



# Annual Report

Year Ending 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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## Introduction

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### The Main Aim of SoundCafe

At SoundCafe (SCL), we gather together as a weekly drop-in café, inspiring our clients to explore, grow and express their artistic talents. A key focus is providing meaningful daytime activities that develop new skills and help clients believe in themselves.

SCL offers an open door for adults to explore and experience meaningful activities with volunteer led sessions that enable guests to:

- engage in art & crafts,
- write poetry/ prose
- perform musically, or recite their own or others' poetry
- perform in the SoundCafe choir
- participate in listening projects which empower guests to feel heard and understood

SoundCafe is a registered charity providing a safe creative space for adults who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, vulnerable or socially isolated as a consequence of their living arrangements.

**Over 30 volunteers** including Samaritans support SCL's work.

### Trustees

Our trustees are responsible for the overall governance and control of the running of SoundCafe Leicester and routinely meet up to 6 times a year. All the trustees, except where otherwise stated, served for the whole year. All trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid in the year.

In light of the delay in approving our Annual Report due to covid-19, we have indicated any further changes in Trustees for information.

Mrs Roz Burch (Chairperson)

Revd. Helen Hayes (Vice-chair resigned July 2020)

Mr Geof Pearce (Health and safety)

Mr Pete Miller (Business Manager and Hon. Treasurer appointed 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 for a two-year term)

Mrs Sandie Sobieraj (Pastoral - re-appointed March 2020 for a further two-year term)

Mr. Alan Fletcher (Risk, Policy & Development – appointed 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 for a two-year term; appointed co-chair July 2020)

The trustees of SCL include those with experience of working with rough sleepers, long term homeless, people who are socially isolated or those with drug or mental health issues and who are destitute. This experience has shown us that we need to provide creative solutions to meet the diverse needs of those who are or were once homeless.

SCL welcomes everyone regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender or ability. SoundCafe provides the opportunity to explore the Christian faith for those who wish to do so.

[Roz Burch, Co-Chair of Trustees.](#)

## SoundCafe's Year

### Strategic Highlights



The last year has been an amazing year for SoundCafe not least because in October 2019 we celebrated our fifth birthday. The event was celebrated with guest musical and poetry performances and a rather large cake and candles!

We have also seen our guest numbers grow with average attendances now at 53. We have increased our agreement with St. Martins House as demand has risen and we have exceeded 60 guests in a session. Whilst demand continues to grow it is the transformation of lives of those who attend that is truly inspirational.

For our guests, SCL has seen their individual development flourish including:

- guests actively undertaking leadership roles: one guest developing in a session compere role and another as quiz master. Sessions are increasingly led by guests offering positive encouragement and development for others to participate
- Working in partnership and across other agencies including Centre project and Dear Albert with the result that not only was SCL a part of Recovery week in September 2019, but guests are now bringing their skills to benefit both charities.
- Guests entertaining one another and performing each week, we no longer invite in performers, but the focus is by the guests for the guests.
- One guest on the art table is now tutoring a fellow guest in his artistic development and another has enrolled on an Open university course of study.
- February 2020, guests participated in the DMU Roll Call project, a three day event which engaged with service users of local homelessness support organisations in Leicester together with DMU students in creative music workshops led by skilled musicians specialising in social engagement arts practice.



In November 2019, SCL was awarded City Small Charity of the Year Award at the first Voluntary Action Leicester & Leicestershire (VALL) awards ceremony.

None of this would have been possible however without the dedication and commitment of our volunteer team, guests and Trustees.

Rachel Griffiths - Manager

### This Year

It has been an incredible journey for SoundCafe since that first meeting in the Spring of 2014 when I gathered a room full of people at St Martins House who had shown an interest in setting up a choir for people who are homeless.

Little did we know what SoundCafe would become. A place of hospitality and welcome every Wednesday afternoon at St Martins House in The Great Hall where upwards of 50 people who are either homeless or socially isolated gather to sing, perform, write/share poetry, partake in arts and crafts, receive from pastoral care provided by The Samaritans and our pastoral team and enjoy a good cup of tea/coffee and cake.

