



Eden Christian Trust
Reg Charity NO. 1001961

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2023

Annual Report 2023



Introduction

The Eden Christian Trust (ECT) was established in 1990 and took its present form in 1997. It has four main objectives, namely

- To work in partnership with local churches and support them in all areas of youth work
- To encourage an understanding of the Christian faith among young people
- To provide activities and opportunities that will bring young people together and encourage "Community"
- To work with un-churched young people in the community generally.

The Trust is an inter-denominational Christian charity that works with those services that engage locally with youth activities.

Activities throughout the year.

The weekly **ECT Youth Club**, run on Friday nights in term time by the Youth Worker and volunteers, regularly attracts 40-50 youngsters. Special activities are planned for each session, such as:

Craft evenings
Trampoline park
Games evenings
Barbecue
Disco nights
Christmas party

Themed movie nights
Friendly competitions
Cooking sessions
NERF Club sessions
Ice Skating
Laser tag

Club members are offered opportunities to attend our popular annual residential camps, PULSE Camp and the Satellites Festival. These two residential saw up to 27 young people attending from the Edenbridge area.

We had a visit to the Youth Club from the newly appointed Edenbridge beat officer PC Harry Kemp, encouraging youngsters to make good life choices. Further visits are planned for 2024. The young people have enjoyed the planned programme of activities throughout the year as well as just being able to socialise with their friends.

One-to-One Mentoring and Support

We offer weekly mentoring to those young people who need and want one-to-one support with a designated adult. These are organised by our ECT Youth Worker, supported by and run with a settled team of adult volunteers to provide extra support and solidity to the young people. Special activities have included swimming, crafts, a BBQ, cooking sessions, games and outdoor educational walks and activities.

School Work and Clubs

The ECT Youth Worker has established relationships with the teaching teams at 4 local primary schools in Edenbridge, Crockham Hill, Hever and Four Elms, offering various activities and participating in assemblies. The Youth Worker also supported other Edenbridge activities, including the pre-school Kidz Club group, Laser Lite Kidz club for Key Stage 1 age group and Olympia Boxing Training evenings.

Church Visits and Other Activities

Our Youth Worker has regular contact with the nine churches in Edenbridge and surrounding rural villages and has run or attended the following activities throughout the year.

- Leading church services
- Church networking and support
- Messy Church planning and support for all churches in Edenbridge.
- Baptist and Church of England youth networking meetings
- Participation in local fetes
- ECT Bi-weekly House group, for young people wishing to explore the Christian faith and how it relates to their everyday lives.

Outreach

Throughout the year as part of ECT's commitment to the community, our Youth Worker partnered with West Kent Youth Services, also based in Edenbridge, to provide detached Youth work in the community visiting the spaces in the town where young people gather, to meet them, offering advice and support where needed. This will continue in 2024.

Plans for 2024

We are planning to run a week long residential summer camp this year and will continue to develop our Youth Club offering of a separate Thursday evening session for those in the school Year 9 and above.

PULSE Camp 2024 - Cancelled

Unfortunately, the camping facilities we have used to host this popular and successful weekend camp are in a period of transition and we have received the sad news that this will be closed in 2024. We hope to return in 2025.

For those who are new to ECT, PULSE stands for (Prepare, Unite, Love, Serve, Equip) and is a themed activity development concept featuring outdoor activities and residential workshops and is open to all young people associated with ECT.

Satellites Festival/Camp 2024

After successful visits to Satellites in 2022 and 2023 we are planning to take a further group of young people away to this exciting festival / camp in August 2024. The festival is run by Youthscape, and will take place at the Bath and West Showground, Somerset.

Days Out Activities

Opportunities for trips to local theme parks and attractions are being considered with other Youth Services to co-host and organise.

ECT Youth Club Additional Evening Session

With the Youth Club being so busy on a Friday night we continue to develop and offer to school Year 9+ an additional Youth Club evening on a "drop in" basis. This was launched at the beginning of Summer Term 2023.

