WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

England & Wales · Charity number 1125029

Details

Other names	Woodlands Church, Woodlands Church Family
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06569993
Registered	2008-07-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Woodlands Christian Centre Belgrave Road Bristol BS8 2AA
Phone	07396 934417
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Website	www.woodlandschurch.net

Activities

Objects: 311 THE PROCLAMATION AND FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL OF GOD CONCERNING HISSON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD AND THE PREACHING AND TEACHING OF THECHRISTIAN FAITH THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN ANDELSEWHERE312 THE ORGANISATION, SPONSORSHIP, PROMOTION AND CONTINUING SUPPORT OFUNINCORPORATED BODIES OF CHRISTIANS RECOGNISED BY THE TRUSTEES ASCHRISTIAN CHURCHES OR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS MEETING AND FUNCTIONING INVARIOUS PLACES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERNIRELAND AND ELSEWHERE AS THE TRUSTEES MAY DECIDE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD,THE INSTRUCTION AND EDIFICATION OF CHRISTIANS, THE CARE AND INSTRUCTION OFYOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN, THE EVANGELISATION OF NON-CHRISTIANS, THE RELIEFOF POVERTY AND SICKNESS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITHGENERALLY3 2 THE TRUSTEES MUST USE THE INCOME AND MAY USE THE CAPITAL OF THE CHURCH IN PROMOTING THE OBJECTS

Activities: Partnerships with overseas Christian missionaries & organisationsCity & Community Outreach activities and eventsGathered Church services & events for the general publicServices, events and programmes for Children & YouthServices, events, programmes & community living opportunities for

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StudentsProgrammes of Teaching & DiscipleshipPastoral Care for those of any age or background

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UN DEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL AND OVERSEAS
- Bristol City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,727,385	£1,747,421	£11,111,580	48
2024-03-31	£1,975,879	£1,624,254	£10,068,892	51
2023-03-31	£1,939,452	£1,542,206	£9,513,582	47
2022-03-31	£1,654,686	£1,265,887	£9,256,401	42
2021-03-31	£1,556,145	£1,121,986	£8,682,984	41

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
EDWARD JAMES MARSH FCA DCHA	Chair	2008-07-16
Alison Dawson		2022-07-14
Amanda Addison		2019-11-29
DAVID MITCHELL		2009-06-02
David Roderick		2020-06-30
Robert James Farrell		2026-02-09
Rupert James David Vernalls		2026-02-09
TIMOTHY DOBSON		2009-06-02
William Matthews		2020-06-30

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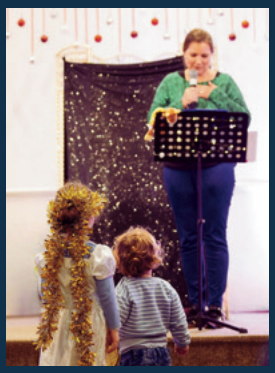
WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1125029

Accounts

Woodlands
CHURCH FAMILY



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2025

CHARITY NUMBER: 1125029
COMPANY NUMBER: 06569993
REGISTERED NAME: WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

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WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INTRODUCTION

This is the Board of Trustees' combined annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025 under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 together with the audited financial statements for the year. The charity has followed the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102 SORP 2019) in preparing these financial statements.

WHO WE ARE

Woodlands Church Family is a vibrant, growing, church-planting movement, with eight sites located across the city of Bristol.

Each site is distinct in its style, but shares the same vision and mission:

…to see Bristol transformed by the love and power of God as we create spirit-filled, visible communities of faith in neighbourhoods across the city.

Our values are to be **welcoming** to everyone, **authentic** in our faith, **empowered** by the Holy Spirit and **expectant** of all that God will do in us and through us.

Our eight sites are:

- **Woodlands Central**, based in Clifton.
- **The Community Church**, serving Southmead, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze.
- **Highgrove Church**, serving Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle, Kingsweston, Stoke Bishop and Shirehampton.
- **Woodlands Metro**, based in the city centre.
- **Branch Church**, serving Henbury and Brentry.
- **Woodlands Southside**, serving South Bristol.
- **Hillside Church**, serving Backwell and the surrounding area.
- **Woodlands East**, serving Easton and the surrounding area.

