



Annual Report

1st December 2020 to 30th November 2021





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Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Christian Outlook On Lochalsh (COOL)

Scottish Charity Registration Number: SC031455

Contact Address: COOL, Free Church Manse, Ardelve, By Kyle, IV40 8DY

Trustees

Mr. Colin MacDonald (Chair)	Glenelg
Mr. Norman Gillies	Ardvasar
Rev. Roddie Rankin	Badicaul
Mrs. Frances Westerduin	Achnashellach
Mr. David Mockett (Appointed 28/04/2021)	Braeintra

Resigned/Retired Trustees

Ms. Christine Matheson	26/01/2021
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The Management Committee

Mr. Colin MacDonald (Trustee)	Glenelg
Mr. Colin Carmichael	Scripture Union Scotland, Inverness
Mrs. Fiona Macdonald	Ratagan
Mrs. Lynne Kearns (Secretary)	Ardelve
Mr. Robert Shillaker	Lochcarron
Mrs. Helen Strang	Lochcarron
Mr. Robert McRae (Treasurer)	Breakish
Mr. David Mockett (Trustee)	Braeintra

Resigned/Retired Management Committee Members

Ms. Christine Matheson	26/01/2021
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Independent Examiner

Mr. Robert Anderson

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland

Chairperson of the Trustees' Report

As the Chair of Trustees for COOL it is my duty and privilege to present the 2021 Chairman of the Trustees report. The Trustees would like to express our thankfulness to God for His faithfulness and for providing the wide number of volunteers, prayer supporters and financial supporters without whom COOL could not function.

In another year which has brought so many challenges because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we remain thankful and in awesome wonder for God's continuing provision

and protection of the work of COOL. We open this report with our praise and thankfulness to God; He is good and He has been good to us.



This year we are profoundly thankful to God for the third year of service from Timmy Currie, as our COOL Youth and Schools Worker. We are delighted to see him bringing his experience to the role and seeing him use the gifts God has blessed him with so effectively in working with the young people of this area. His desire for the good of our young people is heart-warming to witness and his passion for the gospel is a blessing. We are particularly thankful to see how he has worked diligently to continue to support our young people in this time of pandemic and in the coming out of lockdown. It was so encouraging to see Timmy using innovative and well thought out ways of facilitating in-person events in the safest way possible. We are excited to see how the Lord will continue to lead him in this role into the future.

The Trustees are profoundly grateful to God for the support of Colin Carmichael, SU Scotland Regional Worker for the Highlands and Islands. COOL is a member of the SU Scotland Associate Worker Scheme, and we value the advice, support and expertise Colin offers. His dedication and faithfulness are deeply appreciated. We also

thank our local volunteers, for continuing to support Timmy in the events we have been able to run.

We wish to thank the head teacher of Plockton High School, Mrs. Susan Galloway, for the continued good and positive relationship that COOL has with the school, which has been maintained in the past year despite coronavirus regulations. I also wish to thank the head teachers at the feeder primary schools and the many members of the staff at all the various schools, for the welcome given to Timmy and for working to



provide ways to maintain contact by video link. We are delighted to once again be able to report that COOL has an invited presence in every feeder primary for Plockton High School; the High School itself and three schools in south Skye. We never take these invitations for granted and are humbly grateful to God for opening these doors and to the head teachers and staff for allowing us to have a presence in their schools. We would very much like to see these positive relationships continue into the future.

After six years of faithful service to COOL as Secretary to the Management Committee and Trustees, Christine Matheson has decided it is time to take a well-earned retirement. It has been a privilege to work alongside Christine in the service of our Lord and in the management of COOL. Her service as a Trustee and as the

COOL Secretary has been a blessing to us all, and was done with dedication, faithfulness, diligence and humility. We will miss her warm hospitality, her good sense of humour and thorough knowledge of the workings of COOL. We wish Christine a long and happy retirement.

