



The Bridge Trust Ltd

Connecting faith and action

Annual report and financial statements

1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Charity number 1142658

Company number 07556101

The Bridge Trust Ltd

Trustees' report

Year ended 31 March 2020

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2020 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Chair's report

This has been another good year for The Bridge Trust Ltd. Financial donations have remained high allowing us to enjoy a relatively stable year and meet all our financial commitments. More importantly, we saw our connections and relationships with our partners grow and develop, deepening our foundations and helping secure the trust's activities into the future.

We continue to build on the relationships we have in India and Zambia where we support health care workers, slum schools, orphans and church leaders working in their local communities, and started to fund a new venture to provide toilets in rural areas of India. I had the privilege to visit India again in March 2020, with my wife, and it was wonderful seeing the difference that your support makes to so many lives. Our friend and supporter, Penny Waller, accompanied us and she provided some further training with the health care workers. Unfortunately the trip was impacted by COVID-19 as the slum schools were closed so were not able to see these this time. We also had to come home two days early to prevent us being stranded! This also means that we are not certain when we will be able to visit India or Zambia again.

One particularly important development in the last year has been our growing relationship with the charity Mercy in Action. This Bath-based charity works in both the UK and the Philippines, supporting children and families facing challenging circumstances. Mercy in Action operates charity shops across the south of England and they offered to partner with us to open a new shop in Bristol and share 50% of the profits with us. We identified a suitable shop unit at 131 Coldharbour Road, Westbury Park in October 2019 and everything progressed to the point that the shop was expected to open in March 2020. However this was delayed by COVID-19 and it eventually opened in June.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow trustees. Their time and support is essential to the smooth running of the trust and their efforts at our fundraising events should not be underestimated. I would also like to thank Dave and Rhi who continue to work tirelessly with friends, partners and churches in the UK and across the world. I know they do more than we know about. Thank you also to God who makes everything The Bridge Trust Ltd does possible.

Colin Medus

Our purposes and activities

Objects

The objects of the charity are

- to advance the Christian faith, mainly but not exclusively, by teaching about Christian faith and action, and through training and mentoring church leaders, in the United Kingdom and overseas.
- to relieve those in need by reason of poverty, illness, disability, social exclusion or age in the United Kingdom or overseas by raising awareness of needs, by making grants to persons in such need and to those working to relieve poverty in such a way, and by training others to do the same.

We achieve these objects through support of work mainly in India and Zambia. We employ two members of staff, Dave and Rhi Day, who both have long experience of church leadership in the UK and overseas. Our connections with India and Zambia exist for the most part as a result of the links they have established over the years. Details of the work we support are provided below under the heading *Achievements and performance*.

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We think that our work provides public benefit in many ways, in particular because the work of the slum schools and health workers in India, the health centre in Zambia, and the ministry of the churches whose leaders we support is open to all, and makes a tangible difference to the lives of ordinary poor people in both countries.

Achievements and performance

India

We continued our work with churches in India. Dave Day from the trust, joined by leaders from Frontline Church in Liverpool and Bournemouth Community Church, visited India in October 2019 for leaders' training in Delhi and work with churches in other cities. A further visit took place in March 2020 to provide extra training to the health workers and to visit churches whose leaders we support. The visit had to be cut short because return flights were being cancelled as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19.

- Regular giving from individual donors has enabled us to continue to pay for the care of some of the orphan girls in the Love India Children's Home in Delhi. (Just under £3,000 this year.) The team met the girls when they were in Delhi.
- We continued funding the work of 30 health workers in a slum area of Delhi. Penny Waller, a retired nurse from the Bristol area, again delivered further training to them. The health workers are well respected in the slum, and have made a tangible impact, especially in helping to reduce infant mortality. They offer simple treatments free of charge to any local people who need them, refer patients to hospitals and doctors if more specialised treatment is required, and provide education and advice. We have been able to increase the modest amounts paid to the women, and sent £13,600 this year.
- The churches we work with have set up schools in two slum areas of Delhi, between them teaching and feeding some 4,000 children every day. Many of the children's families migrated to Delhi to find work, and live in slums where there is no other educational provision. Two donors regularly give us the money to fund two of these schools. Thanks to other generous supporters we were also able to step in to replace funding for other schools whose sponsors had to drop out. We have sent almost £18,000 this year.
- Dave Day and leaders from churches in Liverpool and Bournemouth participated in the annual training conference for church leaders, held in Delhi this year, and some of them also visited churches in Chennai. Colin Medus, the chair of the trust, his wife Cara, and Penny Waller also visited churches in the Almora area, where we support pastors.
- We provided funds for the support of five pastors in India. Three were supported from the trust's own funds, and two from specific donations for this purpose from individual supporters. Most of the churches and their members are not well off, and without our support their pastors could not afford to devote themselves to church leadership. (£7,831 this year.)
- Thornbury Baptist Church generously stepped in to provide funding for some of the health workers after Christ the Rock church told us that they could not continue to do so. They also helped provide some of the replacement funds for slum schools.
- We asked supporters for funds for a project to build toilet blocks in remote villages where there are no indoor facilities. This is important for the safety of women, who are vulnerable to assault if they are obliged to use the fields to relieve themselves. The

response was more than we could have expected. We sent funds for the first blocks in February 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented work from starting as soon as the funds were received, but since the end of the financial year, the first blocks have been built.

