

**Unaudited Financial Statements** 

Year ended: 31 August 2019

Charity no: 1157138

# North East Churches Acting Together Reports and Unaudited Financial Statements Year ended: 31 August 2019

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Year ended: 31 August 2019

# Legal and administrative information

Dr MA Bonnington D Pigeon Trustees:

Rt Revd MSA Tanner

W Offler A Murray

Chairman: Dr MA Bonnington

Treasurer: D Pigeon

Secretary Revd J Thorns

30 Fieldhouse Lane Address:

Durham DH1 4LT

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA Independent Examiner:

Mullen Stoker Ltd Mullen Stoker House Mandale Business Park Belmont Industrial Estate

Durham DH1 1TH

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC

The North Tyneside Group 3 Northumberland Square

North Shields NE30 1QX

# Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

The Trustees, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2019.

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

Name of the charity North East Churches Acting Together

Charity number 1157138

Registered office 30 Fieldhouse Lane

Durham DH1 4LT

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the Charity during the year ended 31 August 2019 were:

Dr MA Bonnington

D Pigeon

Rt Revd MSA Tanner

W Offler A Murray

Regional Officer & Secretary Revd J Thorns

Independent Examiner Neil Mullen FCA FCCA

Mullen Stoker Ltd Mullen Stoker House Mandale Business Park Belmont Industrial Estate

Durham DH1 1TH

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC

The North Tyneside Group 3 Northumberland Square

North Shields NE30 1QX

# Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

## Structure, Governance and Management

North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on 21st May 2014. The governing documents are the memorandum and articles of association of the CIO.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The Trustees consist of nominated trustees representing the Churches Together groups, the regional denominational ecumenical officers and the Northern Church leaders as well as other appointed Trustees. The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page two. Trustees usually meet four times each year and are responsible for formally monitoring the Charity. Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefit from the Charity. Expenses are reclaimed by Trustees from the Charity during the year amounting to £nil (2018: £nil).

#### **Tees Valley Ministry**

Oversight and financial guidance of Tees Valley Ministry is the responsibility of NECAT.

#### **Objectives**

To advance the Christian religion and the promotion of the churches mission in North East England for the benefit of church members, local churches, the wider church and the public generally through:

- identifying opportunities for prayer and worship;
- · promoting spirituality and theological reflection;
- providing advice, support and training to local churches, local churches together groups and other ecumenical bodies;
- identifying priorities and managing resources;
- bringing together statutory, voluntary, community, commercial, artistic and cultural agencies in a common attempt to advance the churches mission;
- interpreting key social and economic trends and issues from the perspective of the Christian faith and developing appropriate responses;
- promoting religious harmony for the benefit of the common good.

NECAT is an ecumenical body in the North East of England, serving a region with a distinct culture, spiritual life and self awareness. NECAT was formed as a result of a review of the ecumenical structures in the North East and a combining of North East Christian Churches Together (NECCT) and The Churches' Regional Commission in the North East (CRCNE).

NECAT seek to serve the Kingdom of God in the North East by being a partnership of churches and Christian organisations dedicated to answering the call of Jesus Christ and working ecumenically for the renewal of the region through specific and local action to bring about change for the common good.

NECAT's aim and method of working is to encourage and support churches to work together and with other partners both locally and regionally and to identify and release resources which will bring tangible benefits especially to communities and churches working with vulnerable people and groups. It's process within the rich inheritance of the Christian tradition is for action-reflection aimed to bring about changes which will improve the lives of people in local communities and the region. NECAT will offer a voice for the region and it's ecumenical vision in national and inter-regional forums. NECAT will be about action to encourage renewal, and the action being undertaken with others wherever possible. Working together will be a catalyst for talking together. Reflection and analysis will follow practical actions benefitting local communities across the region.

More than eighty Churches Together Groups contribute to the NECAT Charity operation, support to all these bodies is provided by the Ecumenical Officers. These are appointed by the denominations and work across the region, coordinating their work not only through the Local Ecumenical Group (LEG), but also through their own support network.

