

Christian Ecology Link Ltd (Green Christian)
Report of the Trustees

Green Christian is a registered trading name of Christian Ecology Link.

The Trustees submit their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015

Governing Document

Memorandum and Articles of Association

Company Status

The Company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Each member undertakes to contribute up to £10 if, on winding up the company has a deficit. The company is a registered charity under the Charities Act 1960.

Charity number: 328744

Company number: 2445198

Registered Office Address: 76 Old Eign Hill, Hereford, HR1 1UA

Advisors

Bankers: The Cooperative Bank, P O Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Accountants: Stewardship, 1 Lambs Passage, London EC1Y 8AB

Principal Activities and Public Benefit Statement

The company works for the benefit of Christians, the general public and the created world by propagating among the churches and to the general population a better understanding of the integrity of creation and the proper role of humankind as stewards of that creation. It works to further this aim by educating people in churches and elsewhere on subjects relating to stewardship and the creation and encouraging practical actions for the benefit of the created world and of the humans and other creatures for whom it is home.

In planning the activities the Directors have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission in December 2008 on Public benefit.

Patrons

The following have served as patrons during the period under review –

Fr Sean McDonagh
Jonathon Porritt
Prof Sir Ghillean Prance
Dr Elaine Storkey
Rt Revd James Jones

Directors and Trustees

The following have served as Directors of the company and Trustees of the Charity during the period under review

Paul Bodenham
Dr Tim Cooper
George Dow
Barbara Echlin
Tony Emerson
Peter Grimwood
Ruth Jarman
Deirdre Munro
Eleanor Orr
Poppy Pickard
Ashley Ralston
Chris Walton

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is the executive body which manages the affairs of the company on behalf of the Trustees and for the benefit of members of the organisation.

The following members of the steering committee served throughout the period unless otherwise stated. –

Dr Judith Allinson
Paul Bodenham
Barbara Echlin
Tony Emerson
George Dow
Howard Gardner
Peter Grimwood
Eleanor Orr
Poppy Pickard
Ashley Ralston
Deborah Tomkins
Chris Walton

Trustees Review of the Year

CEL / Green Christian seeks to encourage and resource churches and individual Christians to address environmental issues by providing regular mailings, producing resource materials and arranging events. When it is in line with our aims we seek to maximise the impact of our work by collaborating with other Christian bodies with environmental programmes. We are represented on the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland, and on the Board of Operation Noah.

During the year we held an ecocell workshop in London in January. In June we held a weekend retreat at Ringsfield, Suffolk on the theme: A Green Christian Way of Life. A day conference, 'The Economics of Hope' was held in November in Bristol with Molly Scott-Cato MEP for South West England and Jonathan Rowson Director of the Social Brain Centre at the Royal Society of Arts as key note speakers. CEL / Green Christian Annual Members' Meeting was held in Bristol in November on the evening prior to 'The Economics of Hope' conference.

We continue to produce a wide range of educational materials in print and on the website, including two issues of our magazine *Green Christian* and one issue of our annual *Storm of Hope* pamphlet.

We used money from the legacy received in 2012 in an initiative called Xistence which aims to find ways of engaging more with younger people. We employed three part time researchers who produced a detailed report with proposals for changes in our ways of communication and for meeting the needs of younger people.

'Joy in Enough' is CEL's campaign to promote an alternative way of thinking about the economy. CEL / Green Christian, together with other organisations, both secular and Christian, is seeking to empower ordinary people to understand alternative models for the economy and seek a role the Church can play in the transformation to a just and sustainable economy. During 2015 we held the conference as noted above and continued our work to study this issue.

The work of CEL/ Green Christian is mainly carried out by volunteers, members of the steering committee and others from their own homes other than a few hours of paid administrative work each week. Green Christian membership numbers are steady at 835, including 56 churches, plus 19 magazine subscribers. Our members pay membership subscriptions and donations.

Financial Review

The balance of unrestricted cash and cash equivalents at the end of 2015 was £43,098 (2014: £52,141). This includes £4,713 in amounts taken for Life membership of CEL and held in a reserve to provide income in future years, and a designated fund representing the unspent balance from a legacy of £19,513 received in 2012 from a member of CEL. The trustees applied £6,514 from this fund in 2015 to our Xistence initiative to develop strategies for engaging with a younger generation of potential supporters. £12,394 remains of this legacy.

It is a policy of the Trustees to keep a minimum of £6,000 in cash and cash equivalents in a general reserve to meet current commitments in furtherance of the aims of the charity, such as publications to which subscribers are entitled and the payment of conference expenses in the event of such a conference being under subscribed. In order to facilitate the employment of paid staff to meet growth objectives a further sum of £6,000 is identified to meet employment liabilities.

The majority of income is received as subscriptions and donations from members and other sympathetic individuals. The single largest area of expenditure is the production of a magazine twice yearly which is distributed free to members, occasionally sold at events and frequently distributed free of charge as a means of furthering the aims of the charity.

A complete report of events for the period October 2014 to October 2015 was presented to the membership at the Annual Members' Meeting held on Friday 6 November at St Michaels Centre, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8PD. A report for the year October 2015 – October 2016 will be made at the Annual Members' Meeting at St Aloysius Church Hall, 20 Phoenix Road, Road, London, on Saturday 5 November 2016.

Responsibilities of Directors (also known as Trustees)

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these accounts the Directors are required to –

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts
- Prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Directors, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks.

In preparing the above report, the Directors have taken advantage of special exemptions available to small companies.

By order of the Board

Barbara Echlin – Director
76 Old Eign Hill, Tupsley, Hereford HR1 1UA.

Approved by the Board - 1st September 2016