Zambia

- We provide regular small amounts of support for pastors working with the Fire Baptized Churches of Zambia (£780 each year year, plus an extra £1,000 this year) and for a young woman at the health centre in Sachibondu (£400).
- We have continued our connection with Sachibondu Rural Health Centre, in North West Zambia. The clinic provides much needed treatment to hundreds of people every day, some of whom walk very long distances to get there. We are grateful to the donors who have enabled us to continue to support the work of the clinic. (£8,384 this year.)

Other activities

A Bath-based charity, Mercy in Action (www.mercyinaction.org.uk), proposed opening a new branch in Bristol in its chain of boutique charity shops, and to share the profits from it with Bridge. The COVID-19 outbreak forced the proposed opening in March to be delayed, but since the end of the financial year, the shop has opened for business. The growing relationship with Mercy In Action promises to be of great benefit to us as a trust.

Dave Day visited India with a team from Liverpool and Bournemouth. Time was spent in Delhi and Agra with leadership development training and the opportunity to visit the projects supported by The Bridge Trust Ltd. He was also able to start planning the toilet building project which will help provide security and hygiene to several rural villages. He has maintained the link with Zambia though a visit was not possible.

Dave has also been able to talk about the work of the trust in several churches in the UK and in Madison Wisconsin.

Dave also spends time mentoring, working with church leaders and assisting with the Fuelcast programme.

Financial review

The trust's income in 2019-20 was just under £85,000. This compares with just over £100,000 in the previous year: that had been exceptional, but this year's income is still significantly more than in the year before that. The underlying level of giving by our regular donors is not much changed, but again we have seen very generous support for one-off projects. In the past we have usually had to use general (unrestricted) funds to meet the greater part of the support of the health workers in India, but the surplus arising from last year's fund-raising event has enabled us not to have to do so this year. Following discussions with our friends in India we agreed to increase the amount of support sent for each health worker, and payments this year have been at the new rate. To enable us to meet that commitment we need to keep raising awareness of their work and raising funds for it. General funds were also used to pay for the support of three of the five pastors we support in India, the amounts we send for pastors in Zambia, and staff salaries.

We have continued to build up a reserve by £250 a month, and it stood at £8,350 at the end of the year. (£5,350 last year.)

At our present levels of income and regular commitments, we have no concerns about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees consider that under the Charities Act 2011, the income of the charity falls within the range for which an independent examination of the charity's accounts is required, but an audit is not required.

Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

Structure, governance and management

The Bridge Trust Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. Its governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The trustees are also the directors of the company. They may be appointed either by a resolution by the members of the charity, or by the directors. Directors must periodically retire, though they may offer themselves for re-appointment.

Reference and administrative details

The name of the charity is The Bridge Trust Ltd. It is registered as a company incorporated in England and Wales. It is also registered as a charity by the Charity Commission.

Company registration number: 07556101

Charity registration number: 1142658

Registered office address: 24 Stanbury Road, Bristol, BS3 4QG.

The trustees who served throughout the year were as follows.

Lesley McAllister

Colin Medus (chair)

Liz Sanderson

Andy Thomas

Ian Wilson (treasurer and company secretary).

They have all continued to serve up to the date of this report.

Approved by The Bridge Trust Ltd trustees on 18 November 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by order of the trustees

Ian Wilson Company Secretary

The Bridge Trust Ltd

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees

Year ended 31 March 2020

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Lesley Hyde
21 Thames Drive
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex
SS9 2XQ

13 November 2020

The Bridge Trust Ltd

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31 March 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2019-20 £	Total funds 2018-19 £
Income:					
Donations	3	35,878.14	46,558.01	82,436.15	91,423.29
Fund-raising events			2,506.70	2,506.70	8,603.32
Other income	4	25.29		25.29	17.48
Total income		35,903.43	49,064.71	84,968.14	100,044.09
Expenditure:					
Costs of raising funds	5		1,050.55	1,050.55	944.81
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	39,405.91	52,629.68	92,035.59	77,693.00
Total expenditure		39,405.91	53,680.23	93,086.14	78,637.81
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(3,502.48)	(4,615.52)	(8,118.00)	21,406.28
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		15,526.82	19,486.72	35,013.54	13,607.26
Total funds carried forward		12,024.34	14,871.20	26,895.54	35,013.54

The Bridge Trust Ltd

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

	Note	2020	2019
			£
Fixed assets			–
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		27,323.54	35,451.14
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	10	(428.00)	(437.60)
Net current assets/total net assets		26,895.54	35,013.54
The funds of the charity			
Restricted income funds	11	14,871.20	19,486.72
Unrestricted funds		12,024.34	15,526.82
Total charity funds		26,895.54	35,013.54

For the financial year in question, the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts. These accounts are prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The notes at pages 9-11 form part of these accounts.