We are delighted that Lynne Kearns has volunteered to take on the role of Secretary to the Management Committee. Her enthusiasm and commitment have seen a seamless handover and the continued smooth running of COOL. We also are happy to welcome Dave Mockett as a Trustee of COOL, his knowledge of the working of COOL and his level-headed wisdom and vision will be a great asset to the Trustees. We are thankful to God for his continued provision of committed people to the management and administration of COOL.

COOL has a totally inclusive ethos; its activities and meetings are open to all young people of the area regardless of any or no church connections. There are many difficult issues facing our young people and although it is a privilege to be in this pastoral role, it is sometimes difficult and comes with a high personal involvement especially in these

times where ups and downs and ever changing restrictions make meeting together complicated and difficult. Please do pray for Timmy and the young people continuing to work through difficult and sometimes heart-rending circumstances.

The Trustees remain very grateful to everybody who has made, and continues to make, this Christian youth worker project possible in the area. Naturally, as Christians, our greatest appreciation and thanks go to God, who has inspired so many people to provide financially and pray for the work, and who provided people to work alongside



and in cooperation with COOL, in their capacity as voluntary youth workers. The Trustees are equally thankful to God for all those who serve COOL in an administrative capacity, without whom COOL would not be able to operate. We wish to thank all of those who faithfully pray for the Youth and Schools Worker, Management Committee and Trustees.

We once again record our thanks to Mr. Robert Anderson for his willingness to continue to be the independent examiner of the COOL financial accounts for another year: thank you for your faithfulness to COOL.

In this year of continued pandemic and ever changing circumstances, we are reminded of the awesome faithfulness of our God in His continued provision of generous supporters whose financial commitment has enabled COOL to run for twenty years and we are profoundly grateful to everyone who organised, took part in and attended the splendid COOL 20th Anniversary Celebration in Dornie Hall in November. A fantastic evening of praise, nostalgia and fellowship was enjoyed by all. The Trustees wish to thank everybody in their continuing support of COOL in this way. We continue

however to beseech our supporters to continue to seek the Lord's face in prayer, to open the hearts of the Christian community in Lochalsh and South Skye, to continue to widen and diversify our income stream and to set COOL on a sound financial platform for the years to come.

There is always the need for more adults to offer their time, energy and expertise to assist and lead young people's work locally. There are areas of work which may be forced to stop if new volunteers are not forthcoming. The voluntary youth workers and helpers in the different areas are often very busy and overstretched, and when there is no additional help, some things are not achievable. COOL is always willing to continue to offer advice and help train any who wish to volunteer.

Further details on the work of COOL can be found in the Management Committee Report and the regular newsletters and other reports available on our website: www.coolscotland.org.uk

Our thanks also go to all those adults who have enabled the annual residential weekend at Alltnacriche to happen, by giving of their time and talents to make the weekend possible.



The Trustees wish to record their grateful thanks to all who serve COOL on the Management Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee. Without their faithful and dedicated hard work COOL would not be able to function. We thank God for His provision of these dedicated people.

As we look into the coming year with hope, we continually thank the Lord for His provision and protection and pray the He will lead us into this coming year to serve Him for His glory.

Management Committee Report

In this, COOL's twentieth anniversary year, Covid sadly continued to impact the lives of everyone, and school lockdowns meant our children and young people needed increased support from teachers and parents. Through dedication and careful planning Timmy was able to provide vital additional support. The Committee were greatly encouraged that teachers were keen for Timmy to continue with school assemblies by



video or online through Google Meet, the latter providing a great opportunity to “see” some of the youngsters again. Timmy was also actively involved with the transitioning of P7s to High School; a critical, often difficult time, in children's lives.

At the end of our constitutional year (November 2021) restrictions had still not been fully lifted and COOL's work with primary schools in our area was limited to assemblies, both online and in person. Lockdown meant that work in Plockton High School was limited until mid-Spring when Timmy was able to resume his Wednesday Club. Numbers attending this junior lunch drop-in increased with an average of 15 students every week. Restrictions also meant that the Friday Night Youth Meetings (Timmy Time) had to be hosted online for much of the year and numbers began to drop. High School students spent much of their school learning time online and appeared reluctant to continue with online gatherings in the evenings. Following the summer break, it was decided to replace Friday Nights with Friday afternoons in the Lighthouse Centre. This has had limited success and the Committee hope you will join with them in praying the Lord will provide a solution.



