

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL



Registered Charity No: 1205042

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Following the EGM held on 5th September 2023, where the membership present voted to accept the move to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO"), the Charity Commission completed the registration on 3rd October 2023 with Registered Charity Number 1205042. The Constitution of the CIO is dated 3rd October 2023.

The Trustees engaged Ashdown Hurrey, Accountants in October 2023. We have installed Accountancy Software, Sage, to input our Accounts. Our thanks to Steve Sampson & James Jury at Ashdown Hurrey, Accountants for their help and advice and for preparing the Accounts for the Charity.

Special thanks to Patrick Donaldson of Donaldson Dunstall for his help and advice in guiding us through the process of registering as a CIO.

Our thanks too to Ruth Lawrie (Treasurer of Churches Together in Bexhill, Registered Charity Number 1149860) for her support and advice in the transition to CIO status.

As of 31st March 2024, all assets and liabilities of Churches Together in Bexhill (Registered Charity Number 1149860) were transferred to Churches Together in Bexhill (Registered Charity Number 1205042). The financial value of this transfer was £324,661.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

- 1) The advancement of the Christian Faith for the public benefit.
- 2) To further such charitable purposes as are exclusively charitable and connected to the charitable work of the charity but not exclusively the relief of need in the community of Bexhill and Rother for those in need by reason of their youth or other social or economic disadvantage through the running Foodbanks and community hub.

RECEIPTS

The Trustees thank members for completing the Membership Form to become members of the CIO, special thanks to those that have sent a donation to help with the work of Churches Together in Bexhill throughout the year. The website for the charity is live but still under construction.

Grants – With thanks to East Sussex County Council, Hastings Volunteer Food Network Grants. Grants have enabled us to continue to offer food (including fresh fruit & vegetables) as well as non-food items (toiletries & household items). Special thanks to the Trussell Trust for their Grant which has enabled us to employ a part-time Volunteer's Manager (Jenni Barnes) and to the Trussell Trust for their Grant to enable us to offer advice service, superbly offered by Amy Baynes.

Bexhill Foodbank (Bexhill & Battle branches) - We continue to give thanks to the local Churches, businesses, organisations and individuals who have generously donated and supported Churches Together in Bexhill, enabling us to offer food, advice and associated help to those in crisis in Bexhill & the surrounding villages.

Ukrainian Hub – Through the generosity of Rother Voluntary Action, PCC from Sussex & the Methodist Church, the work of the Hub continues to thrive under the care of Ruth Frai, Viv Taylor Gee, Susan Genge (also RVA) and Valerya Dvornyk.

Christian Aid – We continue to act as an agent for Christian Aid (special thanks to Wendy Gubby) forwarding all monies received to Christian Aid Head Office.

Gift Aid - Over £11,000 was reclaimed in Gift Aid.

The Trustees are conscious to use the money donated wisely and efficiently.

PREMISES

The Lease on Station Road was renewed under favourable terms in 2023.

The Battle branch of Bexhill Foodbank continues to work out of the Upper Rooms at St. Mary's Hall. We express our thanks to the Dean & PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Parish Church in Battle for their continued support of the Foodbank.

Thanks too to Fr Simon Dray, Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary for the use of St. Martha's car park during the weekly Rotary collections for the Foodbank.

After many months of searching for larger premises within Bexhill to expand the services offered by the Foodbank it was decided that Station Road would remain as the Foodbank premises but that another premises would be sought to house the Advice Centre. In April 2024, new leasehold premises were obtained in Sackville Road, Bexhill on Sea to enable the Foodbank to offer an advice service as well as much needed administration space.

PAYMENTS - Bank Accounts & Reserve Accounts

The Trustees opened CIO Bank Accounts with HSBC & Barclays and we continue to use the existing bank accounts with HSBC. Please see details of the Accounts held as of 12 June 2024. We are starting the process of moving funds over to the new Accounts and will be contacting those donors that kindly donate by way of Direct Debits.

Bank Account	Sort Code	Account No:	Balance as at 12.6.24 - £
Charity No: 1149860			
HSBC - Battle	40 23 18	42315114	
HSBC - CTiB General	40 10 14	21180991	24,497.72
HSBC - Foodbank Reserve	40 10 14	31525441	256,131.54
HSBC - Bexhill Foodbank	40 10 14	61501593	19,230.38
Charity No: 1205042			
HSBC - General	40 23 18	32443686	0.00
HSBC - Bexhill Foodbank	40 23 18	32443694	0.00
HSBC - Foodbank Reserve	40 23 18	02443708	0.00
HSBC - Battle Foodbank	40 23 18	32443678	0.00
Barclays - General	20 54 25	803515980	275.00
Barclays - Bexhill Foodbank	20 54 25	40510408	0.00
Barclays - Battle Foodbank	20 54 25	30730602	0.00

MOVING FORWARD

The Charity goes forward confidently into the next financial year with the prayers and support of the local community. From May 2024, we will employ three members of staff for the Foodbank (Full-time Manager, Part-time Volunteer's Manager & Full-time Advice Manager). The Foodbank now operates from two premises in Bexhill (Station Road & Sackville Road) and one in Battle (St. Mary's Church Hall). We pray for the time when Foodbanks are no longer required but, in the meantime, thanks the Lord for the ability to be in a position to offer the best advice and help that we can.

No remunerations were paid to any Churches Together in Bexhill Trustee, Executive Committee Member or connected person. No expenses were paid to any Churches Together in Bexhill Trustee, Executive Committee Member or connected person, other than where full detail is shown, to support documentation accompanying payment entries in the Accounts.

Once again, thank you to the members of Churches Together in Bexhill and to all those who support the work of Churches Together in Bexhill through donations and prayer.