

Report on The Gibbs Charitable Trust 2010-11

Charity Number 207997

Secretary's address: 8 Victoria Square, Bristol BS8 4ET.

Trustees 2010/11: John N Gibbs (Chair), James Gibbs (Secretary), Andrew Gibbs (Treasurer), Celia Gibbs, Elizabeth Gibbs, Jessica Gibbs, James Daniel Gibbs, John Edward Gibbs, Juliet Gibbs, Patience Gibbs, Rebecca Gibbs, William Gibbs.

Independent Examiner: John Price, 18 Archer Road, Penarth, CF64 3HW.

The Trust Deed provides for officers as indicated above and for the Trustees to co-opt others to join them.

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have regarded the aims of the Trust as being to support three main areas of work all of which confer public benefit. These are innovative undertakings by Methodist churches and organisations, other Christian Causes, and a wider category in the fields of the creative arts, education, social and international concern. The pattern is for the Trustees to meet three times during the financial year: around Easter, in late summer, and after Christmas.

The Trust's net assets, which stood at £2,039,373 on 31 March 2011, are principally in Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) Income Shares held by the CCLA. The Trustees are able to expend capital and disperse more than the dividend and bank interest income. During the 2010-2011 financial year grants totalling £86,600 were made. £7,000 was given to Methodist Churches undertaking development / refurbishment / other schemes, sometimes to circuits with which Trustees were familiar. Other Methodist bodies or initiatives received £6,500 of which £3,000 went to the New Room, Bristol. Other Christian bodies and initiatives received £7,500. The largest grant in this section was £2,000 to Connect, Devon. The Trust gave a total of £17,500 to applicants in the field of the Arts, Drama and Music, including £2000 to Cardboard Citizens, £2,000 to the Oval House, £2,000 to the St Paul's Carnival and £2,000 to the Welsh National Opera. A total of £6,000 was distributed to applicants in a category designated 'Social, Educational and Medical Need'. Grants totalling £42,100 were made to international causes. This figure included £5,000 to Christian Aid (Haiti), £3,000 to the Canon Collins Educational trust, £3,000 to Oxfam (Bangladesh) and £3,000 to Traidcraft.

The Trustees rarely claim expenses for work carried out or for journeys made in connection with the Trust, but they recognise that contributions towards these costs, and towards the costs involved in conducting correspondence, etc., may be made. In 2010-2011 administrative costs amounted to £751. This figure included accountancy services (£365), and subscription to the Association of Charitable Foundations.

The Trust encourages applicants to be brief (certainly no more than four sides, including summary of budget) and to look at list of grants made before writing. It takes every opportunity to inform applicants that the Secretary does not, normally, acknowledge receipt of applications nor does he write to unsuccessful applicants. The Trust only makes grants to UK registered charities and does not consider unsolicited applications from individuals.