If I had been asked all those years ago if I had thought SoundCafe would have become what it is today with 4 years of major performances in Leicester Cathedral by the choir including a British Premier of the Beatitude Mass by Henry Mollicone and arts festival celebrating the creative works of our guests, my answer would definitely have been no way.

The reality is that our guests and volunteers, the very people who share together every Wednesday have shaped what SoundCafe has become today and that is why it is such a success and continues to go from strength to strength year on year.

When SoundCafe was launched in October 2014 the basic idea had been to create a café environment and invite accomplished musicians to come and play at the sessions so that people who are homeless could access the arts. We were going to trial a choir that would rehearse before the session began, just for half an hour and practice some simple songs that the choir would then sing at the sessions.

It was a crazy time for all our volunteers giving something a go that no one had any idea whether it would work.

The choir was a slow starter with only a few guests and volunteers joining in rehearsals in the Booth Hall at St Martins House. But as the rumours gathered that there was going to be a concert in Leicester Cathedral to commemorate Homelessness Sunday, interest grew, and a substantial choir was developed and the rest is history, as they say.

All this feels a long way from where we are now with a professional conductor, Emma Trounson taking weekly rehearsals in Leicester Cathedral after the main session and choir members who have not only built their identity as a choir but most importantly their own self-confidence and self-worth.

And this is why SoundCafe was born, to enable our guests who come to realise that they each have gifts to offer and to restore human dignity to those who often are either ignored or treated with disdain.

Since we started, we have seen guests like Jackie, empowered not just to perform but compere the session, introducing the acts. John, a guest who has been on and off homeless since he was 14 years old become an ambassador for SoundCafe, speaking at major events, TV and Radio, including the BBC 4's Listening Project. John starting an Open University Degree, Paul compering a quiz each week compiled by him.

Such a joy to watch our guests grow in confidence week by week and see people start to really value and respect themselves. Many of whom have never had settled safe lives.

And what is so exciting about SoundCafe is that the vision and creative possibilities of what can be achieved by our guests keeps growing.

This year football sessions have been trialed with support from Leicester City Football Club. This has been an initiative of Maria O'Brien our Volunteer Coordinator and Administrator and it has been a huge success with potential in the future for the team playing other football teams from around the country. Lives transformed as people's lives are given meaning and worth.

SoundCafe has gone from strength to strength in growing its volunteer base as well. In those early days of dreaming what SoundCafe might be, volunteers were gathered from the West Leicester Mission Partnership churches where my Pioneer ministry was based and from Groby Sings, a community choir I conduct. Volunteers were few and it was 'all hands-on deck' to

cover all the roles needed. Now the volunteer base numbers 28 and we are welcoming new people with skills that can be shared each week at the sessions.

It is hugely important that as a charity everything is governed well and we have also seen two new trustees join the board in the last 18 months, trustees with key financial, strategic and development skills. All excellent news in ensuring SoundCafe is secure and sustainable.

We also recognise that it is important that SoundCafe, as a Bishop's Mission Order has an appointed Chaplain. I stepped down last year as Chaplain of SoundCafe having left moved to Derbyshire and my position as a Pioneer Priest with the West Leicester Mission Partnership and it is with great joy we have been pleased to see Rev'd Liz Wilson, vicar of St Anne's and St Paul's and St Augustines take on this position of Chaplain, ensuring that the connection with the WLMP continues into the future.

There is always a huge amount information to share both within a SoundCafe session and externally to those around us to tell the story of SoundCafe and technology has been introduced to do that more effectively. We now have an updated website; Facebook page and we have launched a guest information service at every session using electronic tablets for signposting our guests to where they can get the best help.

We have also increasingly recognised that our sessions are hugely important to our guests who are often isolated and lonely, and this has led us to stay open throughout the year. We trialed a summer style 'drop-in' café and it was very successful allowing the sessions to run on fewer volunteers as they took their holidays and yet still remain open.