Supporters of ECT

The Trustees thank all those who have supported ECT generously over the past year by way of finance or time including individual supporters and the following organisations:

Blackmore Foundation	Holy Trinity Church, Crockham Hill
Broughton Family Charitable Trust	Kent Community Foundation - Auston Trust Fund
Drakes Oil Syndicate	Kent Community Foundation – Gatwick Foundation
Eden Church	Movement for Change
Edenbridge Bonfire Society	Sevenoaks District Council
Edenbridge Town Council	St Johns URC, Marsh Green
Edenbridge and Westerham Rotary	St Peters Church, Hever
Grace Church	St Peter & St Paul Church, Edenbridge
Great Stone Bridge Trust	Sustainable Edenbridge

Trustees and Organisation

At the end of 2023 the serving Trustees were as follows:

- Tim Hill (Chairman)
- Brigitte Hunter
- Sheila Stapleton (Fund Raiser)
- Dorothy Sutton
- Sue White (Safeguarding Officer)
- Marnie Woodward (Hon Treasurer)

There is one co-opted position (non-trustee), Sue Paice, who continues as ECT Secretary.

To deliver the objectives of the Trust, the ECT employs a full-time youth worker (the only paid employee) who is supported in the youth club activities by a number of volunteer youth leaders.

Decision making is by majority vote. Trustee meetings are held monthly and are attended by the above together with a Church Leader. This important role is filled by Dave White, minister for the Grace Church, providing the additional link between the Trustees and the Churches that support the ECT. Support for the youth worker is provided internally by a line manager selected from the Trustees, with spiritual support provided by Rev David Flagg.

None of the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, is paid.

Accounts for the Year Ending December 2023

The accounts report on four areas of activity in 2023:

- Core ECT income and expenditure in support of the Youth Worker and related costs
- The "One-to-One" youth counselling scheme, which raises restricted income in support of its ring-fenced activities
- Other restricted income and expenditure
- The ECT Youth Club. Activities are funded by weekly subscriptions from the young people, refreshment purchases ('tuck'), and payments towards outings and trips.

Total income in 2023 was £55,371, considerably up on previous year (2022: £33,813). We actively fundraise and attract donations and grants from local organisations to support the core activities of the charity. Individual donations increased to £7,355 (2022: £6,683). Income from organisations remained significant, including the final tranche of a 3-year grant from the Kent Community Foundation. We continue to be supported by numerous local organisations, the local churches in Edenbridge and surrounding villages

The One to One programme spent down a portion of reserves, leaving £450 available for the future activities. Movement on Other Restricted Funds during the year were:

1. Trip Sponsorship Fund – available to fund young people who otherwise could not afford the holiday camps, £69 applied to a 2023 camp, leaving a nil balance
2. Overseas Mission Fund – fund for a future overseas mission, unchanged at £1,607
3. Great Stone Bridge Trust photography grant – remaining £12 balance now spent
4. Sevenoaks District Council - £900 towards equipment - £156 remaining at year end
5. Edenbridge Town Council - £500 carried forward towards summer camps in 2024

Total expenditure declined slightly to £44,053 (2022: £46,067). The main on-going areas of expenditure were staff costs, travel, overheads, and equipment purchases. Youth club activity resumed in full, with PULSE and Satellites summer camps, the latter subsidised from core funds.

In 2023 the Trust recorded a surplus of £11,318, recovering from a significant deficit of £12,254 in 2022. Resulting core unrestricted funds increased to £60,593 (2022: £49,652), and total funds came to £63,806

Fund Balances and Reserves Policy

Total funds at year end rose to £63,806 (2022: £52,488), comprised of

- ECT General funds of £35,593 plus £25,000 Designated funds
- One-to-One Restricted Funds of £450
- Other Restricted Funds of £2,263:
 - Trip Sponsorship Fund - nil
 - Mission Fund £1,607
 - Sevenoaks District Council - £156
 - Edenbridge Town Council - £500
- ECT Youth Club Designated funds of £500 towards youth club running costs.

Due to reliance on fundraised income, the Trust aims to keep sufficient reserves to support approximately six months staff and running costs. Beyond this contingency reserve, we favour the retention of additional uncommitted reserves where possible up to three further months of running costs, to provide security against fluctuations in income to cover core costs. For these purposes, the Trust has established a designated fund of £25,000. The General Fund provides additional support for all on-going activities. ECT Youth club funds are maintained to provide sufficient working capital in planning and enabling advance payments towards outings and other expenses. One-to-One manages its own fundraising and expenditure, and is considered a ring-fenced restricted fund. The Trust reviews this Reserves Policy once a year.

Accounting Policies

Income and expenditure are recorded on a cash received basis.

Public Benefit statement

In planning our activities for the year, the trustees keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We believe that the activities of Eden Christian Trust benefit local young people, volunteers, and the wider community.

Risk Factors

The greatest risk facing the Trust is, and probably always will be, the inability to fund the incumbent. Over 75% of the funding received has to be researched and requested. Therefore, the capacity to fundraise effectively is essential.

