

COOL



# Annual Report

1st December 2021 to 30th November 2022



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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
Mr David Mockett	Braeintra
Rev Roddie Rankin	Badicaul
Mrs Frances Westerduin	Milngavie

### **The Management Committee**

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

### **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 2022 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.

As we enter our 22<sup>nd</sup> year of employing a Youth and Schools' Worker we open this Report with our praise and thankfulness to God. He is good and He has been good to us.

We are profoundly thankful to God for the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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 continued support of Colin Carmichael, our SU Regional Worker. COOL is a member of the SUS Associated Worker Scheme and we value the advice, support and expertise Colin offers. His dedication and faithfulness is deeply appreciated.

We also thank our local volunteers for continuing to support Timmy in the events we have been able to run. We are particularly grateful to Megan MacDonald who has volunteered to help lead the Friday Club in Kyle each week and we are thankful to see that work growing and relationships being built.

There were major changes this year in Plockton High School with both Susan Galloway (Head Teacher) and Iain Johnstone (Depute Head) retiring. Both will be missed and were long term friends of COOL. We wish them a long, fulfilling and happy retirement. We welcome Jo Scott-Moncrieff as the new Head Teacher and Martin Clarke as acting Depute and look forward to a continued good and positive relationship with the school into the future.

I also wish to thank the Head Teachers of the feeder primary schools and the many members of staff at all the various schools for the welcome given to Timmy and for working together to provide ways to maintain contact by video link. We are delighted once again to be able to report that COOL has an invited presence in every feeder primary of Plockton High School and the High School itself. 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.

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 a post lockdown world. 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 programme 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 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 and 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 be the independent examiner of the COOL financial accounts for another year: thank you for your faithfulness to COOL.

In November this year we held a COOL Strategy Day and we were delighted to have Murray McCheyne come over from Inverness and lead the vision day. It was a most helpful day and we thank Murray for his time, enthusiasm and facilitating skills. We looked with thankfulness at what COOL is already doing, we tried to identify any gaps in the service and we looked at the needs of the young people in the area. We will take the information gathered from that day and use it to shape where we will go in the years ahead.

Again, this year we have been overwhelmed by the awesome faithfulness of our God in His continued provision of generous supporters whose financial commitment has enabled COOL to run for twenty one years. We continue however to beseech our supporters to prayerfully seek the Lord's face, that He would open the hearts of the Christian community in Lochalsh and South Skye, 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.coolsotland.org.uk](http://www.coolsotland.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 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 He will lead us into this coming year to serve Him for His glory.



## Management Committee Report

This year has been one of great encouragement to the Management Committee and we give thanks to God that our Youth and Schools' Worker, Timmy Currie, has continued to impact the lives of local children and young people. Thanks to the grace of God and thanks to Timmy's dedication and care for local children and young people any negatives have been turned into real positives. On a bleak note, the Management Committee were deeply saddened by the tragic events on Skye and in Dornie in August.

Throughout the year Timmy's work in the Primary Schools continued to be a blessing. There were still some Covid restrictions early on, but Timmy was able to stay connected with the children through a mixture of online and in-person assemblies until the schools fully re-opened in May. Timmy involved the children in discussions on the ways God could make their lives easier, how He could make them stronger and how life changes would be easier with Jesus in their lives. Judging by the openness in responses and questions there seems to be a real desire among the children to learn more about God and the Bible.

In their transition week P7 children were assured that COOL would continue to support them in the High School and were given copies of the booklet 'It's Your Move.' The Primary School head teachers have continued to support COOL's work including Lochcarron and Applecross where we did not have a presence for a while.



Some valuable work has been done with the young people in Plockton High School. The Wednesday lunchtime Drop-In sessions have continued with mainly junior year pupils in attendance. The Drop-In offers a safe space for pupils who want to do something different during their lunch breaks. The Walks for Wellbeing have been a success and school staff have noted a positive impact on the pupils. The Seasons for Growth programme went well and the Scripture

Union Group, although attendance was low, had a regular few from S1 and S2. Overall, the weekly clubs have had positive results.

The Head Teachers and staff have supported Timmy's involvement with assemblies in the High School. He was able to convey the Easter message at Easter and met with the students for their leavers' assembly. These pupils were a mature year group in their thinking and engaged with Timmy in conversations about faith and their beliefs. Head teacher Susan Galloway and Depute Head Iain Johnstone, both supporters of COOL, retired in the summer and the Management Committee were pleased to authorise leaving gifts for them. Thanks are given to God that new Head Jo Scott-Moncrieff and acting Depute Martin Clarke also support the work of COOL.

The highlight of the summer was the Holiday Bible Clubs and Youth Activity Week especially as all Covid restrictions had been lifted. The switch of venue from the Community Centre to Loch Duich



School worked well for the Inverinate Holiday Club and the organisers were able to plan a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities. The clubs were extremely well attended; almost all of Glenelg School and many of the Loch Duich children were at Inverinate while the Kyleakin club had many newcomers and was actually oversubscribed. The children were well behaved and respectful and it was often evident God was working in their hearts and some very thoughtful questions were asked.

Over 20 young people joined the Youth Activity Week in Glenelg. A large percentage were not from church backgrounds and their families did not attend church, so this was a great opportunity to speak with them. It was challenging to hear that some young people said they believe in Jesus and understand why He died on the cross but felt no need to progress further.

Earlier in the year the Youth for Christ Touring Band came to the Lighthouse Centre for a very well received weekend of Christian songs, prayers, conversations and shared testimonies of how they came to Christ. There was a good number of young people there, many clearly impacted by conversations they had with the band. It was disappointing, however, that very few local church youth went along.

