

Annual Report for Charity Commission 2023

- Structure, Governance and Management:

Membership of the Trust: Trustees and year of appointment are as follows,

Miss Janet Cox	2017	
Mr John Creasey	2017	(Chair from September 2018) (retired 31/12/23)
Miss Heidi Fletcher	2017	(Vice Chair from September 2018)
Mrs Marie Mead	2012	(Secretary) (Retired July 2023)
Mrs Jane Spencer	2017	
Dr. John Stafford	1990	(Assistant Treasurer from April 2020)
Mrs Jacqueline Vickers	2015	(Treasurer from April 2020)
Mr Darren Chubb	2022	(Appointed January 2023)

Employees of the Trust:

Mrs Hayley Bailey	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2022 (resigned 31/12/23)
Mrs Trish Horwood	primary schools worker	appointed 01/01/2017
Mrs Becky Guynn	primary schools worker	appointed 01/09/2019

- Objectives and Activities: a return to face to face / in school activities.

The stated aim of the Trust is: *The advancement of the Christian Religion among young people in the Bedford Area, particularly in schools, in conjunction with local churches and volunteers.*

After a year of “nervous anticipation” throughout 2022, the beginning of 2023 saw Impact’s three Workers once again being invited into schools on a regular basis, as they had been prior to Covid. Whilst continuing to work electronically when required to do so, as mastered and used throughout the Covid years, a majority of schools welcomed them back with enthusiasm.

Once again, Impact’s aims and objectives, enabling children and young people to achieve their full spiritual, moral, social and cultural potential, were being achieved through personal contact with young people in more than 50 schools in Bedford Borough and Mid Bedfordshire.

- Achievements and Performance: evolving and developing the team spirit.

With a third schools worker now firmly settled into role, and harnessing the team spirit that had evolved between the Workers during the Covid years, Impact was now able to present itself to schools as a “corporate body”, and not as three individual Workers. At the same time, whilst continuing to review and streamline their working practices, the Workers were able to accommodate more schools in their programme of work - not always easy but extremely encouraging and an answer to prayer.

Meanwhile, the Trustees continued to review the Impact Vision Plan, ensuring that it was being fulfilled, modifying and updating it on a regular basis to meet the requirements of the Workers’ developing workload.

Having presented a live production of the Barn Nativity at St. John’s Church, Bedford in December 2022 - only possible through the generosity of the members of St. John’s, the dedication of Impact volunteers, and the determination of the Workers - 2023 saw the enactment of not only the Barn Nativity but also the Easter Experience. Whilst both of these live productions were greatly appreciated by the teachers, pupils and parents who viewed them, the videos of each enactment made during Covid, were made available to schools that were unable to attend a live performance.

2023 was a year of consolidation and achievement for Impact, after the restrictive Covid years.

- Core Activities and Materials: consolidation and development.

With schools now principally functioning as “normal” the Workers were once again being asked to carry out all that they had done “pre Covid” - including assemblies at various times during the day, creative prayer sessions, prayer spaces and Godly-Play - as well as self esteem and relationship sessions. In addition, Workers were asked to help run Christian Unions, support lunchtime and after school clubs and take RE lessons, whilst at the same time refining their daily working programme and streamlining their appointments to reduce their travelling time between schools. 2023 proved to be a year of consolidation and development by our Workers, supported by the Trustees and volunteers, ensuring that the Christian message was being heard loudly and clearly in primary schools in Bedford Borough and Mid-Bedfordshire.

- Special Projects and Seasonal Activities: a time to celebrate.

Prior to March 2020, Impact Workers were involved in the following joint ventures – helped and supported by volunteers and in conjunction with Scripture Union, St.John’s Church Bedford and the John Bunyan Museum in Bedford:

The Easter Experience

Life Path: John Bunyan in Elstow / John Newton in Olney.

In the Footsteps of Bunyan:

The Barn Nativity:

As referenced above, in 2023, Workers and volunteers were once again able to present both the **Easter Experience** and the **Barn Nativity** at St. John’s Church Bedford. Between 25 - 30 pupils, teachers and helpers attended each of the 15 performances, a total of around 800 individuals.

In May 2023, **Life Path** took place on Elstow village green, when the theme for the activities centred around the life of John Bunyan, and his book “Pilgrim’s Progress”. Once again it was a wonderful three day event with around 800 children enthusiastically taking part.

Due to difficulties programming in schools with the museum’s availability, **In the Footsteps of Bunyan**, did not take place in 2023. However, good forward planning has ensured that this joint venture with the John Bunyan Museum staff will be taking place over 6 days in June 2024.

In addition to the above four activities, and over and above their day to day school activities, the Workers have been involved in holiday clubs as well as special Easter and Christmas activities.

- Church and Volunteer Communications: an ongoing dilemma.

In 2022, attempts were made to get existing and prospective volunteers to join Workers and Trustees for a thank you tea, something that had not been possible in the previous two years. Unfortunately, this proved unsuccessful. In 2023, similar attempts were made but again without success. Hopefully there will be greater success in 2024 as contact with volunteers is essential.

This being the case, throughout the year, volunteers and supporters are kept up to date with what Impact Workers are doing through the receipt of a once a term newsletter, plus a monthly e-mail that includes the Workers prayer and praise requests.

At the same time, the Workers continued to make regular contact with teachers and staff in all the schools they go into, ensuring that the material received from, and presented by Impact was relevant and appropriate, whilst helping them fulfil the requirements of the current RE syllabus .

As a small Christian charity, our volunteers and supporters are incredibly important to us and keeping in touch with them is essential. It is their prayers and financial support that has enabled Impact to continue presenting the Christian message in Bedfordshire schools for over 30 years.