North East Churches Acting Together works to support the churches of the North East in their relationships with one another and in their wider mission in the world. Our aim is to work in partnership and help to encourage partnership working with churches, voluntary agencies and other public bodies. Partnerships continue to develop between groups of churches who act together and pray together and NECAT continues to give support to Churches Together groups and the like. We continue to be involved in events whose purpose has been to bring those volunteers and agencies working in similar areas to come together for support and to share information.

# Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019 Regional Officer's Report

Churches Together

We currently have 79 Churches Together groups formally registered with NECAT and we know that there are others that meet up for prayer and fellowship that are not formal groups. These vary enormously from groups that have over 20 churches in their organization to those with just 2. I have visited a number of the groups and their projects over the year, seeing groups running large scale and small foodbanks, gathering on the streets at night to support both the homeless and those enjoying a night out and seeing hundreds of children having fun and being fed in the many Holiday activities, Open the Book and Messy Churches that happen because churches work together. There have also been visits to luncheon clubs, coffee mornings and drop ins for crafts, chat, English lessons and much more. I have also been invited along to discussion groups and open community forums where the churches have come together to host a session raising important issues such as climate change, student welfare, social cohesion and of course local political issues. The events are always open and welcoming and show Christians engaging in the needs of the community and current social and political issues. Churches, together, are definitely providing a safety net for many people that are struggling and needing support, being there to provide very practical support and welcome but also engaging with the wider issues and looking for ever more creative solutions to make money go further and reach more people. We can do so much more together than we can do apart.

Churches Together groups continue to provide fellowship and opportunities to learn from one another and to worship together, bringing people from an ever-widening range of churches together to grow together and to pray for their local communities. We recognize that some groups are struggling to keep going as the number of volunteers reduce and member's ages increase, and we do need to look at ways to encourage more people to become engaged in working together for unity. A number of other Churches Together groups have been looking at how they meet and how they are structured and NECAT has been available to help them with the process.

We are also seeing the emergence of the new unity movements such as Gather and Hope, these bring together churches for pray and action but often with a less formal structure. Sunderland CONNECT reaches across the whole of the city, the coalfields and Washington and has a weekly prayer walk and a regular leader's lunch. Teesside One is also reaching across the Tees to include Middlesbrough and Stockton and again meets regularly for pray and to gather leaders together, both these local groups are looking at hosting a 'Movement Day' event in the next year to bring churches, local authorities, statutory agencies, voluntary sector and business together to see how we can work together to transform communities.

We recognise the good missional work that Churches acting together provide and all that they do in their communities and as Regional Officer I continue to be available to give any support I can.

# Church Leaders

The high light of this year was undoubtedly the Church Leaders visit to Rome. Twelve members of the Church Leaders group spent four days in Rome in February this year visiting a range of historical sites and church institutions. We were privileged to be asked to join in the mass at St John Lateran Basilica to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sant Egidio Community, an international, ecumenical community working across the world to encourage Christians to worship together and work for peace and justice. The Church Leaders group were also able to spend time in prayer, bible study and fellowship with each other.

The Ecumenical Church Leaders continue to meet with each other throughout the year and to engage with local issues, speaking to MP's and local authorities and other key leaders in our communities and speaking out on issues relating to the North East and beyond.

# Ecumenical Officers and the Local Ecumenical Group

NECAT acts as the sponsoring body for the formal ecumenical structures in the North East including the Local Ecumenical Group which has responsibility for reviews of Local Ecumenical Partnerships. The denominational ecumenical officers and I continue to meet regularly and to offer support to LEP's and Covenant Partnerships and to other ecumenical structures. Revd. Paul Revill acts as Chair of the LEG group on behalf of the Church Leaders. The number of denominational Ecumenical officers and the hours that those still in post work, has reduced considerably over the years. Only two of the officer posts are now paid, the others work on a voluntary basis and this means we have been looking at the way we work and job descriptions. We have helped some

# Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

LEP's look at their constitutions and partnership agreements as well as looking at the review paperwork and how the reviews might be more purposeful and ask the right questions for the future. We have also spent time in our meetings sharing stories of ecumenical partnership in the region and looking at ecumenical mission initiatives like Thy Kingdom Come.

