace* is going places...places of greatness and beauty – because that is what it is to serve the LORD in the way we do: great and beautiful.



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*So...you, when you have done all those things which you are Commanded, say: "We are unprofitable servants; we have done what was our duty to do".*

**(The Holy Bible's Book of Luke 17:10 New King James Version [KJV])**



**Dated Saturday, this sixteenth day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, 2019**

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CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Solace International  
Solace International

No (if any)

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01-Oct-17

To

Period end date  
29-Sep-18

### 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>					
Oct-18	420	-	-	420	
Nov-18	195	-	-	195	
Dec-18	100	-	-	100	
Jan-19	66	-	-	66	
Feb-19	2,014			2,014	
Mar-19	55	-	-	55	
Apr-19	375	-	-	375	
May-19	235			235	
Jun-19	250			250	
Jul-19	420			420	
Aug-19	220	-	-	220	
Sep-19	50	-	-	50	
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Oct - Dec 2018	832	-	-	832	-
Jan-19	148	-	-	148	-
Feb-19	1,750	-	-	1,750	-
Mar-19	95	-	-	95	-
Apr-19	325	-	-	325	-
May-19	241	-	-	241	-
Jun-19	94	-	-	94	-
Jul-19	590	-	-	590	-
Aug - Sep 2019	251	-	-	251	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>4,326</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,326</b>	<b>-</b>
				4,326	
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>4,326</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,326</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>8,249</b>	-	-	<b>8,249</b>	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Cross Add Error</b>	<b>-</b>

## 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>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	69	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK
			Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	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
		E. Awuzuludike L. Podiephatshwa	Emmanuel Awuzuludike Lorraine Podiephatshwa	29-Sep-19 <b>29-Sep-19</b>