

# **Grace Church Thame**

## **Registered Charity 1124788**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

**Period 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021**

#### **Objectives and Activities**

Grace Church Thame is committed to the advancement of the Christian Faith and, in accordance with the church's doctrinal basis, to demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways. The church is also committed to the relief of poverty, sickness, hardship and distress together with education based on Christian principles.

Grace Church Thame is passionate about enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church, and to become committed members of the family of God at Grace Church Thame. Our Sunday worship service is open to all and people are encouraged to put faith into practice and action through the exercising of spiritual gifts, prayer, scripture and music. As part of our Sunday meeting we have a separate children's work, currently covering the ages 0 to 13, where the children are offered a safe environment in which to have fun, sing, hear stories from the bible and pray. We meet during the week in small group meetings, held in several different homes for bible study, prayer, worship and evangelism. Most months we meet together as a church mid-week for worship and prayer, where we pray for the church and the local community. We run courses explaining the Christian faith (Alpha courses) when there is demand, and discipleship courses for members and others who ask for help (Freedom in Christ, money management, marriage preparation and marriage courses). We join with other local churches to run community events and we are committed to supporting Christian missionaries and inter-denominational aid agencies.

In particular we try to enable ordinary people to live out extraordinary lives of faith as part of the local community in Thame and the surrounding area. This is achieved through:

- Worship and prayer, learning about the gospel and developing people's knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus Christ.
- Provision of pastoral care, not just for the church family, but also for people living in the local community.
- Mission and outreach work.

## **Achievements and performance**

The charity is a Christian church seeking to extend the kingdom of God and demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways. The church employs a full-time pastor and a part-time administrative assistant. All other roles are carried out by unpaid volunteers.

Midweek discipleship groups continue to run bi-weekly with the emphasis on growing in spiritual maturity. Also, we run bi-weekly prayer meeting all together to pray for our town and country.

Our children's work continues to be focussed mainly on Sunday mornings and predominantly, though not exclusively, with children from families with links to the church.

Jigsaw Babies and Toddlers group continues to run weekly in term-time, and remains very popular. It provides opportunities to minister to and support parents of young children in the area.

All volunteers are required to follow the church's Safeguarding Policy and also be subject to DBS (previously CRB) checks before they are allowed to work with the children. We do take our responsibilities in this respect very seriously, and have a coordinator who ensures that DBS checks are kept up to date.

In January of 2021 we launched a Local Debt Centre in partnership with Christians Against Poverty. One person is employed for 16 hours a week to be the debt centre manager and many others in the church volunteer as "befrienders" to come alongside and offer support to those struggling with unmanageable debt. We are very grateful to the support of other local churches in this new ministry.

We are also passionate about working in partnership with other churches and organisations. The groups we work with include:

- Newfrontiers - we are part of Newfrontiers, a family of around 1,000 churches in over 80 different nations: [www.newfrontierstogether.org](http://www.newfrontierstogether.org)
- Catalyst - within Newfrontiers we are part of Catalyst, a network of churches aiming to make disciples in the nations of the world: [www.catalystnetwork.org](http://www.catalystnetwork.org)
- Evangelical Alliance - we are members of the Evangelical Alliance, the umbrella body representing the UK's two million evangelical Christians: [www.eauk.org](http://www.eauk.org)
- Lighthouse Thame and Villages - a holiday week for children and young people in Thame and the surrounding area that takes place in the summer holidays: [www.lighthousehame.org.uk](http://www.lighthousehame.org.uk)

The church also continued to support financially a family who work for a faith organisation, Wycliffe Bible Translators.

### **Covid-19**

It is worth noting the exceptional circumstances caused by this pandemic. During March 2020 the official lockdown began and Grace Church Thame immediately transitioned to offer an online church experience which include pre-recorded services and live meetings in Zoom. We also ran an online Alpha Course and CAP Money Course.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The church is governed by a trust deed which was adopted by the membership on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

Trustees are appointed as described in the Declaration of Trust which is by recommendation and by the existing Trustees.

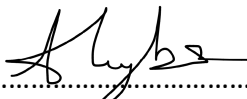
### **Administrative information**

Grace Church Thame is situated in Thame, Oxfordshire and is a part of the NewFrontiers family of churches. The correspondence address is c/o 72 Roundhead Drive, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 3DJ. The Registered Charity number is 1124788.

The trustees who currently manage the charity are:-

Mr David-John Williams  
Ms Jane Jubb  
Mrs Aileen Stanley  
Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 19th September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

  
..... Mr Anthony Taylor

**GRACE CHURCH THAME**

**Registered Charity - 1124788**

**Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended 31 March 2021**

**2020/21**  
**Totals**

**2019/20**  
**Totals**

**£'s**

**£'s**

**Summary of Balances**

General Funds	33,260	38,362
Acts IV Fund	1,985	2,001
New Frontiers	36,693	29,341
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>71,938</b>	<b>69,704</b>

**Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended 31 March 2021**

**2020/21**  
**Totals**

**2019/20**  
**Totals**

**£'s**

**£'s**

**CASH AT BANK**

HSBC Bank	21,575	17,218
CAF Bank	49,391	49,369

<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>70,966</b>	<b>66,587</b>
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Manse Loan	5,000	5,000
Accounts Receivable	-	-
Accounts Payable	(4,028)	(1,883)

<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>71,938</b>	<b>69,704</b>
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**GRACE CHURCH THAME**

**Registered Charity 1124788****General Funds****Income**

Offerings	50,065	56,798
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	16,100	8,966
Other Income	3,080	4,102
Interest Received	22	0
Transfer from Restricted Funds	0	74

**69,267****69,940****Expenditure**

Staff Costs	46,381	46,402
Working Expenses – lead elder	515	2,000
Manse - Council Tax/Rates etc.	2,607	2,519
Insurances	346	420
Premises Hire	1,759	7,460
Training/Conferences	850	853
Stationery	1,081	453
Sunday Mornings	1,579	3,088
Outreach/Publicity	979	769
Jigsaw	68	648
Mission Support	1,800	2,833
Christians Against Poverty	1,603	0
Catalyst gift & festival costs	11,200	9,774
Newday Costs	1,904	1,984
PA/Tape/Music	106	591
Fund Raising & Governance cost	1,591	1,883

**74,369****81,677**

Net Income/(Expenditure)	<b>(5,102)</b>	<b>(11,737)</b>
Net Transfer to Restricted Funds	0	0
Balance B/fwd	<b>38,362</b>	<b>50,099</b>
Balance C/fwd	<b>33,260</b>	<b>38,362</b>

**GRACE CHURCH THAME****Registered Charity 1124788****Church Tithe**

Income – Offerings	7,352	7,236
Transfer from General Fund	0	0
<b>Net Receipts/(Payments)</b>	<b>7,352</b>	<b>7,236</b>
<b>Balance B/fwd</b>	<b>29,341</b>	<b>22,105</b>
<b>Balance C/fwd</b>	<b>36,693</b>	<b>29,341</b>

**Acts IV Fund**

Income – Offerings	0	240
Payments – Church Running	(16)	(240)
Transfer from General Fund	0	0
<b>Net Receipts/(Payments)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Balance B/fwd</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>2,001</b>
<b>Balance C/fwd</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>2,001</b>

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Grace Church Thame**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 4 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Richard Lane

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACA., ICAEW

Address: 29 Ballyknockan Road, Ballygowan County Down, BT23 6NR

Date: 2021