Nationally there have been changes in the adopting of 'Frameworks for Local Unity' which encourages denominations and local churches to think creatively about how they work together, encouraging a range of partnerships from the formal legal arrangement to the shorter term, less structured projects. The Church of England has also amended its Ecumenical Canons to allow greater flexibility in working and worshipping together with local Bishops being able authorize some initiatives.

As Regional Officer I have represented the region on the Enabling group of Churches Together in England, attending the two annual meetings as well as the CTE consultation. Churches Together in England have been particularly focused on implementing some of the recommendations in the THEOS report concerning the future structure and direction of CTE. CTE also said goodbye to Jim Currin, the Mission and Evangelism officer and welcomed two new officers, Ben Aldous to focus on Mission and Evangelism and Lucy Olofinjana to be communications officer.

# Tees Valley Ministry (TVM)

TVM is a charity set up to work in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace. It has been part of NECAT since 2015 and NECAT are working with Regional Church leaders to discern the future direction and projects of TVM.

#### In partnership

NECAT continues to work with various partners in both the statutory and voluntary sector. We have continued to support work with Asylum Seekers and refugees across the region, local churches are coming together to support those arriving in the region by arranging English conversation classes, collecting household items and clothes, supplying Welcome Packs and giving financial and legal support as needed. A huge number of volunteers are involved and without the support, friendship, campaigning and practical help supplied by church communities many Asylum Seekers and refugees would be struggling to survive. Their support is life changing.

NECAT continues to be involved with Citizens Tyne and Wear, a local chapter of national Citizens UK with hubs in Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham. We have been part of the regional Living Wage team of Citizens and working to raise the profile of the Real Living Wage in the region which has the lowest number of Living Wage employers and some of the lowest wages in the country. As a result the number of Living Wage employers in the region has tripled, helping thousands of workers out of poverty, recently Newcastle University, the Diocese of Newcastle, Newcastle Cathedral and the North of Tyne authority have all accredited, and we are working with a number of other institutions and businesses to increase the numbers further. We have also been involved in a campaign called 'Fair Change' which began in the North East at a local school who asked the question about what happens to the money for free school meals that a student doesn't use that day and why can it not be carried over to the next day. There has been a lot of listening, talking to local authorities and schools, hearing stories from children about the benefits to them of being able to have more choice about how that money could be used for food during the school day. The campaign is continuing nationally with some funding from Joseph Rowntree Foundation to Citizens.

The Regional Officer is a Trustee at the North East Religious Resources Learning Centre and works with them to promote the use of the Resources Centre across all denominations and schools. The Resources Centre hold a number of conversations and workshops throughout the year, open to all, exploring theological and social issues that the churches in the North East are engaged in. NECAT have also continued to look at some of the issues around housing and engaged in the Archbishop's Housing Commission amongst other projects. We continue to focus on building partnerships with all our partner churches and I have attended denominational Synods and Assemblies through the year.

# Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

### Plans for future periods

In the coming year NECAT will continue to support the churches of the North East looking at ways in which they can form working relationships and hence work together on projects common to all denominations. The Regional Officer will continue to resource the local Churches Together groups, especially those looking at new projects and finding ways in which we can raise the profile of Ecumenical working in the region. We will continue to work with Citizens UK on the Living Wage and Fair Change campaigns and with them on a listening campaign across the region and on community cohesion. The Regional Officer will continue to support churches in the work they are doing in relation to refugees and Asylum seekers, encouraging sharing of information and links with other agencies. We are currently planning a workshop with Communities Together Durham on Dementia Friendly Communities and looking further forward proposing a workshop on environmental issues and what churches can do to be more Eco aware. We will continue to work with Churches Together in England and the document on local unity to encourage better working together. The Regional Officer will continue to work with other agencies across the region to encourage the sharing of information and encourage closer co-operation.

