



Churches Together in Greater Bristol
trading as
Together4Bristol

Registered Charity 1113815

**Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended
31 December 2023**

Legal and Administrative Details

Status

The Charity was registered in England on 19 April 2006 under the charity registration number 1113815 and is governed by a constitution adopted at the annual general meeting on 19 November 2020.

Charitable Objects

The objects of Churches Together in Greater Bristol will be the advancement of the Christian religion and other purposes which are charitable according to the Law of England and Wales.

Trustees

The trustees serving during the year were

Rev Eric Aidoo
Roger Allen
Rev Chris Dobson (to 31 January 2023)
Derick Mulubwa
Rev Stephen Newell
Mark Sellers
Fatima Sibanda
Sheena Tranter

Correspondence Address

57 Avon Way, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 1SL

Independent Examiner

Paul Brown FCIE DChA
Suite 2, 42 Triangle West, Park Street, Bristol, BS8 1ES

Bankers and Investment Managers

Lloyds Bank Plc, Clevedon, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT
United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) Incorporated as
holding trustee for the investment portfolio in M&G Charifund
Income units

Trustee Report

by Rev Canon Fatima Sibanda, Chairperson

1. Introduction

Together4Bristol ('T4B') is the trading name of *Churches Together in Greater Bristol*, a 'unity for mission' movement across the Bristol region, a member of *Churches Together in England* and a registered charity. It brings together three distinct areas of interest within the Christian community: churches, prayer and the 'whole of life'.

2. Churches

We are grateful to the Lord for yet another successful year. Although many churches, Christian charities and organisations are still in recovery mode after the major setbacks that were caused by the Pandemic, we are grateful that we are still collaborating in serving our communities in both spiritual and practical ways.

In November, the Presidents invited church leaders in the Knowle West area to join them, so they could understand better what is happening in the area, listen to the local leaders and pray for them.

3. Gather

As a unity for mission movement, gathering is one of our key components. There were different collaborative gatherings across the city in person and online for prayer and for fellowship. These included church leaders' prayer and fellowship meetings on Thursday evenings in person and some on Thursday mornings via zoom. We also had quarterly gatherings with the Mayor where we could get the pulse of the city and respond to the needs of our city accordingly.

Churches also gathered at the Bristol Cathedral to celebrate Pentecost. It was amazing to see different age groups and backgrounds represented as we together celebrated the birth of the Church. This event met one of our objectives; not to do it alone when we can do it together. We also demonstrated our unity through our love for one another as different ministers from various denominations shared the pulpit.

More gatherings happened across the Spheres, and these will be covered in the Spheres report compiled by Roger Allen, the Spheres lead. Unfortunately, In June we had a sad gathering at the funeral of one of our Presidents, Bishop Renford Brown. May his legacy live on and his departed soul rest in peace.

4. Grow

In our gatherings we had opportunities to grow through various themes, teachings, seminars, and courses offered by various organisations and ministries. A key opportunity for more learning and growing together was our "Life In All Its Fullness" Conference and AGM in October, where we celebrated and shared fellowship.

Another aspect of our growth was the appointment of three of our trustees and the leader of CAB as Ecumenical Canons by the Bishop of Bristol. We congratulate and wish our new canons the best and trust that God will continue to use them as unifying agents across our city and beyond. Again, more stories of our growth are covered in both the Prayer and the Spheres reports.

5. Go

Through the various church services and online occasions, churches and organisations are going and fulfilling the great commission which is one of the key reasons for our coming together for the good of Bristol. Various city-wide projects and activities of the Spheres are going out meeting the felt needs of the people of our beloved city of Bristol the “City of Hope.”

You can find more about these on our website and in the Whole of Life Spheres report. We are grateful for the past contributions of Ian Taylor and Carmen Carroll who are no longer with us. Ian’s role as the Enabler of Mission and Unity is still to be filled and we are praying for our next steps for the coming year.

6. Finally

We are grateful to our Presidents, the trustees, Enabling Group, Keyboard Group, churches, charities, organisations, staff, volunteers, and all those who contributed to the success of our year.

Although our year started with a lot of changes and challenges in staffing and otherwise, we are grateful to the Lord for his grace that has carried us this far. We are anticipating a prosperous new year and more collaborative partnerships in mission as we continue to execute our divine mandate to love one another, build relationships and be united for mission. May His Kingdom come, and His will be done in Bristol as in Heaven.

Prayer

by Derick Mulubwa

1. Bristol Prayer Wall on WhatsApp

We have continued to post prayers for the City every day.