Woodlands Church Family has a Senior Leadership Team who work with the Trustee Board to lead the charity. Each of the sites has its own leadership team.

Woodlands Church Family is the working name of Woodlands Group of Churches, a registered charitable company limited by guarantee (charity number 1125029 and company number 06569993). These names, 'the church' and 'the charity' are used interchangeably throughout this report.

Woodlands Church Family has several linked churches around Bristol with whom it partners. Each of these associated and affiliated churches are independently governed charities.

The declared charitable purposes of Woodlands Church Family are:

"The proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Christian Faith throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere."

"The organisation, sponsorship, promotion and continuing support of unincorporated bodies of Christians recognised by the Trustees as Christian churches or Christian fellowships meeting and functioning in various places in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere as the

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees may decide for the worship of God, the instruction and edification of Christians, the care and instruction of young people and children, the evangelisation of non Christians, the relief of poverty and sickness and the advancement of the Christian Faith generally."

WHAT WE DO

Our principal activities to achieve our charitable purposes for the public benefit are:

- The establishment of **Global Partnerships** with Christian missionaries and organisations based at home and overseas;
- Local **City and Community Outreach** activities and events to enhance the outreach of the sites into local communities;
- The provision of **Gathered Church** services and events for the general public;
- The provision of services, events and programmes for **Children and Youth**;
- The provision of services, events, programmes and community living opportunities for **Students**;
- The provision of programmes of **Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development** and associated resources; and
- **Pastoral Care** for those of any age or background associated with Woodlands Church Family.

More detailed descriptions of the activities of the church, together with how these deliver public benefit and our achievements for the period, are set out below. The financial resources deployed towards each of these principal activities is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 27.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Woodlands Church Family is committed to enabling as many people as possible to participate and become part of the life of the church. As such, we operate no formal membership structure and all are welcome, whether 'just visiting' or wishing to get connected and involved. We say, 'You join by joining in!' In practice, the opportunities to attend services and take part in other activities in person are most accessible to those who live in Bristol and the surrounding region though we have a large number of regular online participants for those services that are regularly streamed, and one interactive Zoom congregation which has a wider reach.

In addition, our prayerful and financial support of national and international institutions, individuals and projects which advance the Christian faith, means that the church does impact and bring benefit to sections of the public well beyond Bristol and the surrounding region.

Throughout 2024-25, the Senior Leadership Team and Trustees of Woodlands Church Family have continued to process and act on agreed recommendations from a 'Strategic Review' completed in March 2023. Rachel Riddall and Nigel Savage have successfully transitioned into leadership of our Woodlands Central congregation, freeing David Mitchell up to better fulfil an oversight role for the whole of Woodlands Church Family.

A major rebranding exercise has taken place as an outcome of the review, re-enforcing our coherence as a church family, and the next phase of that rebrand will take place in Summer 2025 with a new website acting as a landing point and signpost to all our eight sites.

The Woodlands Academy, bringing together training resources and leadership development for Woodlands Church Family as suggested in the review, has been launched (more on this elsewhere in the report).

As we look back on 2024/25, the following are examples of our key ministry activities throughout the year as we sought to put faith into practice in a variety of ways:

Global Partnerships

One of our strategic aims is 'to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted and to care for the planet'.

Woodlands Church Family actively supports several individuals and charities who we refer to as 'global partners'.

Currently, there are 36 active global partners working in 16 countries across the world, including 6 based in the UK, focused on international work.

Financial support: We made grants totalling £236,696 (2023/24: £229,229) to a significant number of individuals/families and institutions. Further details can be found in note 7 of the accounts;

Our partnership with Hands at Work in Africa, shared with the George Muller Charitable Trust, has continued to deepen, with grants in total given of £45,559 (2023/24: £24,820);

Supporting short-term mission: We believe that long-term calling to mission often starts with a short-term trip. In 2024/25, our short-term fund supported six volunteers to Romania, France, and US/Uganda/Argentina for young people to undergo mission training and outreach or to support our global partners.

In February 2025, we launched four more short term mission trips for the Summer, supporting global partners in France, South Africa and Peru as well as a sister organisation in Cambodia. At time of writing each team has a dedicated leader and over 20 volunteer sign-ups from across Woodlands Church Family.