And as we go forward it is hoped that SoundCafe will continue to be innovative and visionary as a charity. The next big dream is to enable our guests to tell the story of what it means to be homeless in a performance called 'Speaking of Homelessness' at Leicester Cathedral in 2021 resourced by a grant through the Arts Council which will include all the elements of a SoundCafe session – music, song, poetry, art and drama. All incredibly exciting.

As I write this, we are in very uncertain times with COVID-19. Our weekly sessions are closed because of social distancing restrictions and we have no idea when SoundCafe can re-open. But we are reminded that this uncertainty in our lives is something our guests at SoundCafe are sadly very accustomed to. Lives that aren't safe. Lives that aren't secure and predictable. Our hope as we look to re-open when restrictions are lifted is that SoundCafe can enable



those in great need to access a place once a week where their lives can feel valued and where they feel safe enough to explore the gifts each one of them has.

As I step down as a trustee and Vice Chair of SoundCafe, I want to say a huge thank you for all our amazing and inspiring guests, volunteers and supporters for making this journey possible and wish SoundCafe all the best with its future dreams of what it can be. Dream big SoundCafe. Dream big

[Helen Hayes – Founding Trustee.](#)

### A note of thanks to Helen

SoundCafe owes its birth, development and nurture to Helen in a remarkable way. Her vision, energy and compassionate care is a legacy we would be foolish to forget. Helen's inspiration and hard graft are a real testament for the foundation of this amazing thing we call SoundCafe. Without Helen many people, including myself, would not have been enriched by the community and family that has grown together - made up of an "Allsorts" packet of unlikely relationships and understandings. Our heartfelt thanks go to Helen on a variety of levels - her humour and wisdom has been appreciated from the start and she will be sorely missed. But SoundCafe will build onwards from these fantastic foundations and we will continue to be proud of all we can achieve together. We wish Helen well - and send our hopes for an improvement in her voice challenges so that maybe she will one day be able to inspire others with her music and sense of fun.

[Roz Burch, Co-Chair of Trustees.](#)

*SoundCafe is only possible with the commitment and support of our volunteer team.*



## Volunteers

<u>Team</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Welcome Team	Geof Pearce
Catering & Front of House	Carol Knill
Pastoral	Sandie Sobieraj
Choir	Emma Trounson
Sound system	Heather Newcombe
Poetry	Richard Byrt
Arts & Crafts	Pat Pearce
Volunteer Co-ordination support	Cathy Goddard/Carol Knill

We have introduced a number of initiatives including:

- a weekly volunteer Circle Time update which ensures that every volunteer is kept informed and updated even if they are unable to attend a session.
- a new Facebook page to keep volunteers and guests updated.
- using Sign-Up Genius where volunteers indicate their attendance at sessions, which has enabled better planning of sessions and team organisation.
- a revised approach to volunteer training which enabled volunteers to interact and make suggestions on how elements could be improved. The training was also adapted to incorporate the impact and identification of modern-day slavery.

Our volunteer recruitment drive is on-going and we are working with Voluntary Action Leicestershire to facilitate this as well as using social media to attract new volunteers.

[Maria O'Brien – Volunteer & Administrative Services Co-ordinator](#)

## Financial Highlights

While the past year has seen some great successes on the fund-raising front, the big concern, as this report is being written, is the lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic and the impact on the economy, which will inevitably have a major impact on fund raising for SoundCafe Leicester.

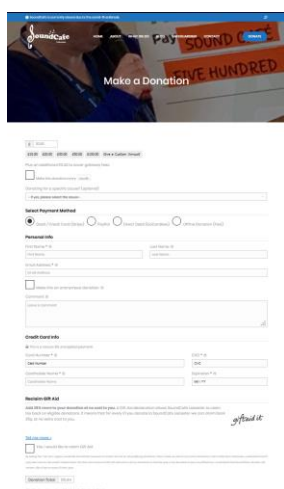
During the last year we have had a number of gifts and donations, as shown in the accounts, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who has donated or set up the regular payment plans to the charity. We are also delighted to have secured funding from the Leicester Diocese Board of Finance, Growth Fund for another two years, which will be a significant contribution to our running costs. Nevertheless, the grant is on a reducing basis and we will have to replace that funding over the lifetime of the grant.

