



Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No: 1102164

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL REPORT 1ST JANUARY - 31ST DECEMBER 2019



Fiona Ellis, Julian Baggini, Harriet Harris, Richard Holloway (l-r)

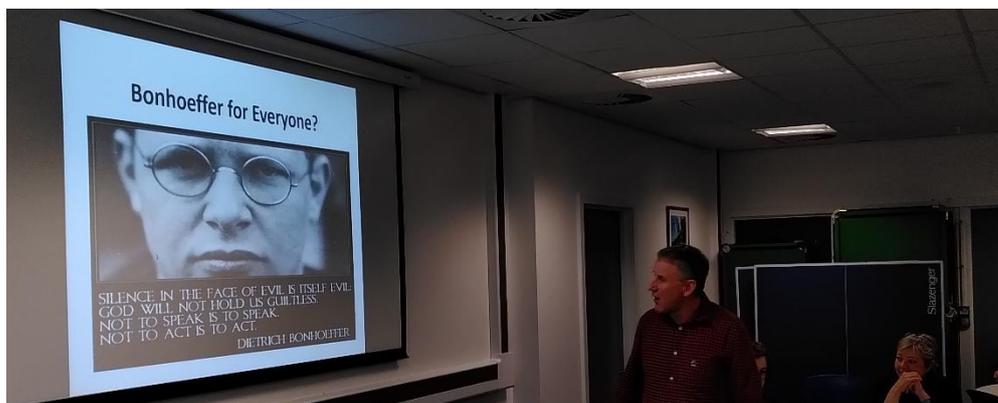
Pictured at the Religion and Atheism conference 8th June 2019 at the French Protestant Church

Registered address

26 High Street, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1BB

The Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No:	1102164
Governing Document	Constitution adopted 22 nd September 2003, and amended 19 th January 2004, 12 th November 2005, 24 th October 2009 and 20 th April 2013
Object of the Charity	The advancement of the Christian Religion in such exclusively charitable ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion see fit.
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Promoting a way of living consistent with the 8 points and with a progressive, inclusive, open approach to religion.ii. Supporting groups of PCN members and non-members to explore a progressive understanding of Christianity.iii. Supporting and encouraging members of the Progressive Christianity Network, both those whose faith is lived out within the community of church as expressed in mainstream denominational Christianity and those outside of any such organised institutional Christian framework.iv. Networking, conferencing and providing forums for open debate about all aspects of Christianity, including interaction with people of other faiths.v. Engaging in discussion and negotiation with members of different Christian denominations, promoting agendas and understandings that are both liberating and radical.vi. Developing and encouraging progressive Christian congregations and communities.vii. Promoting membership of PCN Britain
Address:	26 High Street, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1BB
Bankers:	The Co-operative Bank
Independent Examiner	David Ferguson
Trustees for the period of this report:	
Chair	Adrian Alker
Vice chair:	Paul Onslow
Secretary:	Sandra Griffiths
Treasurer:	Peter Stribblehill
	Martin Bassant
	Simon Cross
	Sue Hobley
	Tony Sanchez from April 2019
	Mo Wills
	Dave Coaker
	Ian Geere
	Jenny Jacobs
	Richard Tetlow until April 2019



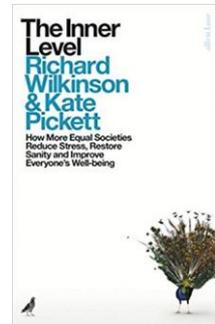
Noel Irwin presenting the 2019 Marcus Borg Memorial Lecture

Chair's Report on the Network in 2019

by Adrian Alker

Reflecting upon the time since the 2019 AGM, the last year has been one of very positive activity and enthusiasm in regard to our film project, our conferences and our presence in print and in other media.

For the 2019 AGM we returned to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, thanks to the hospitality of the chaplaincy there. We welcomed Tony Sanchez as a newly elected trustee and expressed our appreciation to Richard Tetlow for his many years of service as he stood down. The meeting was followed by a talk and discussion led by Prof. Richard Wilkinson of the Equality Trust, to which PCN is proud to affiliate. Basing his talk on his latest book, 'The Inner Level' we were reminded in the turbulent political Brexit days of 2019, how unequal our society is in the UK and its effect on overall wellbeing.



