

Company Registration No. 06458814 (England and Wales)
Charity Registration No. 1138101

OPERATION NOAH

DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

OPERATION NOAH

COMPANY INFORMATION

Operation Noah is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and a Charity Registered in England & Wales. Its primary Governing Documents are a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Directors

Mr John Beardmore (until January)
Mrs Nicola Bull
Revd Dr Darrell Hannah
Mr David Miller
Ms Holly Petersen
Revd Dr Martin Poulson
Revd Richard Dimery (until July)
Mr Kevin Shang
Mrs Claire Ives
Mr Cameron Conant
Ms Rachie Elizabeth Ross
Ms Shilpita Mathews (from January)
Ms Stephanie Lake (from January)
Ms Hannah Malcolm (from January)

Secretary Mr David Miller

Company number 06458814

Charity number 1138101

Registered office

The Neighbourhood Office
40 Bermondsey Street
London
SE1 3UD

Independent Examiner Mr Malcolm W Rogers
CEng, FBCS, FIC, ACIE

Bankers The Co-operative Bank

OPERATION NOAH

A Company limited by guarantee

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Directors, who are also the trustees of the Charity, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Objects of the Company

The object of the Charity is to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment particularly with regards to climate change and global warming, in accordance with Christian principles.

Public benefit

In planning activities for the year, the board of Directors confirm that they have given due regard to the Charity Commission's legislative and regularity requirements to comply with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This report outlines how our achievements during the year have benefited the public.

Summary of Financial Position for the Year and at 31st December 2021

The Charity's income in 2021 was £173,591 (£82,610 in 2020), and the expenditure was £84,737 (£108,696 in 2020), giving a 2021 surplus of £88,854 (£26,086 deficit in 2020). The large surplus was due to the first instalment of a major grant being received towards the end of the year for a new two-year project being undertaken in 2022-2023. Key figures are shown in the table:

Summary of SOFA for 2021 (2020)

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Donations	19,658	10	19,688	15,888
Gift Aid	1,593		1,593	1,343
Grants		150,814	150,814	62,745
Primary-purpose Trading	1,476		1,476	2,352
Interest	20		20	261
Other income	19		19	21
Total Receipts	22,767	150,824	173,591	82,610
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable Activities	8,504	55,997	64,501	88,975
Cost of Raising Funds	553	3,108	3,661	2,102
Governance Costs	1,177		1,177	4,248
Other Support Costs	4,621	10,777	15,397	13,371
Total Expenditure	14,855	69,882	84,737	108,696
Surplus/(Deficit)	7,912	80,942	88,854	(26,086)

Assets and Liabilities

The Charity's net assets increased by £88,854 during financial year 2021, thus:

Current Assets	2021	2020
Cash at Bank and in hand	145,055	59,418
Debtors	2,293	1,343
Creditors	(2,170)	(4,437)
Total assets less current liabilities	145,178	56,324

The Restricted and Unrestricted funds increased by a total of £88,854. All fund balances were positive as at 31 December 2021.

	Closing Balance 31-12-20	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Closing Balance 31-12-21
Total Restricted Funds	32,492	150,824	69,882	80,942	113,434
Unrestricted Funds	23,832	22,767	14,855	7,912	31,744
Grand Total	56,324	173,591	84,737	88,854	145,178

Covid-19

The Charity has continued to operate under the restrictions caused by the pandemic during 2021. Staff have been retained and, whilst mostly working at home through the year, have also used the London office on occasions in the second half of the year. The campaigns engaged in by the Charity have enjoyed considerable success and have not been significantly compromised by being conducted online.

Board meetings have been held using Zoom and this has enabled trustees from around the country to participate fully. An Annual Supporters Day was held, also using Zoom. Attendance, as in 2020, was higher than had been the case with in-person attendance pre-pandemic.

Income has held up well; unrestricted donations exceeded those enjoyed pre-pandemic. Some of the Charity's costs have continued to be lower than usual. Office rent was frozen for the first four months of 2021 and travel and subsistence costs have been minimal.

Governance

Following the adoption of the new Governing Document for the Charity in 2020, the membership of the charity now comprises the trustees solely. The requirement to hold an AGM has been removed. The desire to nurture supporters of the charity has been met by holding a Supporters Day, which is planned to be an annual event. Trustees are now able to be appointed at any Board meeting and re-appointment for a second or third term takes place at the first board meeting in each calendar year.