In the modern world, peer pressure greatly affects young people's lives, meaning few will join in with events unless their friends are going. This was probably some of the reasons why only two young people joined Timmy at the Stornoway Awakening Youth Conference although was an enjoyable time for them. The annual Youth Weekend at Alltnacriche, however, was its usual resounding success with everyone enjoying the activities, discussion groups, chats, great food, campfires and singing. Again, the majority of the young people were from non-church backgrounds so this was another excellent opportunity to speak with them about Jesus, aided by the input from speaker Justin Cummings who was superb at communicating with them. The Management Committee are grateful for all the volunteers who contributed to the weekend.

Building on relationships forged at Alltnacriche, a major success of this year has been the transition of 'Timmy Time' into 'Friday Afternoon Youth Club'. Early in the year around ten young people were regulars at Timmy Time in the Lighthouse Café but numbers dropped with the arrival of better weather. The club was suspended with Timmy assuring the kids he was always available for them if needed. The Friday Afternoon Youth Club began towards the end of the year with a nucleus of those who went to Alltnacriche, now between 20 and 25 young people attend every week.

Thanks to God's provision a grant through the Highland Cares project has been awarded. This has enabled hot food, drinks and snacks for the young people, a space they can customise and identify with and the appointment of an experienced staff worker – herself a former COOL young person. The young people now have a safe environment in which to meet with friends, make new ones, have fun, chat with trained, experienced volunteers and most importantly, hear God's Word, something they have little or no knowledge of. The Management Committee are praying for more volunteers to ensure the club, which is having such a positive effect on these young lives, can continue into the future.

Three prayer meetings were held: a joint one for all churches at the Lighthouse Centre in May; the joint Back to School with God in August; and in November, prayers with individual churches.

In November a Vision Day, facilitated by Mr Murray McCheyne from Inverness, saw Trustees, Management Committee Members, Timmy and volunteers join to discuss challenges, weaknesses and opportunities to take COOL into the future. The meeting was productive and we are prayerfully asking God to guide us into making the correct decisions to ensure the growth and development of COOL's vital work.

In addition to remaining stable over the 12 month period, COOL's year end financial report shows a slight increase in income over expenditure. We thank God for this and for the provision of donations from people who faithfully support our work and contribute so freely. We owe thanks to our Treasurer, Robert McRae, for his hard work and professionalism in taking care of our finances.

The work of COOL Youth and Schools' Worker, Timmy Currie, has again been a constant positive for the Management Committee. He understands what impacts young people, especially mental health and social and domestic problems. Above all he carries out his duty with God at the heart of everything he does. The Management Committee give thanks for the safe arrival in the summer of Nina, the blessing of a new daughter for Timmy and his wife, Janette. Nina became poorly later in the year but is now beginning to thrive. We pray God will keep His healing hands on her.





# Financial Review

This financial review covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The principal source of COOL's income remains regular pledged donations from local supporters, both individuals and church organisations. 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 £2230.

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 £53251 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 27th January 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



**C. MacDonald, Chairperson**

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the financial year ended 30 November 2022 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: 30th January 2023

## Statement of Receipts and Payments – For Period 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds (£)	Last Year (£)
<b>Receipts</b>					
Individual Pledged Donations		17077		17077	16680
Other Personal Donations		7819		7819	7064
Pledged Church Donations		6494		6494	6080
Other Church Donations		120		120	265
Gift Aid from HMRC		4117		4117	5005
Open Door Café		2151		2151	0
Easy fundraising & Amazon Smile	1	218		218	159
Special Events	3	1727		1727	2077
Peru		0		0	0
Books and Bibles donations		0		0	0
Other receipts					8
Bank Interest		29		29	14
Special Donations		0		0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>39752</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39752</b>	<b>37352</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Youth Worker Employment costs		27259		27259	26221
Youth Worker Travel		761		761	353
Youth Worker Expenses		646		646	920
Youth Worker Telephone		0		0	0
Administration & Publicity		1920		1920	1940
Other Sundries		0		0	1173
SU Assoc. Worker Scheme		2004		2004	2004
Insurance		698		698	655
Staff Development		314		314	295
Special Events	3	1730		1730	2899
Peru		0		0	0
Other activities/equipment	2	2190		2190	0
Books and Bibles purchased		0		0	0
<b>Payments Subtotal</b>		<b>37522</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37522</b>	<b>36460</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>					
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>37522</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37522</b>	<b>36460</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<b>2230</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2230</b>	<b>892</b>
Transfers to / (from) funds					
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>		<b>2230</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2230</b>	<b>892</b>

**Statement of Balances – As at 30 November 2022**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds (£)</b>	<b>Restricted Funds (£)</b>	<b>Total Funds (£)</b>	<b>Total Last Year (£)</b>
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>				
Bank Balances at start of year	51021	1206	52227	51335
Surplus / (deficit) as shown on Receipts and Payments Account	2230		2230	892
<b>Bank balances at end of year</b>	<b>53251</b>	<b>1206</b>	<b>54457</b>	<b>52227</b>

**Bank Balances**

General Account			<b>27623</b>	<b>25416</b>
Deposit Account			<b>15084</b>	<b>15061</b>
Peru Account			<b>1206</b>	<b>1206</b>
Virgin Money Account			<b>10544</b>	<b>10544</b>
			<b>54457</b>	<b>52227</b>

**Other Assets (Unrestricted Funds)**

	<b>Purchase Cost (£)</b>	<b>Current value (£)</b>	<b>Value at Last Year end (£)</b>
Laptop	679	1	170
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 27th January 2023 and signed on their behalf by:-



**C. MacDonald, Chairperson**

**Notes to the Accounts - For Period 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022**

- 1 Easyfundraising.org.uk gave £169, and Amazon Smile £48, 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 Includes Gift to "The Sense" £800
- 3 Alltnacriche Cost £1730 less receipts of £1718