- Monday is for the Business and Workplace Sphere
- Tuesday is for the Education Sphere and young people
- Wednesday is for the Politics and Social Action Sphere
- Thursday is for the Media and Arts Spheres
- Friday is for the Family Sphere
- Saturday is for Sports and Health Spheres
- Sunday is for the church

2. Church Leaders' Prayer Meetings

These continued to be held regularly every Thursday morning being lead by Bishop Ray Viera

3. Pentecost

We celebrated Pentecost at the Bristol Cathedral on Friday 26 May. Over 80 people attended the meeting . We had time of worship and then a number of leaders stood up to pray for the various needs of the Church and city. We had Bishop Bernard and Reverend Melanie bring word of encouragement to the body . It was indeed a time of celebration of the birth of the Church. We ended the gathering by having a time of fellowship over some light refreshments. A number of people stayed behind for fellowship and food.

On Sunday 29 May at 3 pm, people gathered outside the New Rooms as we joined the whole nation in celebrating Pentecost .

4. Mayor

Prayers for Mayor Marvin have continued to be offered for him and his family by a number of church leaders who meet every second Thursday of every month to pray for him.

5. Other Prayer

Prayer walking has continued around the City Hall and Cathedral as well as the Lord Mayor's Chapel. We have had answers to prayer for the Lord Mayor's Chapel, which has now been handed over to Bristol Cathedral for management.

We have continued to meet every Monday at City Road Baptist Church to pray for the needs of the City.

Whole of Life

by Roger Allen

1. Introduction

This has been a very busy year for T4B's Whole of Life, as we help transform Bristol from a tale of two cities, to a City of Hope! It has also been a year of rebuilding in a couple of the spheres, as we emerge from the pandemic. Below are some highlights!

Roger Allen facilitates the spheres across the Whole of Life (one day a week voluntary). These spheres are Sport, Health, Education, Family, Politics and Social Action, Arts, Media, and Business and Workplace.

2. Politics and Social Action

Politics and Social Action sphere, called Christian Action Bristol (CAB), is led by Andy Street and a group of others.

a) CAB highlights engagement opportunities on YouTube, through the CAB website and social media (with a Facebook page with about 600 followers, Twitter with about 865 and Instagram with 960) across 7 sectors of social action – support for those in poverty; homelessness and housing; refugees and asylum seekers; the criminal justice system; community development and cohesion; environment and creation care; and human trafficking / vulnerable women. CAB held a City of Hope conference at Elim Church in June with about 170 people.

b) There has continued to be considerable engagement with the Mayor, Marvin Rees, and the council by the Christian community, especially through CAB and Andy Street. With the change in city governance from May 2024 (from an elected mayor to a committee system), CAB is working to ensure the Christian community is best able to continue to work with the Council in various areas of social need across the city.

c) CAB has worked with the Good Faith Partnership (GFP) to lead the Bristol churches' response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. 15 'Welcome Hubs' have been set up by churches, helping about 600 people. GFP has also co-ordinated a response to the recent influx of asylum seekers to the city, by setting up a 'Hub' in Stokes Croft to support those located in a city-centre hotel.

d) CAB and the GFP (with Bristol City Council), set up Welcoming Spaces in 33 churches across the city to support those people struggling with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, who cannot afford both eating and heating. These will reopen this autumn / winter.

e) A couple of other social action initiatives across the Christian community were: The Bristol Churches Shelter, from November 2022 to March 2023, with 150 volunteers. And The Noise 2023 (May Bank Holiday), which showed God's love in practical ways, with over 650 volunteers from 47 churches, doing 65 projects. Visit <https://www.thenoise.org.uk/latestnews/2023/05/04/whathappened2023> to see the video for more details. Noise 365 takes this vision into every day of the year.

f) From October 2022 the Bristol Churches City Fund, distributed £40,000 to support those impacted by food poverty / insecurity and the asylum seeker Hub. It will raise funds next, for the network of Welcoming Spaces.

3. Arts

Arts sphere, or Kingdom Creatives (KiC), facilitated by Malcolm Bourne), has flourished over the last year, linked to about 325 creatives. Rev Erica Bebb, who founded KiC, retired in 2023. A partnership is being formalised with Joseph Studios. Wider gatherings of creatives will then restart. The KiC steering group meets weekly on Zoom: listening to God, discerning direction, and for fellowship. KiC members have taken part in a wide variety of creative projects across the region (see their map: https://www.together4bristol.org.uk/Articles/660453/Latest_Kic_Projects.aspx).