- Training and Reviews: appropriate and necessary – and beneficial

Once again, throughout the year, the Workers have each carried out a variety of on-line training courses, monitoring their content to ensure that they are appropriate to their work in schools. Each Worker has also taken part in Trustee - led Annual Performance Reviews, plus reflection / retreat days. The latter are seen by the Trustees as essential to the Workers’ well being and they

are also encouraged to find time in their busy lives to “take time out”, to pray into their work and to pray for the schools they work with.

Regular Team Meetings continue to be held to help bond the Workers, and to build upon the team spirit that developed during the Covid years. This is an opportunity for all of them to review their work with not only each other, but also with the Trustees who lead the meetings.

The Trust is mindful of its responsibilities for the welfare of pupils in schools and Workers, volunteers and Trustees are all DBS checked. In addition, Impact’s safeguarding strategies and policies are regularly reviewed to ensure the charity is fully up to date and fulfils current legislation.

The Future: the same objective – presenting Christianity to pupils in primary schools

With Covid restrictions no longer in place, Impact Trustees and Workers prepared themselves for a busy 2023. Encouraged by the “welcome back” from teachers, staff, Church leaders, volunteers and supporters, as well as pupils, the Workers fulfilled the objectives of the charity, that of “presenting Christianity to pupils in primary schools in Bedford Borough and Mid Bedfordshire”. Together with face to face involvement in schools, on-line social media platforms, including Facebook, have continued to be developed and are proving to be very helpful in spreading the word about what Impact can do, and is doing in schools.

The Strategic Vision Plan, begun in August 2020 to further prepare Impact for its mission and objectives in an ever changing school environment, continued to be developed and refined throughout the year. A full review of Impact’s future aims and goals, including an appraisal of our current and future finances, existing and future ways our Workers carry out their work, plus an assessment of our management needs, is ongoing. It includes a strategy for increasing our income as well as an increase in the number of Trustees, volunteers and supporters. 2023 has proved to be a busy year for all involved in Impact; it has also proved to be a year of consolidation. 2024 will I’m sure, be equally busy and equally productive under the leadership of a new chair person.

Financial Review

Please see Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets attached.

Independent Examination:

The Examiner’s Report is attached.

Public Benefit:

Once again the trustees affirm their conviction that a considerable number of children and young people attending primary schools in Bedford Borough and Mid-Bedfordshire benefit greatly from the above activities, in line with both the aims and goals of the charity and the guidelines of the Charity Commission.

John Creasey – 28.04.24

Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust

Receipts Payments Accounts 2023

2022	<u>INCOME</u>	2023	
15,055.00	Gift Aid donations	15,633.00	
3,854.00	Reclaimed tax	3,610.75	
	18,909.00		19,243.75
	Regular donations:		
2,972.00	Individuals	2,058.00	
15,663.00	Churches	18,707.61	
	18,635.00		20,765.61
	Occasional donations:		
2,007.00	Individuals	9,100.00	
2,095.00	Churches	5,903.50	
	4,102.00		15,003.50
	HMRC Furlough Payment		
	5.00 Just Giving/Easy Fundraising		741.85
	189.24 Bank interest		836.26
	390.00 income from events		720.00
	175.00 miscellaneous		240.00
	1,000.00 other income		
	Amazon smile		18.41
	Fundraising		103.10
	Legacy		161.16
	grants		7,000.00
	43,405.24 TOTAL INCOME		64,833.64
	EXPENDITURE		
57,538.87	Workers' salaries	61,534.71	
5,699.48	Superann.	5,909.28	
1,271.62	Employer's NI	1,877.96	
	64,509.97		69,321.95
	3,508.42 Workers' expenses (Note 1)		4,582.01
	2,822.43 Trust administration (Note 2)		1,609.47
	70,840.82 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		75,513.43
	-27,435.58 surplus/deficit		-10,679.79

Note 1

Workers' expenses

1,985.70	Motor + travel	2,448.55	
407.24	Consumeables	376.79	
147.83	Materials	1,066.67	
24.65	Postage	0.00	
72.00	Telephone	66.00	
405.00	Office heat/light allowance	494.00	
466.00	Training	130.00	
	3,508.42		4,582.01

Note 2

Trust administration

26.00	DBS	13.00	
562.97	Insurance	664.48	
30.00	costs of events		
135.00	gifts (Christmas worker gifts)	100.00	
375.00	Trustee expenses (retreat)	36.00	
1,000.00	Subscriptions	600.00	
	miscellaneous		
693.46	Workers Hardware Software		
	Capital equipment	15.99	
	Website	180.00	
	2,822.43		1,609.47

Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust Balance Sheet : 31 December 2023

2022		2023	
	Balances at bank		
18,281.53	NatWest current A/C	5,736.98	
16,621.41	Barclay Savings A/C	17,771.16	
27,334.61	Nationwide 90 day	28,049.62	
8.94	Cash in hand	8.94	
62,246.49		51,566.70	
89,682.07	BALANCE at year start	62,246.49	
-27,435.58	Surplus / deficit of income over expenditure	-10,679.79	
62,246.49	BALANCE at year end	51,566.70	0.00

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust
(otherwise known as BASCST and Impact),
Registered Charity No. 1010472
on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act), and
3. 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 trustees 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:

- 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 2011 Charities Act;
 - 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.

Signed: Ann B Wilson Date: 17 March 24

Independent Examiner's Name: Ann Wilson

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACCA

Address: 1 Park Hill Ampthill
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