



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 st	April	2020		31 st	March	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Asian Students Christian Trust

Other names charity is known by

Children of the Dump

Registered charity number (if any)

272328

Charity's principal address

High Cross Church
Knoll Road
Camberley
Postcode GU15 3SY

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Kay Mackay	Chair		
2	Alison Jean Morey	Vice Chair		
3	John Wenger	Treasurer		
4	June Cobbett			
5	Lydia Janet Osmond-Davis			
6	Fred Little			
7	David Regan			
8	Michael James Kelly			
9	Mark Fryer			
10	Benet Fryer			
11				
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

John Busby - Manager

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Trust
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Appointed by the Board

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The relief of poverty amongst Asian students and children by providing accommodation in hostels and other places; providing education in schools colleges universities and other places; and providing financial support and making grants towards to provision of accommodation and education and the necessities of life.

Children of the Dump (registered as Asian Students Christian Trust) provides education, family support and loving care to deprived children

living in extreme poverty around the Payatas and San Isidro rubbish dump communities in Manila. During 2020 - 2021 we had 200 children in our care; supported in different ways; some of whom have been neglected, abused or even abandoned. Since 1975 the supporters of Children of the Dump and our Filipino partner Asian Students Christian Foundation, have been giving young lives the chance to escape the cycle of poverty through education.

During 2020-2021, we operated a residential children's home (Mango Tree House) and a scholarship programme (Grapevine). Our early years school (Cashew Tree) which was in temporary accommodation during 2018-2019 has been rebuilt and is now capable of taking 200 students.

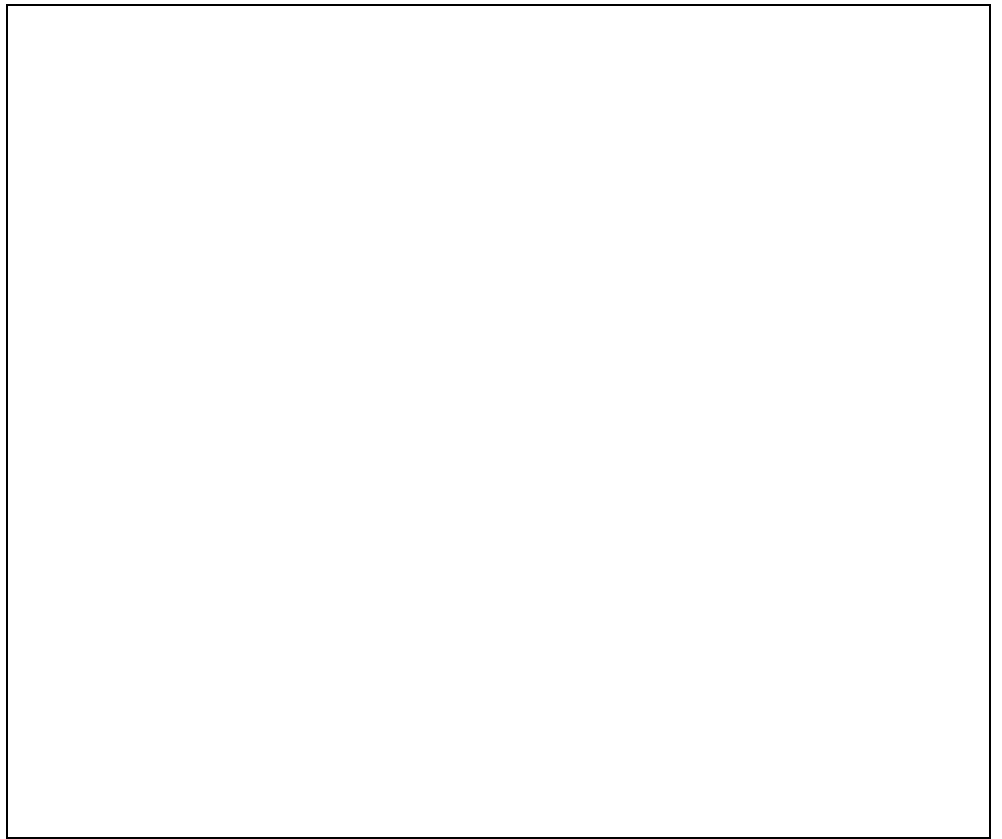
The COVID 19 pandemic impacted operations as all face to face teaching was banned and the communities we serve were in harsh lock-down. Maintaining health became the primary objective. Families were destitute with no income to feed themselves. Funds were diverted to an emergency feeding programme during the harshest period of lock-down. Innovative methods had to be designed to maintain children in education where family's access to internet or data is a major limiting factor. We are proud that the team in Manila were able to keep services operating and children receiving educational input across all projects.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



Section D

Achievements and performance

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Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The key priority for the charity this year has been maintaining services during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In Manila, the lock-down was draconian and the communities we serve were unable to earn any money at all. All face to face teaching was banned with teachers and students having to devise new ways to teach and learn.

