



Bringing *the Bible to* Life

Annual Report and Financial Statements,
Year ended 31 March 2019





Our vision

Bible Society was established by Royal Charter to encourage the wider circulation and use of the Bible. In line with that, we work at home and abroad to see Christians confident in the Scriptures, a changed conversation about the Bible in culture and the transformative embodiment of the Bible in the world.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance in compiling this report and that what we do contributes to our charitable aims. We believe that when people engage with the Bible their lives can change, for good.

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James Featherby
Chair of Trustees

‘God, who began this good work... will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus’ (Philippians 1.6 GNB)

As I reflect on the past year, my fourth as Chair of Trustees, I have an overwhelming sense of thankfulness: to God for his faithfulness, to church leaders for their partnership in the gospel, to my fellow Trustees for freely giving of their time and skills, to the staff for their vision, courage and energy, and to our incredible supporters with whom we partner in our shared mission. Without our supporters, and their faithful prayers, volunteering and financial giving, none of the work highlighted in these pages would have been possible. 2018 has been a year of working on plans and laying foundations, as the work of implementing a new strategy has begun. We have committed ourselves to increasing Bible confidence in the Church and changing the conversation about the Bible in wider culture. And as we have begun this journey, we have been encouraged by the signs of God at work with us.

In partnership with Youth for Christ, the *Good News Bible – The Youth Edition* has been developed with – and for – young people to help them find their own lives within God’s bigger story. The impact of this Bible has been truly remarkable. Together with *The Bible Course*, the *Good News Bible – The Youth Edition* has helped increase people’s understanding and experience of the Bible, and the person to whom it testifies. Alongside this, *The Greatest Story Ever Toured* took *The Bible Course* to 20 locations across England and Wales. It was a joy to join comedian Paul Kerensa, Bible Society’s Andrew Ollerton, a cast of musicians and great audiences for a night of laughter and learning.

While demand for printed Bibles remains high, especially in our international work, we have seen an extraordinary increase in the numbers of people engaging with Bible content digitally. In this last year, there has been a 70 per cent increase in visitors to our website, with a total of more than 1 million for the first time ever. The YouTube videos accompanying the *Good News Bible – The Youth Edition* have helped readers bring the Bible to life and apply it to the everyday challenges they face.

Bible Society’s *#SheToo* podcast series, seven episodes exploring Bible texts that include violence against women, has been listened to over 17,000 times. Indeed, the series featured in iTunes’ ‘New and noteworthy’ section and came top in the Religion and Spirituality rankings. And films produced through *The Pitch*, our short film competition based on a biblical story, character or theme, have been played at BAFTA and Oscar qualifying festivals in England, Ireland and the US.

All this is a prelude to a major partnership with churches throughout the country in 2020 as we launch our public Scripture campaign. We are especially delighted that the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has designated 2020 as a Year of The Word and is working in partnership with Bible Society on The God Who Speaks initiative.

Internationally, through Bible Societies around the world, we have been privileged to come alongside individuals, churches and communities in some of the most challenging contexts imaginable – in China, the Sahel region of Africa, and the Middle East. We have seen people receive Bibles in their own language for the first time, learn to read, grow in their understanding and experience of the Bible, and embody it in their own spheres. It was a privilege to participate in Bible Society’s eighth African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) Forum in October, held for the first time in the south of the continent in eSwatini (formerly Swaziland). Overcoming corruption was a particular focus. Delegates talked about wanting to see the transformation of society and the continent through God’s word.

We are thankful for the past year, and encouraged, but we are also expectant and prayerful for the future. As we think about all that Bible Society is doing, we are confident that, in the words of the apostle Paul, **‘God, who began this good work... will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus’ (Philippians 1.6).**

James Featherby



Paul Williams
Chief Executive Officer

‘The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped’ (Psalm 28.7a, ESV)

At Bible Society we’re seeking to bring the Bible to life at home and abroad. As part of our new strategic vision, we’re aiming to recover a deep confidence in the Bible in the Church, change the conversation about the Bible in culture and catalyse Bible-inspired change throughout society.

We’ve begun to implement our new strategy and embed the cultural change we need. But we haven’t just been concentrating on strategy and operations.

If we’re to be faithful to our mission, there needs to be a shift in our organisational culture and practices. This has meant more emphasis on prayer, a renewed attentiveness to the Bible and a commitment to changing how we work. At every stage, we’re asking: ‘What do the people we serve really need from us?’

Central to this shift has been a landmark study on attitudes to the Bible and faith. Our survey of around 20,000 people is helping us develop a deep understanding of different types of Bible reader – some passionate, some curious, some hostile. With these insights we can build far more personalised resources and experiences.

Early examples include the hugely popular *Good News Bible – The Youth Edition*, developed with young people and Youth for Christ, and *The Bible Course*. These projects have built confidence and motivation among staff. We’ve sought to take this enthusiasm on

the road and engage supporters and church leaders, for instance with our Bible Course Tour.

We believe a renewed appetite for Bible engagement should also translate into a new expectation concerning Bible mission. Recent research like the 2015 Talking Jesus survey shows the significance of the Bible in many people’s journey to faith. Yet we also know many church leaders are nervous of using the Bible in mission out of a fear that it’s a barrier and needs defending from hostile critiques.

We’ve been encouraged to release Scripture to speak for itself by the famous Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon, who said in an 1875 address to Bible Society: *‘I do not know whether you see that lion – it is very distinctly before my eyes; a number of persons advance to attack him, while a host of us would defend the grand old monarch... Pardon me if I offer a quiet suggestion. Open the door and let the lion out; he will take care of himself. Why, they are gone! He no sooner goes forth in his strength than his assailants flee. The way to meet infidelity is to spread the Bible. The answer to every objection against the Bible is the Bible.’*

Towards the end of the year we launched our Let the Lion Loose tour to engage church leaders in Bible mission. This year we will continue to help the Church grow in Bible confidence as we make our research available alongside new resources. All this is a prelude to a major partnership with churches in 2020 as we launch our public Scripture campaign.

In all this we have been very aware of our need of God. We’ve been hugely grateful for the prayers, donations and volunteer time from supporters, partner organisations and staff. In England and Wales, in the Middle East, China and Africa, we’re working to bring God’s gift of the Bible to people who need it more than they might know.

This year we’re inviting the Church to get ready for Bible mission. Why not join us by running *The Bible Course* at your church or asking about volunteer opportunities at festivals or in our 2020 campaign?

Psalm 28.7 has been both a prayer and an experience: *‘The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped.’*

Paul S Williams

Strategic Report: Our aims and objectives

Bible Society's strategy is focused on increasing Bible confidence in the Church, changing the conversation about the Bible in wider culture and promoting Bible inspired change in society. In the last year, we have taken significant strides forward in achieving this.

Drawing on insights across theological traditions and denominations, both internally and externally, we have undertaken a project to explore the theology of the Bible (what the Bible is and does) and the role of the Society in this regard. Our conviction is that the Bible is literature (it remains the world's best-selling book), story (the story of God and the world) and revelation (the written word bears witness to the living Word). The role of Bible Society in offering the Bible to the world is to curate (the literature), narrate (the story) and facilitate (revelation) accordingly.

We have undertaken a major research project with YouGov, the global public opinion and data company, to understand the nature of Bible engagement (and non-engagement) across England and Wales. We believe this project is the biggest such study undertaken to date, involving just under 20,000 people. The findings will enable us to relate to and produce resources in ways that are appropriate to the different concerns and attitudes of our audiences.

Drawing on our theology and audience insights, work has commenced on the creation of a new online platform to help church leaders engage in Bible mission and a new digital platform to provide

an experience of the Bible and access to 'best in class' Bible resources. We have also begun work on an immersive film that narrates the Bible story and will be screened in igloo domes, structures with 360° wraparound sound and vision, across England and Wales.

In addition to the above, work has progressed on developing and supporting programmes that promote Bible inspired change in society, not least through our social engagement. In the last year, we have piloted a trauma healing programme that helps people navigate through trauma with the Bible. Originally designed for victims of violence in Africa, there is a significant demand for this programme nationally. We have continued to award grants to those engaged in groundbreaking work in deprived and marginalised people contexts, including prisons.

During the past year, we have intensified our engagement with churches through Christian festivals, started work to implement a new CRM, undertaken a tour of major cities in England and Wales to promote engagement with the Bible and *The Bible Course*, and promoted the Good News Bible – The Youth Edition, a Bible specially designed by and for young people.

The work on expanding Open the Book, our Bible story programme in primary schools, has continued and this is now operating in 3,286 schools (18 per cent of schools) with 17,789 volunteers.

We have also spent time embedding a culture of Bible awareness and prayer in the organisation, not least through seminars and staff workshops, and worked to reduce our carbon footprint through the creation of a carbon offsetting fund. We have introduced the use of compostable potato-starch packaging for our flagship supporter magazine, which with our other supporter communications is printed on responsibly sourced paper carrying



Lumino is a new online platform to help church leaders engage in Bible mission.



Ngcebo Mbuli, Chief Executive Officer of the Bible Society of eSwatini.

the Forest Stewardship Council® logo. We have introduced changes to our office environment including planting an orchard.

On the International side, we continued to deepen our work in China where we aim to help the biblical roots of the Chinese Church go deeper, in Africa where we aim to help mobilise the African Church for spiritual and cultural transformation, and in the Middle East, we help the Church to sustain a witnessing presence.

Despite the ongoing tightening of regulations in China, we have continued to help millions of Christians by making the Bible available through subsidising the publishing cost of 1.3 million Bibles, developing digital platforms and facilitating ongoing translation for minority languages. In addition, we have been addressing the need for deeper theological training of lay and ordained ministers through the distribution of study Bibles, sponsoring theological studies for church leaders and developing partnerships with other theological institutions.

In Africa we have successfully run our annual event, the African Biblical Leadership Initiative, in eSwatini. This is a growing initiative through which we aim to create a network of influential leaders that are mentored and equipped to drive transformational change in their contexts. In addition, we continue our efforts of Bible translation and distribution, literacy, holistic ministries and capacity building in countries such as the Central Africa Republic, South Sudan, Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Malawi and eSwatini with the intention of expanding in the coming years into the Sahel region.

In the Middle East and North Africa we continue to support the Church under pressure by becoming a mission partner with a number of local Bible Societies, which have become a trusted voice and meeting place for many churches in the region. We continue to provide scriptures, equipping programmes, trauma healing groups and advocacy initiatives in countries including Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Israel and Palestine, Algeria and Egypt.

Thank you for working with us

Your support – prayer, volunteering and financial – is essential to everything we achieve. We're immensely grateful for all you have given to the cause of Bible mission. Here's a snapshot of what you've done:

Your donations



During the last financial year you raised an incredible total of **£8,346,986**



You responded to appeals to put Bibles in the hands of people in China and Malawi, as well as helping the victims of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique



Nearly 1,000 of you responded to our call to 'grow your impact' by increasing your Bible a Month gift, helping to fund more Bible mission at home and abroad

Your volunteering



More than 17,000 of you took Open the Book into your local primary schools. In 2018 we averaged 124 new storytellers and 25 new schools every month, and these numbers are continuing to grow



452 of you are volunteers who've served with us to make Bible Society more visible to your local church communities



73 of you are registered to speak on our behalf and have carried out nearly 100 engagements for us



You've volunteered at events, and given us 385 days of your time. Your enthusiasm, excitement and dedication adds to our presence at festivals

