



Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No: 1102164

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL REPORT

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2018



Speakers, conferences, Greenbelt, groups and so much more!

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	Monty Lynds
Trustees for the period of this report:	
Chair	Adrian Alker
Vice chair:	Paul Onslow
Secretary:	Sandra Griffiths
Treasurer:	Peter Stribblehill
	Dave Coaker
	Mo Wills (from March 2018)
	Ian Geere
	Sue Hobley
	Richard Tetlow
	Simon Cross
	Maureen Foxall (until March 2018)
	Jenny Jones (from June 2018)
	Richard Gray (until March 2018)
	Pat Fuller (until March 2018)
	Martin Bassant (from March 2018)

Chair's Report on the Network in 2018 by Adrian Alker

The Annual General Meeting of 2018 took place in March, when we were hosted by the URC of St Andrew and St George in Bolton town centre. On that day we held the first of our 'Progressive Hymn Sings' and this venture has been followed up by two more successful days in Guildford and Potterspurty in Northamptonshire. A report on the work of PCN might well take a radical 'sing-in' as a starting point because by bringing people together, we also discuss theology and Christian faith in a relaxed, honest and non-threatening way.

For me, PCN is all about providing opportunities to ask those big questions about religious faith and its place in contemporary society through our network of groups, in our conferences, through our publications, on social media and our web presence and by our attending festivals such as Greenbelt and Solas. Many PCN members 'live the questions' within their church membership. Others find companionship in local groups.



Figure 1: A PCN Singing Hymns Again event

We value our friendship with organisations such as Modern Church, Free to Believe, Sea of Faith. We bring together members from across Christian denominations and those who have no such affiliation. We try to dialogue with those of other faiths and one of our trustees, Richard Tetlow, has recently produced a book around such dialogue. We seek to share understanding with those of no faith and to explore the challenges of how religious and non-religious people can share common values and aspirations for the good of society.

I am heartened by our large membership, the growth of many of our groups, the enthusiastic support for ventures such as our film project. So thank you to all our members who make PCN such inviting company in which we share our journeying and our quest.

Thanks as ever go to the trustees of PCN for all their hard work. In 2018 we welcomed Mo Wills and Martin Bassant as new trustees, whilst expressing our gratitude to Pat Fuller, Richard Gray and Maureen Foxall who stood down as trustees. During the year, Sarah Guilfoyle took maternity leave and we were all delighted at the news of the birth of baby Ada to Sarah and Matthew. Stepping in as temporary administrator, we are hugely indebted to Maxine Smith, who has quickly and efficiently taken the reins. I must also pay tribute to Peter Stribblehill, who has shown care, diligence and generosity as our treasurer.

The varied work of PCN could only be undertaken through the help of so many dedicated volunteers. Once again we are thankful to Dave Coaker for his excellent editing of *Progressive Voices*, to Jess Lee, our librarian, and throughout 2018 to Andy Vivian for his service as our web editor. Andy's retirement from that work has been followed by a team of volunteers, Peter Bellenes, Adrian Lambourne, Tim Yeager and Peter Gamston and we look forward to the continuing strength of our website presence.



In October of 2018 we held our third Marcus Borg memorial conference when we had the pleasure of welcoming Marianne Borg (*pictured left*) to Sheffield, to the church where many people listened to Marcus 'for the first time'! Marianne is a splendid speaker and thinker in her own right and we shared a wonderful weekend in her company.

Thanks to the generosity of members, our Marcus Borg

Memorial Fund is able to support two more conferences through to 2020 which accords with the decision of the trustees to so honour the inspiring work of Marcus Borg through five annual conferences.

For many years there has been a residential weekend when PCN members are invited to come together to share a time of reflection and friendship in pleasant surroundings. In 2018 this weekend took place at the Hayes in Swanwick and members studied Bishop Jack Spong's book 'Unbelievable'. We are grateful to Trustee Sandra Griffiths, together with Pat Fuller, who has undertaken much of the organization of these weekends.

We are well aware that our organization, like many others, does not attract many younger people to its conferences or membership. We are also aware that many young people search for meaning as they, and we all face the many ethical and moral challenges of our contemporary society. Some younger people find solace and answers in a more conservative religious setting but many more opt out of religion through its seeming disregard for gender and sexual equality, for the propensity towards dogmatism and inter-faith hostility and the sheer irrelevance, as many people think, of the church. The trustees have addressed this by producing a series of short films featuring the stories of young people. A progressive Christian outlook might provide some support and pathways in response to a whole gamut of issues such as racism, poverty, environmental challenges, etc. In 2018 we obtained a grant from Westhill Trust and commissioned a media company in Manchester to help us. Janis Knox, our social media editor and Ian Geere, one of our trustees are involved in this project. We are hoping to launch our films at Greenbelt in 2019.

Through her work, Janis promotes PCN through the Facebook and Twitter platforms and we are grateful for the consistent and imaginative ways in which this is undertaken. I would encourage PCN members to engage with a wider public through such media platforms.

