

Charity registration number 519061

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Rev P Jump Rev Dr S Anderson Mr A Edwards Mr U Russell Mr A Lovelady
Charity number	519061
Principal address	Margaret Clitherow Centre Croxteth Drive Liverpool L17 1AA
Independent examiner	Tony Stanley ACA Mitchell Charlesworth Tempest Suite 5.1 12 Tithebarn Street L2 2DT Liverpool
Bankers	HSBC Bank PLC 99-101 Lord Street Liverpool L2 6PG
Solicitors	Hill Dickinson No. 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are:

- To draw the churches in membership of the Charity into a fuller understanding of the Gospel
- To promote the visible unity and mission of the Church at every level of Church life as an effective instrument of God's purpose for the local and wider community
- To encourage and enable the Churches to make decisions together where possible
- To give expression to the common faith, baptism and devotion of Christians as they seek to apply the "Lund principle" - to do everything together, except that which in conscience must be done separately

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake for public benefit.

Details of activities

The bulk of CTMR's activities consist of co-ordinating the life of the major Christian denominations in the area by means of:

- establishing and developing joint projects
- providing opportunities for joint meetings, study sessions, conferences, forums, assemblies
- regular newsletters and mailings

SAS's activities comprise largely the raising of funds for the provision of charitable support for asylum seekers and refugees in the area.

- by relieving poverty and destitution
- by contributing to projects promoting their wellbeing

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Achievements and performance

The Central Work of CTMR

Our core activity has continued supporting a range of formal and informal partnerships between Churches, encouraging local co-operative working across denominations and traditions, answering enquiries and requests from the Merseyside community, representing the work of CTMR at a national level and liaising with the agency who co-ordinate Merseyside's Churches readiness in case of a major incident.

Collaboration is at the heart of the work of CTMR. There is regular interaction with a range of Christian and interfaith bodies including: Mission in the Economy, 'Together for the Harvest', Liverpool and District Free Church Federal Council, The Bishop of Liverpool Faith Leaders' Group and Faiths4Change as well as significant bodies working with refugees and asylum seekers who we support through CTMR SAS.

Governance

Church Leaders met four times during the year to determine the overall strategy of CTMR, to maintain co-ordinating oversight of its core activities and to share concerns and joys for their denominations with each other. The friendship in their group continues to be heartfelt. The Management Council met three times as a smaller body of Trustees and they met twice face-to-face and once via zoom. They are appointed by the CTMR Church Leaders and use their operational skills to take ahead practical matters concerning CTMR and provide support to the Ecumenical Co-ordinator.

CTMR Denominational Officers

Denominational Officers in the Merseyside Region met for mutual support twice via zoom and once in person during the year, also do update other and to enable working together more closely. Most of them also attended a national conference for Ecumenical Officers.

MP Lunch and Civic Reception

Church Leaders and MPs were delighted to see each face to face again and a very good discussion took place. They raised items of interest or concern. Together they reviewed how they can best work together and serve the common good in the region and nationally.

A Civic Reception for Leaders of the Borough Councils and Mayors within the Merseyside Region takes place every year and is hosted by CTMR Church Leaders. It is an opportunity for Mayors and Leaders of the Council to network among themselves and with the Church Leaders. It is also used to award recognition on civic members of the Region for their contribution to Merseyside and often beyond. The Civic Reception was hosted by the Diocese of Liverpool in the Anglican Cathedral in 2023. It was a wonderful occasion for networking in a warm cordial atmosphere and some good conversations took place. The hosts did not miss the opportunity to say thank you to the Civic Leaders for their wonderful service to society. The Church Leaders also honoured Bishop Tom Williams on his retirement.

Liverpool Cologne Church Partnership

Churches Together in the Merseyside Region (CTMR) are very pleased with the Liverpool Cologne link but are currently reviewing the way forward for the Liverpool Cologne-Link group. The link between the Cathedral Choirs of the two cities is continuing and the exchange will resume in 2024.

Ecumenical Collaboration

The great common witness to Christians on Merseyside and beyond continues at all levels of Church, locally as well as regionally and some of the fruits of networking are: creativity, resource sharing and discernment together, conversations beyond our denominational networks, identifying who we might talk to about which key issues.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Support for Asylum Seekers (SAS)

Financial support for the Destitution Projects was continued during 2023 providing financial support to SAS partner agencies. The agencies have continued to provide practical humanitarian and wellbeing support for people seeking asylum and refuge in the local community. Where possible activities and social interaction have been made available to support their wellbeing and provide hope for the future.

SAS main partner agencies include Refugee Women Connect, Faiths4Change, Asylum Link Merseyside and Merseyside Refugee Support Network.