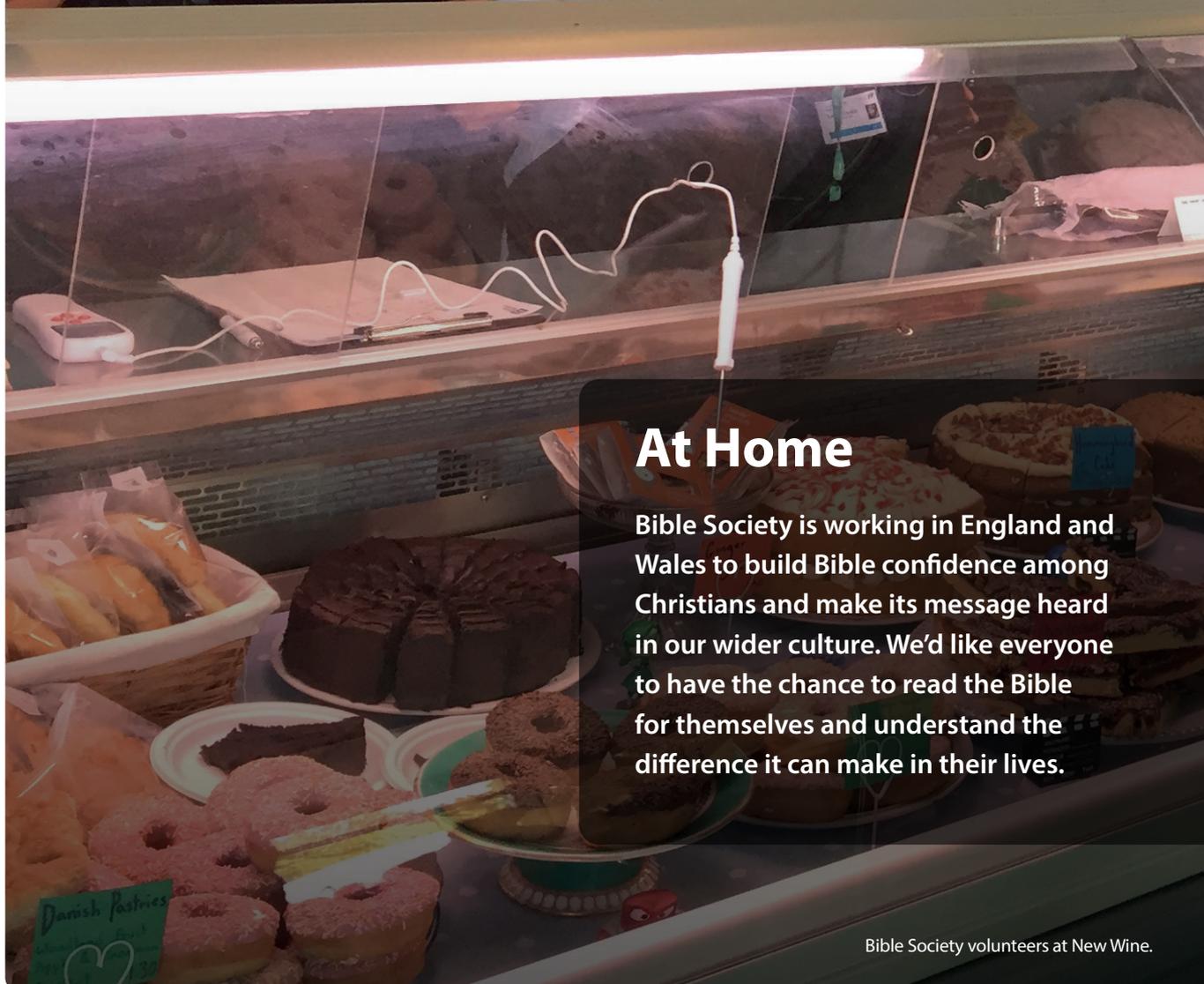
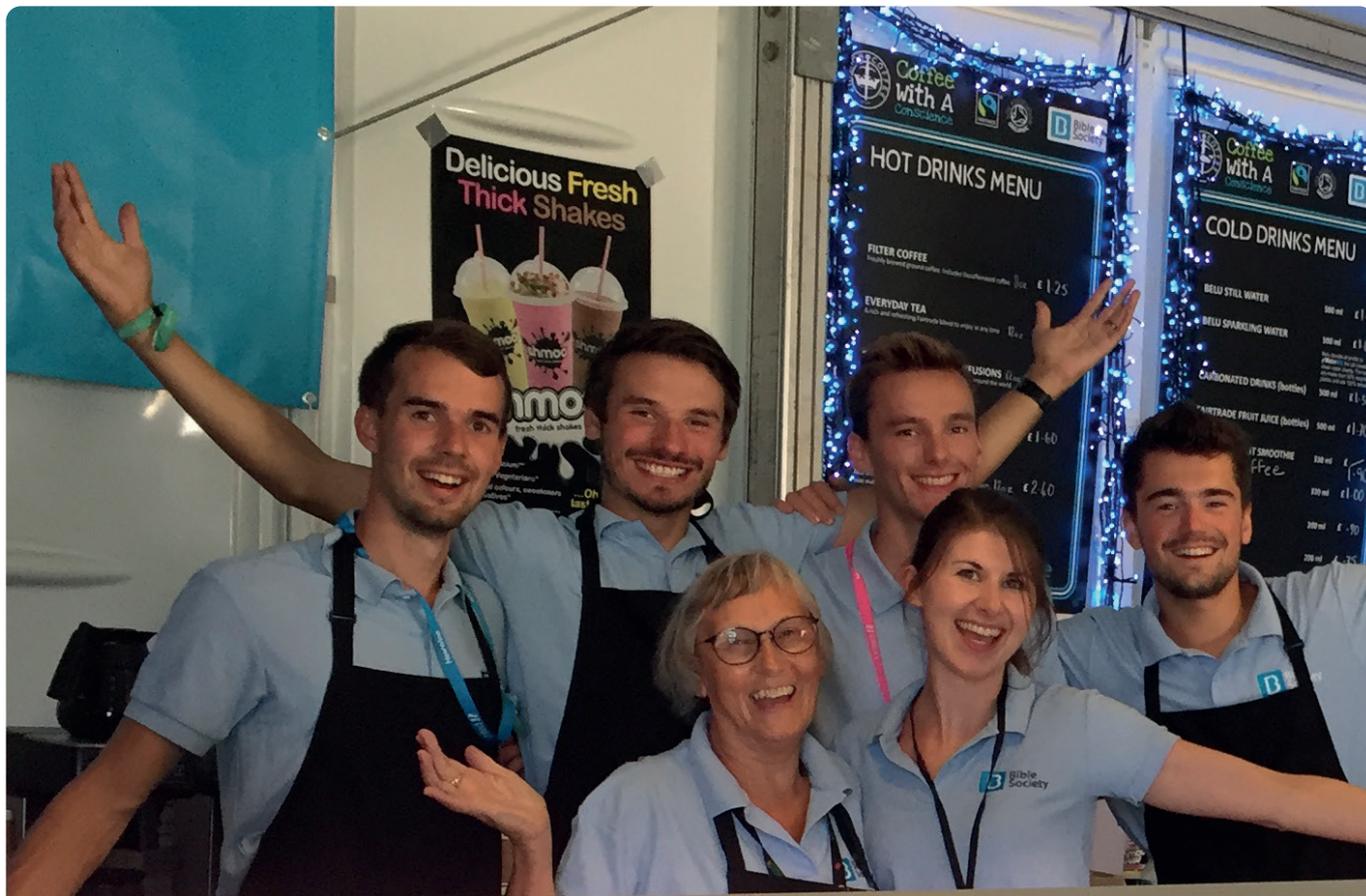


You continue to provide a faithful voice in your local area through 139 Action Groups



Some of you have joined our office team over the past year, including several on school work experience

Thank you for continuing to stand with us. Your time, talents, prayers and gifts are the bedrock of Bible Society. We are deeply grateful to you.



At Home

Bible Society is working in England and Wales to build Bible confidence among Christians and make its message heard in our wider culture. We'd like everyone to have the chance to read the Bible for themselves and understand the difference it can make in their lives.

Bible Society volunteers at New Wine.

The Bible in Wales: The story continues



Mary Jones World

Our visitor and education centre on the shores of Bala Lake in Wales marked its third full season last year, welcoming nearly 3,000 visitors from countries as far away as South Africa, Sweden, Canada, the USA and Australia.

As well as individuals and families, Mary Jones World received more than 30 church, Women's Institute and walking groups during the year. Groups are given a short introductory presentation about the centre by a member of staff at the beginning of their visit and shown a DVD, *The Making of Mary Jones World*, before they see the exhibition.

The centre has also developed its work with children. Ten schools visited during the year and Mary Jones World has developed educational material and resources including a range of cross-curriculum workbooks for different ages.

Last year saw the result of a collaboration with RNIB aimed at increasing the centre's accessibility to visually impaired people. There is now a tactile

map and large print and Braille booklets available in both Welsh and English. The centre has again been recognised by Visit Wales, receiving a Best Told Story award in 2018 and Hidden Gem award in 2019.

The Mary Jones Prize, awarded annually and recognising those who have worked to keep the story of Mary Jones alive, was awarded last year to Roger Jones of Christian Music Ministries in recognition of *Greater Than Gold*, his musical retelling of the story of Mary Jones and her Bible. The centre was represented at the Coda Festival, a new Christian event in Llanidloes.

Mary Jones World is a welcoming and hospitable attraction that continues to tell the inspiring story of the Bible in Wales to new generations of visitors.

Welsh Bible app

More than 3,600 people used the new version of our app for the Welsh Scriptures, ap Beibl, in the last year. Bible Society first launched its free app for Welsh Scriptures in 2015. Ap Beibl is easy to use and includes the main Welsh Bible translations. Later additions were the Metrical Psalms, the Apocrypha and the 1567 Welsh New Testament translated by William Salesbury, for its 450th anniversary in 2017.

Each year the app is relaunched at the National Eisteddfod with new content and new features – for example, it can now also play audio Bibles. The new 2019 version of the app is linked to a website where the Welsh Scriptures can be accessed (cymraeg.global.bible). Since 2015 the app has been downloaded over 4,800 times, mainly in the UK but also in the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Argentina, reflecting where Welsh speakers are living. We have a digitisation programme to add more content from historically useful translations, in line with feedback from Welsh-speaking users.



That Christmas Tour

The success of Bible Society events like *The Greatest Story Ever Toured*, *Reformation Re-mix* and *Wales to the World* inspired a new show piloted at Victory Church Cwmbran: *That Christmas Tour with Songs and Stories*. The presentation, attended by around 100 people, involved creative communication including song, storytelling, spoken word, comedy, audience participation, testimony and carols.

The evening followed the same themes as the Christmas spoken word piece by Dai Woolridge and Spoken Truth, which unpacks three themes – Mess, Message and Messiah. Church leader Clyde Thomas said there are ‘no words to express how incredible this event is!’ Dai said: ‘We believe this show can be utilised to open doors into churches in 2019, to engage with our wider strategy for 2020. We are planning a

Christmas tour in 2019 to four churches and will be tailoring this presentation for prisons. We hope this could be a church engagement resource that we could offer more widely for Christmas 2020.’

‘A fantastic resource to help us all reflect on Advent.’

‘This was a truly powerful and moving part of the wonderful evening we had in Victory Church... We were blessed. The evening held laughter and tears, and above all it held the presence of our Lord who is with us in the valleys as well as on the mountain tops.’

‘It was a great evening, an honour to have been there!’

Building biblical understanding in schools

Bible Society aims to equip teachers to educate their students about the Bible with confidence, and students to learn about the Bible in a way that enriches their understanding.

As well as providing classroom resources for secondary school teachers to use with their students, we advocate for the continued relevance of Scripture in education and the importance of deeper engagement with the Bible in schools. We also provide occasional talks on aspects of using the Bible in education. Our *Sources of Wisdom* resources, launched in 2017, continue to be widely used to help pupils who are studying GCSE Religious Studies (school years 10–11, ages 15–16). In January we added to the existing four resources a new one that supports the WJEC GCSE syllabus studied by pupils in Wales.

This year 296 more schools have started to use these resources, taking the total number of schools that have engaged with them to 1,140. Between them, those schools teach GCSE Religious Studies to around 90,000 students.

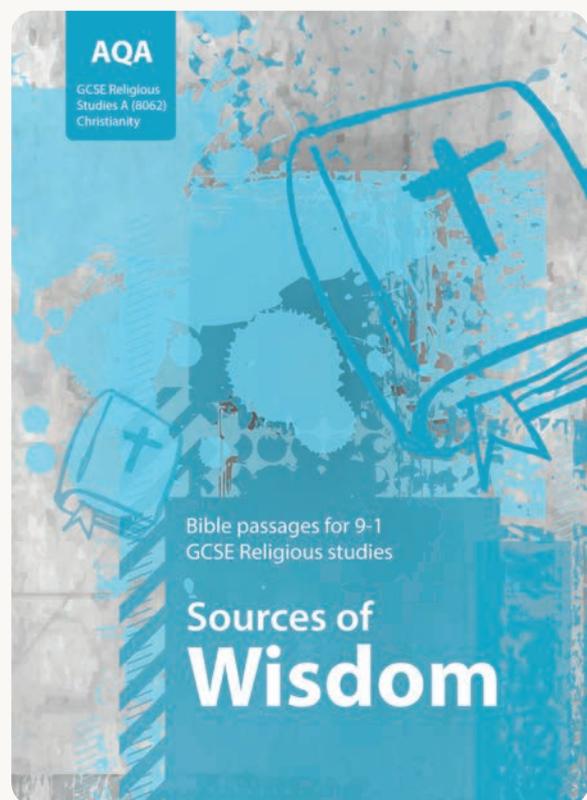
We have also produced resources for use in Key Stage 3 (school years 7–9, ages 11–14) which cover eight topics commonly taught in Religious Education. They use Bible passages to help students to learn about different Christian perspectives and responses to issues such as the environment, wealth and poverty, suffering and interfaith dialogue.

As part of Bible Society's output around the commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War in November 2018, we produced separate resources for primary and secondary schools. The primary resources were downloaded 1,666 times and the secondary resources 833 times. In total, over the past year our education resources website (www.sourcesofwisdom.org.uk) has seen over 12,500 visitors. Here is some of the feedback we have received from teachers:

'These are the best Bible-based resources I have found. Thank you. For pupils with little or no biblical knowledge they are a very accessible way to introduce them to the Bible.'

'Thank you so much for these wonderful resources. It is great to see your commitment to Christian, balanced and rigorous religious education suitable for, and respectful towards, the modern classroom and its learners.'

As part of our engagement with the education community, since May 2018 Bible Society has been a member of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk). This is a multi-faith forum where national organisations can work together to support better provision for RE in schools.



We provide feedback to consultations on educational matters, such as the recent consultations on OFSTED inspections and the new Welsh school curriculum.

At the major Religious Education conferences we connect directly with RE teachers from across the country. Our conversations with them have prompted us to begin work on some 'Teachers' guides to key passages', to be released during 2019–20, which will provide in-depth knowledge about some of the passages of Scripture most often used in secondary RE. These new resources will be part of our ongoing work to ensure that the Bible stays alive in schools.

Opening the Book

The storytellers bringing the Bible to life in primary schools

One of the most encouraging developments for Open the Book last year was a highly successful pilot scheme in Catholic primary schools in the North East.

The initiative came about after Regional Training and Development Officer for the North East Martha Flavell was invited to a conference for Catholic RE teachers in the RC Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Eight primary schools asked to be involved and teams from local churches began to work with them on Open the Book sessions. The schools ranged from middle-class urban settings to rural and former coal-mining villages. Teams mainly from Protestant churches who had already been running sessions elsewhere were warmly welcomed into the Catholic schools. As the pilot scheme progressed, Martha visited Catholic churches in the area and spoke about the project. One child at St Bernadette's school in Newcastle said: *'It's like a whole new world in front of your eyes, a never-ending picture book like a pop-up book.'*



Another said of the Bible stories: *'I've never heard some of them, and I can learn from them and see how the people who were in the stories can affect our lives.'*

Martha has since spoken at another Catholic RE teachers' conference. Out of 110 schools represented there, 52 indicated their interest in having Open the Book teams visit them. Reflecting on the challenges of recruiting and training enough volunteers, she says: *'This has all just happened, but God is in the pilot seat and I believe an answer will come.'*



Open the Book has more than 17,000 volunteer storytellers who between them reach around 850,000 children in more than 3,000 schools – around 17 per cent of the total primary school population.

Open the Book in England and Wales added nearly 1,500 new storytellers last year. An average of 25 new schools registered every month.

In Ghana, where Open the Book has been working since 2015, there are around 84 storytellers in 19 schools.

Open the Book is celebrating its 20th anniversary during 2019 with celebration events in cathedrals and large churches across England and Wales.

The initiative began in 1999 in Bedford before becoming a national movement. It became part of Bible Society in 2013. Locations for the celebration events throughout the year include Brecon and Wells Cathedrals, the Gala Theatre in Durham, Knutsford Methodist Church and All Nations Church Centre in Bedford. The celebrations began in Bodmin in Cornwall with a service led by Rt Revd Dr Chris Goldsmith, Bishop of St Germans, and was followed in May by a service at Gloucester Cathedral with the Bishop of Gloucester, Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bob Hartman, author of *The Lion Storyteller Bible* and Bible Society Chief Executive Paul Williams.

The word at Westminster

Resourcing the nation's political leaders



John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, at the National Prayer Breakfast.

Bible Society seeks to build confidence in the Bible as a resource for our public life together by working with two organisations engaged in national, regional and local politics.

Christian All-Party Parliamentary Group

Revd Mark Harris is employed by Bible Society and works as Chaplain to the Christians in Parliament All-Party Parliamentary Group, leading a team of three people. Together, they:

- Seek to 'help the thinker believe and the believer think' through guest speaker events that examine the Bible and Christian faith at a personal level, through courses introducing Christianity using the Gospel of Mark and through weekly chapel services, where a book of the Bible is preached through in a series.
- Give pastoral and discipleship support to Christian MPs, Peers and staff to help them put their faith into practice in parliament and wider politics. Much of this happens one to one and in weekly Bible study groups, and there has been an encouraging growth in the number of MPs committing to the weekly groups.
- Resource MPs, Peers and staff with biblical and theological foundations for our public life through

lectures, written briefings and discussion groups. Highlights in 2018 were a lecture by Professor James KA Smith on 'A Tale of Two Cities: How should Christians engage in politics?', a 12-part political theology discussion course led by Dr Anna Rowlands and a briefing and discussion on 'Automation, Artificial Intelligence and Work'.