Turning now to future funding, the first thing to report is that we have been successful in obtaining a lottery grant from the Arts Council, to be used for the Speaking of Homelessness project.

In the wider context, the Board of Trustees has set up a sub-committee to review and increase fundraising activities. Our intention is to increase public awareness of the charity by a variety of mechanisms, including social media, advertising, and leafleting. Our intention is to try and increase fundraising by increasing the number of people who make regular contributions by standing order, as well as increasing our profile with the Leicester and Leicestershire business communities. Many businesses, regardless of size, support charities and often have a preference for supporting local charities that are perceived, quite rightly, as needing the support more. Some of the newer trustees have strong links with the business community and will be working on leveraging those links to try and generate support, both regular and one-off.

A number of other possibilities are being contemplated, including appeals at church services, and annual fund-raising events.

In order to assist with this work, the Board of Trustees are using the services of a marketing and PR professional who has a wide range of expertise across a number of marketing channels as well as being fully embedded within the Leicestershire business community. Initially, this was intended to ramp up the income of the charity significantly, to allow us to



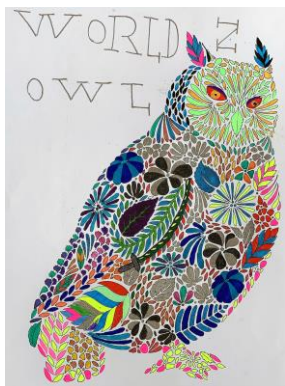
replace things like the LDBF Growth Fund money, and to generally increase our activities. Under the current circumstances, however, our efforts will be geared as much towards maintaining current levels of income, instead.

Nevertheless, we remain optimistic that public awareness of homelessness has, to some extent, been increased due to the issues raised by the pandemic and that we will be able to increase our fundraising and maintain, and possibly increase, our income in the short to medium term, for the benefit of vulnerable adults throughout the county.

Pete Miller – Trustee (Hon Treasurer)

### Operating Highlights

#### Arts and Crafts



Another creative year has been enjoyed by our Arts and Crafts team and guests.

Much of the wonderful work undertaken by volunteers and guests was on display in the Cathedral at our Christmas 2019 special.



Beautiful handmade cards, unique beaded Christmas decorations and bead bracelets to list but a few.



Within sessions guests have been supported by the arts and crafts team with painting, drawing, 'stained glass' style hanging decorations, knitting, crochet and sewing.

One guest has been supporting others on the table to develop their painting skills. The work produced is amazing and enables our guests to 'find their voice' in another way.

Pat Pearce – Team Leader (Arts & Crafts)

### Choir

It has been another exciting year for the SoundCafe Choir and they have taken part in various performances over the course of the year. This year, their conductor Emma Trounson has worked on breathing technique, accurate pitching and rhythmic skills, as well as singing in different harmony parts.

SoundCafe choir had a busy Summer Term: On the May day bank holiday, SoundCafe choir performed in the Cathedral Gardens as part of an arts event which was being hosted by churches all over Leicester. In July, SoundCafe Choir hosted a Summer Spectacular to showcase the songs they had been working on throughout the Summer Term. These included a few new songs and featured solo verses sung by guests.