4. Media

Media sphere has engaged more closely with the Arts sphere and Christians in Media, for a gathering in May, called "Theology: the Art of Storytelling", a very enriching time for about 50 people, and for the first Bristol Media Hub in October.

5. Business and Workplace

Business and Workplace sphere (facilitated by Jez Sweetland) has had fortnightly prayer on the Upper Reaches Barge (led by Tim Simpson). There are about 30 Christian Workplace Groups, facilitated by Mal Shaw of Transform Work. The core team continues to explore how best to support engagement with workplace groups and the wider agenda of business as a force for social justice and transformation.

6. Education

Education sphere (facilitated by Jane Gillis) works closely with Bristol Schools Connection and other organisations, encouraging Christians' to 'be and do church' in our school communities. A group from the sphere meets regularly to pray for a growing number of Christians involved in Education across Bristol. Prayerfully encouraging these Christians in their God given work roles is a key focus. The sphere works with CAB, to help churches connect with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) to provide mentors in deprived schools (about 8 so far) and with the Family Sphere, promoting the work of Kids Matter in a school community context.

7. Family

Family sphere (called Love Family) is co-facilitated by Sarah Abell and Stu Dendy. Love Family is inspired by all things family. As a sphere, we look to connect across the churches and Christian groups, with our focus on supporting and caring for the various elements of family. We recognise that prayer is significant in ministry and so we pray regularly together via Zoom, on Mondays at 8am. We also have an in-person time of prayer each term. We are pleased to be partnered with Parent Buddies, Kids Matter, Mullers, Safe Families (a very new addition), Relationships Academy (Sarah Abell) and Home for Good (Stu Dendy). We desire to grow this network, and are prayerfully considering a special "one off" event, to celebrate Love Family in 2024

8. Health

Health sphere (co-facilitated by Clare Fleming and Sheena Tranter). There is a weekly morning prayer hour, seeking Jesus' wisdom for releasing healing and deliverance across this region. Bristol Healing Rooms offer in-person prayer most weeks in various venues, or outside at College Green and Broadmead. Teams manned Healing Rooms at conferences in Jerusalem, Hong Kong, Kenya, Uganda, Northern Ireland and USA. There was a Healing conference led by Marc DuPont at Trinity College and six retreats in the Brecon Beacons on healing, deliverance, the Father's heart and prophetic worship. There are close links between the Health and Arts spheres, since creativity can be a key part of inner healing. There are a growing number of Christian Workplace Groups in hospitals, such as Southmead and the BRI. Many people have been healed and delivered throughout the year.

9. Sport

Sport sphere (co-facilitated by Akeel Yousaf and Grant Sheppard) connects several Sport charities across Bristol and Bath, such as World Sport Ministries, Christians in

Sport and Christian Surfers and Skaters. Occasional prayer gatherings, such as in the summer, link more widely, for example with the chaplains involved with Bristol Sport.

Together4Bristol

By Roger Allen and Paul Hazelden

T4B connects with the Gather Movement, which links about 150 “unity for mission movements” across the UK. Roger, with Andy Street and Sheena Tranter, are part of the wider team. Roger was interviewed for a recent Learning Community podcast exploring T4B’s pioneering work with the spheres. A small group (linked to LICC) continued to help church leaders and the spheres work more closely to help release everyday Christians across the whole of life. Also, Roger has been involved in 25 podcasts, called “Empowering You for Purpose!” across the spheres and has launched the Reframe course, with a small group, as a pilot scheme.

The T4B website was created by Mark Orriss and is updated by Adam Hudson, including events, articles, jobs and volunteering opportunities connected to the spheres. Each sphere has its own page on the website. T4B’s monthly enewsletter is sent to over 1,700, with about 940 members on T4B's Facebook group and over 500 followers on Twitter (updated by Philip Nott). A “100 Friends Appeal” has raised £1.3k towards its target of £5k, for the website and social media to become financially sustainable.

1. People

As the year started, the trustees were employing two people: Carmen Carroll (the Keyboard Networker) and Paul Hazelden (the Compliance and Finance Officer, or ‘CAFO’). There was insufficient funding to enable us to extend Carmen’s contract for another year, so her employment finished at the end of April.

2. Keyboard Group

The Keyboard Group are evaluating their future needs after Carmen left. Derick Mulubwa is currently working on following up the churches she had been engaging with, to see how best we can now “play the keys” as the united body of Christ whilst not neglecting their individual needs.

3. Local Friends

Local Friends is a T4B project led by Paul Hazelden, which supports social prescribing in the Bristol Area. Local Friends has a group of around 20 volunteers, many drawn from local churches, who provide a variety of support for lonely and isolated people in the communities around Sea Mills and Stoke Bishop.