Services in Manila continued to operate under the jurisdiction of local regulatory agencies and the board members of Asian Students Christian Foundation (ASCF). The local environment continues to change as the closure of Payatas dumpsite drives populations to move to San Isidro, the new scavenging site; where living conditions are atrocious. Scavenger communities continue to reside in Payatas as the recycling businesses are well established in the vicinity. Fortunately, our facilities are conveniently situated equi-distant between Payatas and San Isidro and can serve both communities as well as the nearby resettlement town of Kasiglahan which houses people who have been evicted from their squatter shelters.

Mango Tree House has provided a loving residential home for over 40 children from four years of age. The increased national emphasis on re-integration with family has led to a significant policy change in operational practice for ASCF which has been jointly adopted with the UK. In 2020-2021, the findings from reassessments conducted in the previous year were started to be implemented with some children being reintegrated into safe family environments. The charity will continue to support their education where necessary through the Grapevine scheme. The implementation was slowed due to the pandemic and further progress will be made next year. In the year covered by this report, places vacated at Mango have been filled with new children who are in need of a safe and loving environment. In future years, it is envisaged that fewer children may be accommodated in Mango and more supported in the community through Grapevine.

Grapevine has supported 75 children to receive their education (virtually this year) while living with their family. This avoids the need for the children to work scavenging to assist the family income and provides them with optimal opportunities to complete their education. Children who succeed in education, will utilise their new earning power to support their siblings and family to also step up from poverty. One child's life transformed thus impacts on many others.

At Cashew Tree School, which achieved its full registration in February 2021; the pandemic meant that our new building could not be used as planned. Teachers devised ways to teach at a distance using modular methods delivered to families on a weekly basis and supported by online tutorials where possible. Numbers were kept to 100 as the delivery methodology was unproven and costs uncertain. Despite the challenges, the children have all fared well and we are proud of their achievements.

In the UK, the drive to improve value from every penny continues alongside the expansion of our communications with donors and supporters. This year, the challenge of fundraising in a pandemic has taxed our most creative thinkers. New and innovative ideas have been implemented with the positive financial out-turn a testimony to their efforts and to our wonderful loyal supporters. An online quiz has proved popular, thanks to the dynamic quiz master and motivated teams. Hard copy communications between children and their sponsor had to be suspended during the pandemic. This was such an important part of sponsor engagement and the UK office has adapted with more digital communication. Thank you cards are sent on sponsor and regular donor anniversaries. Social media coverage on Facebook and Instagram has increased thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers which has generated more followers and proved effective for birthday fundraisers. Fundraising has had to adapt to changing trends in giving. Child

sponsorship remains a key tenant for our charity but we have placed much greater emphasis on raising awareness and funds through social media, grants and national campaigns. Our biggest effort was focused on the Big Give Christmas Campaign where donations are doubled. 2020 was a unprecedented success thanks to the response by supporters, meaning it constituted nearly 20% of our annual income.

The partnership with ASCF in Manila has been strengthened this year with a formal partnership agreement being signed off by both Boards. A new marketing group consisting of volunteers and Trustees has been established to provide focus on how the charity promotes its work and raises funds.

Despite all the challenges that 2020 brought, we were blessed that all our families and children in our care were kept healthy and safe. Education continued in its new form and children have adapted and succeeded. Donors and supporters gave willingly and generously to ensure that the charity could continue to do its utmost to deliver its beneficiaries the best possible help and support.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Trustees believe it is essential to hold reserves to allow service changes in Manila to be implemented in a managed process should income levels fall substantially.

The target level of free reserves is calculated by Trustees each financial year based on the approved budget for the next year, the general economic climate, exchange rate and trends in charity giving. The baseline is £66,000. This year was higher, set at £70,000 due to budget uncertainties and exchange rate fluctuations.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F


Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Kay Mackay	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	

Date 08.07.21