

Trustees' Annual Report

Section 1. Legal and Administrative Information

Charity name

Christians in Schools Trust

Charity Commission registered number

Registered charity number 1019848.

Financial year

From 1st August 2004 to 31st July 2005

Charity's principal address

The principal address for the charity is that of the Chairman:
Mr P. Clarke, 141 Dialstone Lane, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6AU.

Governing Document

The charity is governed by a Declaration of Trust made on 17th March 1993.

Objects of the Charity

The purpose of the Trust is the advancement of Christian religion as follows:

The proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God concerning his Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Christian Faith in schools throughout the Stockport area and elsewhere.

The organisation, sponsorship and promotion of Inter-denominational Christian work throughout the Stockport area and elsewhere the object of which shall be to present to men, women, young people and children the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord by all possible means.

Specific Investment Powers

Specific investment powers are included in clause 3 of the Declaration of Trust.

Bankers

Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank plc, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside, GIR 0AA

Honorary Independent Examiner

Heather Lowndes, 2 Ashford Drive, Stretton, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 5GG

Section 2. Trustees and Governance

Trustees

As at the end of the financial year, 31st July 2005:

Mr Philip John Clarke (Trust Chairman)
Mrs Judith Mary Crofts (Trust Secretary)
Mrs Janet Elizabeth Ford
Mrs Christine Joyce Hall
Mr David John Scott (Retiring Trust Treasurer)
Mrs Maureen Dorothy Wilkinson
Mrs Denise Wright (Future Trust Treasurer)

Mrs Denise Wright was appointed during the year. The appointment of additional Trustees is under consideration.

Clause 6 of the Declaration of Trust which governs the trustees provides for not less than 3 nor more than 9 trustees. Each Trustee is required to assent in writing to the doctrinal basis of this Trust. The appointment of new trustees is by the continuing trustees. There are no custodian trustees.

Section 3. Activities and Achievements

The Trust

The Trust is committed to providing Christian support for schools. Funds are provided by gifts from churches and individual supporters, mainly from the Stockport area.

Our mission is:

- sharing the relevance of Jesus Christ with young people
- striving for excellence in Religious Education
- encouraging Christians to make a difference

Founded in 1993, in association with Scripture Union, the work has developed and multiplied. Support is currently being given to primary and secondary schools, local education authorities and churches of all denominations.

Secondary Schools

The main focus of the Trust continues to be the work in Stockport secondary schools.

During the year Sue Mayo has continued in depth work in the cluster group of secondary schools in the north west of the borough. The work is benefiting from the long term relationships established with staff and students at these schools. In some cases local church youth workers have come alongside to help thus helping to develop the school/church links. Sue has also visited other Stockport secondary schools to take assemblies, teach RE lessons and offer help with Christian groups.

In January 2005, Andrew Phillips began to work full time for the Trust thus allowing him to work more closely with two additional schools. The week long visit of a Christian band, culminating in an evening concert, to one of these schools has given a greater impetus to the work. Andrew continues to contribute to assemblies and RE lessons at the invitation of the schools. During the year Andrew attended the Advanced School for Schools Workers training course.

Both Sue and Andrew have been involved in organising and presenting three 'Fusion' events. These evenings include a DJ, Christian bands, fun and games and a challenge to the young people. On average approximately 150 young people attended each evening.

A residential activity was held again in the summer term. This proved to be very beneficial in the spiritual development of the young people. An successful inter-school event was also held during the summer.

During the year a number of secondary school students have worked with Sue and Andrew during their work experience. These opportunities have been both helpful to the work and the young people involved.

Sue and Andrew are sharing the work of visiting churches and make on average two visits a term.

During the first part of the year volunteer Kate Clements presented the stories of the Bible using Bible Explorer material to some of the Primary Schools. Kate has now finished her work with the Trust on becoming a full time Mum.

Earlier in 2004 the Christians in Schools staff moved into an office near the centre of Stockport. This is shared with another Christian organisation and also has a meeting room available. A Supporters Evening held in the new premises was very well attended.