For much of 2019 the energies and discussions at the trustee meetings have been focused on our film project. Thanks to the generosity of the Westhill Trust and the Open Theology Trust, we felt empowered to commission six short films to be made by a media company, Shortform, based in



Pedro and Dave from Shortform

Manchester. The additional and much needed financial support of PCN members has been terrific in reaching the financial target to enable this expensive venture to go ahead. On behalf of all the trustees I do want to thank most sincerely all who have donated to the project and it seems right to have the first viewing of the short films at the 2020 AGM.

One thought behind the production of these films is that the most fertile ground for a reflection upon matters to do with God, Faith, Jesus, Christianity, Ethics, Religion, Morality, is not in a text book, nor a creedal statement, nor doctrine, nor dogma but in the context of lived experience. Whatever the value of the three-legged stool of scripture, tradition and reason, so beloved of Anglicanism and even with the addition of the Methodist fourth leg of experience, we felt as trustees that the telling on screen of peoples' stories - heartfelt, moving, passionate – was the direction in which to go. Our sincere hope is that for our PCN groups and other gatherings, these stories will provide a stimulus for shared discussion and renewed enthusiasm to work for a more just, a more compassionate and a more environmentally-healthy world, where progressive faith might have a part to play.

During 2019, two important conferences brought together PCN members and other friends. Our June conference on Religion and Atheism, which took place in the interesting setting of the French Protestant Church in London's Soho Square, was a good opportunity to listen to Bishop Richard Holloway, Julian Baggini, Fiona Ellis and Harriet Harris. Equally fascinating was a conference in November, which explored the themes arising from Bonhoeffer's life and work. Included in this conference was the fourth of our Marcus Borg memorial lectures, this time given by Revd Dr Noel Irwin. Once more in November, a group of members came together for a successful retreat at Swanwick, thanks again to the preparatory work of Sandra Griffiths.

The continuing dedication of our media editors, Peter Bellenes and Janis Knox and our PV editor, Dave Coaker, is a reminder of the ever growing importance of communication. During the year we appointed Pete Eveleigh as our web designer and his work in updating and improving the website is almost complete so that we can begin to freshen up so many of the website pages. One of our members, Peter Gamston, has been very helpful in this backroom capacity.

PCN continues to value its relationships with other organisations who seek to promote an open minded, open hearted religious pathway. PCN has been represented at Modern Church and Sea of Faith annual conferences. We have shared our news and promoted the work of the Joint Public Issues Team and a field worker from the Student Christian Movement is involved in our film project. We were saddened to hear about the ending of the St Marks Centre for Radical Christianity but heartened that CRC will have a presence still, as an online resource.



As ever I would like to pay tribute to the hard work of all our group coordinators, who work tirelessly to provide interesting programmes over the course of each year's meetings. Thanks as ever go to the Trustees of PCN for all their hard work. I have been a trustee since the formation of PCN and I must say that we are so fortunate to have at present such a terrific team of people who enjoy each other's

company and offer their different gifts on behalf of PCN – be it in finance, secretarial, organising conferences, involved in communication, working on the film project and so forth.

Since returning from maternity leave, Sarah Guilfoyle has continued to fulfil the role of administrator with energy, dedication and grace and it would be difficult to imagine how PCN could function at all without Sarah's expertise. During this year Sarah and Paul Onslow, have produced a new Safeguarding Policy for PCN and thanks to Nicola Phelan, the coordinator of our Rugby group for prompting this action. Thanks also go to Christine Whitworth, our trustees meeting minute secretary, who manages to record with amazing accuracy the complex discussions we often have!

And so we look ahead to this new decade. We embark on the first of a possible number of conferences on the themes of religion and science, at York on April 25th. We shall return to Greenbelt in August and hold our fifth and final Marcus Borg event in October.

I am sure we all feel blessed at belonging to an organisation which strives to be honest in the search for truth, passionate to work with others for a more just and compassionate society, and eager to represent Christian faith in ways which touches the lives of people in this third millennium.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Alker'.

Adrian Alker, Chair, February 2020

Financial Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2019

1. Summary

The accounts for 2019 have been prepared on the accruals basis, following a decision by the trustees to adopt this system in 2018. They are prepared on the basis that the trustees are confident that PCNB is a going concern, able to meet its financial obligations and commitments for the next twelve months.

The accounts comprise the income and expenditure for the Year and a balance sheet.

The accounts show a surplus for the year of £3196 with balances at the year end on the General Funds £32766 and Restricted Funds £4965.

The accounts show that membership receipts were almost the same as in 2018;

There was an overall surplus on events and a deficit on publications which are detailed below.