Risk Management

The Trustees conducted a review of the risks faced by the charity and produced a Risk Assessment statement, which will now be the focus of regular review.

Management of financial risks has continued to be undertaken by regular reporting of income, expenditure and fund balances. A budget for unrestricted income was agreed for 2021, and regular reporting of unrestricted income and expenditure now shows variances against budget where these may arise.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy was updated and approved by Trustees at the November board meeting.

Chair's report – 2022

As in 2020, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions have meant that all staff members have worked from home and board meetings have taken place exclusively online. Nonetheless, the work of Operation Noah has continued much as normal throughout 2021. With COP26 in November, a number of divestment announcements at various points in the year and the initiation of a new project, 2021 was an historic year for ON. Looking back over last year, there are a number of things to highlight in our work at Operation Noah during 2021.

Summary of activities

In **February** Operation Noah helped organise a webinar for Methodist campaigners. The founder of the global divestment movement, Bill McKibben, was one of the speakers. This webinar was watched live by over four hundred individuals.

March witnessed another successful webinar organised by Operation Noah, this one for climate campaigners in the Anglican Communion. It included speakers from South Africa, New Zealand and all four United Kingdom nations. The keynote speaker was the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft. More than two hundred individuals joined us live for this webinar.

In **April** the Methodist Church fully divested from fossil fuels. Operation Noah worked with Methodist campaigners to bring this about.

In **May** the Church of Scotland divested from oil and gas companies. Operation Noah supported members of the Church of Scotland to bring this to fruition.

May also saw the first of two Global Divestment Announcements organised and sponsored by Operation Noah, along with our partners at the Laudato Si' Movement, Green Anglicans, the World Council of Churches and GreenFaith. In this month, 36 faith institutions from 11 countries announced their divestment from fossil fuels. Among others, this announcement included divestment decisions by the Church in Wales, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Roman Catholic diocese of Hallam and the Anglican dioceses of Oxford and Bristol.

In **June**, we held our annual Supporters' Event. One of our trustees, Hannah Malcolm, chaired the online event. Over 80 people registered to hear from our speakers, Chine McDonald of Christian Aid, Dave Gregory of the Baptist Union Environmental Network and Josh Tregale of Mock COP26. We also had breakout sessions, providing opportunities for supporters to discuss specific environmental and theological topics.

In **September** we secured funding to significantly expand our Bright Now campaign. This new funding will allow us to hire two new staff members and to scale up our work with UK Churches and faith institutions on investment in climate solutions, such as renewable energy. As part of this expansion of Bright Now, we will also work with partners on a campaign to encourage the Church of England to increase tree coverage on its land and improve its land management practices, given the urgent climate and biodiversity crises.

October witnessed the second Global Divestment Announcement (again co-sponsored with the Laudato Si' Movement, Green Anglicans, the World Council of Churches and GreenFaith). With 72 faith institutions, from six continents, making divestment commitments totalling more than £3.1 billion (\$4.2 billion), this was the largest-ever joint divestment announcement. UK Church institutions who joined this divestment announcement included the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland, the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, 15 Catholic dioceses in the UK and Ireland, including the Archdioceses of Glasgow, St Andrews & Edinburgh, Birmingham and Southwark, and the Anglican dioceses of Truro, Sodor & Man, Norwich and Durham.

After being postponed for a year because of Covid, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) finally met in Glasgow, in **November**. Operation Noah made its presence felt at the conference. One of our trustees, Shilpita Mathews, an environmental economist, was an official observer at the conference, and our Bright Now

Campaign Manager, James Buchanan, spoke at several events and helped organise a powerful in-person discussion on divestment and climate justice, which we also live-streamed to an international audience.

Not only did COP26 take place in **November**, but this month also saw the conclusion of an initiative which began with Operation Noah: Climate Sunday. This year-long initiative culminated with an ecumenical service in Glasgow Cathedral. Over 2,200 UK churches held climate-themed services during the year in the build up to COP26. Many of those churches also lobbied their MP, signed the Climate Coalition's letter calling for more ambitious climate action or joined a church greening scheme.

In **December** we interviewed for and hired two new employees to help with the expansion of Bright Now (mentioned above). They will begin working in January 2022.