*"I'm so proud of how well SoundCafe choir stepped up to the challenge of singing two concerts in the Summer Term. Attendance from the choir was high at the concerts and there was a real enthusiasm and a desire to do give the best performance possible. One of the wonderful things about this choir is that they not only sing for their own enjoyment and wellbeing, but they sing for each other – it's a real community. They worked so hard to learn the songs and they absolutely gave their all to the rehearsals and performances. Everyone loved singing one of our great new songs: 'Power in me', which is an uplifting pop song with lyrics about self-motivation and believing in yourself, even when things seem too hard." (Emma Trounson).*

In the Autumn term, after a few weeks of singing some non-Christmassy songs, the choir started work on their Christmas repertoire. They received some funding for red Christmas folders and they gained some more blue SoundCafe t-shirts for newer members. The choir now has two dedicated guest helpers, (complete with lanyards!) who help with handing out and taking in folders to choir members. The choir were excited to record a video of one of these new songs: 'Behold that star' which was released on YouTube as part of the Cathedral's Musical Advent Calendar project. SoundCafe hosted a Christmas concert at the Cathedral in December where they showcased old and new Christmas repertoire, decked out in Christmas hats, accompanied on the piano by professional accompanist Josephine Markham. Poetry by



*SoundCafe is only possible with the commitment and support of our volunteer team.*



SoundCafe guests was read out by members of the choir in between songs. The concert was open to members of the public and they were encouraged to donate to SoundCafe and visit the stalls of SoundCafe and our partner organisations.



*Emma said "Everyone was so proud of the Musical Advent Calendar video we produced. The choir love the idea of making good quality videos they can show to other and watch themselves again. At the Christmas concert, we all got into the festive spirit and performed an eclectic mix of songs, some of which we encourage the audience to join in with. The feedback from the audience was lovely – one gentleman told me that he only intended to come for 10 minutes, but he was enjoying it so much, he stayed for the whole thing!"*

### Pastoral



At SoundCafe we recognise and understand that our guests have encountered many hardships in their lives and still struggle on a daily basis. We are vigilant in making sure that we provide a safe creative space at all times and that all guests and volunteers understand and follow our guidelines.

As guests have got to know us, they have felt happy to share their telephone numbers in order that we can contact them if they have missed a few sessions. This has proved successful and we have been able to provide a level of telephone support through difficult times.

Another initiative has been to establish an Information and Signposting Service to help guests access advice with problems such as benefits, housing or bereavement.

Again, this year we have renewed our Memorandum of Understanding with the Samaritans who continue to provide wonderful support to our guests, alongside our amazing volunteers and helpers.

**Sandie Sobieraj – Trustee (Pastoral)**

### Poetry and Prose

The main aim of the poetry and writing tables is for Guests to feel welcome, and if they wish, enjoy writing, or reading anthologies, in a relaxed environment. Volunteers are available to help with writing, and Guests also have opportunities to write and draw on “talking tablecloths”.

We aim to make writing accessible and available to everyone who would like to express themselves through poetry or prose. Many Guests write regularly, and several read or perform their work, or their favourite published poems or prose, at SoundCafe. Guests’ poems were also read at a Christmas carol event, led by the SoundCafe choir, in Leicester Cathedral. Many Guests continue to combine their writing with singing and/or visual artwork; and several are also involved in local poetry events such as Pinggg...K! and AfterWORD!

Kate and Rick continue to be regular volunteers at the Poetry and Writing tables, and we were very pleased to welcome two De Montfort University Students, on placement with us. A big Thank You to Guests, Volunteers, including the Trustees, Students, and Rachel, Manager, and Maria, Administrator, for all their support.

Future planned work includes participation in a SoundCafe Speaking of Homelessness Project on experiences of homelessness. This will take place in Leicester Cathedral, and enable Guests to voice their experiences and views through acting, music and visual arts, as well as poetry. We are very fortunate that Peter Rumney, Artistic Director of Dragon Breath Theatre, is supporting this project, funded by the Arts Council, and look forward to working with him in the future, once the Coronavirus crisis is over.

[Richard Byrt – Team Leader \(Creative Writing\)](#)

### Welcome, Health & Safety

SoundCafe Front of House Team aim to provide a safe creative space for our guests, volunteers and visitors. The Team endeavors to ensure awareness of Health and Safety guidelines at all times in close liaison with Team Leaders and St Martins House. Policies and Procedures are reviewed annually by the Trustee Board to ensure that operational performance and standards are maintained.

