Old Town Christian Trust

(Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and account for the year ended 31 December 2021

Company Number 08142700 Charity Number 1148734

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Trustees' Report

The Trustees of the Old Town Christian Trust (the charity), a charitable company limited by guarantee, are also the Company Directors for the purposes of company law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Board of Trustees presents its report and annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021. The Annual Report has been prepared in order to meet the requirements for a Directors' Report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The company information set out on page 9 forms part of this report.

This report includes the information required by the Charity SORP FRS102 as a charity registered in England and Wales and Company Law as a Charitable Company.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Charity is governed by its Articles of Association, established when the company was incorporated on 12th July 2012. The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006. At a meeting of the board of Trustees on 4th October 2012, it was proposed that newly appointed Trustees'should also be automatically added to the Membership of the Company. This was agreed and a resolution to this effect proposed and passed at the meeting. There are no other resolutions in effect that affect the governance of the company.

Recruitment and induction of new trustees

Trustees are recruited from persons known to the Trustees. Prior to appointment, potential Trustees are given opportunity to attend a Trustees' meeting to observe the working of the charity, along with opportunities to discuss their potential involvement more fully.

The company provides every Trustee with an induction pack, which details their legal responsibilities and provides key policies such as the grant making and investment policies.

Organisation

Trustees meet three times a year to review applications and oversee the key aspects of the charity's operation and the ultimate responsibility of the charity rests with its Trustees. Minutes are kept of all board meetings.

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly review risks to which the charity is exposed to ensure that risk is minimalized, with appropriate controls being put into place as required. Trustees periodically review the Risk Management Policy to give a focus to this part of their work. This in addition to the following key policies ensures that the charity's exposure to risk is well managed.

- Grant making policy
- Investments policy
- Diversity and Equality policy
- Anti Bribery and Corruption policy
- Conflicts of interest policy
- Ethos Statement
- Reserves policy

Maintaining the legacy of the Old Town Chapel

The Charity was established to allow the legacy of the Old Town Meeting House to be used to support Christian work. The meeting House was a chapel located in Wotton-Under-Edge Gloucestershire, which served the local Christian community for over 300 years.

When the chapel was no longer in use the Trustees sought to find a way that the building could continue to be used for Christian outreach and training, however the location made it difficult to find a viable use.

Following the sale of the building, the assets of the old Trust have been invested and now allow the work to continue in a new way. Old Town Christian Trust has been established with the aim to further the Christian Faith by overseeing the investments and to make grants to other organisations in line with this aim.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The object of the charity is the advancement of the Christian Faith in such ways as the Trustees think fit. The Trustees seek to do this by making grants to organisations and individuals to undertake projects that fall within the charity's objects.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and the grant making policy. Funding is only granted to work that can demonstrate to the Trustees that the work will meet the charitable purposes and is within its Grant Making Policy, including the following criteria to assess applications made to the Trust from grants.

- 1. Grants can and will only be made in accordance with the Trust's main object; "The furtherance of the Christian Faith"
- 2. The Trust will normally only fund registered charities or similar non-commercial organisations (e.g. CIC's)
- 3. Grants to individuals will normally only be made where there is a sponsoring charity involved in overseeing the needs of the individual.
- 4. Grants will normally only be made to support work within the UK.
- 5. In a given year at least 50% of grants will usually be focused on the needs of Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire (from where the legacy of the Trust originates) and then working outward in a radius from Wotton to cover the South West of the UK, including work in and around the area of Gloucestershire and Bristol.
- 6. Grants will only be made to projects that demonstrate financial probity and accountability. Grants that span a time greater than I year will be subject to an annual review and not guaranteed.
- 7. Following an application, whether successful or unsuccessful, an applicant should normally wait a period of one year prior to submitting any subsequent applications.
- 8. Promise of a grant will be honoured for up to two years for capital projects where additional funding needs to be sought before the project is ready to begin.
- 9. Shortlisted applications that meet the above criteria will be assigned to a nominated Trustee who will make contact with the applicant as required to assess the need for consideration at the next grant-making meeting.
- 10. Individual grants will not exceed 30% of the overall grant budget in any given year.