- **Refugee Women Connect** has continued providing emergency support grants to their clients, many with no access to public funds or homeless or both. Needs were greater than ever as it is taking longer to get women back into the system so they can receive support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) and also because asylum support funding is very low.

- **Faiths4Change** The grant pays to grow food and herbs in the Roots Community Garden at St Michael's in the City for people attending Micah foodbank at St Bride's Church, Liverpool. They facilitate 4 weekly groups in the Garden and because of additional help to clear the garden they have been able to increase the volume and variety of herbs. People from all groups report benefits including a sense of purpose and fulfilment, joy in giving to others and greater personal wellbeing.

- **Asylum Link (ALM) & Merseyside Refugee Support Network (MRSN)** They are working with extremely high numbers of clients, i.e. on one day alone they had 16 new cases some of them very complex. Many of them have just been granted refugee status which entitles them to live and work in the UK which means they have access to our support systems. However, they have nowhere to go, nowhere to rebuild their lives and another interminable wait. So, they come to MRSN and ALM every day, to see if there is any update on their chance of housing, to dry out their sodden clothes, to eat the only meal they are going to get that day, to get a shower, warm up and be around people. The situation has never been as desperate as this before and the SAS support is more necessary than ever.

The Pentecost Ecumenical Celebration

What CTMR do at Pentecost is vital as an expression of Christian unity. The Pentecost walk is part of Liverpool City's story and recorded in the Liverpool Museum.

The Pentecost Joint afternoon Service in 2023 was entitled 'One Church, Many Nations' was a truly happy and joyful occasion attended by 350-400 people.

Bishop John gave a short address at Liverpool Cathedral encouraging us to be a church that embraces the challenge of treating people of all cultures and walks of life equally. The journey along Hope Street was a colourful occasion with a considerable collection of national flags, colourful vestments and giant puppets.

Bystanders were intrigued by the sight with some joining in for the final part of the walk and service. The conclusion of the service on the steps of the Metropolitan Cathedral brought everyone together in prayer and celebration.

There was a real sense of unity and togetherness with games, dancing and music at the finish. Even the ice cream man left in a happy mood having had a steady trail of customers on such a warm and sunny afternoon.

CTMR Social Justice Group

Many of our churches are working together locally to support their neighbours and communities through these challenging times. A small working group of Social Responsibility Leads continues to meet 4 times a year to identify ways of better working together and represent the Christian community on various key stakeholder bodies. For example, they supported church leaders in putting out a statement on the UN Climate Summit by gathering information from the international and regional situation and composing a letter which was signed by all church leaders. The group looks to further amplify the voice of churches and church leaders. This may be done through civic forums or engaging with local political leaders. Another area being developed is how to better engage with the VS6 – which supports voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise across the city region.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Churches Together in the Northwest Safeguarding Group

The ecumenical safeguarding group widened the range of the meeting to reflect the large area they cover between them as it is well beyond the Merseyside region. To reflect this, they now call themselves 'Churches Together in the North West Safeguarding Group'. They met via zoom in September and had a useful discussion about ways of working within the denominations which included safeguarding audits, central record keeping, good practice and sharing concerns. It is apparent at their meetings that they have much in common in their ways of working and they all value the opportunity to share and learn from each other.

CTMR Communications Officers

CTMR Communications Officers liaise via email as matters arise.

CTMR Website

The new website had 6500 hits on average a month in 2023: www.ctmr.org.uk

CTMR Young Adults

The ecumenical Young Adults' group kept meeting either via zoom or in person in 2023. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity they shared their experience of the CTMR young adults with a group of students at Liverpool Hope University. After hearing their presentation one of their listeners joined them. Some members applied for a bursary to be part of the Tantur Ecumenical Young Adults Pilgrimage of Reconciliation to the Holy Land in 2024 and two of them were accepted. This has now been postponed because of the current situation in the Holy Land. In October one member of the group got married and everyone in the group was invited to the service followed by delicious cake and tea. One member of the group made a successful application to the Bill Snelson Young Ecumenists Fund involving a visit to the World Council of Churches and to the Ecumenical Abbey of Chemin Neuf in Hautecombe in France. The December gathering allowed for a meal with a lot of sharing, catching up and some honest discussion around the table amidst a lot of laughter.

Networking across the North of England

Northern County Ecumenical Officers continue their tri-annual meetings for mutual support, networking and exchange of ideas and take it in turns to host the meetings and invite speakers to update them about relevant matters.

Financial review

Overall income for the year amounted to £45,318, a decrease of £18,326 on the previous year.

After deduction of expenditure of £51,013 net expenditure amounted to £5,695 as set out in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Total unrestricted funds as at 31 December 2023 are £37,945.