Bible Society also helps to organise the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast, attended by 700 MPs, Peers and church leaders from all over the UK. A record number of 160 MPs and Peers attended in 2018, including the Prime Minister and several party leaders. The main address was given by Dr Timothy Keller on 'What can Christianity offer our society in the 21st century?'

Christians in Politics

We also work in partnership with Christians in Politics, which seeks to inspire and equip Christians with a biblical vision for getting involved in politics at a local, regional and national level. As well as providing a wealth of resources through their website, members of the Christians in Politics team, led by Andy Flannagan, also travel across the UK to connect and train church groups.

Theos: Changing the conversation about the Bible and faith

Theos is a think tank supported by Bible Society and tasked with stimulating the debate about the place of religion in society, challenging and changing ideas through research, commentary and events. It is increasingly respected and is widely quoted in the mainstream media, with director Elizabeth Oldfield a frequent broadcaster and commentator.



Last year's annual Theos Lecture was delivered by Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and MP for Surrey Heath, who spoke on the UK Government's commitment to tackling climate change.

Asking, 'When will there be a harvest for the world?' he said human beings 'have caused environmental damage and deterioration on a dramatic scale in the last century, with pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, habitat erosion, soil depletion and deforestation'.

He suggested some of the answers to the problem might lie with the world's religions and drew particularly on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. 'For Christians, the ethical responsibility we have towards the environment is encapsulated in the concept of stewardship,' he said. 'Christians are called to remember their rightful place within Creation – and the vast web of life it created – and their responsibility to protect and defend it.' He argued that science and the market had enormous potential for good, but that nature's 'limits' should be respected.

Among other Theos projects last year was a study of the ethics of debt, carried out in partnership with the St Paul's Institute. The *Forgive Us Our Debts* report, subtitled 'lending and borrowing as if relationships matter', argues that debt is not just a serious economic issue – personal debt is now at

90 per cent of GDP – but also a moral one. It asks questions about risks and responsibilities, how we should treat people with severe debt problems and whether there should be limits on borrowing and rates of interest.

The report draws on the Bible, making the point that lending and borrowing is accepted but regulated to prevent abuses and exploitation, and to ensure everyone is able to participate in the common life. It argues for new ways of looking at debt based on fairness, relationship, responsibility and mutuality.

Other lectures, seminars and debates hosted by Theos during the year included 'Churches and Neighbourhood Resilience: Can We Brexit-proof the North East?' designed to launch Paul Bickley's Theos report *People, Place, and Purpose*; 'Understanding the House of Islam' with Ed Husain, and three debates at St Mary's Church, Putney, on 'State, Society and the Common Good', held in partnership with the Benedict XVI Centre at St Mary's University, Twickenham and Together for the Common Good.



Theos also hosts the Sacred podcast in which Elizabeth interviews guests about the things society holds sacred and how we can have better conversations about them. Contributors in 2018-19 included the Archbishop of Canterbury; comedian Ariane Sherine, creator of the Atheist Bus Campaign; writer John Lloyd and actor Sally Phillips.

#SheToo

What does the Bible say about violence against women?

A major project for the Communications team was the **#SheToo** podcast series (www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/shetoo/).

The seven episodes explored some of the Bible texts that include violence against women. These texts have often been ignored, or even used to justify the oppression of women.

#SheToo, presented by religion journalist and broadcaster Rosie Dawson, features interviews with leading Christian and Jewish scholars about what these stories meant to their first readers – and what they mean today.

Among the characters considered are Hagar (Genesis 16), discussed by Dr Katie Edwards; Jephthah's daughter (Judges 11), chosen by Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand; the Levite's Concubine (Judges 19) with Dr Mary Evans and the rape of Tamar (2 Samuel 13) with Dr Johanna Stiebert.

In a final episode Revd Dr Helen Paynter, Director of the Centre for the Study of the Bible and Violence

and author of *God of Violence Yesterday, God of Love Today?*, talks about how such terrible stories can be preached on in the 21st century.

By the end of March 2019 episodes of *#SheToo* had been listened to more than 17,000 times. The series featured in iTunes' 'New and noteworthy' section and reached the top spot in the Religion and Spirituality rankings.

Bible Society's Head of Media and Communications Rachel Rounds said: *'This was an important piece of work that helped listeners make connections between the Bible and one of the most significant cultural movements of our time. Contributors to the #SheToo podcasts showed how the Bible speaks into the real-life situations women still face. Reactions were overwhelmingly positive – many people have been amazed to see how relevant the Bible is in our world today.'*



#SheToo

Taking *The Bible Course* on tour

The Bible Course, Bible Society's eight-session resource exploring the big story of the Bible, went on the road during February and March in *The Greatest Story Ever Toured*.

Featuring writer and comedian Paul Kerensa and *Bible Course* presenter Andrew Ollerton, the tour was attended by more than 2,000 people in 12 different locations from Gateshead and Liverpool to Helston and Bodmin, with three events in London.

Events included songs, sketches, interviews and plenty of opportunities for audience participation. Paul described it as *'an evening of fun, laughter and learning about some of these Bible stories from Genesis right through to Revelation'*.

Audience members commented afterwards on what they'd experienced. *'It was just a great mix, it worked really, really well'*, said one, while another commented: *'It's been great, it's inspired me to look at my Bible again and at some of the books I haven't read.'* *'It allows you to engage with the structure of the Bible, to get a better overview of things, but at the same time treating it quite lightly. The humour helps you remember stuff'*, said another attendee.

The tour followed the success of *The Bible Course*, which Andrew presents with Heather Preston. The course has been widely used in many different settings including church house groups, large gatherings and one to one. Since it was launched in January 2018 more than 35,000 manuals, 1,800 DVDs and 1,600 downloads have been sold.



Paul Kerensa and Andrew Ollerton hosted *The Bible Course* Tour.



Picture: Scot Openshaw/Bible Society

To increase the course's accessibility for hearing-impaired people, a subtitled edition has been made available for download, with a subtitled version of the DVD in preparation. An adapted version of the course suitable for use in prisons is being prepared and thanks to a major donor, Bible Society will be able to make these resources available free of charge to around 35 chaplains and 2,600 prisoners around the UK. We hope to increase this provision across many more prisons in the future as more funding becomes available. Other developments being planned are an updated version of *The Bible Course* in Welsh and a large-print version of the course guide book. Work has also started on a global edition for international Bible Societies.

Bible Society's representatives at events and national festivals around the country very often meet people who want to know more about *The Bible Course* or who want to talk about how helpful it has been for them and their church. *The Bible Course* continues to be a key resource at events and festivals in 2019.



A selfie with Pope Francis Picture: Mazur/www.catholicnews.org.uk

How Catholics are engaging with Scripture

Bible Society and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales continue to benefit from a unique partnership encouraging more Catholics to engage with the Scriptures as creatively as possible.

Our key objectives are to:

- Create a network of Scripture champions
- Campaign for Catholics to engage more deeply with Scripture
- Create resources and initiatives to foster engagement and sharing
- Equip Bible Society to serve the Catholic Church effectively

Working in all 22 dioceses, we have enhanced our partnership through a number of initiatives including:

- Our Readers' training programme in Nottingham and in Portsmouth, which enabled more Readers to be inspired and equipped in their Sunday and daily ministry and is preparing the way for a forthcoming national Readers' resource.
- Our two-year research on Scripture activity in Portsmouth Diocese. This highlighted the need for more events and resources aimed at Bible beginners and for Bible and social action opportunities to be created. One response to this was a successful Seafaring and Scripture Day last November for families involved in the shipping industry who are separated at Christmas.
- Our two Northern Scripture Festivals – Liverpool, Lancaster, Salford, Hallam, Hexham & Newcastle, Leeds, Middlesbrough and Shrewsbury dioceses all participated. These Scripture festivals model Scripture engagement through workshops, artwork, music, keynote speakers, worship and fellowship.

- We once again contributed to the Catholic Church's Racial Justice Sunday project, *Belonging: All are Welcome* in February and collaborated on a migrants' project to help raise awareness of cultural diversity within the Catholic Church.
- For Advent we created an interactive Journey with Jesse resource. This colourful resource uses the Jesse Tree model to discover Jesus' genealogy and encourage families to read the Bible, and was an innovative and fun way to prepare for Christmas.
- *Mass Observation: A Guide to Working with Catholics* is our training tool to help more people work effectively with the Catholic community. Since offering it to bishops, school governors and teachers it has become a go-to resource. United Bible Societies also welcomed it, customising it for its wider audience and translating it into Spanish.
- The most exciting initiative this year was the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales agreeing to dedicate 2020 as The Year of the Word through our new campaign, *The God who Speaks*. 2020 will be the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini*, Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and also the 1600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, the key Catholic biblical scholar.

Through this campaign, we have a year-long focus in which to enable more Catholics to be confident with the Bible, to contribute to a changed conversation about the Bible in our popular culture and to further our ecumenical and creative endeavours.



Ben Cohen (right), Pitch winner 2017-18, shooting his film *BINGO* with Director of Photography Joel Honeywell (left).

The Pitch: Changing culture one frame at a time

The Bible has shaped culture and society for thousands of years, in ways many people aren't even aware of.

The Pitch is a contemporary expression of this shaping and forming. It offers the Bible as a resource for a new generation of storytellers, inviting them to explore where the stories at the heart of our culture come from. Bible Society is proud to support this fresh approach to the Scriptures. Founded in 2008, The Pitch offers the Bible to wider society and has changed public perceptions about Scripture and its themes. The Pitch sees filmmakers pitching a retelling of a Bible story, character or theme. Ten finalists then receive training and help with story development before pitching in person to a panel of industry experts. The winning entry is awarded a £30,000 production budget to make the film.

In 2018-19 Pitch winners and runners-up had significant successes. Harry Lighton's Pitch 2016 winner *Leash* achieved the significant honour of playing the London Film Festival, which he attended alongside Pitch founder and producer Luke Walton and producing partner Jackie Sheppard. The film – which transposed a story of Elisha from 2 Kings 2 into

a tale of rebellion and racial tension in contemporary Wales – is The Pitch's most successful to date. Harry was named by Screen International as a 'Star of Tomorrow'. 2017 winner Ben Cohen shot *BINGO* in September 2018 and the final picture is now nearly complete for release on the festival circuit, with an online release planned for 2020.

2015 runner-up Hannah Lee released her film *Promise* online. Produced by Luke Walton and Pitch judge Neville Pierce, who also directed, it gained a host of positive reviews. This year The Pitch appointed Neville as associate producer. Neville's films have played at festivals worldwide and he is a contributing editor to *Empire*, the world's biggest film magazine.

As well as the regular Pitch programme of the residential training weekend and finalists' weekend, there was a feedback day to meet filmmakers whose entries did not make the final ten. They commented on how useful this was and how rare it was to receive such tailored feedback and encouragement. The Pitch is moving into a second decade of engaging our culture with the Bible at the level of imagination and creativity. There's much to be thankful for and much still to do.



Our website enterthepitch.com received more than 27,000 visitors during 2018.



More than 1 million people have heard of The Pitch. Among 18 to 34-year-olds awareness stands at eight per cent.



Pitch films played at BAFTA and Oscar qualifying festivals in England, Ireland and the US.



Since 2008 The Pitch has produced 12 industry-standard short films.



The Pitch has expanded to South Africa, with two excellent winning films – *Ramsey* and *The Second* – now completed.



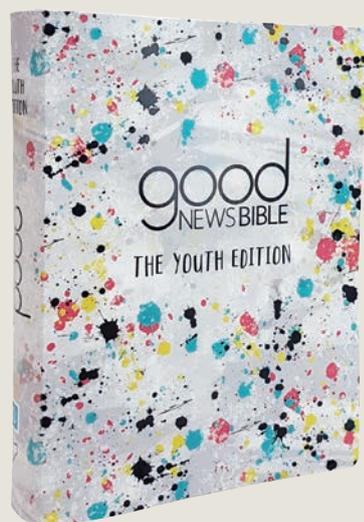
An interactive Bible for today's young people

In 2017 Bible Society and Youth for Christ teamed up to create *The Good News Bible - Youth Edition* – a Bible that connects directly with young people, the world they live in and the issues they face. We listened to young people, heard what mattered to them and developed a Bible based on their ideas and feedback.

It's already become clear since its launch in October 2018 that this edition has created a completely new way for young people to engage with the Bible. Research carried out by Youth for Christ showed that young people want to make a positive impact on the world around them, to tackle injustice and to make their family proud. They want to find answers and content in the Bible that's relevant to their everyday lives.

The new interactive Bible for young people gives them space to create, write, explore and question, while also giving them the confidence and the tools to make a constructive difference in their world. It's accompanied by YouTube videos that bring the Bible to life in a context where they spend much of their time and with the aim of helping them tackle the kinds of issues they face.

The publishing team are committed to helping equip and mentor a new generation to become a confident Christian presence in society. *The Good News Bible - Youth Edition* aims to support young people whenever and wherever they need it. Whether they are interested in starting a relationship with God or developing it to a deeper level, this Bible is for them.



Through the skilful design and development of new products like the *Good News Bible - Youth Edition*, *The Bible Course*, our dyslexia range and the new fictional science fiction retelling of the story of Jonah (*Jonah and the Bony-Finned Asteroid Fish* by Jo Sheringham), we aim to help build Bible confidence and support a change in the conversation about the Bible in wider culture. Internationally we provide print and production services to Bible Societies and mission agencies around the world. We offer support on everything from new translations, design and typesetting, print and shipping to contracting and licensing advice. One way we do this is through initiatives like The Jireh Programme, aimed at ensuring high levels of Scripture availability in countries where traditionally there have been shortages or breaks in supply. The programme helps other Bible Societies from across the world to focus on the important job of distributing Bibles while their stock management and replenishment is taken care of by us. By allowing them to pay for the Bibles once they have been sold or distributed they are able to ensure Bibles are always available to those who need them.

Online initiatives grow Bible engagement

Bible Society's Digital team used its technical and creative expertise to bring the Bible to life using online resources.

There was a massive increase of nearly 70 per cent in the number of website visitors compared with last year, with the total exceeding 1 million for the first time ever. Some of this – an increase of 145 per cent – was driven by 'organic' search traffic, where people search for particular terms and are directed by their search engines to Bible Society for the answers.

There was also a huge growth in the Explore the Bible section of the website, which more than doubled its unique page views. All of its sections saw very large increases in use, with Read the Bible, which offers the text of Scripture with notes and other tools, particularly popular. *The Bible Course*, Daily Reflections and Bible Articles sections all surged in popularity, each of them attracting more than 100,000 page views.



One of Bible Society's most popular social media campaigns is My Bible, which features stories told by people who've found the Bible speaks to them at often difficult times of their lives. These real human interest stories are widely liked and shared, with the average My Bible post reaching 92 per cent more people than the average Facebook and Twitter post.

They also draw readers in to engage and comment. On Facebook My Bible posts engage 147 per cent more people than an average post, with many more comments being posted.