Achievements in theyear

During 2021 the Trustees considered 15 applications for grants. 8 Applications were successful, 6 of which were paid during the year, totalling £14,500 (2020 £7,500). Two grants totalling £5,000 will be paid out, on a contingency basis, once the projects by the applicants have been confirmed.

Gloucester City Mission

Trustees awarded a further grant of £2,500 for their work with Homeless in Gloucester.

South West Youth Ministries

Trustees to sponsor two trainees for up to £1,500 each – not yet paid.

SW Midlands Area Congregational Federation

Trustees awarded a grant of £2,500 towards the cost of a support worker for small fellowship communities.

4Front Theatre

Trustees awarded £3,000 towards the cost of their Bible Bites programme for schools.

Ugly Duckling Theatre

Trustees made a further grant of £3,000 towards their work.

Connect Schools

Trustees made a further grant of £2,500 for their continuing work with schools.

North Nibley Congregational Chapel

Trustees agreed to support the introduction of a part-time minister initially for £2,000 – not yet paid.

All Saints Stone

Trustees agreed to fund the cost of Bibles for their Church and School at a cost of £1,000.

Financial Review

The financial statements are included from page 11 of this report. At the year end, the charity's reserves were £955,538. Income during the year was £24,736, and the charity spent £24,710. Brewin Dolphin continue to act as investment managers for the Charity. Trustees meet with the advisors on an annual basis and regular reports are received. Investments are made in line with our investment policies, the key aspects of this are as follows.

Investment Objectives

The Trustees seek to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk, as agreed by the Trustees.

The investment objective is to generate a return of inflation plus an additional sum to be determined on an annual basis allowing the Trust to at least maintain the real value of the assets.

Attitude to risk

A key risk to the long term sustainability of the Trust is inflation, and the Trustees require that assets be invested to mitigate this risk over the long term. The Trustees understand that this is likely to mean that investment will be concentrated in real assets and that the capital value will fluctuate.

The Trustees are able to tolerate volatility of the capital value of the Trust, as long as the Trust is able to meet its short term grant-making commitments through either income or liquid capital assets.

Currency

The base currency of the investment portfolio is Sterling.

Investment may be made in non-Sterling assets, but should not exceed 40% of the total investment portfolio value.

Liquidity Requirements

The Trustees keep 50% of the assets in investments that can be realised within three months.

To allow for volatility of capital values, the Trustees maintain at least 2 years worth of budgeted grant making in cash or lower risk liquid investments.

A minimum of 2% of the total assets are kept in cash or near cash investments at all times.

Time Horizon

The Trust is expected to exist in perpetuity and investments are managed to meet the investment objective and ensure this sustainability.

The Trust adopts a long term investment time horizon.

Ethical Investment Policy

The Trust assets are invested in line with its aims. The Trustees wish to exclude investments in areas, which conflict with the aims of the Trust. These include but are not limited to investments that primarily deal with armaments, tobacco and gambling.

Trustees

The Trustees of the company remained unchanged during the year. The list of current Trustees as shown on page 9.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established a reserves policy to ensure that the work of the charity can continue in years to come. Their aims are to maintain the Trust's Capital in real terms and distribute its Income in the form of Grants.

In practice this means that, providing year on year Investment values at least keep pace with inflation, then Investment Income (net of Trust expenses) will be available to be distributed as Grants. Any Investment Income not distributed as Grants will be carried forward and be available to be distributed as Grants in future years. If Investment values fail to keep pace with inflation (when viewed over a period of years), then the Trustees will consider converting some or all of the Accumulated Investment Income into additional Capital.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity Trustees (who are also the directors of Old Town Christian Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the 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 judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Registered office:

Signed by order of the Trustees

2 Great Grove Abbeymead Gloucester Gloucestershire GL4 4QT

Date 15 7 2022

Lesley Hewish

Company Information

Trustees Lesley Hewish (Chair)

Roger Chilvers
David Purnell
Philip Ricketts
Mark Bashford
Alan Kennett

Company Secretary Mark Bashford

Independent Examiner Joshua Kingston BSc. ACA

Burton Sweet Limited The Clock Tower Farleigh Court Old Weston Road Flax Bourton Bristol BS48 IUR

Solicitors Davies and Partners

135 Aztec West Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4UB

Bankers CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue

Kings Hill,

West Malling, Kent

ME19 4JQ

Investment Managers

Brewin Dolphin
The Paragon.