The accounts reflect a major developments during the year: we have had significant expenditure on the film production which we anticipate will come to fruition early in 2020.

We received generous grants from two bodies for this work and also a large number of very generous donations from our membership.

2. Marcus Borg Memorial Fund

No contributions were made to this fund during the year; £200 was contributed from the fund towards the costs of the Memorial Lecture in November.

3. Events

Some of the events during the year were not designed to realise a profit. They are rather a part of our outreach activities. As was the case for 2018, they have been shown separately from events where we do hope for a surplus such as the London Conference.

4. Publications

Similar to events, not all publications are expected to realise a profit. Progressive Voices is produced for our membership with extra copies for outreach. Its costs are shown separately. Income from our publications has reduced as there are no current items in production.

5. Development

This is shown separately this year to highlight what we are doing with our reserves to reach out to non-members with our ideas. The social media editor and film project costs show the results so far of our work. The balance on the film fund, £3423 is shown as a restricted fund on the balance sheet.

6 Bank Charges

It is important to note that receipts via PayPal etc. incur charges on PCN. These are reflected under this heading.



Peter Stribblehill, Treasurer, March 2020

Section A**Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/ members of	Progressive Christianity Network Britain		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2019	Charity no (if any)	1102164
Set out on pages	Seven and Eight		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with 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 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:6th March 2020**Name:**

David Ferguson

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:

I.C.A.S

Address:

1 French Street, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4DA

Section B**Disclosure**

No disclosures or qualifications

Progressive Christianity Network Britain
Income and expenditure for the Year Ending 31 December 2019

	2019	2018	2017	Note
	Income £	Expenditure £	Net £	Net £
Membership and Donations				
Subscriptions	20,998	-	20,998	21,108
Donations - general	1,225	-	1,225	280
Gift Aid	3,378	-	3,378	3,267
	25,601	-	25,601	24,655
Memorial Fund (Restricted Fund)				
Donations		(200)	(200)	0
		(200)	(200)	0
Events				
Income / Expenditure - ticket events	6,394	(5,669)	725	1,333
Income / Expenditure - non ticket	487	(390)	97	(1,391)
	6,881	(6,059)	822	(58)
Publications				
Sales	975		975	1,503
Publication costs		(749)	(749)	(1,071)
Newsletter costs	156	(4,282)	(4,126)	(4,007)
Website		(2,541)	(2,541)	(720)
	1,131	(7,572)	(6,441)	(4,295)
Development Projects				
Media Editor		(1,833)	(1,833)	(1,530)
Film Project Grants / Donations	18,035		18,035	(585)
Gift Aid	1,013		1,013	
Production Expenditure		(15,625)	(15,625)	
	19,048	(17,458)	1,590	(2,115)
Interest Received				
CCLA	125	-	125	91
	125	-	125	91
Operating Costs				
Admin salaries	1,225	(12,537)	(11,312)	(10,674)
Insurance		(455)	(455)	(455)
Management Committee expenses		(4,903)	(4,903)	(6,176)
Other costs		(892)	(892)	(1,309)
Bank Charges		(439)	(439)	(262)
Depreciation		(300)	(300)	(299)
	1,225	(19,526)	(18,301)	(19,175)
Cash Surplus for Year	54,011	(50,815)	3,196	(897)

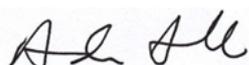
Progressive Christianity Network Britain
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2019

Funds

	31/12/2019					2018
	General Fund £	Memorial Fund £	Joint Event £	Film Fund £	Total £	Total £
Balance at 1 January	32,793	854	888		34,535	35,432
Net receipts for Year	(27)	(200)	0	3,423	3,196	(897)
					0	
<u>Balance at 31 December</u>	32,766	654	888	3,423	37,731	34,535

Balance Sheet

	31/12/2019 £	2018 £
<u>Assets</u>		
Co-operative Bank	16,535	12,147
CCLA	20,164	20,039
PayPal	2,581	1,113
Gift Aid	1,234	3,579
Other Drs / Prepayments	0	1,640
Office Equipment	0	300
<u>Total</u>	40,514	38,818
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Membership in advance	2,468	2,296
Other Cr / Accruals	315	1,987
<u>Total</u>	2,783	4,283
<u>Net Assets</u>	37,731	34,535



Adrian Alker, Chair



Peter Stribblehill, Treasurer

March 2020