These range from a simple 'Thank you' to heartfelt reflections on what they've read. For instance Angie Gibson wrote, 'Psalm 139 got me through my miscarriage' while Jane Gouldstone wrote, 'Thank you for your post. I have woken up and do not feel alone. My faith is growing stronger with each passing year. Your thoughts are with me.'

#AdventChallenge

Last year saw the fifth Bible Society #AdventChallenge, aimed at resourcing participants to help those around them discover something about the real meaning of Christmas.

Each day of Advent featured a reflection focused on discovering how the Nativity story relates to the rest of the Bible. A choice of three challenges followed, designed to stretch participants and suggesting acts of kindness they could do for those around them.

#AdventChallenge 2017 peaked at around 16,000 participants. In 2018 this fell to around 8,000, in part due to the effect of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). However, in 2018 more than 60,000 challenges were accepted.

Among the top five were:

- Tell a loved one how much they mean to you
- Add some extra items on your shopping list and donate them to a foodbank
- Make a list of those neighbours you know (and don't know) and pray for them.

2019 will see a different Advent focus.

What will you leave behind?

Legacies from these friends were notified to us during 2018–2019. They continue to bless us after their deaths, and we are grateful.

M Ackroyd	L Clark	J Gedge	G Jacobs	F Norrington	P Stone
E Adeniji	C Clementson	P Gillett	A James-Morse	J Page	D Talbot
M Allen	V Colyer	R Gilroy	B Jeffery	W Palmer	R Tames
K Archer	F Cooper	O Gledhill	A Jeffrey	A Parker	T Thackwray
G Ardell	R Covill	M Gordon	I Johnson	J Perkins	J Thirlwall
G Askew	G Craze	E Gordon	Jones	E Plumpton	J Tresidder
R Bacmeister	E Danson	J Green	J Kelk	B Powell	M Turner
F Bainbridge	E Davies	K Griffiths	K Knight	N Price	J Twomey
R Barclay	A Davies	J Gunning	M Knight	L Reed	V Waite
C Barnes	M Deacon	T Guy	E Lambert	E Rice	B Walker
F Bastin	R Dean	D Haggan	J Lambert	B Robins	E Ward
P Beardon	E Dearle	M Hall	J Lander	J Rooney	D Ward
J Benwell	R Dibble	E Harmes	J Le Ruez	E Rowe	B Waters
E Bevington	D Doling	L Harrison	I Lester	R Roylance	S Webb
T Blake	D Dowson	J Harrison	M Maguire	J Safe	M Webb
B Brearley	N Dunsmore-	K Head	D McAleer	S Sayle	N Williams
M Brewer	Rouse	B Hebble-	E McDonald	B Scott	E Wilson
M Brooks	D East	thwaite	C Molyneux	R Selvendran	M Wilson
M Brown	M Eley	G Hibbert	M Moon	S Senior	B Wisewell
D Bryant	N Emerton	A Holden	N Moser	A Shriever	J Wong
R Bulman	J Eynon	W Hopkins	H Moss	D Simmons	J Woodhams
H Butcher	J Finch	M Houke	C Muir	B Smethurst	L Worth
J Carter	E Fish	S Howe	F Nelson	I Smith	D Wrench
J Carvell	R Foyle	K Hubbard	A New	D Smith	G Wright
F Case	M Gall	V Hunt	A Niven	K Smith	M Wright
D Chapman	A Gaylor	C Hunt	D Norman	N Sowden	H Wyatt

To find out more about leaving a legacy to Bible Society visit biblesociety.org.uk/legacy

Around the world

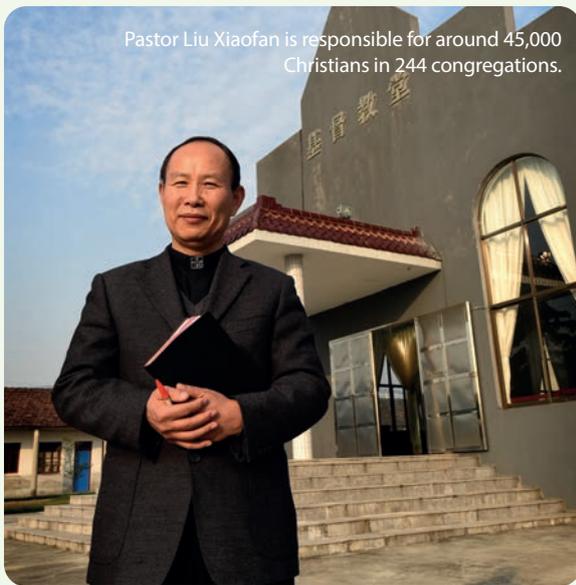
We're working with 146 other Bible Societies around the world to make sure everyone can have a Bible, understand it and apply it to their lives. We focus especially on China, the Middle East and some of the toughest areas of Africa.

The Church in China has seen extraordinary growth.

China

Despite tighter regulations during 2018, we are still able to continue our ministry in China, helping millions of Christians – particularly in rural areas – to receive Bibles, many of them for the first time.

We often encounter stories like that of Peiji, who had been a Christian for years but couldn't afford to buy a Bible. So she jotted down things she could remember from God's word on scraps of paper.



Pastor Liu Xiaofan is responsible for around 45,000 Christians in 244 congregations.

Above all, Peiji wanted to have a proper Bible to read, so she could be strengthened by God's promises. 'I need a Bible but I cannot get one,' she said. *'If only I could get a Bible, I could finally read what I know in my heart.'* Then a team arrived in her village, with Bibles from Bible Society for everyone. The joy this brought to Peiji was plain to see.

As the Church in China continues to grow, Christians are in great need of Bibles and resources for church leaders in particular. Bible Society seeks to support Christians in China by partnering with the Church there.

Bible Society is deeply grateful for the opportunities provided for it in China and works with Protestant and Catholic Christians to provide Bibles and resource the Church in training and discipleship. Please pray with us for good relationships with the authorities, understanding between Christians and an increasing knowledge and acceptance of the Bible in China.

Last year we:



Subsidised the printing of nearly 1.3 million Bibles for Chinese Christians who would otherwise struggle to afford one



Partnered with St Mellitus College to begin a theological training programme in Jiangsu province



Facilitated a three-day training event for pastors sponsored Bible teachers and offered scholarships to students



Invested in reaching China's 730 million online. The Bible Moments app is continuing to grow in popularity



Supported Bible translation into China's minority languages to reach almost 300,000 Christians and 10 million non-believers



Supported two camps for young people and four youth leader training programmes



Set up Bible Resource Rooms in seminaries to enable biblical training and combat unsound teaching



Identified historic Chinese items in our Cambridge archive showing Christianity is not a Western import alien to Chinese culture

Middle East and North Africa

The Church in the Middle East and North Africa is under extreme pressure. In some countries, family and social structures are continuously disrupted and ruthlessly under attack. However, many church leaders see this time as a window of opportunity for Christians to be a witnessing presence to others.

Our focus is on helping the Church sustain a witnessing presence in the region. We want to see a well-resourced Church that is deeply rooted in the Scriptures. We have colleagues in Bible Societies in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Morocco and the Gulf who work in the most difficult and challenging of circumstances. In Syria and Iraq we have well developed missions focused on support for returning refugees and strengthening Christian communities in this crisis so that they may become active participants and leaders in their wider society.



Bible School quiz competition held in Christian schools in Beirut.

In Jordan and Lebanon, two countries that have increased their populations by at least one third because of displaced people, we are working with refugees and running trauma healing programmes for them. One of our team recently travelled to Jordan and met a Syrian refugee, referred to as 'Omar' to protect his identity, who had made a commitment to Jesus. The Bible Society team provided him with aid when he first arrived as a refugee and over time helped him explore the Bible.

The team member said: *'Sitting in Omar's bare apartment on a hot, dry day, it was a stark reminder of the incredibly simple lifestyle he was living in his new country. He had been forced to give up his wealth and all his possessions in order to escape Syria. Yet in some ways, he told me he now feels more content than ever before.'* Omar told the team member: *'After I [came to] know Jesus, I also had hard times, but I felt God with me. This was the first time I've felt God with me and that he cares for me.'* He explained how he started to practise the teachings of the Bible and that now his wife saw a change in him. This led her to come to know Jesus too. Omar said: *'I was practising the Bible and she saw this. Many people said that I'm a different person.'*

In Turkey, where Christian freedom of expression is under severe constraints, we continue to provide the Bible and Scripture materials across the country through book fairs and exhibitions providing the Scriptures. These are also places for seekers from other faiths or none to learn more.

In Algeria we've reached out to 35,000 people through TV and radio programmes and engaged with migrants as well as prisoners. In Morocco there have been 12,000 downloads of the audio Old Testament, with many still eagerly waiting for the completion of the New Testament. In both countries, where Christianity is growing, we provide training to church leaders and ensure that Bible engagement activities are central to those yearning to learn more about Christ. **Last year:**



We distributed 231,000 Scripture portions across the region



We supported 5,000 refugees through our Support Centre in Iraq



We visited 92 church leaders in Syria and 47 house churches in Morocco to equip and encourage them



We trained 160 youth ministers in the Jordanian Catholic Church



We reached out to 18,000 people in Israel through evangelistic church events



We engaged with 12,000 children in Palestine through summer camps and schools work

Africa

Christianity is growing very fast in sub-Saharan Africa. Pew Research predicts that in 2050, nearly four-in-ten of the world's Christians (38 per cent) are expected to be living there, up from 24 per cent in 2010 and less than two per cent in 1910. As a result, African culture is increasingly Bible-friendly.



Picture: James Markham

However, in many countries there is still endemic corruption, conflict and poverty, showing that there is a disconnect between faith and practice.

Africa is the youngest continent – 60 per cent of its population are under 25. Depending on how this youthful energy is channelled, this could be an amazing resource. If young people are equipped with the values of integrity, hard work and creativity, Africa will have tremendous human capital. However, growing unemployment also means that they're vulnerable to being weaponised by political opportunists.

Our focus in Africa is twofold. First, we concentrate on some of the toughest, most marginalised countries and communities to bring hope through the Bible. Second, we engage with the leaders of these countries to bridge the gap between private faith and public behaviour. An example of these two aspects of our work coming together has been in eSwatini. Thanks to a generous legacy donation we have started building a Children's Mission Centre. The goal is to see children from all over the country

coming to the centre for Bible-based programmes in a child-friendly facility and being transformed through our trauma healing programmes, Bible storytelling, Bible listening groups and youth projects. eSwatini is also where we held our 2018 African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) conference, which promotes the values of integrity in public office, social harmony and peaceful coexistence. In 2018 it attracted leaders from business, civic society and the Church, and through a number of public campaigns and media reached out to 25,000 people.

In 2018 we continued to deepen our work in some of the toughest countries like Mozambique, eSwatini, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Eritrea, Malawi and Nigeria through Bible translation, distribution and literacy.

Bible literacy was a God-given grace to Jenifa, who comes from the Jur people, one of the least educated tribes in South Sudan. She now feels more responsible and can share in discussions and debates to improve the welfare of her community, especially the women. She can now read the Bible for herself and encourages her children to learn the Bible.

Jenifa has become one of her community's leaders and encourages women to go to school to learn so that they cannot be cheated in the market place. Jenifa has become an inspiration to many women and they are willing to follow in her footsteps. This programme has changed Jenifa's life forever, she says, quoting John 9.25: *'I was blind, but now I see!'*



Bible translations and revisions across the continent under way



People served with the Bible



Trauma Healing and other holistic programmes



People engaging in ongoing literacy classes



Children in 21 schools enjoying Open the Book in Ghana



People reached with Bible distribution engagement programmes

International Bible Advocacy Centre

During the last year IBAC continued its work with national Bible Societies to deliver events and research aimed at showing the relevance of the Bible to today's multifaceted cultures.

Africa has seen many political crises ranging from violent political ideologies, to racist governance systems, to ethnic clashes resulting in genocide, and religious conflicts that have planted the seed of mutual suspicion. The masses impacted by such crises live with a past that has not passed. Girma Mohammed's latest book *The Healing of Memories: African Christian Responses to Politically Induced Trauma* examines Christian responses to the damaging impact of conflict on the collective memory. Back in the UK, we launched the book via a panel debate entitled 'Can African Churches Play a Role in Peacebuilding?' held on October 17 in the River Room in the House of Lords.

IBAC, provides a forum for sharing and learning the theory and practice of Bible advocacy. Following exchanges in London (June 2014), Cambodia (November 2015) and South Africa (March 2017) IBAC held the fourth exchange in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With a particular focus on Central and South America, the 35 participants explored how to best engage students and professors as well as how to shape a higher education curriculum with the Bible.

While in Argentina, IBAC held a conference at the International Book Fair in Buenos Aires, where both Cristian Romocea and Girma Mohammed delivered presentations about the relevance of the Bible to politics, for students and general public attending the Book Fair.

A number of international academics were invited by IBAC to present papers at the Annual Forum on the Study of Christianity in China organised by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Academics included renowned Africa missiologist Prof Andrew Walls, who delivered the keynote address, Indian scholar Vishal Mangalwadi, African-American lecturer Ingrid Reneau Walls and British academics Nick Spencer, James Harding and Russell Winfield. In a dialogue with the Chinese academics, they spoke of how the Bible has influenced our society and culture for centuries.

A few weeks later, the 2018 Bible in China Seminar in Shanghai was held on the theme of Bible and a Shared Future for Humankind, with a focus on Migration and Community. In its ninth year, the event jointly organised by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Centre for the Studies of Religion and Culture and SASS Think Tank Foundation, with the support of IBAC and UBS China Partnership, touched on various issues faced by the international community today.

During the ABLI Forum held in eSwatini between 25–28 September, 2018, 350 African leaders met to reflect on the contribution of the Bible to better leadership in Africa. The Forum reflected on the theme of Culture, Scripture and Leadership in Africa and hosted delegates from over 20 countries in Africa and beyond. The Forum had two elements. The first was a youth forum that took place on September 25, with a focus on motivating the young people to discover their potential. The second was the main forum, which included both adults and youth. This event was attended by 300 delegates including members of the Swazi royal family, the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, the national media and representatives of civic organisations. This message was also reinforced by a book IBAC produced: *Culture, Scripture and Leadership in Africa*. **Last year we:**



350 African leaders engaged through the ABLI events in eSwatini



200 Chinese academics and students engaged with the Bible during the Bible in China Seminar in Shanghai and the CASS Forum in Beijing



35 staff and general secretaries from different Bible Societies were inspired to shape higher education using the Bible



40 academics, scholars and graduate students attended the debate in the House of Lords

We will...

Bible Society has exciting plans for the year ahead!

We will be launching two new digital platforms to equip church leaders and Bible communicators to understand the nature of Bible engagement in their communities and respond appropriately, not least through the provision of world-class Bible resources tailored to different audiences.

We will be launching a campaign to help change the conversation about the Bible in wider culture, and offering a ground-breaking immersive experience of the Bible in towns and cities across England and Wales.

We will be working with churches and other organisations to see the Bible embodied more effectively – not least in response to some of the biggest challenges confronting society today, such as knife crime.

We will be piloting content and events aimed at increasing Bible confidence among millennials.