Pastoral support: We regularly contacted our global partners for personal and ministry updates, via their local 'champions' and directly. To support this further, our global advocate Johnny Walker was funded to visit more locations (North-West Africa, France and the Middle East) to pastorally support 10 global partners. A "Signal" App group was also started, which allows for free and secure discussion between all global partners and the Bristol-based leaders.

Sustained prayer: This continues to be the bedrock of global partnerships work, with monthly prayer meetings which continue to regularly draw 25-35 attending in a hybrid format (face-to-face and virtual), where two global partners 'Zoom' into the meeting each month to share their needs. There is also

regular international focus in weekly Sunday gatherings, on monthly offering Sundays and in the prayer rooms during our 24/7 prayer weeks.

Accountability: We continued our 'Life Ministry Reviews', with 36 of our global partners submitting formal annual reviews in March to church leadership, highlighting areas of success, growth life changes, as well as ongoing concerns and need. This continues to be a very helpful exercise in supporting their ongoing pastoral and financial needs and assessing the effectiveness of their work.

Global partners' accommodation in Bristol: This year, a Henleaze two-bedroom missions flat (formerly owned by the Lloyd Johnstone (Bristol) Trust), was, along with an accompanying financial endowment, donated to Woodlands Church Family for the ongoing stewardship of this resource. A management committee of three people manages bookings and maintenance of the property. It continues to be dedicated to the sole use of returning mission partners linked with Woodlands Church Family and other churches and is free at the point of use. The property is fully booked until March 2026.

Enhancing global partners' digital skills: To upskill global partners in sharing their news visually and digitally, the church funded a number of wireless microphones so that smart phones could be used to record and share their news to supporters and in services, with high quality sound. A film producer also created a training manual for taking short videos on smartphones and held a training course for returning global partners in June 2024 which was enthusiastically received.

Annual Global Partners weekend: This continues to be a fixed calendar event in June each year. It serves as a time of refreshing for returning global partners and an opportunity for the congregations to focus on giving, praying and going to those who are yet to hear the gospel.

City and Community Outreach

Woodlands Church Family is committed to social action and evangelism in the Bristol region through our own activities and in partnership with many local agencies. Much of this work is with the most marginalised members of our local communities and we aim to support them through practical expressions of God's love as well as offering them the opportunity to get involved in church life and encounter Jesus.

Examples of this during the year were:

- Woodlands Central was able to partner with Urban Pursuit to help support their 'Urban Hope' project, run in the summer of 2024. This was in response to several knife crime tragedies in the city and wanting to create opportunities to work with young people at risk over the summer holidays.

- We continue to see growth in our football ministry with our men's teams starting a new third team. This ministry continues to create opportunities for people to explore faith and build relationships through sport.

- The Alpha Course is a fantastic opportunity for people from all walks of life to explore the Christian faith. Alpha runs at Woodlands Central every term, with courses also running across Woodlands Church Family this year at Highgrove and Hillside. We have also seen youth Alphas running across Woodlands Church Family for the first time which has been an exciting development. Our Woodlands Central Alpha saw many young adults and students attend this year. Around 40 students attended our January course which was very encouraging as we see a wave of openness to explore faith amongst Generation Z. We have seen lots of fruit across Woodlands Church Family from Alpha this year and it's exciting to see many continuing their journey as they join post-Alpha groups and get connected to our church communities.

- We participated in The Noise which ran in May 2024 with over 700 volunteers working across many of the more disadvantaged communities of Bristol. Many practical projects were completed for vulnerable families, cream teas for senior citizens and fun afternoons in some of the more marginalised communities around the city. The Noise in 2024 was the final Bristol-wide Noise weekend. The Noise 365 has taken its place, where events and community activities will take place throughout the year.

- With foodbank outlets in Southmead run by Community Church and support given by volunteers at the Bristol NW Foodbank and the East/South Bristol Foodbank, hundreds of families received emergency food supplies. Woodlands Southside has continued its efforts in serving Victoria Park Foodbank through the provision of volunteers and food.