#### Mission Fund

There have been no Mission Fund grants awarded in the past year. All Churches Together Groups and informal ecumenical groups are able to submit applications for funding for work they may wish to do in the local communities. Further information and advice can be obtained from Joanne Thorns at the following email address regional officer@necat.co.uk.

#### Financial review

The Charity's work is entirely reliant on income provided in the form of grants received from the Church Denominations and donations received from the Churches Together Groups in the North East

#### Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves in a designated fund at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenses. The Trustees consider that this will provide sufficient funds to ensure that support and governance costs are covered. Total reserves at 31 August 2019 amounted to £88,128 (2018: £84,165) of which £39,182 (2018: £36,275) were restricted.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 6/12/2019:

Revd J Thorns (Regional Officer & Secretary)

Year ended: 31 August 2019

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of North East Churches Acting Together

I report to the Charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity (number 1157138) for the year ended 31 August 2019 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 Charity as required by section 130 of the Charites Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Neil Mullen FCA FCCA

Mullen Stoker House Mandale Business Park Belmont Industrial Estate Durham DH1 1TH

Date 6/12/19

North East Churches Acting Together Statement of Financial Activities including summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 August 2019

		Unrestricted Funds	Funds	Funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Churches and denominations		40,262	0	0	40,262	46,144
Churches together groups		1,162	0	0	1,162	1,145
Sundry Income		610	0	40	650	250
Grant funding		0	0	0	0	0
Donations	3	35	0	1,279	1314	55
Investment income - Bank interest	4	41	0	88	129	79
Investment income - Dividends		0	0	549	549	538
Total		42,110	0	1,956	44,066	48,211
Expenditure on:						
NECAT operation	5	41,054	0	300	41,354	39,600
TVM operation	5	0	Ö	312	312	402
		41,054	0 -	612	41,666	40,002
Total						
Net incoming resources / (resources expended)						
before transfers		1,056	0	1,344	2,400	8,209
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0
Net incoming resources/(resources expende	d)	1,056	0	1,344	2.400	8,209
Realised gains on investment assets		0	0	1,563	1,563	988
Net incoming resources / (resources expend	ed)					
including realised gains on investments	•	1,056	0	2,907	3,963	9,197
Unrealised gains on investment assets		0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		1,056	0	2,907	3,963	9,197
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September	2017	19,700	28,190	36,275	84,165	74,968
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 201	8	20,756	28,190	39,182	88,128	84,165

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

# North East Churches Acting Together Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2019

	Notes	Charity 2019 £	Charity 2019 £	Charity 2018 £	Charity 2018 £
Fixed assets Investments	6		18,309		16,745
Current assets Debtors	7		18,309		16,745
Cash at bank and in hand			70,436		67,850
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8		(618)		(618)
Net current assets			69,818		67,420
Net assets Funds:			88,127		84,165
Unrestricted funds General fund	9		20,756		19,700
<b>Designated funds</b> Mission fund Reserve fund	9 9	3,190 25,000	28,190	3,190 25,000	28,190
Total unrestricted funds			48,946		47,890
Restricted funds Publicity fund Refugess and asylum seekers fund TVM fund	9 9 9	614 1,029 37,539	39,182	614 50 35,611	36,275
Total funds	9		88,128		84,165

The financial statements on pages 8 to 12 were approved by the Executive Committee and authorised for issue by the trustees on 6 December 2019 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr MA Bonnington Revd J Thorns
Chairman Regional Officer & Secretary

# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2019

# 1 Accounting policies

## (a) Basis of preparation and going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared 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) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The Charity constitutes a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### (b) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds have been transferred from unrestricted funds for a particular purpose and are to be used in accordance with that purpose as imposed by the trustees.