We will be expanding Open the Book, our principal education programme in primary schools, and increasing our support of Bible literacy through our secondary school resources. Having piloted the scheme internationally in Ghana, we will expand it into several more countries.

We will continue to deepen our relationships with the 146 Bible Societies around the world with which we deliver our global ministry.

We will be extending our work into China, the Sahel region in Africa and the Middle East to serve the Church under pressure there.

We will equip and mentor hundreds of young people in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana through the African Biblical Leadership Initiative, which aims to deliver a whole-life discipleship programme.

We will complete the building of the Children's Mission Centre in eSwatini that will serve to train and mentor children and young people with a number of discipleship programmes.

We will be working on 17 translation projects across the Sahel region to increase Bible availability in the heart language of 7 million native speakers.

We will host a Global Advocacy Exchange programme in Turkey to equip and mentor Bible Societies from the Middle East and North Africa in Bible advocacy.

We will be gathering key church leaders from the East and West in Beirut to increase confidence in the Bible in the context of the Church under pressure.

We will commence the building of a Bible Mission hub in Jordan to increase Christian presence in the region.

We will aim to increase Bible availability in China to sustain significant Church growth.

We will digitise and curate our Chinese archives to highlight the historical depth of Christianity and support a number of ongoing minority language translations.

We will host an art exhibition in China to increase the confidence of local Christian artists to contribute to the public discourse and wellbeing of their community.

We will be engaging 200 academics and students in a number of academic seminars in Shanghai and Beijing to highlight the role of the Bible as a public document that is relevant to social and public conversations.

We will be translating *The Bible Course* into Mandarin, Spanish, French and Arabic.

Bible Society people

Our staff are our key resource. We aim to be a place where people are enthusiastic about working and enabled to be the best they can be.



Christmas gifts for refugees

Child refugees and asylum seekers received personal Christmas presents last year thanks to Bible Society staff who raised funds and donated gifts to a local Swindon charity.



A young Santa enjoys Christmas at the Harbour Project

The Harbour Project was set up in 2000 as a response to the Kosovan crisis, but has grown since then to provide services for others who have come to the UK in search of a safe place to live. Its drop-in centre offers practical support and advice, along with refreshments, internet access, food and clothing, family activities and a chance to socialise. Bible Society staff donated, wrapped and delivered 53 Christmas presents for children associated with the project, which were given out at their special Christmas party.

Harbour Project Chief Executive Claire Garrett said: *'Each child received a gift from Santa. Most of the children opened their gifts at the party despite the intentions of the parents to take them home and save them until Christmas Day. We were blown away by the quality of the toys – people had clearly spent a lot of time choosing and wrapping items for our children.'* She added: *'The life of an asylum-seeking child follows the up and downs of his or her parent – lots of hope for a safer life while absorbing the setbacks and challenges that the asylum process throws along the way. Despite this, children at the Harbour just want to be like any other child and this is especially so at Christmas – they want to have fun with their friends, wear Santa hats and Christmas jumpers, eat chocolate, get presents and generally run around.'*

Melissa O'Sullivan, who co-ordinated Bible Society support, said: *'As part of our Christmas festivities we wanted to give something back to our local community. I am extremely grateful to everyone who donated and made such a difference to a child's Christmas. What really struck me about The Harbour Project is how they support and help refugees, giving people a chance to build a new life for their families after so much trauma. At Bible Society we do this internationally and this was a chance to do it at home. My grandparents came to Swindon as refugees over 40 years ago with their children who didn't speak any English, and went on to build new lives and have families. I see The Harbour Project doing exactly that, giving people a new lease of life.'*



Santa's helpers: Phil Rodgers, Lisa Cherrett, Beth Openshaw, Elaine Young, Val Ralston, Melissa O'Sullivan, Debbie Clifford.



The Harbour Project is a place of welcome

International Women's Day and the Bible

Bible Society's staff form a creative and motivated community, committed to learning and personal development.

One of the in-house highlights of last year was a celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March. Two younger members of staff, Noemie Smith and Kit Gauger, travelled to our archives in Cambridge to research the role played by women in making the Bible available to the world – and found it was far greater than anyone had imagined.

Everyone knows about Mary Jones, but organisers such as Ellen Ranyard and Maria Hope, China missionaries like Mildred Cable, Eva and Francesca French and translators like Pandita Ramabai and Rosemary Guillebaud are far from being household names. These and others featured in a day conference for staff focusing on 'courageous women'. Among other contributors were Bible Society

Vice-Chair of Trustees Dr Bunmi Olayisade, who spoke about her book *Praying the Scriptures*, and Katy Murray who conducted a workshop on how men and women could flourish in the workplace. Poet and performer Dai Woolridge reflected on the story of Naomi and Ruth, and staff were led in prayer and worship by Cathy Morling and Rachael Markham.

Kit Gauger said: 'We were surprised and inspired by what we found when we started looking through the archives. Women have been translators and Bible sellers – we found some intriguing things. We often hear about William Wilberforce and Thomas Charles, but we should talk more about these women. It was a really good day and we had massively positive feedback.'



Bible Society staff marked International Women's Day with inspirational presentations and workshops. Pictures: Scot Openshaw



Our fundraising ethos

In our approach to fundraising we try to show integrity by being transparent about where donations are going. We seek to do this through explaining clearly how donations will be used, offering ways for our supporters to feed concerns back to us and informing them how gifts are used through publications like our *Word in Action* magazine and *Bible a Month* prayer letter.

Our fundraising is inspired by the belief that when people engage with the Bible, their lives change for good. Through the materials we send out, we aim to share the need to raise funds but also to inspire and inform supporters about the potential impact of their giving and support.

We monitor supporter satisfaction through a regular detailed questionnaire, as well as recording feedback through other sources such as telephone calls. Our most recent supporter survey revealed a 96 per cent satisfaction rate.

Our fundraising strategy 2018–19

Giving from individuals continues to be the main source of funds for our work at home and abroad. Our strategy is to raise the money we need while delivering excellent supporter communications and a first-rate supporter experience. We aim to ensure all supporters are inspired and informed about our mission and given opportunities to get involved through prayer, volunteering and financial support. Nearly all our work is carried out by our in-house professional fundraising staff. We sometimes work with agencies or external contractors such as designers.

Our fundraising Return on Investment (ROI) in 2018–19 was 5.02. We are seeking to maintain this impressive ROI in the coming financial year.

Our primary fundraising activity included our appeals programme, telling stories of our varied mission work via direct mail and online channels, which generated more than £1.1 million. Our Bible a Month committed giver programme, comprising more than 23,000 supporters, raised £2,486,517 last year. £1,641,000 was raised from generous major donors and £2,923,000 left to Bible Society in legacies.



Compliance

We comply with all relevant legislation, regulation and fundraising guidance including General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR) and all relevant Codes of Practice from the Fundraising Regulator. Bible Society is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and also the Direct Marketing Association.

We encourage all feedback, whether positive or negative, and we regularly monitor and analyse what people tell us to make sure we are continuously improving our procedures. In 2018–2019 we had 1,204 instances of positive feedback and 804 of negative feedback, with a further 191 classed as queries or suggestions.

In line with the Fundraising Code, we do not put people under pressure to give. Since much of our direct marketing is dual purpose – aimed at informing them about our work as well as fundraising – we do mail supporters quite frequently, but the financial ask in many of these communications is incidental.

For example, our magazine *Word in Action* does have a gift form attached, but the main purpose is to communicate news and information.

We include instructions in all our fundraising materials on how to change what supporters receive from us. We include a Freephone number so they can get in touch as easily as possible. People can also request no further communication via the the national Fundraising Preference Service. From April 2018 to March 2019, we received 13 requests to cease all contact via this method.

Vulnerable persons

We have updated our safeguarding policy, which covers both children and vulnerable adults. Where the contact centre team of frontline staff feel that someone is vulnerable they are able to inform their line management. Staff are encouraged to use their initiative and will refuse to process a donation where they feel that someone is at risk.

Telephone fundraising

We use external agencies who receive and make calls on our behalf for our telephone campaigns. The agencies are paid a small amount per call, as our policy is not to operate by commission. We use professional fundraising agencies who are able to work outside normal working hours and enhance our capacity with the technology, trained staff and specialist procedures that we require.

Our 'inbound' campaign – where supporters call in response to a fundraising initiative – was facilitated in 2018–19 by Angel, a fulfilment services company. For our 'outbound' campaigns where we call supporters direct we use NTT, a leading UK telephone fundraising agency.

We only call supporters if they have given us permission to do so and we ask at the beginning of each call if it's a convenient time to talk. The calls are all made from a landline number that shows up on dialling and can be called back if someone wants to confirm who is calling. Supporters can also use this number to request no further calls. NTT is Telephone Preference Service assured and complies with BS EN ISO 9001 (Quality Assurance) and BS EN ISO 27001 (Data Security).

We regularly monitor our outbound calling and listen to a random selection of calls each week while a campaign is live, and review all calls where someone is flagged as potentially vulnerable.

Trustees, advisors & administrative details

Bible Society is a registered charity established by Royal Charter and as such is governed by its Charter and by a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is made up of up to 21 Trustees, appointed by the Board, and includes the Chief Executive. A minimum of 40 per cent and a maximum of 60 per cent of Trustees must be members of the Anglican Church.

- Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and may be reappointed for up to two further terms.
- Trustees who have served for three consecutive three-year terms may not be reappointed for at least a year from the conclusion of their term in office.
- Trustees are appointed on the basis of their skills, experience, time availability and the general contribution which they are able to make to the work of Bible Society.
- New Trustees are inducted in the extent of Bible Society's activities and their responsibilities, and all Trustees receive ongoing training to enable them to fulfil their roles effectively.
- The Chair is elected by the Board and serves for a three-year term.

The Board of Trustees meets four times a year, and also has a 24-hour retreat. Two of the meetings are residential over two days. Additional meetings of the Trustees can occur when there is a need to consider a specific item of business that has arisen between the regular meetings. In addition, various aspects of the Society's work and the context in which we operate are presented to the Trustees so they continue to gain a more comprehensive appreciation of them.

Sub-committees

The Board has established three sub-committees, each with specific terms of reference. These are:

- Audit and Finance Committee
- People and Remuneration Committee
- Board Development Committee

The **Audit and Finance Committee** oversees the financial affairs of Bible Society and gives confidence to the Board that its responsibilities in that regard are being fulfilled and that Bible Society is operating within the legal and financial guidelines set out in current legislation and the Board's own policies. In addition to Trustees, the Audit and Finance Committee has one non-Trustee member.

The **People and Remuneration Committee** provides independent strategic support to the Leadership Team in overseeing the people and remuneration activities of Bible Society so that it fulfils its purpose in accordance with its values and strengthens its reputation, and gives confidence to the Board accordingly. It is also responsible for reviewing and setting the remuneration of the Chief Executive.

The **Board Development Committee** promotes Board development, reviews the performance of Trustees, makes recommendations to the Board regarding certain appointments, makes certain other appointments to Board committees and other similar positions, reviews the governance of Bible Society and assists the Nominations Committee with the election and re-election of Trustees.

Governance and decision-making

The Board is responsible for Bible Society's governance and it shapes and agrees our vision, mission, values and strategy. Trustees are encouraged to pray and reflect deeply on the spiritual, cultural, political, economic and technological environments in which Bible Society operates and to share their reflections faithfully and fearlessly with the rest of the Board.

Day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive, who in turn delegates management of specific projects to members of the leadership team. Strategy is drafted by the Chief Executive and leadership team after consultation with stakeholders (including Trustees), and is approved by the Trustees. Responsibility for implementing strategy is delegated to the Chief Executive and leadership team.

Key Management Personnel remuneration policy

The Board of Trustees, the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, the Chief Financial Officer, the Director: People, the Director: Enterprise, the Director of Strategic Partnerships, the Director of International Mission, and the Director of Brand Strategy and Marketing are the key management personnel of Bible Society, in charge of directing and operating the charity. All Trustees give their time freely and do not receive remuneration, except in the case of the Chief Executive, who under the terms of the Royal Charter is also a Trustee.

Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are given in note 14 to the financial statements. Salaries of staff are reviewed annually taking inflation into account. All job roles are also benchmarked using Croner salary surveys and benchmarking to ensure that the level of remuneration set for all staff, including key management, is in line with roles in similar organisations.

Patron

Her Majesty the Queen

President

His Eminence Archbishop
Angelos

Vice-Presidents

Lord David Alton
(until March 2019)
Baroness Sal Brinton
Revd Joel Edwards
Professor David Ford
Revd Stephen Gaukroger
Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Most Revd & Rt Hon Dr John
Sentamu
(until March 2019)
Baroness Maeve Sherlock
Mr David Suchet

Chair of Trustees

Mr James Featherby

Deputy Chair

Dr Olubunmi Olayisade
(until June 2019)
Mrs Sue Heatherington
(from June 2019)

Treasurer

Mr Paul Bosson

Chief Executive

Professor Paul S Williams

Other Trustees

Mr Paul Chandler
Mr Ian Dighé
Mr Alan Eccles
Mrs Sue Heatherington
Mr Arfon Jones
Ms Catherine Pepinster
Mrs Christina Rees
Colonel Richard Sandy
(until July 2018)
Mr Keith Starling
(from November 2019)

Audit and Finance Committee

Mr Paul Bosson *(Chair)*
Mr Paul Chandler
Mr Alan Emery
Mr Keith Starling
(from November 2019)
Mrs Kate Andrews*

Nominations Committee

Mr Ian Dighé *(Convenor)*
Revd Dr Martyn Atkins
Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell
Mr James Featherby
Revd Katei Kirby
Dr Olubunmi Olayisade
(until June 2019)
Revd Chris Thomas
Revd Dr Nigel Wright
Professor Paul S Williams*

People and Remuneration Committee

Mrs Sue Heatherington *(Chair)*
Mr Paul Bosson
Mr James Featherby
Mr Arfon Jones *(from May 2018)*
Mrs Susan Mears*
Mrs Christina Rees
Colonel Richard Sandy
(until July 2018)
Mr Paul Woolley*
Professor Paul S Williams

Board Development Committee

Mr James Featherby *(Chair)*
Mr Ian Dighé
Mrs Sue Heatherington
(from June 2019)
Dr Olubunmi Olayisade
(until June 2019)
Mr Paul Woolley
Professor Paul S Williams

Leadership Team

Professor Paul S Williams
Mr Derek Hill
Mrs Susan Mears

United Bible Societies

Bible Society is a member of the United Bible Societies, a worldwide fellowship of over 140 national Bible Societies, through and with whom we undertake our international mission.

Mr Oldi Morava
Mr Paul Woolley
Mrs Kate Andrews
Mr Stuart Noble

Auditors

Crowe U.K. LLP
Carrick House
Lypiatt Road
Cheltenham
GL50 2QJ

Bankers

NatWest Bank plc
84 Commercial Road
Swindon SN1 5NU

Solicitors

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
134 Edmund Street
Birmingham B3 2ES

Investment Managers

CCLA
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

Registered Office

Bible Society Stonehill Green
Westlea Swindon SN5 7DG
**In attendance.*

Bible Society Resources Limited is a wholly-owned trading subsidiary which has its separate Board of Directors. Bible Society is a registered charity (232759).