- Once again, a highlight of the year was the Single Parents Fair in November 2024. Over 60 volunteers from across Woodlands Church Family blessed over 100 single parent families in the area with donated second-hand clothes, books and toys, as well as family portraits, professional haircuts, refreshments, and cookery lessons - all provided free of charge. There were also a wide range of advice stands representing a variety of organisations.
- The Community Church weekly Wellbeing Cafe provided a safe place for members of the community struggling with their mental health and wellbeing to connect with others, enjoy a range of arts and craft activities, and hear helpful input about managing their wellbeing.

- Branch Community Church continues to offer a very successful 'Warm Space' and community lunch initiative, providing a meal and hot drink for 25 people each Friday. It's a great space for community and connection.

- During 2024/5, Branch Community Church also became a 'Home for Good' church, championing fostering and adoption. The Community Church continued to run a support group for carers of fostered or adopted children.

- Highgrove Church, together with the local Anglican church, continues to work through the charity established by local churches, Sea Mills Community Initiatives, to run the local Café on the Square, Sea Mills Community Gardens and the Methodist Hall community building to create places of connection for the lonely, training opportunities for the unemployed and be a tangible demonstration of the good news to the community.

City and Community Outreach Charitable Loans

Over the years, Woodlands Church Family has employed a strategy to see thriving churches in local communities by providing **short-term secured loans** to enable key workers and volunteers to be able to purchase a house in those communities. It has been our experience that having people living in the heart of communities, getting involved in community life and resourcing local outreach makes a significant difference in fruitfulness and growth. These loans have typically been 3-5 years in duration and, once repaid, were being recycled to enable further loans to be made. These loans are classified as programme-related investments in these financial statements because their purpose is not to generate a commercial financial return but to enable people to enhance ministry by living and serving Christ in the community to which they are called.

In 2022/23, in light of the emerging cost-of-living crisis and escalating inflation and interest rates, the Trustees decided to close the scheme to new applications given the challenges of assessing applicant

loan affordability in an uncertain economic environment. Once existing loans have been repaid, alternative uses for the funds will be determined on a case-by-case basis in order to further the purposes of the charity. The Trustees are thankful for the charitable benefit and fruitfulness that this strategy has yielded over the years, but recognise that the specialised skills required, the inherent risks, and the opportunity costs associated with its continuation render it no longer appropriate to pursue.

However, as an exception in the prior financial year, the Trustees decided to extend a short-term housing loan to a member of key management personnel, in order to ensure stability during a period of transition of leadership at our Woodlands Central congregation. Details of this loan are included in note 25 of the financial statements.

The current carrying value of loans outstanding is shown as a designated fund in these financial statements. There were eight such loans outstanding at the year end (2024: eight), with none disbursed or repaid in the year. The value of the outstanding loans was £1,951,040 (2023/24: £1,981,040).

Gathered Church

Woodlands Church Family exists to enable people to find and grow in their relationship with God and the Christian faith, and to bless the city of Bristol, serving people of all faiths and none.

At the core of this vision is a strategy to plant congregations in neighbourhoods all over the city and region, in partnership with the wider Church in the City as representatives of 'Churches Together'. This January, as part of that vision, we have begun a new congregation in Easton, at the request of an ageing church to take over their building and legacy. This has been, so far, a very positive initiative. Under the leadership of Matt Dobson, about 70 people have re-located from Central to Easton joining with a handful of members from the previous congregation (Chelsea Christian Centre) and attracting a number of newcomers already.

Woodlands Church Family continues to gather on Sundays at the large central location of Woodlands Church in Clifton which runs four regular services on Sundays, and in six other neighbourhood sites in Bristol and now into North Somerset. Our model is based on an understanding that church can exist in the modes of Cell (the small group, or 'Church in the home'), Congregation ('Church in a neighbourhood') and Celebration ('Church in the City'). Our Woodlands Central 6:30pm service provides that gathered Celebration context. It is also the home for our student and young adult cohorts. A typical Sunday will see 1,000 people through the doors at Woodlands Central.

The visibility of large church feeds into the prominence and success of our events, including our termly Alpha courses and our Wholeness courses which hundreds of people will attend over a year. At our 3rd Sunday evening services, a number of churches associated with Woodlands from around the region are specially invited to join us when the service includes a 'Bible School' option during the sermon, hosted by the Woodlands Academy.