In February 2020 we introduced a new Guest Welfare policy to ensure that if guests were taken ill during a session there were clear guidelines to ensure they were supported in accessing appropriate follow-up care.

Geof Pearce – Trustee (Health & Safety)

### Football Workshops



In October 2019 we held a pilot football workshop and as a result we now hold weekly football training sessions at St Margaret's Pastures in partnership with Leicester City Football Club who are providing a coach for these sessions. We have participants from other Homeless Charity providers in the City. The football workshops provide the opportunity for up to 16 guests to train a week.



Our thanks not only to the support given through LCFC but equally Fanatics a local business have provided football kits and boots donated through Shoe Aid. We have also secured an FA Just Play Centre grant of £300.

Some Premier League and Championship football clubs have expressed an interest in participating in tournaments and matches.

Maria Obrien – Volunteer Football Co-ordinator



# Financial Summary

## Financial Summary

### **SoundCafe Leicester** (*Registered charity 1162987*)

#### **Financial statement for the year March 10 2019 – March 09 2020**

Receipts & Payments Account	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Year
<b>Receipts</b>					<b>Rounded to the nearest pound</b>
Donations from Individuals and Companies	12001.41	-	-	-	12001
Growth Fund and Leicester Diocese Board of Finance	-	8623.00	-	-	8623
Friends of SoundCafe - Standing Orders	1678.00	-	-	-	1678
Grants	2600.00	-	-	-	2600
HMRC Gift Aid	713.74	-	-	-	714
SoundCafe Events	150.55	-	-	-	150
Donations for CDs and Anthologies	92.60	-	-	-	93
Arts and Crafts	107.82	-	-	-	108
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£17,344.12</b>	<b>£8,623.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£25,967</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Room Hire and Refreshments		7030.80	-	-	7031
Development Worker Salary, NIC, Payroll	-	18888.93	-	-	18889
Admin Worker Salary and Payroll Costs	3778.00	1763.00	-	-	5541
Parking at Sessions and meetings	-	442.66	-	-	443
Replacement Lead at Sessions	130.00	-	-	-	130
Refreshments at Sessions	357.69	-	-	-	358
Arts and crafts	157.54	-	-	-	158
Choir	2522.90	-	-	-	2523
Football	75.00	-	-	-	75
ICT	150.46	-	-	-	150
Equipment	806.13	-	-	-	806
Stationery, Postage and Printing	316.54	-	-	-	316
Pastoral	15.00	-	-	-	15
Volunteers	458.69	-	-	-	459
Insurance		546.42	-	-	546
Sundries	239.77	-	-	-	240
Bank Charges	60.00	-	-	-	60
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£9,067.72</b>	<b>£28,671.81</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£37,740</b>

# Notes to Financial Statements

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## Notes to Financial Statements

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**Notes to accompany the Financial Report – March 10 2019 – March 09 2020 - presented to the Trustees of SoundCafe Leicester on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.**

A total of £25967 was received in the 12 months from 10 March 2019 to 09 March 2020 and a total of £37740 was paid out.

The net result was a decrease of receipts over payments of £11773.

With the funds carried over from the previous year, this amounts to £51874 to carry forward on 10 March 2020.

Of these funds £47,518 is classed as unrestricted and £4356 as restricted.

The accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis, in accordance with the 'Charities Commission Statement of Recommended Practice'

### Funding

We were fortunate to receive a fourth year of Tier 2 funding, as well as an extra donation from the Leicester Diocese Board of Finance. This will help whilst we explore the different ways of funding which are necessary to ensure the charity's longer term continuation.

### Reserve policy

It is the intention of the charity to maintain a balance on restricted funds of three months' operating costs. This was reviewed in 2019 and now equates to £14,000

### Investment Policy

Apart from maintaining the Reserve Fund the majority of the charity's unrestricted funds are to be spent in the short time on our charitable activities.

### Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

No member of the Trustee Board received any remuneration or travel costs during the year.

No trustee or any person related to them had any personal interest in any transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

### Assets

SoundCafe Leicester owns no land, building, furniture, investments or trading stock.

We own a small amount of equipment, necessary for the running of the charity but this has little financial value and is treated as expenditure in the year of purchase.

### Volunteers

At the moment we are not in a position to repay the expenses of volunteers, helpers or Samaritans.

# Independent Examiner's Report

## Independent Examiner's Report



### Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A		Independent Examiner's Report	
<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Charity Name SoundCafe Leicester		
<b>On accounts for the period ended</b>	9 March 2020	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1162987
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1-2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,</li> <li>• to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and</li> <li>• to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</li> </ul>		
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.</p>		
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <p>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and</li> <li>• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act</li> </ul> <p>have not been met; or</p> <p>to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>		
<b>Signed:</b>			<b>Date:</b> 26/7/2020
<b>Name:</b>	John Orridge, BA(Hons), ACA		
<b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</b>	ICAEW		
<b>Address:</b>	c/o St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ		

### Looking Ahead

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Within our plan, 2020 was our year for sharing the story of SoundCafe both the journey of development from October 2014 but equally the opportunity for guests to share their lived experience of homelessness. We successfully bid to the Arts Council and secured the funding for a dedicated project Speaking of Homelessness.

Our Speaking of Homelessness project is in response to our guests wanting to 'tell their story' in a way that can develop new skills that are transferable from the project into everyday life. The project gives guests the chance to share their experience; raise awareness of homelessness and all the issues that surround this growing problem; and importantly offer support and enablement. Whilst our performance scheduled for November 2020 has been postponed due to covid-19, 2021 will enable us to showcase the work of our guests as we forge new pathways in what we are able to deliver in a post pandemic environment.

The project will allow both volunteers and clients to work alongside professionals, developing new skills and techniques that will offer a legacy beyond the life of the project outlined.

SCL provides the opportunity for continuous development and learning. We actively explore new ways of working and securing the feedback of our guests on what does/not work. The scope for guests to undertake key roles and deliver SCL is our future vision.

A sense of 'belonging' and the importance of being part of the SCL 'family' is a key focus for the future of the work being undertaken through SCL. We are equally exploring further the value of other partnership working arrangements. Working in partnership has been a key to our success and our particular thanks to Leicester Diocese, St Martins House, the Cathedral, Centre Project, Leicester Samaritans and all our regular supporters.

Our 2019 summertime café sessions offered the opportunity for guests to meet but without the usual musical backing tracks and support, our guests rose to the challenge and still performed, the result has enabled guests to have the confidence to lead singing and the session. This has proved truly inspiring.

What we have witnessed is the true spirit of SCL in mutual support and encouragement. Our special thanks to all our supporters during 2019/20 who have made SoundCafe possible.

Whilst none of us can predict what 2020/21 will hold post covid-19, the ability of SCL to adapt and change will be its key strength. Thank you for reading this report. Please do get in touch via the contact details listed. If you would like to become a Friend of SoundCafe then details of how to join and/or donate can be found on our website [www.soundcafe.org.uk](http://www.soundcafe.org.uk).

## Contact Information

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### Contact Information

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Roz Burch,  
Chair of Trustees  
[soundcafeleics@gmail.com](mailto:soundcafeleics@gmail.com)



Rachel Griffiths,  
Manager  
[rachel@soundcafe.org.uk](mailto:rachel@soundcafe.org.uk)



Maria O'Brien, Administrator  
and Volunteer Coordinator  
[maria@soundcafe.org.uk](mailto:maria@soundcafe.org.uk)

### Contact Information

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SoundCafe Leicester  
c/o St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester LE1  
Office: 0116 255 5921 (ansaphone Church of The Martyrs)  
[www.soundcafe.org.uk](http://www.soundcafe.org.uk)

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