Financial Review and Risk Management

OVERVIEW

In 2018/19 our income totalled £18.8 million (2018: £19.4 million). This primarily reflects a lower level of legacy income (down by £0.8 million).

Our charitable expenditure increased by 11 per cent to £17.0 million (2018: £15.3 million). This increase reflects the planned investment in strategic changes and includes spending on a number of strategic projects.

INCOME

Donation and legacy income

Donation and legacy income decreased compared with the prior year to £11.9 million (2018: £12.6 million). The largest income stream continues to be donations from our supporters which increased by one per cent. Income from legacies was £2.9 million (2018: £3.7 million), a decrease of 22 per cent as a result of one large legacy received during the previous year. Our underlying legacy income remained stable.

Trading income

Trading income increased by three per cent to £5.9 million (2018: £5.8 million). Trading income represents the activities undertaken by the wholly owned subsidiary Bible Society Resources Limited, the majority of which form part of the primary purpose of the charity as they relate to the translation and distribution of the Bible. Of particular note this year was the launch of the Good News Bible – The Youth Edition, with strong domestic sales. Overseas sales include sales to other Bible Societies, the Jireh programme and also sales to third parties. Investment income and investment gains
Investment income remained stable at £0.8 million (2018: £0.8 million). Investment gains totalled £0.6 million (2018: £0.2 million).

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Spending on charitable activities increased to £17.0 million (2018: £15.3 million). As stated last year, there is an expectation that spending will increase as a result of implementing strategic change at Bible Society. The figures reflect the beginning of that project. In addition, during the year we funded a £0.2 million project in eSwatini from a legacy received in a previous year and also increased our total overseas

grants. Other additional costs included the one-off pension cost detailed below and some investment in training and recruitment.

PENSION SCHEME

Bible Society has a closed defined benefit pension scheme. This year saw the results of the latest valuation for the scheme, undertaken once every three years. This resulted in a large adjustment to the deficit (£1.5 million) which is reflected in the statement of financial activities (SOFA). Further details regarding this are in note 21 to the accounts. The year end valuation was also negatively affected by the market's nervousness about Brexit at 31 March 2019. In addition this year, a provision was made for the results of the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) equalisation exercise that defined benefit schemes have been required to carry out and this resulted in a one-off expense for past service costs of £0.3 million being recognised in the SOFA.

RESERVES POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

The Trustees consider it important that Bible Society holds an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves as part of its financial management and forward financial planning. The appropriate level should not be so high as to tie up money unnecessarily, limiting the amount spent on charitable activities and the potential benefits that Bible Society can provide. Similarly the appropriate level should not be too low, thereby increasing the risk to the Charity's ability to carry on its activities in future in the event of financial difficulties, and increasing the risk of unplanned and unmanaged closure and even insolvency.

The Trustees review risk regularly and a risk register is maintained. Some of the identified risks have a financial impact and so it is important that an appropriate level of reserves is held to counter this financial risk.

The Trustees review the level of reserves annually to ensure that an appropriate level is held. The target range is between three and nine months' equivalent expenditure (unchanged from 2017/18). We consider this level continues to reflect the financial risks of the operating environment. At the end of 2018/19 the unrestricted reserves stand at nine months' expenditure (2018: nine months).

Designated reserves form part of the unrestricted reserves and represent funds which the Trustees have earmarked for a particular use, without creating a legal restriction. Within the designated reserves is the fixed asset reserve which represents the net book value of Bible Society's fixed assets to indicate that these resources are not available for other purposes. At the end of the year the fixed asset reserve stood at £4.4 million (2018: £4.6 million). The Capital fund for the provision of Bibles overseas stood at £1.1 million (2018: £1.1 million). The fund supports Project Jireh, which enables overseas Bible Societies to hold stocks of Bibles for sale by funding their working capital requirement, while working with them to help them achieve financial sustainability. The Special Opportunities reserve stood at £0.9 million (2018: £1.5 million). Large legacies received are designated by the Trustees for specific projects. The balance has been designated for strategic projects in the coming year.

Restricted reserves are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by donors. The year-end balances represent income which has been recorded but where the related expenditure has not yet been incurred. The balance at the end of the year was £0.1 million (2018: £0.1 million).

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Charity seeks to adopt a cautious, well-balanced approach to investment, balancing potential returns with the appropriate level of risk. The Charity also follows the guidance of the Church of England Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG)'s Statement of Ethical Investment Policy in the selection of investments. The investment policy is reviewed annually by the Audit and Finance Committee of the Board.

The Charity's aim is to ensure that investments maintain their capital value in real terms while delivering income growth.

The Charity holds permanent endowments of £13.4 million (2018: £12.7 million) and unrestricted investments totalling £5.7 million (2017: £8.6 million). During the year £3.0 million was moved from investments into a cash deposit fund in anticipation of working capital requirements over the coming two years.

The majority of the Charity's endowed investments consists of a 20 per cent stake in William Leech (Investments) Limited, which aims to secure strong financial returns while taking into consideration Christian principles and ethical considerations in its investment policy. In particular, William Leech (Investments) Limited follows the guidance of the Church of England Ethical Investment Advisory Group in its selection of investments. While this represents a large asset on the balance sheet, as a permanent endowment it cannot be realised. During the year, our remaining investment portfolio was moved to CCLA. This includes both permanently endowed and unrestricted investments with the ultimate aim of achieving long-term capital and income growth, following similar ethical guidelines.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Charity actively aims to mitigate risk factors through its everyday management of operations and has a number of committees reviewing items in a rolling programme of internal review. Over the last year, amongst other items, strategy, investment policy, reserves, foreign exchange, staff remuneration, pension provisions, publishing rights, copyright, technology and IT security have been reviewed in detail and the Charity will continue to monitor key risk items over the coming year. Bible Society staff actively manage risks at a strategic, operational and project level, reporting the High Level Risks to the Trustees.

The most significant risk facing the Society is that we lose sight of God and instead focus on our own ideas and efforts. The other significant risks currently facing the Society are those of adverse publicity, the impact upon income of competing or similar charities in the current economic environment, contractual rights over publications and royalties, and the risks associated with information technology, cyber security and privacy.

The Trustees are satisfied that the major risks to which Bible Society was exposed during 2018-19 have been assessed and that systems are in place to manage or mitigate exposure to them in the future.

Statement of Responsibilities of Trustees

The Trustees are required to prepare an annual report and financial statements for each financial year in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The Trustees are also required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charity for the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

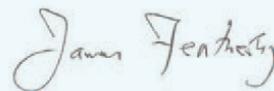
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant acts and standards. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website.

Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Each of the Trustees confirms that, to the best of his/her knowledge, there is no information relevant to the audit of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the Trustees also confirms that he/she has taken all necessary steps to ensure that he/she is aware of all relevant audit information and that this information has been communicated to the auditors.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



James Featherby
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Registered charity 232759
Date: 26 November 2019

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of British and Foreign Bible Society

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British and Foreign Bible Society for the year ended 31 March 2019 which comprise consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and charity Balance Sheets, the consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2019 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK)

require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the parent charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the

Trustees' report; or

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 33, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

10 December 2019

Carrick House
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 2QJ

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

Year Ended 31 March 2019

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2019 Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2018 Total
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income									
Donations and legacies	2	6,126	5,524	206	11,856	7,806	4,595	195	12,596
Publishing and exhibitions	3	5,932	-	-	5,932	5,785	-	-	5,785
Other trading activities	3	247	-	-	247	266	-	-	266
Investment income	4	736	-	-	736	801	-	-	801
Total income		13,041	5,524	206	18,771	14,658	4,595	195	19,448
Expenditure									
Cost of raising funds	5	(1,601)	(1,075)	(8)	(2,684)	(1,866)	(718)	(10)	(2,593)
Expenditure on charitable activities									
Making the Bible available	7	(6,447)	(2,762)	-	(9,209)	(6,298)	(2,631)	-	(8,929)
Making the Bible accessible	7	(3,172)	(280)	-	(3,452)	(2,689)	(265)	-	(2,954)
Demonstrating the Bible's credibility	7	(1,592)	(1,423)	-	(3,015)	(1,261)	(1,133)	-	(2,394)
Educating the public	7	(1,251)	-	-	(1,251)	(1,016)	-	-	(1,016)
Total charitable activities		(12,462)	(4,465)	-	(16,927)	(11,264)	(4,029)	-	(15,293)
Total expenditure		(14,063)	(5,540)	(8)	(19,611)	(13,130)	(4,747)	(10)	(17,887)
Net gains on investments	14	186	-	423	609	22	-	206	228
Net (expenditure) / income		(836)	(16)	621	(231)	1,550	(152)	391	1,790
Other recognised gains/(losses) - actual gains on defined benefit pension plan	21	(1,496)	-	-	(1,496)	118	-	-	118
Net movement in funds for the year		(2,332)	(16)	621	(1,727)	1,668	(152)	391	1,907
Total funds brought forward		13,049	113	12,754	25,917	11,381	265	12,363	24,009
Total funds carried forward		10,717	97	13,375	24,189	13,049	113	12,754	25,917

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The notes form part of these financial statements.

Charity's income £12.8m (2018: £13.6m)

Balance sheets

as at 31 March 2019

		Group 2019 Total	Group 2018 Total	Charity 2019 Total	Charity 2018 Total
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12	3,522	3,737	3,522	3,737
Permanently endowed investments	14	13,357	12,737	13,357	12,737
Other investments including subsidiary undertaking	14	5,715	8,580	6,266	9,131
		<u>22,594</u>	<u>25,054</u>	<u>23,145</u>	<u>25,605</u>
Current assets					
Stock	15	1,466	1,070	-	-
Debtors	16	1,841	2,038	3,211	1,882
Cash at bank and in hand	17	9,516	6,525	7,842	6,105
		<u>12,823</u>	<u>9,633</u>	<u>11,053</u>	<u>7,987</u>
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within a year	20	(3,134)	(2,367)	(1,993)	(1,269)
Creditors – constructive obligation for funding commitments	19	(2,300)	(2,100)	(2,300)	(2,100)
		<u>7,389</u>	<u>5,166</u>	<u>6,760</u>	<u>4,619</u>
Net Current assets					
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21	(5,794)	(4,303)	(5,794)	(4,303)
Net assets	23	<u>24,189</u>	<u>25,917</u>	<u>24,111</u>	<u>25,921</u>
The funds of the group:					
Endowment funds					
William Leech fund	22	11,555	11,000	11,555	11,000
General purposes permanently endowed fund	22	1,820	1,754	1,820	1,754
Total endowment funds		<u>13,375</u>	<u>12,754</u>	<u>13,375</u>	<u>12,754</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	22	97	113	97	113
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	22	6,566	7,440	6,566	7,440
General fund	22	9,945	9,913	9,867	9,917
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve	22	16,511	17,353	16,433	17,357
Pension reserve	21	(5,794)	(4,303)	(5,794)	(4,303)
Total unrestricted funds		<u>10,717</u>	<u>13,050</u>	<u>10,639</u>	<u>13,054</u>
Total funds		<u>24,189</u>	<u>25,917</u>	<u>24,111</u>	<u>25,921</u>

The financial statements on pages 39 to 41 were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 November 2019 and signed on their behalf by:



James Featherby
Registered charity 232759

Statement of Cashflows and Consolidated Statement of Cashflows

For the year ended 31 March 2019

	Note	Group 2019 Total £'000	Group 2018 Total £'000
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(690)	(409)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest received from investments		736	801
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(114)	(50)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(206)	(195)
Proceeds from sale of investments		3,059	56
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		-	-
Proceeds from sale of investment property		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		3,476	612
Cash flows from financing activities			
Receipt of endowment		206	195
Net cash used in financing activities		206	195
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		2,991	398
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		6,525	6127
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		9,516	6,525

Notes to the cash flow statement

A Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash used in operating activities

Net income/ (expenditure) for the year	(231)	1,789
Add back depreciation charge	329	333
Add back amortisation of intangibles	-	-
Add back movement in provision	200	-
Deduct investment income shown in investment activities	(736)	(801)
(Gains)/losses on investments	(609)	(228)
Receipt of endowment	(206)	(195)
FRS 102 pension adjustments	(5)	(149)
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(396)	(155)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	197	(372)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	767	(631)
Net cash used in operating activities	(690)	(409)

The British And Foreign Bible Society

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019.

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity incorporated in United Kingdom. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investment properties, listed and unlisted investments.

1.2. Going concern

After reviewing the group's forecasts and projections, the Trustees consider that the group is well placed to manage the business risks it faces. This position is supported by strong cash balances and a sufficient level of reserves. The Trustees therefore have a reasonable expectation that the group has more than sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the ability of the group to continue as a going concern. The group therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its consolidated financial statements.

The group's planning processes, including financial projections, take into consideration the current economic climate and its potential impact on various sources of income and planned expenditure. The Trustees acknowledge the group's pension fund obligations and have a clear strategy to manage the deficit, which includes a deficit reduction, subject to continued discussion and agreement with the Trustees of the pension scheme.

1.3. Basis of consolidation

The Society is a charity limited by incorporation under Royal Charter and has no share capital. Registered office: Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG. The financial statements consolidate the results of the British and Foreign Bible Society ('the Charity') and its subsidiary undertakings. The consolidated entity is referred to as 'the group'. No separate Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) or Cash Flow Statement has been prepared for the Charity as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and FRS 102 respectively.

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary Bible Society Resources Limited Company, number 05450490. This operates through commissioning print runs of Bibles to service the Charity's Bible needs and those of Bible Societies around the world. It sells Bibles in the UK and controls royalty payments.

1.4. Key judgements and assumptions

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty: in the application of the group's accounting policies, which are described in this note, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

Significant areas of estimate and judgement include provisions, assumptions used to value the

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

1. Accounting policies (continued)

defined benefit pension scheme, and the remaining useful life of assets. Related accounting policies for these items are noted below.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the presentation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.5. Income

(i) Donations, other income and investment income are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) SoFA when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

(ii) Legacies are accounted for when notified, providing the amount can be reliably measured and that ultimate receipt is probable this is based on settlement of the estate or receipt of payment.

(iii) Income from charitable activities is included in income in the SoFA and related costs are included in resources expended. Income represents the value of publications despatched and royalties received.

(iv) Donated goods, services and facilities are included in the SoFA at a reasonable estimate of their gross value to the Charity. Assets given for use by the Charity are recognised as incoming resources and within the relevant fixed asset category of the balance sheet when receivable. Where a gift has been made in kind but on trust for conversion into cash, the incoming resource is recognised when receivable and an adjustment made to the original valuation upon subsequent realisation of the gift.

1.6. Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of Bible Society and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise of unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Society's work. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment funds are funds which are held subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained as capital. The income earned from these funds is used for general purposes where allowed or for the specific purposes intended. The aim and use of each endowment fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

1.7. Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Support costs are allocated to expenditure categories on a headcount basis. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of raising funds.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Cost of raising funds comprises fundraising costs and fees payable to investment managers.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the cost of making the Bible available, accessible and credible, plus the cost of educating the public about our work.