It was wonderful to celebrate Christmas and Easter services this year and to see large numbers attending our suite of services, as well as participating online. Our portfolio of Christmas services included Contemporary Carols, Carols by Candlelight, 'Folky Christmas' and a midnight service. Our Easter events included family Good Friday services and events as well as a beautiful reflective service, and Easter Sunday saw full buildings with baptisms to celebrate.

On a typical Sunday there will be twelve public worship services conducted over all the sites where Woodlands Church Family congregations are based. In the nearby North Somerset village of Backwell we hold a family service at 'Hillside' that attracts up to 100 people. This increased to twice a month from May 2024 with a planned trajectory to begin weekly Sunday services in January 2026.

Woodlands Church Family congregations are very easy to find through on-line search engines, and our online services attract hundreds of watches each Sunday. Indeed, we have discovered that many people who are looking for a church explore online services first before making in-person connection. We continued to be encouraged by the attendance of new people at our gatherings each Sunday and indeed sense a genuine spiritual hunger and curiosity growing in society at the moment, especially among young people.

Around the congregations

As well as Woodlands Central, our largest and most established congregations are Highgrove Church in Sea Mills, and the Community Church in Southmead. The leaders of those churches are part of the Senior Leadership Team of Woodlands Church Family. Our smaller and newer congregations, or 'Church Plants,' are Branch Community Church in Henbury, Woodlands Metro in the city centre, Woodlands Southside in Bedminster, Hillside Church in Backwell and our newest, **Woodlands East** in Easton.

Highgrove Church in Sea Mills continues with two morning services on Sundays and a range of programmes through the week, including youth work, a Friendship Café, Little Acorns parent and toddler group and Soul Space, an outreach particularly to women in the community. The church works closely with the Anglican Church and Sea Mills Community Initiatives in serving the whole estate and beyond.

The Community Church in Southmead has strengthened the inclusion of Hong Kong Cantonese-speaking migrants, and their presence has helped foster an increasing ethnic diversity. The church presence in the hub of a large social housing estate creates opportunities to serve. The Single Parents Fair this year was again a real example of tangible blessing to a community, and the Community Church were supported in this endeavour from across Woodlands Church Family.

Woodlands Church Family has recently completed the purchase of Emmanuel Chapel on the large estate of Henbury as the home of **Branch Community Church**. Branch has regular midweek activities, including Friday's 'Lunchbox' which has grown out of the Warm Spaces initiative. The church is full on Sundays for worship, and it too has grown in ethnic diversity reflecting changes in the estate itself.

Woodlands Metro appointed an interim leader, Laura Harris, to replace Philip & Kate Jinadu as Metro leaders. Post-sabbatical, the Jinadus have left Woodlands Church Family, with Philip moving to be a director of Care for the Family, and Kate as an associate pastor at Fishponds Baptist Church. Metro has held its own numerically and is currently about 70 young adult members, gathering on Sunday mornings, with a vibrant midweek 'hub' life. 15 members of Metro volunteered to help service the Bristol Churches' Night Shelter and, recently, over 60 gathered for a successful weekend away.

During the year, Ruth Morgans was appointed to a permanent role as leader at **Woodlands Southside** which meets on Sunday afternoons in Bedminster. The Church has collaborated with other South Bristol churches to run a successful youth Alpha Course and has also opened a weekly Community Cafe in partnership with Brislington URC Church. Both initiatives have really helped promote church unity in South Bristol.

Hillside Church has moved its Sunday gatherings to Backwell 6th Form Centre, which provides a great opportunity for growth as the church heads towards weekly services in 2026.

A distinctive element of community at Woodlands Central has historically been the large church-linked community houses. These buildings are being sold by the charity that owned them. Woodlands Church Family has bought the final flat in the building 'Hellier House' next door to Woodlands Church on Belgrave Road. When tenancies in this flat end in the summer, plans are being made to refurbish the building to allow facilities lost in the community houses to have some expression here. Plans have also been approved to build a garden room as an extension of the Woodlands building into the rear church garden.