Other Funds:

- Designated Fund (Note 16), the Urban Fund exists to promote discussion and research on urban issues;
- Restricted Fund (Note 15), Support for Asylum Seekers (SAS) makes weekly grants of up to £25 to asylum seekers deprived of statutory support. In case of persistent total deprivation these are now continued beyond the original 10 week limit.

Reserves policy

The unrestricted reserves are maintained to provide a financial cushion in the event of

- any possible shortfall in the income from the major denominational contributors;
- redundancy payments becoming necessary.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Grant making policy

SAS makes weekly grants of up to £25 to asylum seekers deprived of statutory support. In case of persistent total deprivation, these are now continued beyond the original 10 week limit.

Risk policy

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Plans for the Future

The Support for Asylum Seekers programme continues to fulfil its mandate of humanitarian support by relieving destitution and distress among people who have sought asylum in Merseyside and then been failed by the system.

The housing administered by ALM has been used differently during the past year. With the enormous backlog of over 100,000 unmade decisions, less long-term use of the houses has been needed. Instead, the accommodation has been used for more short-term emergency cover, whilst applications for initial accommodation pre-asylum claim, or for people lucky enough to get a decision, who are in move-on, evicted before their mainstream benefits can be put in place.

That said, ALM has been extremely successful in working with longer term clients, putting together further submissions for fresh asylum claims. This, along with work on 20-year rule claims with the Merseyside Law Centre has also sped up transit through the houses. 25 individuals were housed through the period, in 3 houses.

In a recent NACCOM Report, contributed to by ALM, the importance of Housing and Support for the destitute, alongside Legal Assistance was highlighted.

The Food Store has operated in a similar way, assisting people in transition to different forms of support as we; as the mainstream destitute population. During 2022 a total of 1500 weekly food packages were distributed to 170 people. Of this group, the majority collected for 20 to 40 weeks.

CTMR, through SAS and Asylum Link, remains the only organisation in Liverpool to provide housing to refused asylum seekers.

Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence in the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Structure, governance and management

The Management Council of CTMR is the trustee body of the charity.
The trustees who served during the year were:

Rev P Jump
Rev Dr S Anderson
Mr A Edwards
Mr U Russell
Mr A Lovelady

Organisation

Churches Together in the Merseyside Region comprises churches and other bodies in categories of full membership, associate membership, affiliated membership and allied membership, as determined by the constitution. General control and management of the administration of the charity is exercised by the Management Council, which has power to appoint groups to act under its direction.

Support for Asylum Seekers (SAS) is an agency of CTMR set up to support asylum seekers. It became part of MARCEA (subsequently CTMR) on 1 January 2001.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Rev P Jump

Chair of Management Council

Dated:16/9/24

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Churches Together in the Merseyside Region (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Tony Stanley ACA

Mitchell Charlesworth
Tempest
Suite 5.1
12 Tithebarn Street
Liverpool
L2 2DT

Dated: 17/09/24

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	30,191	14,703	44,894	31,191	32,382	63,573
Charitable activities	4	-	-	-	1	-	1
Investments	5	347	77	424	63	7	70
Total income		<u>30,538</u>	<u>14,780</u>	<u>45,318</u>	<u>31,255</u>	<u>32,389</u>	<u>63,644</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	31,369	19,644	51,013	28,627	31,095	59,722
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(831)	(4,864)	(5,695)	2,628	1,294	3,922
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		<u>38,776</u>	<u>39,308</u>	<u>78,084</u>	<u>36,148</u>	<u>38,014</u>	<u>74,162</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		<u><u>37,945</u></u>	<u><u>34,444</u></u>	<u><u>72,389</u></u>	<u><u>38,776</u></u>	<u><u>39,308</u></u>	<u><u>78,084</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	13	575		1,373	
Cash at bank and in hand		74,747		79,505	
		75,322		80,878	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,933)		(2,794)	
Net current assets			72,389		78,084
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		34,444		39,308
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	5,849		5,760	
General unrestricted funds		32,096		33,016	
			37,945		38,776
			72,389		78,084

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 16/9/24 and are signed on its behalf by:


 Rev P Jump
 Chair of Management Council

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Churches Together in the Merseyside Region is a registered charity governed by its constitution. The principal address is the Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of CTMR that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general charitable purposes of CTMR.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees for a particular purpose and are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.4 Income

Contributions from the member Churches are accounted for in the year in which they are due. Donations from other bodies and Councils of Christian Churches are accounted for as received.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It includes irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which CTMR is responsible in law. The Accounts of SAS and Urban are included.