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 a particular purpose. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

#### (c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

# (d) Grant income

Grants and contributions received for current year expenditure are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are received, provided that the conditions for receipt have been complied with. Where income is received in advance for expenditure in a future accounting period, it is deferred and recognised in the future period to which it relates.

# (e) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

### (f) Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year

# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2019

# (g) Defined contribution pension scheme

Existing employees of the Charity were entitled to join NEST which is funded by contributions from the employee and employer. New and existing employees were automatically enrolled into the master trust with the option to opt out should they choose to do so.

# 2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2018: £nil). Expenses, in respect of travel and subsistence, paid to trustees in the year totalled £nil (2018: £nil).

3 Donations and gifts	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Individuals	35	0	1,279	1,314	55
4 Investment income	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable - Barclays Active Saver a/c	41	0	0	41	38
Interest receivable - CBF Deposit a/c	0	0	88	88	41
	41	0	88	129	79

# North East Churches Acting Together Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2019

# 5 Resources expended

	Unrestricted	Restricted Tota 201			
	£	£	£	£	
Stationery and printing	31	0	31	11	
Necat management fee	0	250	250	250	
Computer software/website	0	0	0	585	
Telephone - emails	289	0	289	293	
Postage and mailings	0	0	0	16	
Travel and subsistence	2,071	0	2,071	1,935	
Training	0	0	0	99	
Office allowance	192	0	192	192	
Conferences and courses	1,028	0	1,028	0	
Subscriptions	700	0	700	700	
Insurance	439	0	439	425	
Salaries	33,219	0	33,219	32,538	
Employers NI	384	0	384	336	
Employers pension payment	1,661	0	1,661	1,628	
Bank charges	0	62	62	69	
Donations	0	0	0	0	
Sundries	84	0	84	35	
Wages/NEST processing	338	0	338	272	
Accountancy	0	0	0	0	
Independent examination	618	0	618	618	
Refugees and asylum seekers	0	300	300	0	
	41,054	612	41,666	40,002	

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2018: 1) with all employee time involved in providing either support to the governance of the charity or support services to charitable activities. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £1,661 (2018: £1,628). No employees had employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) in excess of £60,000 (2018: £nil).

## 6 Fixed asset investments

			2019 £	2018 £
Within the UK Church of England Investment Fund at ma	18,309	16,745 		
7 Debtors				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Other debtors	0	0	0	188
8 Creditors: amounts falling due with	in one year			
		Unrestricted	2019	2018
Accruals - accountancy		£ 618	£ 618	618

# North East Churches Acting Together Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2019

## 9 Statement of funds

	At 1 Sept 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gains £	At 3 Transfers £	2019 £
Unrestricted						
General fund	19,700	42,110	(41,054)	0	0	20,756
Designated funds:						
Mission fund	3,190	0	0	0	0	3,190
Reserve fund	25,000	0	0	0	0	25,000
Total unrestricted funds	47,890	42,110	(40,842)	0	0	49,158
Restricted funds:						
Publicity fund	614	0	0	0	0	614
Refugees and asylum						
seekers fund	50	1,279	300	0	0	1,029
TVM fund	35,611	677	312	1,563	0	37,539
Total restricted funds	36,275	1,956	612	1,563	0	39,182
Total funds	84,165	44,066	41,454	1,563	0	88,128

General funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Mission funds provide small grants to Local Churches Together and similar groups such as Regional bodies/initiatives and ad hoc groups formed for a particular event.

Designated reserve funds are to be used to pay expenses due should the aims and objectives of NECAT, as originally envisaged, cease resulting in the cessation of NECAT.

Publicity funds are for the purpose of publicising NECAT and /or regional events.

Refugees and asylum seekers funds provide clothing and household items to refugees and asylum seekers.

TVM fund operates in the Tees Valley to promote and support workplace chaplaincy by supporting volunteer chaplains and being an advocate of the Christian in the workplace.