Counterslip, Bristol

BS1 6BX

Registered Office 2 Great Grove

Abbeymead Gloucester Gloucestershire GL4 4QT

Old Town Christian Trust Company Number 08142700 - Charity Number 1148734 Trustees' report and accounts 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Old Town Christian Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Joshua/Kingston BSc. ACA

Burton Sweet Limited The Clock Tower,

5 Farleigh Court

Old Weston Road,

Flax Bourton

Bristol BS48 1UR

Date: 25/7/2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including income and expenditure account)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:			
Investments		24,736	22,813
Total income		24,736	22,813
Expenditure on: Raising funds			
Investment fees		8,638	7,479
Charitable activities	2	16,072	8,689
Total expenditure	•	24,710	16,168
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	4	97,360	(39,458)
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		97,386	(32,813)
Total funds brought forward		858,152	890,965
Total funds carried forward		955,538	858,152

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charitable company are classed as continuing.

The current and prior year comparatives are all respresented by unrestricted funds.

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	£	£
Current assets			
Investments	4	905,800	795,594
Cash at bank	5	50,914	63,674
	_	956,714	859,268
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	1,176	1,116
Net current assets	-	955,538	858,152
Net assets	- -	955,538	858,152
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		955,538	858,152
	-	955,538	858,152

For the year ending 31 December 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Director's responsibilities;

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Lesley Hewish

Company registration number 08142700

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention (except for investments which have been included at fair value and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 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) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, the trustees know of no material reason why this might not be appropriate.

b) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that activity exclusive of VAT. Support costs and where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resource.

Costs of activities for generating funds include investment management costs.

Charitable activity costs include costs incurred by the charitable company which directly relate to the furtherance of the charity's charitable purposes.

Governance costs include the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. They are included within charitable activities costs.

c) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds contain accumulated surplus and deficits on general funds and can be used in accordance with the company's objects at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

d) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. The Trust does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

e) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Charitable activities		
	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£
Grants made:	•	
Connect Schools	2,500	-
4Front Theatre	3,000	-
Gloucester City Mission	2,500	-,
All Saints Stone	1,000	•
Ugly Duckling Theatre	3,000	-
SW Midlands Area Congregational Federation	2,500	-
Innervation Trust	-	2,000
Gloucester Vineyard Church	-	2,500
Abbey Church	-	3,000
	14,500	7,500
Miscellaneous	300	13
Governance	1,176	1,116
Bank charges	96	60

The current and prior year comparatives are all respresented by unrestricted funds.

3 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

Stated after charging:	2021 £	2020 £
Accountancy fees:		
Independent examiner's fee	420	400
Accounts preparation	756	716
Trustees' expenses	-	-
Trustees' remuneration	-	-

16,072

8,689

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4 Investments		
	2021	2020
	£	£
Market value 1 January 2021	795,594	851,139
Investments purchased during the year at cost	167,492	91,418
Proceeds from sale of investments	(154,646)	(107,505)
Gains/(losses) during year	97,360	(39,458)
Market value at 31 December 2021	905,800	795,594
Investments at market value comprise:		
Equities, property funds and fixed interest securities	905,800	795,594
Investments at historical cost comprise:		
Equities, property funds and fixed interest securities	710,828	655,536
5 Cash at bank		
5 Gasii at baiik	2021	2020
	£	£
Current account	32,972	43,663
Income account	799	1,385
Capital account	17,143	18,626
	50,914	63,674
6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals	1,176	1,116
	1,176	1,116

7 Company limited by guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee and as such has no issued share capital. In the event of the company being wound up the liability of the members is limited to £1 each.

8 Related party transactions

The trustees consider themselves to be the key management personnel of the charity.

There are no other related party transactions apart from those already disclosed.