Restrictions continued for indoor gatherings; determined that the young folk would have some form of activity during school breaks, Timmy and his helpers organised outdoor events which proved a great success. The first was the Easter Outreach Days and we were grateful to the Forestry

Commission for the use of the old Balmacara campsite. There were two days for P4s to P7s with twelve children attending each day and enjoying shelter building, campfires, orienteering and foraging plus Bible truths being told throughout, especially the love shown by Jesus in dying on the cross. It was a momentous occasion for the older guys to be



able to meet together for the first time in over a year and share activities similar to those of the primary group but with more time to chat. The main subject under discussion was discipleship, the need to follow Jesus and tell others about Him.

For the second year in succession, it was impossible to run the Summer Holiday Bible Clubs and Youth Activity weeks in their usual formats, but thanks to Timmy's inventiveness and his band of helpers the clubs went ahead outdoors with Bible stories, crafts and games. More than thirty young people attended the Youth Activity Week and, together with some fun activities, this provided a wonderful platform from which to share the Word of God. Several of the young people were not from church backgrounds so it was rewarding to be able to speak of how God cares for them.

Restrictions were lifted in time for the Alltnacriche Youth Weekend to go ahead in September, and as usual this was one of the main highlights in the COOL calendar. It was a time of fun, games and activities but also a place for young people to seek God in a very real way. Again, a number of young people with no church background attended and were attentive and questioning and actively involved in some good discussion.

The Committee are aware that this year has been a difficult time for our youth worker, Timmy, and again have been encouraged by his positive attitude towards his work with much to look forward to in the coming year. There has been additional work in the High School who are appreciative of the work of COOL. Timmy was asked to take some boys struggling with the school setting out for walks during their Support for Learning periods. In the new year, he plans to start Seasons for Growth: a peer-based support group dealing with grief and loss. The only disappointment has been the struggle with Friday Nights but if God wishes these meetings to continue, they will.

Social media increasingly plays a vital role. The website was completed and is well used with a good number of sign-ups to the Newsletter and Monthly Prayer Updates and people are beginning to follow COOL on Facebook and Instagram with some former pupils providing material for the latter.

The previous youth worker, Dave Mockett, was appointed in November 2001. With COOL being officially formed earlier that year, the Committee felt it was important to celebrate the 20th Anniversary. Covid restrictions eased enough for the celebration to go ahead, and we were able to enjoy an evening of great fun and fellowship plus sharing some happy memories through photographs, videos and presentations.

We thank God for the generosity of our supporters who have helped us to remain in a comfortable financial position and to retain our youth worker in these uncertain times. The Committee are grateful to Treasurer, Robert McRae, for running a “tight ship” and keeping them informed of all things financial.

After her many years of faithful and efficient service the Committee reluctantly accepted the resignation of Christine Matheson as both Management and Trustees’ Secretary. They were, however, grateful to Lynne Kearns and Dave Mockett for taking on the Management and Trustees’



secretarial duties respectively. Production of the quarterly newsletter was a constant through the year thanks to Timmy and his editorial expertise and Fiona who distributes the postal copies.

The February Annual Celebration, Back to School with God, and the Joint Prayer Meetings had to fall by the wayside, but Timmy produced an excellent video with links sent to all churches which was viewed a great number of times. The Committee were finally able to move away from Zoom and meet face to face for the first time in almost two years for the November meeting. Under the leadership of the Chairman, Colin MacDonald; the guidance of Scripture Union representative Colin Carmichael; Timmy Currie's ability to work in difficult conditions; and the faith and encouragement of COOL's supporters, we have been grateful to God for another fruitful year in the lives of our children and young people.