If we look at the PCN website and read Progressive Voices, it is striking to read about the passions and interests of many members, be it in housing justice, peace and reconciliation, inter faith dialogue, the environment, etc. Through the eight points, we share a desire to connect the moral teachings of Jesus, the experiences of the sacred in life, the call to lead lives of compassion and love with the world in which we live. That world is the UK for PCN, a country divided by the Brexit debate. So let me end with a reminder of the sixth of our eight points: *'Know that the way we behave towards others is the fullest expression of our faith.'*

However we might describe the faith that each of us lives by, I for one, rejoice to be part of a network which seeks to encourage us all to engage with others in the ways of justice, peace and love.

Adrian Alker, February 2019

Financial Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2018

1. Summary

The accounts for 2018 have been prepared on the accruals basis, following a decision by the trustees to adopt this system in 2017. 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 small deficit for the year of £897 with balances at the year end on the General Funds £32793 and Restricted Funds £1742.

The accounts show that membership receipts were almost the same as in 2017;

There were overall deficits on both events and publications which are detailed below.

The accounts reflect two major developments begun during the year: the engagement of a part time Media editor who uses her skills to initiate, follow and contribute to debates on social media to raise the profile of PCN: we have begun to spend money on the development of our film project for which we have been promised a significant grant to be received early in 2019.

2. Marcus Borg Memorial Fund

No contributions were made to this fund during the year; also no calls were made for funding from the fund.

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. These include a presence at Greenbelt and SOLAS. This year they have been shown separately from events where we do hope for a surplus such as the Marcus Borg Memorial Conference and the Members' Weekend both of which did achieve a surplus.

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.

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 project costs show the beginnings of our work.

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 2019

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Charity Number 1102164

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2018 which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under s144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under s145 of the Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charities Commission (under s145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charities 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 carried out 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 requirement:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 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: Monty Lynds

Dated: 18/3/2019

Montague Randall Lynds, Relevant Professional body: None
49, Blackwell End, Potterspury, Northants, NN12 7QE

Progressive Christianity Network Britain
Income and expenditure for the Year Ending 31 December 2018

	2018		2,017	
	Income £	Expenditure £	Net £	Net £
				Note
Membership and Donations				
Subscriptions	21,108	-	21,108	21,173
Donations - general	280	-	280	155
Gift Aid	3,267	-	3,267	4,385
	24,655	-	24,655	25,712
Memorial Fund (Restricted Fund)				
Donations			0	(238)
Events				
Income / Expenditure - ticket events	4,839	(3,506)	1,333	8,006
Underwriting fund			0	214
Income / Expenditure - non ticket	429	(1,820)	(1,391)	(10,049)
	5,268	(5,326)	(58)	(1,830)
Joint Event (Restricted Fund)				
Bookings and donations			0	0
Speaker and location costs			0	0
	0	0	0	0
Publications				
Sales	1,503		1,503	2,739
Publication costs		(1,071)	(1,071)	(1,964)
Newsletter costs	180	(4,187)	(4,007)	(3,925)
Leaflets			0	(1,745)
Website		(720)	(720)	(300)
	1,683	(5,978)	(4,295)	(5,195)
Development Costs				
Media Editor		(1,530)	(1,530)	160
Film Project	-	(585)	(585)	0
	0	(2,115)	(2,115)	160
Interest Received				
CCLA	91	-	91	46
	91	-	91	46
Operating Costs				
Admin salaries		(10,674)	(10,674)	(10,019)
Insurance		(455)	(455)	(450)
Management Committee expenses		(6,176)	(6,176)	(5,078)
Other costs	61	(1,370)	(1,309)	(2,687)
Bank Charges		(262)	(262)	(305)
Depreciation		(299)	(299)	
	61	(19,236)	(19,175)	(18,539)
Cash Surplus for Year	31,758	(32,655)	(897)	117

Progressive Christianity Network Britain Balance Sheet at 31 December 2018

Funds	31/12/2018					2017
	General Fund	Memorial Fund	Joint Event	Joint Publications	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January	33,025	854	888	665	35,432	35,314
Transfer	665	0	0	(665)	0	35,314
Net receipts for Year	(897)	0	0	0	(897)	117
<u>Balance at 31 December</u>	32,793	854	888	0	34,535	35,431

Balance Sheet	31/12/2018	2017
	£	£
<u>Assets</u>		
Co-operative Bank	12,147	13,202
CCLA	20,039	19,948
PayPal	1,113	
Gift Aid	3,579	3,979
Other Drs / Prepayments	1,640	76
Office Equipment	300	
<u>Total</u>	38,818	37,205
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Membership in advance	2,296	1,285
Other Cr / Accruals	1,987	489
<u>Total</u>	4,283	1,774
	-	-
<u>Net Assets</u>	34,535	35,431

Adrian Alker, Chair

Peter Stribblehill, Treasurer