Primary Vision

The Trust enjoys a good working relationship with the LEA and its advisor for Religious Education. The Primary Vision scheme of work has been identified as a major resource in the revised syllabus for teaching RE in primary schools. Some work has been done on updating the material to tie in more closely with the syllabus.

The updated Primary Vision resources are also available on our web site.

Development Work

An introductory leaflet outlining the work of the Trust was produced and distributed during the year. Newsletters are sent regularly to the supporters. The once a term prayer meeting has continued and has been held at various churches around the borough to encourage support from those areas.

The Trustees continue to seek to increase the amount of work done in both secondary and primary schools by increasing the paid staff and continuing to support a team of volunteers. We are currently investigating the appointment of a shared youth/schools worker with a local church.

Internet Resources

The Christians in Schools Trust web site (www.cist.org.uk), was originally launched in September 2000 mainly as a public source for the Primary Vision material. In June 2004 it was extended with further lessons, resources, subject maps and assembly outlines to link the lessons to the latest revision Stockport syllabus.

Currently about 75% of users reference the lessons resources and the other 25% reference the assembly resources. We average over 300 visitors and around 20,000 page requests each day.

Trustees Meetings

The Trustees met together on four occasions during the year to conduct the business of the Trust. They also met with the Development Group on six occasions during the year to receive reports and to plan future activities and develop the work of the Trust.

Income 2004-5

General gifts received during this twelfth full year of operation fell short of the expenses incurred by almost £10,500. However a generous single gift of £35,000 significantly changed our financial position resulting in a net increase in the reserves of just over £24,500. Church group gifts decreased by about 1% over the previous year but personal gifts increased by over 18% resulting in an increase of income by nearly £2,500. During 2005-6 we will continue to seek an increase in funds from our supporters to fund the extra staff and activities that we wish to support.

Expenditure 2004-5

Salaries and staff expenses for the year increased by about 17%. This was due to increasing Andrew's hours to full time from January 2005 and the additional routine costs of maintaining the staff office. The income and expenditure on events was approximately balanced.

Expenditure on administration (approximately 1.5% of total expenditure) was almost unchanged.

Budget for 2005-6

We start the new financial year with a good working balance but recognise that general income will need to increase if we are to continue with our current plans into future years. We have been notified of a substantial legacy which is expected during the 2005/6 year.

We plan to take on a part time schools worker early in the 2005-6 financial year for an initial period of three years. We estimate that the total expenditure for the year 2005-6 will therefore rise to about £59,000, an increase of about £7,000.

We expect our reserves to rise by about £5,000 over the coming year.

Examination of Accounts

The Trustees express their gratitude to the Honorary Independent Examiner, Heather Lowndes, for examining the Trusts financial affairs.

Section 4. Policies**Reserves policy**

One to two months expenditure is normally held in the current bank account. The remaining reserves are held in an interest-bearing instant access savings account. We need to have about six months reserves in total.

Capital expenditure policy

Items of capital expenditure costing over £500 that have been bought for the use of the Trust and its employees are treated as investment assets and are normally depreciated in four equal annual steps of 25%.

Grant-making policy

The Trust does not normally make grants. A specific decision of the Trustees, following appropriate enquiries, is necessary before a grant could be made.

Investments selection policy

The Trust seeks funds to support its current programme. It does not currently have any long-term investments.

Review of major risks

Major risks are reviewed at Trustee meetings. Systems designed to mitigate significant risks are introduced as necessary.

The Trustees continue to review and develop our policies regarding the selection of volunteers. During 2004-5 an Ethos Statement for the Trust has been written.

Section 5. Signature and Declaration

Declaration

I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

- the trustees have approved the report above: and
- have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Mr Philip Clarke
Chairman of Trustees
141 Dialstone Lane
Offerton
Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6AU

Signature:

Date:

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

I report to the Trustees of Christians in Schools Trust on the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2005 as set out on pages 1 to 3 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43(34)(a) of the Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature:

Date:

Heather Lowndes
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Stretton
Warrington
WA4 5GG