Also in **December**, Shell announced that it would no longer fund the Cambo oil field, west of Shetland. While majority stakeholder Siccar Point Energy still hopes to take the project forward with new backers, it is now pausing the project as Shell's withdrawal means it is unable to keep to the 'originally planned timescale.' Cambo would produce annual emissions equivalent to 18 coal-fired power stations and is the first of more than a dozen proposed new North Sea oil projects. Operation Noah is proud to be an official partner of the Stop Cambo campaign. At the time of Shell's announcement, ON was helping to organise an open letter to the Church of England's Pension Board, which leads on engagement with Shell, urging the Pension Board to make it clear to Shell it must 'abandon plans for the Cambo oil field.' The letter had been signed by over seventy CofE clergy and bishops.

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary (US), the Society of the Sacred Heart, Society of the Holy Child Jesus and Porticus for the grant funding we received from them during 2021. We also continue to be very fortunate in having regular donor supporters who give to the unrestricted funds that are needed to cover the ongoing running costs of Operation Noah.

- **Staff: Ruth Jarman**, a founding member of the Operation Noah board, continued to served efficiently as Operation Noah's Administrator during the last year. She has ensured that our administration continues to run smoothly and that enquiries and requests for resources are responded to promptly. In Septmeber trustee Cameron Conant took over as our Communications Officer (our new governing document allowing trustees to receive remuneration for providing services to the charity). Cameron has done great work on social media and with the website and the newsletter. We were very pleased **Bokani Tshidzu** has continued in her role of Bright Now Campaign Officer. She and **James Buchanan** have worked very hard on the campaign throughout the year and under the difficult circumstances necessitated by the pandemic.
- **Trustees:** Board members continued to work extremely hard throughout 2021: **Revd Richard Dimery** and **John Beardmore** both stepped down from the board during the last year. **Dr Martin Poulson** continued to be responsible for oversight of the Bright Now campaign. **Holly Petersen** has resumed her role on the board after taking time out for a year, due to work pressures. Treasurer, **David Miller**, worked tirelessly throughout the year and reports to each board meeting as well as producing an annual budget and our submission to the UK Charity Commission. **Dr Darrell Hannah** has remained as Chair of Trustees, with **Nicky Bull** continuing as Acting Vice-Chair.
- We were delighted to appoint a number of new board members during 2021: **Stephanie Lake**, **Hannah Malcolm** and **Shilpita Mathews** all joined the board in January of 2021. **Paul Redfern** was also added to the board in January of 2022. We continue to have a strong team of all ages and with a good spread of expertise and experience.

Impact Benefit Statement

During the year, Operation Noah has continued to reach out to Christians on the issue of climate change and to make progress in its campaign on fossil fuel divestment. It:

- promoted its resources, including *Church Investments in major oil companies: Paris compliant or Paris defiant?*; *Divest your Church (a guide for local churches)*; and *Tenants of the King*;

- promoted its work and publications at a number of events, including the Faith for the Climate Network meetings, as well as through developing and updating our website, regular newsletters and social media posts;
- sought to widen its impact by continuing to collaborate with other organisations and by membership of the Environmental Issues Network and the Faith for the Climate Network; and
- worked with key stakeholders and attended meetings with church investors to scrutinise engagement with fossil fuel companies.

Recruitment and induction of trustees

Trustees are selected on the basis of their expertise, skills and knowledge and upon the benefits that these can bring to the Charity. New trustees are briefed on the activities of the Charity by other trustees and by the staff; their attention is drawn in particular to their legal obligations under Charity Law and the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

The Charity has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

This Annual Report, and the associated Annual Accounts, were both approved at the meeting of the Trustees held on 13th June 2022; the Directors / Trustees in office at that date were:

Mrs Nicola Bull	Revd Dr Darrell Hannah	Mr David Miller
Revd Dr Martin Poulson	Ms Holly Petersen	Mr Cameron Conant
Mr Kevin Shang	Mrs Claire Ives	Ms Shilpita Matthews
Ms Rachie Ross	Ms Stephanie Lake	Ms Hannah Malcolm
Mr Paul Redfern		

This report was signed on behalf of the Directors/Trustees by:

[signed on original]

Revd Dr Darrell Hannah

13th June 2022