To date it has been possible to retain the £25,000 allocated to designated reserves intact. This allows approximately six months direct employment costs, plus other running costs and a working capital contingency, in hand.

Also, the Trust relies on the voluntary support of youth leaders and must be able to retain a core of leaders sufficient to assure the safety of the young people who attend ECT Youth Club and other events.

Finally, the Trust must be able to maintain the capability to manage itself in accordance with all necessary regulations affecting employment, financial administration, child protection and health and safety.

Chairman's Comments

This year ECT ran a successful, challenging and engaging programme of activities and events offering much needed support to the young people of Edenbridge and surrounding villages. We continued our support of local school clubs and churches. The outreach work we do is so important in meeting young people around the town and our mentoring groups are a vital opportunity for vulnerable young people to have reassurance and perhaps just time for themselves. We engage the Town council on youth matters, attend Police PACT meetings and offer the opportunity for our main sponsors and donors to visit us.

Edenbridge continues to grow as new homes are built and new families move into the town. This will continue as further larger house building sites are developed and it is vital that ECT continues to grow and develop to meet the need for activities and a venue for young people to go and meet and socialise.

A special mention must be made of Anthony Shipwright, our Youth Worker, who has been innovative and adaptable in all he has achieved whilst also bringing a caring and supportive approach to his work.

To our supporters and donors, recognising the challenges that all face financially, we are forever grateful of your support over the past year. Thanks to you all for your donations, large and small. These enable us to offer so much. If you would like to visit ECT in action then please let us know.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees and our volunteers who give of their time freely and willingly to make Eden Christian Trust such a vibrant caring group for the young people in our communities.

Tim Hill, Chairman, 12 June 2024



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

EDEN CHRISTIAN TRUST

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity no (if
any)

1001961

Set out on pages

1 page only

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 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's
statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
 have 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Redacted signature]

Date:

7th May 2024

Name:

PAULA HARDY

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

CAMRIE

HIGH STREET

BRASTED, KENT TN16 1HS

THE EDEN CHRISTIAN TRUST

Registered Charity No 1001961

Income, Expenditure and Balances for the year ending 31 December 2023

	ECT				TOTAL DEC 2023	PRIOR YEAR DEC 2022
	ECT Core	Youth Club	One to One	Total Other Restricted		
Income						
and gift aid organisations	7,355	0			7,355	6,683
Fundraising income subscriptions	37,543	850		1,735	40,128	19,917
income	505	410			915	460
Trips and activities interest		1,147			1,147	1,189
		2,291			2,291	2,109
		2,793			2,793	3,238
	743				743	217
Total Receipts	46,146	7,491	-	1,735	55,371	33,813
Expenditure						
Staff cost	31,501	0			31,501	29,391
Trips and outings		3,214			3,214	5,318
Events and activities expenses	319	379	141	283	1,122	914
Equipment / supplies	637	451	57	808	1,953	3,284
Travel / subsistence	1,307	0			1,307	1,963
Training	155	0			155	134
Rent / utilities	122	0			122	633
Insurance	853	0			853	795
broadband	316	0			316	250
Fees / Subs	500	0			500	358
Fundraising expense office	489	235			235	
	489	0			489	1,032
Total Expenditure	36,199	6,563	198	1,091	44,053	46,067
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	9,947	925	(198)	644	11,318	(12,254)
OPENING BALANCE	49,652	500	648	1,688	52,488	64,742
TRANSFER - Trip sponsorship to Club		69		(69)	-	-
TRANSFER - to/(from) ECT Club to Core	994	(994)		0	-	-
CLOSING BALANCE - TOTAL FUNDS	60,593	500	450	2,263	63,806	52,488
NET ASSETS						
Cash and Current Accounts	1,048	500	450	656	2,655	4,091
Deposit Accounts	59,544			1,607	61,151	48,397
TOTAL NET ASSETS	60,593	500	450	2,263	63,806	52,488
REPRESENTED BY						
Restricted						
One to One			450		450	648
Trip Sponsorship Fund						69
Great Stone Bridge Trust 2022 grant						12
Overseas Mission Fund				1,607	1,607	1,607
Sevanoaks District 2023 Grant				156	156	
Edenbridge Town Council 2023 Grant				500	500	
Designated	25,000	500			25,500	25,500
General	35,593				35,593	24,652
TOTAL FUNDS	60,593	500	450	2,263	63,806	52,488

Tim Hill, Chairman, 7 May 2024

Marnie Woodward, Hon Treasurer, 7 May 2024