4. Governance

There were no serious incidents in this financial period.

The T4B Enabler of Mission and Unity (EMU) is recognised by *Churches Together in England* as their County Ecumenical Officer; in the absence of an EMU, Paul Hazelden is the temporary County Ecumenical Officer.

We raised funds from the public, but did not work with any professional fundraisers or commercial participators.

We did not make any grants, and had no income from contracts with central government or local authorities, or from outside the UK. We did not operate outside England and Wales and have no subsidiaries.

None of our trustees received any remuneration, payments or benefits from the charity other than refunds of legitimate trustee expenses, and none of them took up employment with the charity.

None of our staff received total employee benefits of £60,000 or more; the total value of employee benefits paid to our highest paid member of staff was £6,120.48.

Excluding the trustees, the charity had around 50 volunteers during the financial period, most of them working within the various Spheres; another 20 people were volunteers for Local Friends.

The charity reviewed its internal financial controls and approved an updated Financial Policy in November 2023.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

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 Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice 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 proper accounting records which 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 trustees 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.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they approved the above statement, and the Financial Statements that follow, at their meeting on 15 October 2024.

Chairperson

Date

.....

.....

Trustee

Date

.....

.....

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of Churches Together in Greater Bristol

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Churches Together in Greater Bristol (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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 accounts to be reached.



Paul Brown FCIE DChA
Suite 2, 42 Triangle West
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Bristol
BS8 1ES
21 October 2024

Receipts and Payments Accounts 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Receipts and payments

	Notes	Unrestricted	Funds to the nearest £ Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Receipts	1.				
Full members	2.	12,994		12,994	12,789
Associate members					280
Donations		433		433	620
Bank Interest		148		148	6
EA – Evangelism					737
EA – Media		106		106	154
EA – Prayer					1,653
EA – Spheres		422		422	1,653
Conference and AGM		465		465	
Arise			782	782	750
Gifts					100
Keyboard			504	504	2,122
Local Friends					500
Passion Play 2023					200
T4B Website			1,177	1,177	3,327
Welcome Churches					5,000
Total Receipts		14,568	2,463	17,031	29,890
Payments	1.				
Salaries		6,120		6,120	5,106
Admin		861		861	2,101
Subscriptions		350		350	420
Presidents		309		309	56
EA – Media		20		20	
EA – Prayer		524		524	
EA – Spheres		515		515	429
Gifts					230
Conference and AGM		465		465	
Arise					1,215
Global Aware			422	422	
Keyboard	3.		4,261	4,261	11,465
Local Friends	4.		761	761	5,088
T4B Website		4,045	1,177	5,222	5,002
Passion Play 2023					200
Welcome Churches					5,000
Total Payments		13,209	6,621	19,830	36,312

	Notes	Unrestricted	Funds to the nearest £ Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Balances					
Brought Forward		17,817	14,869	32,687	39,108
Total Receipts		14,568	2,463	17,031	29,890
Total Payments		13,209	6,621	19,830	36,312
Carried Forward		19,176	10,711	29,888	32,687

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Notes	Unrestricted	Funds to the nearest £ Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Cash Funds	5.				
Current		2,931		2,931	11,675
Deposit		10,956	7,130	18,086	11,938
PayPal		411		411	411
M&G		4,879	3,581	8,460	8,664
Total Cash Funds		19,176	10,711	29,888	32,687

Notes

1. Receipts and Payments

There were no asset or investment purchases or sales in this financial period.

2. Full Members

The membership fees received from the full members was made up as follows.

Member	Fees to the nearest £	
	2023	2022
Anglican	3,570	3,615
Assemblies of God	200	
Baptist	800	
Catholic	3,819	3,819
Church of God of Prophecy		
Congregational Federation		
Greek Orthodox	50	50
Methodist	1,740	3,480
Moravian		
New Testament Church of God		
Redeemed Christian Church of God	150	
Religious Society of Friends	840	
Salvation Army		
United Reformed Church	1,400	1,400
Woodlands Group of Churches	425	425
Total	12,994	12,789

3. Keyboard

The fund originated from investments donated by former Christ Church, Cotham, Bristol. The main objective of the fund is to promote cooperation between white and black led churches. Following discussions in 2018, Carmen Carrol was appointed the Keyboard Networker in April 2019.

4. Local Friends

Local Friends is a T4B project which supports social prescribing in Bristol.

5. Cash Funds

There were no other assets or liabilities in this financial period.

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