



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Louth Churches for Refugees (Registered Charity No. 1177536) will take place in St James's Church House, Louth, at 2pm on Tuesday 19 March 2024.

Agenda:

1. Trustees' Annual Report
2. Annual Statement of Accounts
3. Appointment of Trustees

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Please note the following information:

- The Trustees' Annual Report and the Annual Statement of Accounts are available on the Louth Churches for Refugees website: <https://louthchurchesforrefugees.org/about-us/latest-news> and some printed copies will be available at the meeting.
- We invite anyone wishing to become a member of the charity to complete a membership application form on arrival. There is no charge for membership, and members sign to confirm that they support the aims and objectives of the charity.
- Anyone wishing to be elected trustee should complete a nomination form on arrival which must include the names of a proposer and seconder who are members of the charity. If there are more nominations than places available then each candidate will be given two minutes to explain to those present why they wish to be elected as a trustee.

Overleaf for information:

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 17 July 2023.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Louth Churches for Refugees
held in Louth Methodist Church at 7pm on Monday 17 July 2023

The meeting was chaired by Jane Fletcher. 16 members and supporters of the charity were present and apologies for absence had been received from 5 members.

1. The meeting received the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended December 2022 (Proposed: J. Ballantyne Seconded: A West).
2. The meeting received the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended December 2022 (Proposed: R Mansfield Seconded: J Ballantyne).
3. Jane Fletcher, Julie Markham, Andrew Stratford and Andrew West had been nominated for election as trustees. There being no further nominations, these nominees were declared elected.

The formal business of the meeting was concluded. The meeting continued with a presentation from Kate Mitchell and Mo Oliver (East Lindsey Area of Sanctuary) followed by discussion. The following were among the points made and issues raised:

- The origins of the movement in Sheffield 'City of Sanctuary' in 2005.
- Pre-pandemic activity, including support for a group now separately established as North Lincolnshire Sanctuary Group.
- Re-focussing the group's activities, following the invasion of Ukraine, including coordinating hosts/guests in the area and launching a very successful 'welcome club' in Louth.
- Future plans for the group, including a likely re-brand and possible charity incorporation.

Thanks were expressed to supporters of Louth Churches for Refugees, including members of the charity's ESOL team, for their valuable work during the year. Mark Sherman had stepped down as treasurer and was thanked warmly for his contributions. An update was provided on the charity's recent activities, including continued expenditure on family support. It was noted that the trustees had begun considering the possibility of a third Community Sponsorship application. Members and supporters were invited to provide any feedback on this thinking – and were invited to continue to pray for God's guidance into the future.

The meeting was followed by further conversation over refreshments, including Syrian desserts very kindly provided by the two resettled families.



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1 January 2023- 31 December 2023
Charity name: Louth Churches for Refugees
Charity registration number: 1177536

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	The objects of the charity are to relieve financial hardship for: a) those seeking refuge from conflict in the Middle East, North Africa region; b) those granted refugee status and their dependents living in Lincolnshire and Louth in particular; and c) refugee children by the provision of holidays.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	The charity's main activities during the year have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued support for two resettled refugee families in Louth – in the case of the first family our agreed sponsorship responsibilities under the Community Sponsorship programme have now concluded.Ongoing communications to raise awareness of the activities of the charity and the global situation facing refugees; and encouraging prayer.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.	In all of the charity's work, the trustees have been mindful of the need to fulfil the charity's charitable purposes and to work for the public benefit. They believe that this has been the case, and that the activities represented by the summary above and in the report that follows demonstrate both the ways in which Louth Churches for Refugees has fulfilled its purposes of relieving financial hardship of those groups specified in its governing document and that this has been undertaken in a way that is demonstrably for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Louth Churches for Refugees welcomed a second resettled Syrian family to Louth in mid-2022, as part of the UK Government's "Community Sponsorship" programme.</p> <p>It was good to see the family getting settled in the early months following their arrival. During 2023 the charity has continued our support for members of the family, including English language tuition; education support and various other practical matters.</p> <p>While our agreed sponsorship responsibilities under Community Sponsorship have now concluded in respect of the first family, who we welcomed to Louth in 2020, we continue to keep in close touch and to provide assistance as needs be.</p> <p>We were delighted that the eldest son in the first family secured a university place to study engineering from Autumn 2023. Having arrived in the UK with minimal English in 2020, this is a fantastic personal accomplishment and a great story about the positive impact of Community Sponsorship.</p> <p>Mark Sherman stood down as treasurer of Louth Churches for Refugees at the start of 2023 in anticipation of his retirement and moving away from the area. We send our warm wishes to Mark - and our grateful thanks for his contributions to the work of the charity over recent years.</p> <p>Julie Markham, one of our trustees, has taken on the role of Treasurer and we thank Julie for her ongoing support.</p> <p>At the end of 2023, Louth Churches for Refugees participated in a national evaluation of the Community Sponsorship scheme, run by the Home Office. This was a good opportunity to reflect on recent developments and achievements. Having been involved in Community Sponsorship for more than six years, the charity trustees have begun thinking about our future plans, including the potential for welcoming another family to the area.</p> <p>The United Nations estimates there is now a total of 36.4 million refugees around the world. In the face of such a huge global emergency, Louth Churches for Refugees represents a practical local response, as we continue to respond to Jesus' call to follow the path of the Good Samaritan in caring for our neighbours. We are very grateful to our members, friends and supporters for their practical help, financial support and ongoing prayers.</p> <p>We appreciate all offers of help; contact can be made via our website at https://louthchurchesforrefugees.org/about-us/contact-us. You may also like to follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/louthchurchesforrefugees</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	During 2023 the charity continued to raise funds towards its stated objectives. Expenditure exceeded income during the first full year supporting a second family - following on from fundraising during previous years.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	The charity does not hold significant reserves, with all monies held being required for its immediate charitable work. This is reviewed periodically by the trustees.
Details of fund materially in deficit	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	None

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Election by members (up to 6 trustees) Nomination by Churches Together in Louth & District (up to 2 trustees)

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Louth Churches for Refugees
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	1177536
Charity's principal address	Church House 6 Upgate Louth LN11 9ET

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Fidler			Elected by members
2	Jane Fletcher			Elected by members
3	Ros Malyon			Elected by members
4	Julie Markham			Elected by members
5	Andrew Stratford			Elected by members
6	Andrew West			Elected by members

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew West	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee & Lead Sponsor	
Date	31 January 2024	

The Treasurer
Louth Churches for Refugees
Louth Methodist Church
Nichol Hill
Louth
LN11 9NQ

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Louth Churches for Refugees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Louth Churches for Refugees (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Charity, 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 2011 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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matter 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.



Keith May ACMA CGMA
Qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Keith May Accounting Services Ltd
Aura Business Centre
Heath Road
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE25 3SJ

31 January 2024

Louth Churches for Refugees		1177536	
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period	01/01/2023	To	31/12/2023

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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	4,442	-	-	4,442	-
Other Income	1,880	-	-	1,880	-
Gift Aid	321	-	-	321	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	6,643	-	-	6,643	-

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see

	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	6,643	-	-	6,643

A3 Payments

Family support	9,311	-	-	9,311	-
Other Charitable Expenditure	466	-	-	466	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	9,777	-	-	9,777	-

A4 Asset and investment purchases,

	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	9,777	-	-	9,777

Net of receipts/(payments) **- 3,134**

A5 Transfers between funds **-**

A6 Cash funds last year end **20,146**

Cash funds this year end **17,012**