1.8. Operating leases

Rental charges payable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA evenly over the term of the lease.

1.9. Taxation

Bible Society is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on its income and gains to the extent that they are applied to its charitable purposes. The charity's subsidiary, Bible Society Resources Limited, has not incurred a tax charge in the period due to its policy of paying its taxable profits to the charity under Gift Aid.

1.10. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost. Individual fixed assets costing less than £500 are written down fully in the year of acquisition. Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of fixed assets on a straight-line basis over their expected useful lives as follows:

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	Swindon and London – 50 years, Wales – 20 years
Building improvements	20 years
Visitor displays	4 years
Computer hardware and software	1-4 years
Other equipment	5 years
Motor vehicles	Over the estimated useful life of each vehicle (but only down to their estimated realisable value) with a maximum of 4 years

Fixed assets and investments are reviewed at the reporting date for any impairment. Any impairment loss is recognised in the corresponding SoFA category.

1.11. Investments

Listed investments are held at fair value. The unlisted investment in William Leech (Investments)Limited is revalued each year based upon the net assets of the company. The SoFA includes realised gains and losses on investments sold in the year and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation of investments.

1.12. Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cost includes all costs incurred in bringing each product to its present location and condition, as follows:

- Goods for resale at purchase cost on an average prime cost basis
- Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less any further costs expected to complete and sell.

1.13. Product development costs

Bible Society Resources Limited develops products for sale. The preparation and development costs for such activities are written off over the life of the product, unless their recovery is not reasonably assured. Costs for which recovery is not reasonably

assured are written off as they are identified. Income received in advance of the launch of the product is likewise matched to the period of the product launch and treated as deferred income until that time.

1.14. Heritage assets

Heritage assets are not recognised on the Balance Sheet. The Trustees consider that obtaining reliable valuations for these would involve disproportionate cost, owing to the number of items and the lack of comparable market values.

1.15. Financial instruments other than investments

The Charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recorded at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.16. Foreign exchange

Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the exchange rate at the time of the transaction, or at an average rate where this rate approximates the actual rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency balances are translated into sterling at the exchange rate at the balance sheet date. Resulting gains or losses are included in the SoFA.

1.17. Pensions

The Charity's defined benefit scheme was closed to future accrual on 1 October 2003. The net pension finance costs is included in the SoFA. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised in the SoFA as other recognised gains and losses. The expected costs of providing pensions under the defined benefit scheme, as calculated periodically by professionally qualified actuaries, are charged to the SoFA so as to spread the cost over the service life of the employees.

The amounts charged to the SoFA for defined contribution pension schemes represent the contributions payable in the period.

The cost of the charity contribution to the defined contribution scheme is allocated between restricted and unrestricted funds in accordance with function of the individual employees to whom the contribution relate.

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Donations	8,933	8,869
Legacies	2,923	3,727
	<u>11,856</u>	<u>12,596</u>

The Society benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS102 and the Charities SORP (FRS102), the economic contribution of volunteers is not recognised in the accounts. There were £57,443 of donations in kind (2018: £86,114).

3. Income from charitable activities

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Income from publishing and exhibitions	5,932	5,785
Income from property rental and related services	174	189
Income from research and other consultancy	42	62
Income from events and other sundry income	31	14
Total income from other trading activities	<u>247</u>	<u>266</u>

4. Investment income

The Group's investment income arises as follows:

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Returns on permanently endowed and unrestricted investments	715	794
Interest earned on unrestricted deposit accounts	21	7
	<u>736</u>	<u>801</u>

5. Cost of raising funds

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Direct costs	2,015	2,091
Support and governance costs	480	380
Irrecoverable VAT	138	76
Managing investments	51	46
	<u>2,684</u>	<u>2,593</u>

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

6. Grants Payable

		2019	2018
	No. of grants	£'000	£'000
International Grants			
Africa	38	232	157
China	4	92	29
Middle East	7	27	6
Other translation projects	12	691	1,238
Total translation grants	61	1,042	1,430
Africa	30	117	105
China	19	554	395
Middle East	5	53	154
Other production and distribution grants	11	68	56
Total production and distribution grants	65	792	710
Africa	30	519	182
Middle East	10	241	126
Providing Bible Society presence in other countries	22	168	183
Total capacity building grants	62	928	491
Africa	14	139	92
China	1	27	76
Middle East	4	38	-
Other literacy projects	10	67	29
Total literacy grants	29	271	197
Africa	36	395	386
China	11	250	105
Middle East	38	344	244
Other advocacy grants	33	434	398
Total engagement and advocacy grants	118	1,423	1,133
Total International grants	335	4,456	3,961
National Grants			
Cambridge University Library	3	29	38
Bibles to prisons, immigration centres, colleges	124	31	38
Other national grants	33	63	76
Total national grants	160	123	153
Total grants	495	4,579	4,114

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

6. Grants Payable (continued)

These grants are analysed across the charitable activities as follows:

	£'000	£'000
Making the Bible available	2,780	2,654
Making the Bible accessible	275	202
Demonstrating the Bible's credibility	1,524	1,258
	4,579	4,114

Bible Society is part of the United Bible Societies (UBS) network of 146 national Bible Societies. All international grants are made to UBS.

All grants are payable to institutions.

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	National Programme	International Programme	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Making the Bible available				
Grants	18	2,762	2,780	2,654
Operating costs of charitable activities	851	4,999	5,850	5,738
Direct costs	146	319	465	437
Support and governance costs	23	91	114	100
	1,038	8,171	9,209	8,929
Making the Bible accessible				
Grants	4	271	275	202
Direct costs	2,362	249	2,611	2,262
Support and governance costs	498	68	566	490
	2,864	588	3,452	2,954
Demonstrating the Bible's credibility				
Grants	101	1,423	1,524	1,258
Operating costs of charitable activities	-	-	-	1
Direct costs	911	343	1,254	914
Support and governance costs	168	69	237	221
	1,180	1,835	3,015	2,394
Educating the public				
Direct costs	1,081	-	1,081	858
Support and governance costs	170	-	170	158
	1,251	-	1,251	1,016
	6,333	10,594	16,927	15,294

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

Making the Bible Available relates to the following stages of the life cycle of the Bible

	2019
	£'000
Translation	1,042
Production and Distribution	7,239
Capacity Building	928
	<u>9,209</u>

Making the Bible Accessible relates to the following stages of the life cycle of the Bible

	2019
	£'000
Literacy	271
Engagement	3,181
	<u>3,452</u>

Making the Bible Credible relates to the following stages of the life cycle of the Bible

	2019
	£'000
Advocacy	<u>3,015</u>

8. Summary analysis of expenditure and related income for charitable activities: publishing

The table shows the cost of the main charitable activities operated through Bible Society Resources Limited and the sources of income relating to these.

	Trading	Inter Co	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost of sales	4,852	(44)	4,808	4,737
Grants paid	20	-	20	72
Project costs	84	-	84	33
Direct internal costs	764	-	764	727
Support costs	174	-	174	170
Operating costs of charitable activities	<u>5,894</u>	<u>(44)</u>	<u>5,850</u>	<u>5,739</u>
Sales and royalties receivable	5,976	(44)	5,932	5,785
Trading surplus/(deficit)	<u>82</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>46</u>

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

9. Support costs

	Operating costs	Raising funds	Bible availability	Bible accessibility	Bible credibility	Educating the public	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Estates	52	143	34	169	71	51	520	531
IT	39	108	25	127	53	38	390	374
HR	39	107	25	127	53	38	389	250
Finance	28	76	18	89	38	27	276	270
Governance	16	46	12	54	22	16	166	95
	174	480	114	566	237	170	1,741	1,520

All support costs are apportioned to activity based on the headcount engaged in that activity.

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	27	26
– External audit	13	11
– Stock count cost	40	38
Other governance costs		
- Other direct internal costs	126	57
	166	95

10. Net income/(expenditure) for the group

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
This is stated after charging:		
Operating leases - equipment	14	14
Depreciation	329	333
Foreign exchange loss/(gain)	(24)	(5)

11. Employees and Trustees

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
a) Employees		
Gross salaries and benefits in kind	4,417	3,893
Social security costs	430	381
Pension costs - defined contribution	627	578
Pension costs - defined benefit	444	444
	5,918	5,296

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

11. Employees and Trustees (continued)

The average number of persons employed, including part-time staff, calculated on an actual and a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis, analysed by activity was:

	2019	2018
	Number	Number
Charitable activities:		
Making the Bible available	25	23
Making the Bible accessible	41	40
Demonstrating the Bible's credibility	16	15
Educating the public	13	11
	95	89
Other activities:		
Raising funds	31	30
Governance	1	1
	127	120

The following number of employees received emoluments within the bands shown:

	2019	2018
	Number	Number
£60,000-£69,999	2	2
£70,000-£79,999	1	1
£80,000-£89,999	1	-
£90,000-£99,999	1	1

The key management personnel of the parent charity, Bible Society, and of the group, comprise the Trustees and the Leadership Team. The total remuneration of the key management personnel of the Society, inclusive of benefits, employers national insurance, but excluding pension contributions was £606,031 (2018: £521,891). In addition, pension contributions of £85,367 were paid into Bible Society's defined contribution scheme on behalf of these personnel (2018: £80,484). One additional director was appointed during 2018-2019.

The number of current staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing under the defined benefit scheme is 14 (2018: 14), while 118 staff are members of the defined contribution scheme (2018: 119).

b) Trustees

As charity Trustees, Bible Society's Trustees, who are not employees, received no remuneration for their services. Travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses incurred on behalf of Bible Society during 2019 were £5,911 for 11 Trustees (2018: £10,406 for 12 Trustees). Bible Society's Chief Executive who, under the terms of the Royal Charter, is also a Trustee, is deemed by the Board of Trustees to have incurred expenses in discharging his duties as Chief Executive rather than a Trustee.

During the year, the Society received donations of £3,748 (2018: £2,660) from the Trustees. All donations were received for general purposes.

Indemnity insurance is provided for the Trustees at a cost of £2,296 (2018: £2,119).

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

12. Tangible assets

	Freehold land, buildings and improvements	Computers and other equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
Group and Charity	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost at 1 April 2018	6,815	1,354	13	8,182
Additions	18	96	-	114
Disposals	-	(20)	-	(20)
Cost at 31 March 2019	6,833	1,430	13	8,276
Depreciation at 1 April 2018	(3,193)	(1,239)	(13)	(4,445)
Charge	(254)	(75)	-	(329)
Disposals	-	20	-	20
Depreciation at 31 March 2019	(3,447)	(1,294)	(13)	(4,754)
Net book value at 31 March 2018	3,622	115	-	3,737
Net book value at 31 March 2019	3,386	136	-	3,522

An external insurance valuation of the Society's Welsh property was conducted at 31 March 2015. This valued the property at £2,400,000. At 31 March 2015, an external valuation of the London property was conducted, which valued this property in the region of £2,350,000, based on vacant possession and £2,090,000 based on investment purposes. At 31 March 2015, a valuation was done of the Society's property at Swindon. This valued the property in the region of £3,000,000. In the opinion of the Trustees, there has been no significant movement in these values since these times.

The Charity owns 5 overseas properties (2018: 5). These are made available to the Bible Societies in the countries concerned. In the opinion of the Trustees, these properties have no recoverable value to Bible Society and the cost has been fully depreciated in the Balance Sheet. The cost of the overseas properties at £40,678 (2018: £40,678) has also been included, but that cost has been depreciated fully.

Included in the cost of freehold land, buildings and improvements is freehold land of £708,819 (2018: £708,819) which is not depreciated.

Bible Society's properties in Swindon and London serve mixed use, being mainly used for the Society's charitable purposes, with space which is surplus to current requirements being rented to tenants. For the Swindon property, the Society has been unable to ascertain the fair value of the investment component reliably, without undue cost or effort. As such, the entire property has been accounted for as a property within tangible fixed assets. For the London property, one floor is currently rented to external tenants and 20 per cent of the property has therefore been treated as an investment property, with the remaining 80 per cent accounted for within tangible fixed assets.

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

13. Heritage assets

Bible Society's heritage assets comprise:

- a historic printed Bible collection;
- a deposit library for new Bibles;
- a collection of paintings and other artefacts, including 500 manuscripts;
- the Society's own historic archives.

These have been collected over the 213 years of Bible Society's life and have been acquired by donation, exchange of publications with other societies, or through the occasional purchase.

The printed Bible collection comprises around 35,000 Bibles and books in many of the world's languages. This includes items of historical importance, such as copies of the first edition (1611) of the King James Bible and the Welsh Bible received and signed by Mary Jones. It is also a living and growing collection, receiving deposits of first editions of new Bibles published around the world.

The collection is housed in Cambridge University Library and items are available for viewing by any reader of the library, upon request. The Bible collection is fully catalogued.

The Trustees consider that obtaining reliable valuations for the collection would involve disproportionate cost. This is because of the number of items in the collection and the lack of comparable market values. The printed Bible collection and the paintings and other artefacts, including manuscripts, were valued on 5 July 2012 for insurance purposes at £12 million to £20 million. Owing to sales of some of the manuscripts, the remaining collection would be valued at £11 million to £18 million.

Bible Society occasionally disposes of items where new duplicate materials are identified or where materials are not a core part of the printed Bible collection. During the year ended 31 March 2019 there were no proceeds from the sale of heritage assets (2018: Nil)

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

14. Investments

	Group 2019 £'000	Group 2018 £'000	Charity 2019 £'000	Charity 2018 £'000
Market value at 1 April	21,317	20,950	21,868	21,501
Additions	206	195	206	195
Net movement in cash and short-term deposits	(3,059)	(56)	(3,059)	(56)
Net investment gains	609	228	609	228
Market value at 31 March	<u>19,072</u>	<u>21,317</u>	<u>19,623</u>	<u>21,868</u>
The market value at 31 March represents:				
Unlisted permanently endowed investments	11,554	11,000	11,554	11,000
Listed permanently endowed investments	1,803	1,737	1,803	1,737
Total of permanently endowed investments	13,357	12,737	13,357	12,737
Other listed investments	5,297	8,162	5,297	8,162
Investment in property	418	418	418	418
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	551	551
	<u>19,072</u>	<u>21,317</u>	<u>19,623</u>	<u>21,868</u>

Listed investments are carried at their fair value. These investments comprise equities and fixed interest securities which are quoted in public markets, in the UK and overseas. Holdings in common investment funds are valued at the bid price. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

The Bible Society owns one investment property. Classified within long-term investments is 20 per cent (or one floor) of the Society's London based property which is currently surplus to the Society's immediate requirements and is being let to external tenants. This property was valued at 31 March 2015 by an independent professionally-qualified valuer. In the opinion of the Trustees, there has been no significant movement in this value since this time.