Signed

Colin Edward Medus, Chair of trustees, on behalf of the trustees

Approved by the trustees on 18 November 2020

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b. Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the trustees consider it to be a going concern.

c. Income recognition policies

Income from donations is only recognised when it has been received. Gift aid is not recognised until it has been received from HMRC. Interest on funds held on deposit is recognised upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

d. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the trust's work.

e. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and bank balances, as well as balances held at Virgin Money Giving and at PayPal.

2. Legal status of the trust

The trust is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

3. Donations received

Donations received include donations from individual supporters (including gift aid where applicable), grants from other charities, and proceeds of fund-raising events (analysed below).

<i>Grants from other charities</i>	Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £
All Souls C of E primary school	602.92	602.92	
Bournemouth Community Church	500.00	500.00	
Dayspring Church, Chippenham	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Filton Community Church	2,400.00	2,400.00	
Frontline Trust, Liverpool	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Linden Church Trust	700.00	700.00	
Longwell Green Christian Fellowship	670.00	670.00	
Mercy in Action	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Resound Trust	3,794.38	1,300.00	2,494.38
Spring Mount Christian Fellowship	1,200.00	1,200.00	
St Monica Trust	199.30		199.30
The Four Winds Trust	500.00		500.00
Thornbury Baptist Church	5,400.00	5,400.00	
Total	23,766.60	20,572.92	3,193.68

<i>Fund-raising events</i> (See also Note 5 about fundraising costs.)	£
Indian meal	2,001.70
Wine-tasting	505.00
	<u>2,506.70</u>

4. Other income

Other income consisted of bank interest received of £25.29.

5. Costs of raising funds

£1,050.55 is the cost of a fund-raising Indian meal on 27 April 2019. (See Note 3.) £2,001.70 from ticket sales and donations at the event is included in donations received; ticket sales of £240 before 31 March 2019 were included in income last year. The net surplus from the event was therefore £1,191.15.

A wine-tasting event raised £505.00. The wine was donated by a supporter, so no costs were incurred.

We said that proceeds from both events would support work in India, so these are treated as restricted funds.

Some donations through Virgin Money Giving incur a fee: donations received are stated net of these fees, as only the net amount is remitted to us by Virgin Money Giving, and therefore they are not included here. (They amounted to £27.64 in the year.)

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	£
Staff salary costs	7	29,999.80
Support of overseas charitable work	8	60,512.14
Governance and administrative costs	9	1,523.65
		<u>92,035.59</u>

7. Staff salary costs

The charity employs Dave Day and Rhian Day. Staff salary costs consist entirely of their salaries. As a result of the Employment Allowance for small employers, no employer's NICs were incurred this year.

8. Support of overseas charitable work

Expenditure on overseas charitable work is analysed as follows, showing whether it was from restricted or unrestricted funds.

		Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total £
India:	Slum schools	16,961.98	861.80	17,823.78
	Orphans	2,980.00		2,980.00
	Health workers	13,600.00		13,600.00
	Support of pastors and other Christian workers	2,537.50	5,293.75	7,831.25
	Training conference	3,000.00	100.00	3,100.00
	Repairs of typhoon damage	2,200.00		2,200.00
	Providing toilets in remote villages	1,450.00		1,450.00
	Travel costs		586.91	586.91
	Costs of sending funds to India	115.70		115.70
Total (India)		<u>42,845.18</u>	<u>6,842.46</u>	<u>49,687.64</u>
Zambia	Sachibondu health centre	8,384.50		8,384.50
	Support of pastors and other Christian workers	1,400.00	1,040.00	2,440.00
Total (Zambia)		<u>9,784.50</u>	<u>1,040.00</u>	<u>10,824.50</u>
Total expenditure on overseas charitable work		<u>52,629.68</u>	<u>7,882.46</u>	<u>60,512.14</u>

9. Governance and administrative costs

	£
Bank charges	186.75
Employer's liability insurance	516.76
Website costs	807.14
Governance	13.00
	<u>1,523.65</u>

Bank charges include the costs of making overseas transfers, and other bank service charges. Governance includes charges incurred for the submission of returns to Companies House. Website costs include web hosting and domain registration, and the cost of having the charity's website redesigned.

10. Creditors falling due within one year

	£
HMRC (PAYE on salaries)	428.00

11. Restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise funds held for the following

	Restricted funds
	£
India:	
Orphans	1,070.00
Slum schools	50.00
Health workers*	10,368.62
Support of pastors and other Christian workers	825.00
Miscellaneous gifts for work in India	734.30
Providing toilets in remote villages	1,382.50
Zambia:	
Sachibondu health centre	378.28
Support of pastors and other Christian workers	62.50
	<u>14,871.20</u>

*Note: £7,418.51 out of the balance of proceeds of fundraising events held as at 31 March 2019 was allocated to the Health Workers' fund this year, as was the surplus of £1,696.15 from fundraising events held during this year. See Note 5.

12. Reserves

The trustees are conscious of the desirability of holding a reserve and have been gradually building this up. As at 31 March 2020, they have designated £8,350 of unrestricted funds as a reserve.