Expenditure on equipment or other fixed assets is not capitalised but is charged to revenue as incurred if not material.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are offset, with the net amounts presented in the accounts when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Retirement benefits

Churches Together in the Merseyside Region participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
 - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
 - a. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (2023: £1,471, 2022: £1,111).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation was due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 10.1% following improvements in the funding position over 2021. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, Churches Together in the Merseyside Region could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

1.10 Taxation

The charity benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions. The charity is not able to recover Value Added Tax. Expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no critical accounting estimates in the accounts.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	30,191	4,703	34,894	31,191	10,429	41,620
Grants receivable	-	10,000	10,000	-	21,953	21,953
	<u>30,191</u>	<u>14,703</u>	<u>44,894</u>	<u>31,191</u>	<u>32,382</u>	<u>63,573</u>
Donations and gifts						
Contributions from member churches	30,191	-	30,191	31,191	-	31,191
SAS donations	-	4,455	4,455	-	10,429	10,429
Other	-	248	248	-	-	-
	<u>30,191</u>	<u>4,703</u>	<u>34,894</u>	<u>31,191</u>	<u>10,429</u>	<u>41,620</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
Other	-	10,000	10,000	-	21,953	21,953
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,953</u>	<u>21,953</u>

Included in the current year Grants Receivable Restricted Funds amount of £10,000 was a grant to SAS of £10,000 from the John Moores Foundation.

4 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other income	-	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Investments	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Interest receivable	£ 347	£ 63	£ 77	£ 7	£ 424	£ 70

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Charitable activities

	The encouragement and support of Christian Churches	The relief of poverty and destitution	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	19,854	-	19,854	18,054
Programme costs	821	-	821	686
Office expenses	6,020	-	6,020	6,274
Travel expenses	929	-	929	51
	<u>27,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,624</u>	<u>25,065</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	-	19,584	19,584	31,008
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,411	-	1,411	1,279
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,394	-	2,394	2,370
	<u>31,429</u>	<u>19,584</u>	<u>51,013</u>	<u>59,722</u>
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	31,369	-	31,369	
Restricted funds	60	19,584	19,644	
	<u>31,429</u>	<u>19,584</u>	<u>51,013</u>	

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Charitable activities

(Continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	The encouragement and support of Christian Churches £	The relief of poverty and destitution £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	18,054	-	18,054
Programme costs	686	-	686
Office expenses	6,274	-	6,274
Travel expenses	51	-	51
	<u>25,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,065</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	-	31,008	31,008
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,279	-	1,279
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,370	-	2,370
	<u>28,714</u>	<u>31,008</u>	<u>59,722</u>
Analysis by fund			
Unrestricted funds	28,627	-	28,627
Restricted funds	87	31,008	31,095
	<u>28,714</u>	<u>31,008</u>	<u>59,722</u>

7 Grants payable

	The relief of poverty and destitution £	2022 £
Total	19,584	31,008
	<u>19,584</u>	<u>31,008</u>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023 Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	1,045	-	1,045	950	950
Travel costs	49	-	49	3	3
Office costs	317	-	317	326	326
Accountancy fees	-	838	838	-	950
Independent examination fees	-	1,556	1,556	-	1,420
	<u>1,411</u>	<u>2,394</u>	<u>3,805</u>	<u>1,279</u>	<u>3,649</u>
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>1,411</u>	<u>2,394</u>	<u>3,805</u>	<u>1,279</u>	<u>3,649</u>

Support costs have been recharged to the encouragement and support of Christian Churches estimated on the basis of time spent.

Governance costs have been recharged to the encouragement and support of Christian Churches activity.

Governance costs includes payments to the accountants of £838 (2022: £950) for accountancy services and £1,556 (2022: £1,420) for independent examination fees.

9 Trustees

The trustees, who served for various periods of the year, received no remuneration or expenses for services provided to the charity (2022: nil).

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Charitable	1	1

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	19,428	17,893
Other pension costs	1,471	1,111
	<u>20,899</u>	<u>19,004</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Financial instruments

	2023 £	2022 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	74,747	79,435
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	2,998	2,794

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	575	1,373

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	(65)	-
Other creditors	639	252
Accruals and deferred income	2,359	2,542
	<u>2,933</u>	<u>2,794</u>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			Balance at 31 December 2023
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Support for Asylum Seekers	38,014	32,389	(31,095)	39,308	14,780	(19,644)	34,444

Support for Asylum Seekers (SAS) makes weekly grants of up to £25 to asylum seekers deprived of statutory support. In case of persistent total deprivation these are now continued beyond the original 10 week limit.

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Balance at 31 December 2023
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	
	£	£	£	£	£
Urban fund	5,749	11	5,760	89	5,849
	5,749	11	5,760	89	5,849

The Urban Fund exists to promote the discussion and research on urban issues.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:					
Current assets/(liabilities)	37,945	34,444	72,389	38,776	78,084
	37,945	34,444	72,389	38,776	78,084

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).