The unlisted permanently endowed funds comprise 6,667,000 (2018: 6,461,000) ordinary shares of £1 in William Leech (Investments) Limited, representing 20 per cent of the issued capital. The draft accounts (subject to audit) at its year end of 31 March 2019 show consolidated capital and reserves of £57,771,000 (2018: £55,000,000). Bible Society nominates a member for the board, but cannot exert significant influence over the company. Paul Chandler, one of Bible Society's Trustees, is an independent director of the company and is Chair of its board, but he does not act as a representative of Bible Society on the Leech board.

Bible Society's investment in its subsidiaries at 31 March 2019 was as follows:

(a) Bible Society Resources Limited:

Country of incorporation: England and Wales Company number 05450490.

Nature of business: Production and distribution of Bibles and other related products

Class of shares: Ordinary.

Holding: 100%.

Cost of investment: £551,049.

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

14. Investments (continued)

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Aggregate capital and reserves	629	547
Turnover for the year	5,976	5,841
Profit/(loss) for the year after tax	82	(4)

No gift aid payment was made to the Society during the year ending 31 March 2019 (2018: £nil). The subsidiary will make a gift aid payment to the charity equal to the taxable profits in the next financial year.

Dormant companies

- (b) Christian Research Association
- (c) Christian Booksellers Convention Limited
- (d) Incorporated British and Foreign Bible Society Association
- (e) Open the Book

The significance of financial instruments to the ongoing financial sustainability of the charity is considered in the financial review and investment policy performance sections of the Trustees' Annual Report.

The Charity manages investment risks by retaining expert advisors and operating an investment policy that provides for a degree of diversification of holdings within investment asset classes that are quoted on recognised stock exchanges. The investment managers also act within ethical policies agreed with the Charity. Ranges have been set for the percentage of holdings which may be held in any one asset class.

15. Stock

	Group	
	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Bible Publishing products	237	48
Finished goods held at other Bible Societies around the world as part of the Jireh programme	1,229	1,023
Total stock	<u>1,466</u>	<u>1,070</u>

The amount of stock recognised as an expense during the year was £4,659k (2018: £4,632k).

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

16. Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	303	393	2	6
Amounts due from subsidiary company	-	-	2,224	1,208
VAT recoverable	31	37	18	(17)
Sundry debtors	1,270	971	967	683
Due from United Bible Societies	237	637	-	3
	<u>1,841</u>	<u>2,038</u>	<u>3,211</u>	<u>1,882</u>

17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	1st April	Cash Flow	31 March
	2018		2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash at bank and in hand	6,525	2,991	9,516
	<u>6,525</u>	<u>2,991</u>	<u>9,516</u>

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	779	797	99	88
Sundry creditors	1,172	900	711	511
Due to United Bible Societies	1,183	670	1,183	670
	<u>3,134</u>	<u>2,367</u>	<u>1,993</u>	<u>1,269</u>

Previously, there was a cross guarantee agreement in place between Bible Society and its trading subsidiary to secure their overdraft. This guarantee was removed during the year.

Bible Society has given an indemnity to the International British and Foreign Bible Society Association (IBFBSA) such that Bible Society will cover all costs and expenses in relation to properties owned by IBFBSA which are held in trust for Bible Society, United Bible Societies and other Bible Societies around the world.

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

19. Creditors constructive obligation for funding commitments

	2019	2018
Group and Charity	£'000	£'000
Grants to United Bible Societies projects - at 1 April	2,100	2,100
Paid in the year	(2,800)	(2,800)
Pledged in the year	3,000	2,800
At 31 March	<u>2,300</u>	<u>2,100</u>

Bible Society pledges to make grants totalling a certain amount to the United Bible Societies each year. This is agreed on a calendar year basis in the preceding year and the Trustees consider that provision should be made for the balance of the grant agreed for the period 1 April to 31 December 2019. These are funded from supporters donations.

20. Financial instruments

	Group		Charity	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£000
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	11,082	9,902	8,564	7,469
Financial assets measured at fair value	19,072	21,317	19,623	21,868
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	2,752	2,367	1,993	1,269

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise of cash at bank, trade debtors, intercompany debtors, other debtors and accrued income. Financial assets held at fair value consist of investments. Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade creditors, accruals, other creditors.

21. Defined benefit pension scheme liability

Bible Society operates a contributory defined benefits pension scheme, known as the British and Foreign Bible Society 1972 Pension Scheme (the Scheme), for the benefit of its employees and some employees of United Bible Societies (UBS) employed in the UK. With effect from 1 October 2003, the scheme Trustees opened a new defined contribution section of the scheme and closed the existing defined benefits section to new members and to future accruals. Both Bible Society and UBS make contributions in respect of their members following the calculation of the actuaries. Following the triennial valuation at 1 April 2019, the Trustees of the scheme have accepted that the liability for funding the defined benefit section can be divided on the basis of 73 per cent to Bible Society and 27 per cent to UBS. With the advent of auto enrolment, staff with less than six months service and those employed on a casual basis are enrolled in a separate scheme administered through NEST.

The Scheme provides benefits based on final salary and length of service on retirement, leaving service or death. The following disclosure excludes any allowance for the defined contribution section of the scheme or any other schemes operated by the Employer.

The Scheme is subject to the Statutory Funding Objective under the Pensions Act 2004. A valuation of the Scheme is carried out at least once every three years to determine whether the Statutory Funding Objective

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

21. Defined benefit pension scheme liability (continued)

is met. As part of the process, the Employer must agree with the Trustees of the Scheme the contributions to be paid to address any shortfall against the Statutory Funding Objective.

The most recent comprehensive actuarial valuation of the Scheme was carried out as at 31 March 2018. The results of that valuation were updated by an independent qualified actuary to 31 March 2019 allowing for cashflows in and out of the Scheme and changes to assumptions over the period.

Bible Society expects to pay contributions of around £497,000 in the year to 31 March 2020. The scheme is managed by a Board of Trustees appointed in part by the employers participating in the Scheme and part from elections by members of the Scheme. The Trustees have responsibility for obtaining valuations of the fund, administering benefit payments and investing the Scheme's assets. The Trustees delegate some of these functions to their professional advisors where appropriate.

There were no plan amendments, curtailments or settlements during the period.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation is about 17 years.

	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
Discount rate	2.35%	2.7%
Inflation assumption (RPI)	3.25%	3.3%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.25%	2.3%
Fixed 3% pension increases	3.0%	3.0%
RPI min 3% max 5% pension increases	3.6%	3.6%
Mortality assumption	100% of S1NxA tables with the CMI 2017 projections using a minimum improvement of:	
	1.25%	1.0%
Tax free cash taken - as % of maximum	25.0%	25.0%

The contributions made by Bible Society during the year amounted to £444,000 (2018: £444,000).

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Fair value of assets	17,229	17,766
Present value of funded obligations	(23,023)	(22,069)
(Deficit) in scheme	(5,794)	(4,303)
Net defined benefit liability	(5,794)	(4,303)

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

21. Defined benefit pension scheme liability (continued)

The amounts recognised in the SoFA over the year:

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Administration costs	190	170
Interest on liabilities	588	616
Interest on assets	(475)	(491)
Past service costs	340	-
	643	295

Remeasurements over the year

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Loss (gain) on scheme assets in excess of interest	675	23
Experience losses (gains) on liabilities	(788)	49
Losses (gains) from changes to demographic assumptions	413	(518)
Losses (gains) from changes to financial assumptions	1,196	328
Total remeasurements	1,496	(118)

Reconciliation of assets and defined benefit obligation

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
The change in the defined benefit obligation over the period was:		
Defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period:-	22,069	22,368
Past service costs	340	-
Interest cost	588	616
Benefits paid	(795)	(774)
Experience (gain)/loss on defined benefit obligation	(788)	49
Changes to demographic assumptions	413	(518)
Changes to financial assumptions	1,196	328
	23,023	22,069

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

21. Defined benefit pension scheme liability (continued)

The change in the assets over the period was:	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	17,766	17,798
Interest on assets	475	491
Employer contributions	444	444
Rectification settlement	204	-
Benefits paid	(795)	(774)
Administration costs	(190)	(170)
Return on plan assets less interest	(675)	(23)
	<u>17,229</u>	<u>17,766</u>

The major categories of assets as a percentage of total assets are as follows:-	2019	2018
Equities	25.4%	21.0 %
Bonds	44.0%	48.0%
Cash	2.4%	2.0%
Other assets (including diversified growth funds)	28.2%	29.0%
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

The return on the assets over the period was a loss of £200,000. The assets do not include any investment in shares or property of the Employer.

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 March 2020 is £323,000 and the projected effect on the SoFA for the year to 31 March 2020 is:

	2020
Administration costs	190
Interest on liabilities	532
Interest on assets	(399)
Total	<u>323</u>

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

22. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in endowment funds

	1 April 2018	Incoming resources	Gains/ (losses) and invmt fees	Expenditure	31 March 2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
William Leech (Note a)	11,000	206	349	-	11,555
General purposes permanent endowed	1,754	-	74	(8)	1,820
	<u>12,754</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>423</u>	<u>(8)</u>	<u>13,375</u>
	1 April 2017	Incoming resources	Gains/ (losses) and invmt fees	Expenditure	31 March 2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
William Leech (Note a)	10,604	195	201	-	11,000
General purposes permanent endowed	1,759	-	5	(10)	1,754
	<u>12,363</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>(10)</u>	<u>12,754</u>

The funds are mainly held for the general purposes of the Society. The most significant of those held for special purposes and annotated above are for use as follows:

- (a) The Charity receives income from the William Leech Foundation on condition that 57 per cent is restricted for endowment purposes. The Charity has invested these proceeds in William Leech (Investments) Limited to generate general fund income in future years. In 2019, £365,184 was received (2018: £341,320) giving a reinvestment figure of £206,000 (2018: £195,000).

Analysis of movements in restricted fund

	1 April 2018	Incoming resources	Expenditure	31 March 2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restricted gifts - national	72	-	(9)	63
Restricted gifts - international	41	5,524	(5,531)	34
	<u>113</u>	<u>5,524</u>	<u>(5,540)</u>	<u>97</u>

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

22. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	1 April 2017	Incoming resources	Expenditure	31 March 2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restricted gifts - national	115	25	(68)	72
Restricted gifts - international	150	4,570	(4,679)	41
	<u>265</u>	<u>4,595</u>	<u>(4,747)</u>	<u>113</u>

Restricted funds are created by donors' stipulations. At 31 March 2019, there were 10 restricted funds (2018: 11). Restrictions can apply to the type of activity which can be undertaken, or the geographical area in which the money must be used, and at 31 March 2019, restrictions are as follows:

	£'000
Work in China	29
For roles to expand Open the Book into new regions	5
For Bible Course development	8
Seven other funds	55
	<u>97</u>

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	1 April 2018	Incoming resources	Expenditure	Designations	31 March 2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Funds designated annually:-					
Multi-year projects	220	-	(22)	31	229
Fixed assets used in charitable activities	4,574	-	(215)	-	4,359
Special Opportunities fund	1,546	-	(668)	-	878
Capital fund for Bible provision overseas (Project Jireh)	1,100	-	-	-	1,100
Total designated funds	<u>7,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(905)</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>6,566</u>
General fund:-					
Free reserves	9,913	7,109	(7,046)	(31)	9,945
Group	<u>17,353</u>	<u>7,109</u>	<u>(7,951)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,511</u>
Subsidiary movements	4	5,932	(6,014)	-	(78)
Charity	<u>17,357</u>	<u>13,041</u>	<u>(13,965)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,433</u>

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

22. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	1 April 2017	Incoming resources	Expenditure	Designations	31 March 2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Funds designated annually:-					
Multi-year projects	169	51	-	-	220
Fixed assets used in charitable activities	4,857	-	(283)	-	4,574
Special Opportunities fund	646	-	-	900	1,546
Capital fund for Bible provision overseas (Project Jireh)	1,100	-	-	-	1,100
Total designated funds	6,772	51	(283)	900	7,440
General fund:-					
Free reserves	9,180	8,822	(7,189)	(900)	9,913
Group	15,952	8,873	(7,472)	-	17,353
Subsidiary movements	0	5,785	(5,781)	-	4
Charity	15,952	14,658	(13,253)	-	17,357

The funds designated by the Trustees are for the following purposes:

Multi-year projects	To ensure commitments to partners can be met and projects in progress completed.
Fixed assets	To ensure that adequate reserves are set aside to allow for the depreciation of the Society's fixed assets.
Special Opportunities fund	To enable a step change in Society activity through additional one-off expenditure on current activities and initiation of new activities. The fund will be topped up from legacy and other variable income which is exceptionally above budgeted expectations.
Capital fund	To enable the provision of stocks of Bibles to those countries least able to afford them.

Transfers between funds:		2019	2018
		£'000	£'000
To:	From:		
Multi-year project designated fund	Free reserves general fund	31	-

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

23. Group analysis of net assets between funds

2019	General fund	Pension reserve	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Fund Balances
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,522	-	-	3,522
Investments	5,429	-	837	-	13,357	19,623
Net current assets	4,438	-	2,207	97	18	6,760
Defined benefit pension scheme reserve	-	(5,794)	-	-	-	(5,794)
Charity	9,867	(5,794)	6,566	97	13,375	24,111
Subsidiary reserves	78	-	-	-	-	78
Group	9,945	(5,794)	6,566	97	13,375	24,189
2018	General fund	Pension reserve	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Fund Balances
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,737	-	-	3,737
Investments	8,294	-	837	-	12,737	21,868
Net current assets	1,623	-	2,866	113	17	4,619
Defined benefit pension scheme reserve	-	(4,303)	-	-	-	(4,303)
Charity	9,917	(4,303)	7,440	113	12,754	25,921
Subsidiary reserves	(4)	-	-	-	-	(4)
Group	9,913	(4,303)	7,440	113	12,754	25,917

Notes To The Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2019 (continued).

24. Capital commitments and commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2019, Bible Society had authorised and contracted for capital expenditure of £nil (2018: £nil). Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases were as follows:

Equipment	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Within one year	13	12
Within two years	1	12
Within three years	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15	24

25. Contingent assets

Bible Society often receives notifications of residual legacies, where the amounts of these are not known until cash is eventually received. These notifications are subject to a number of uncertainties including whether assets will be sufficient to pay all pecuniary legacies, whether other residual legatees exist and fluctuations in market valuations.

26. Related party transactions

The Charity enjoys a close working relationship with the United Bible Societies, which is a charity, to whom all of the international grants are made, and through whom controls over expenditure of such monies are operated. The total value of grants given in the year of £4,579,000 is shown in note 6.

The charity charged the subsidiary £130,000 (2018: £203,000) for office space, IT and payroll services. At the end of the year, the subsidiary has owed the charity £2,223,982 (2018: £1,207,519). The sales from the subsidiary to the charity for the year came to £44,000 (2018: £56,000).



Together, we're bringing the Bible to life – thank you.

We would like to thank every individual and organisation, our church supporters and action groups, who supported our work in the last financial year. We would particularly like to thank all those who support us regularly, enabling us to plan ahead with confidence. We also remember with gratitude the generosity of donors who left gifts to us in their wills.

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