Financial Review

This financial review covers the period 1st December 2020 to 30th November 2021.

The principal source of COOL's income remains regular pledged donations from local supporters, both individuals and church organisations. In spite of the continuing pandemic there has been no discernible drop in donations. Contributions from our local church partners have been consistent. Expenditure during the year has increased, but overall, we experienced a net increase of funds amounting to £892.

Once again, we are grateful for God's provision to us through the financial giving and prayerful support of His people during this past year and additionally for the practical assistance provided by supporters which enabled the background work of COOL to be maintained.

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to hold reserves of approximately six months expenditure including designated funds. At the end of the year COOL held unrestricted cash funds of £51,021 plus £1,206 of restricted funds, which have been designated for supporting young people on trips abroad (not necessarily to Peru).

Our current reserves will definitely be sufficient to cover anticipated expenditure for the coming year.

Approval Statement and Signature

Approved by the trustees on 18th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



(Chairperson)

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the charity for the financial year ended 30 November 2021 as set out on pages 12 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of 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 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met.
2. or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Name: Robert Anderson M.C.I.B.S., B.A.

Address: 32 Bobbin Wynd, Cambusbarron, Stirling, FK7 9LZ

Date:

**Statement of Receipts and Payments –
For Period 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds (£)	Last Year (£)
Receipts					
Individual Pledged Donations		16680		16680	18721
Other Personal Donations		6580		6580	1940
Pledged Church Donations		6080		6080	4280
Other Church Donations		265		265	7613
Gift Aid from HMRC		5005		5005	3540
Open Door Café		0		0	500
Easyfundraising & Amazon Smile	1	159		159	135
Special Events	2	2077		2077	0
Peru		0		0	0
Books and Bibles donations		0		0	0
Other receipts		8		8	356
Bank Interest		14		14	55
Special Donations		0		0	0
Total Receipts		37352	0	37352	37139
Payments					
Youth Worker Employment costs		26220		26220	25893
Youth Worker Travel		353		353	1220
Youth Worker Expenses		920		920	915
Youth Worker Telephone		0		0	0
Administration & Publicity		1940		1940	1945
Other Sundries		1173		1173	30
SU Assoc. Worker Scheme		2004		2004	2004
Insurance		655		655	661
Staff Development		295		295	0
Special Events	2	2899		2899	500
Peru		0		0	0
Other activities/equipment		0		0	100
Books and Bibles purchased		0		0	0
Payments Subtotal		36460	0	36460	33268
Capital Expenditure					
Total Payments		36460	0	36460	33268
Net receipts / (payments)		892	0	892	3872
Transfers to / (from) funds					
Surplus / (deficit) for year		892	0	892	3872

Statement of Balances – As at 30 November 2021

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds (£)	Total Last Year (£)
Funds Reconciliation				
Bank Balances at start of year	50129	1206	51335	47463
Surplus / (deficit) as shown on Receipts and Payments Account	892		892	3872
Bank balances at end of year	51021		52227	51335
Bank Balances				
General Account			25416	24526
Deposit Account			15061	15059
Peru Account			1206	1206
Virgin Money Account			10544	10544
			52227	51335
Other Assets (Unrestricted Funds)				
	Purchase Cost (£)	Current value (£)	Value at Last Year end (£)	
Laptop	679	170	339	
Projector	366	1	1	
External hard drive	115	1	1	
Brother mono laser printer	40	1	1	
Popcorn maker	250	1	1	

Approved by the Trustees on 18th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by:-



C. MacDonald, Chairperson

Notes to the Accounts - For Period 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021

- 1 Easyfundraising.org.uk gave £119, and Amazon Smile £40, from online transactions carried out via their websites by COOL supporters. We would again encourage all our supporters who shop online to consider using Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile to raise additional funds for COOL at no additional cost to themselves.
- 2 The Youth Weekend away event at Alltranacriche was again organized. There was a discrepancy between Income (£2077) and Expenditure (£2659)