

ASHRAM COMMUNITY TRUST

Annual Report 2020 - 2021



Reg. Charity Number 1099164
Charitable Company Number 04779914

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, APRIL 2020 –MARCH 2021

The Charity's objectives are the promotion of any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Sheffield and in such other areas as the Charity may from time to time determine; and in particular the advancement of the Christian religion, the advancement of education, the promotion of religious and educational study and research and the publication of the results of all such study and research; and the relief of poverty, sickness, affliction and distress.

In furtherance of the above objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity may exercise the following powers:

(i-viii are the standard powers of a charitable company),

(ix) provide facilities for religious fellowship and training.

(x) procure to be written and print, publish, issue and circulate gratuitously or otherwise any reports or periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets or any other documents,

(xi) arrange and provide for, or join in arranging and providing for the holding of exhibitions, meetings, lectures and classes,

(xii) establish residential communities for persons directly engaged in the furtherance of the purpose of the aforesaid, (xiii) promote, encourage or undertake experimental work.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. During the entire year covered by this report, restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the charity operating in its accustomed fashion. Some activities were able to continue in a modified form.

Providing facilities for religious fellowship: The two weekends in May and October, and day meetings in July and February were replaced by video conferences. The branches in London and North-West England continued to meet with approximately the same degree of regularity as previously, also by video conference. From the beginning of June fortnightly gatherings online were started, open to all-comers. This way of operating was disadvantageous to members who were unable to join in, or could only participate via their telephone; conversely members prevented by their geographical location from participating in face-to-face branch meetings were able to take part. Efforts were made to keep in contact by post and telephone with those members that were unable to participate in video conferencing or receive emails. Most of these 'meetings' were attended by associates and non-members, thus providing a public benefit.

Meetings, lectures and classes: The Multi-faith Chapel and Library in Burngreave, Sheffield was unable to operate, but a few people were able to participate in the Urban Theology Union Certificate in Theology, Discipleship and Mission funded by scholarships financed by the Charity.

Publications: 'Jesus the Baker' was being prepared for publications at the end of the period under review. 'Jesus the Vegan' was published at the start of it.

Residential communities: The houses in Sheffield, in Rock Street and in Andover Street, continued to be occupied for this purpose. Work continued on the development of accommodation within the Burngreave complex, but progress was slowed by the pandemic.

Relief of poverty etc.: All members were asked to give a day's income to the annual appeal, which this year funded donations to the Joliba Trust and the Balmore Trust. These also created a public benefit. No grants were made from the Wider Service Fund and the Community Projects Fund for other charitable purposes outside of the Community, but members continued to contribute to these funds, and it is expected that if normal circumstances return next year further grants will be made.

APPOINTMENTS made at the 53rd Annual General Meeting 24th October 2020

OFFICERS

Leader: Rev Dr John Vincent
Convenor: Rev David Bown
Deputy Convenor: Ms Phillipa Thompson
Treasurer: Ms Margaret Mackley
Minutes Sec: Rev Ian Parker
Membership Sec: Mrs Sandra Dutson

TRUSTEES

Mr David Dale, Ms Helen Davies,
Mrs Lorraine Jones, Mrs Linda Marshall,
Rev Ian Parker

APPOINTMENTS

Weekends Sec: Rev Ian Parker
Gift Aid: Ms Margaret Mackley
ACT Together: Mrs Jenny Medhurst
Wider Service: Rev John Vincent

BRANCH SECRETARIES

London: Mrs Linda Marshall
North East: Mrs Jenny Medhurst
North West: Mrs Josie Smith
Sheffield: Rev John Vincent
National Zoom meeting:

COMMUNITY PROPERTY

Ashram Centre: New Roots Shop, 347 Glossop Rd Sheffield, S10 2HP
27 Hallcar Street, Sheffield S4 7JY

COMMUNITY HOUSES

Burngreave Ashram: 80-86 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG
77&79 Rock St, Sheffield S3 9JP
6 Andover St, Sheffield S3 9EG
29 Hallcar St, Sheffield S4 7JY
80 & 86 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7JY

PROJECTS

Ashram Press: 7 College Court, S4 7FN
Multi-Faith Projects: 86 Spital Hill, S4 7LG.
Study & Research: 6 Andover Street, S3 9EG

Community Office: 7 College Court, Sheffield S4 7FN... 0114 243 6688. Community e-mail: (John Vincent) ashramcommunity@hotmail.com
Website: www.ashram.org.uk

TRUST

Company Secretary: Mrs Linda Marshall,
31 Budebury Rd, Staines, TW18 2AZ

Registered Charity No: 1099164
Registered Company No 4779914

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, High St, Sheffield S1 1HP
Co-op Bank: Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Triodos Bank: Bristol BS1 5AS

Auditor: Ms Natalie Bacey, Hart Shaw, Sheffield Business Park S9 1XU
Solicitors: Graysons, Paradise Square, Sheffield S1 1TY