Unity and prayer underpin Woodlands Church Family, and as well as our regular congregational prayer events, the new year always begins with a week of prayer and fasting. The Tuesday of Prayer Week was again an opportunity to come together after a day of fasting, for worship and prayer, with hundreds of people from around Woodlands Church Family.

Children and Youth Ministry

Children

Woodlands Church Family offers a wide range of activities which children and families join in with to make friends, discover and use their gifts and learn more about being disciples of Jesus.

Recruiting a paid team has been a focus most recently, as we need to replace and strengthen our existing staff team, as well as have leaders who can support our smaller congregations. We have also spent time articulating our shared values and theology around children and family ministry, which will guide us as we develop shared strategy and practices.

The following are other examples of key activities and developments that took place this year:

- A number of congregations took groups of children to the SPREE camping weekend in Devon. It provides opportunities to engage for a variety of different ages and those on different stages of their spiritual journey.
- We run parent and toddler groups in a number of our buildings, to provide support in the early years of family life. These groups provide connection and community for many.

Youth

As the youth team in its new form moved into its second full year the collaborative youth strategy has continued to be established and is starting to bear fruit. Each site has reported growth not only in youth attendance but also with depth of relationships, maturity and with young leaders taking initiative to serve and develop their gifts.

Woodlands Central appointed two new youth ministers to serve alongside the Youth Director and the youth ministers serving at the Highgrove and Community Church congregations.

- As well as supporting or leading Christian Union clubs in five local secondary schools, the youth team provided weekly youth well-being support groups for some year 7 & 8 students in two local secondary schools.

- Three youth residential weekends away were facilitated for nearly 100 young people as well as a community day for all young people in Woodlands Church Family and one specifically for 6th formers, all of which are significant moments in the year to strengthen the sense of community.

- Five new youth alpha courses were facilitated to provide young people an opportunity to find a

safe and welcoming community and a chance to explore deeper questions around life, faith and purpose.

- The youth club Alberts Place took place every Thursday during term-time and provides a fun evening of games and activities for young people from our local community as well as developing junior leaders.
- At our Southside congregation, work with young people has significantly grown this year with up to 18 young people regularly attending church and a mid-week youth group being facilitated with other local churches.
- Plans are well under way for Woodlands Church Family to play a key part in facilitating a schools-tour by a leading national music charity of 5 local secondary schools, culminating in an end of week concert in October 2025. This week will provide inspiring and hope-filled whole-year group RE and PSHE lessons to over 5,000 students.
- 90+ young people and children are booked onto the Spree residential camp in June 2025 from across Woodlands Church Family.

Student Ministry

University students are at a strategic time of their lives in terms of experiences that inspire and shape the rest of their lives, but we are aware that thousands of students in Bristol have little involvement with church or the Christian faith. We want to play our part in reaching this demographic with the Good News of Jesus.

Our Woodlands Central building is strategically located near Bristol University which gives us a great opportunity to welcome thousands of students to our Big Hot Dog Give Away during Freshers week. We were able to connect personally with hundreds of students new to Bristol, many of whom have never set foot in a church building before. It has been exciting to welcome many into our student community and a joy to see some of them being baptised. A particular encouragement has been the coming together of students from a variety of churches to worship and pray together in unity for the spread of the gospel in our universities in the city.

Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development

We are committed to raising up a new generation of leaders to impact the city, the region and the world with the Good News about Jesus. A key part of this is discipleship. This involves learning to imitate and obey Jesus Christ in every aspect of our lives.

The Woodlands Church Academy was launched in September 2024. It has five schools linked to deliver training for all (Bible School, Leadership and Ministry School, Church Planting and Evangelism School, School of the Spirit and Worship School).

Several training courses have been run over the first eight months including training for mid-week church leaders, training for the new church plant at Woodlands East, worship musician workshops and the production of two online video training resources.

We relaunched the Discipleship Year for those wanting to take a gap year and serve and train within Woodlands Church Family.

The Bristol Westminster Theological Centre ('WTC') Hub has continued this year meeting in Woodlands Foyer and their two residentials were held at Nottingham University. There have been 25 students in this year's hub. Four of our church plant leaders have studied with WTC which has had a positive impact on their confidence in handling the Bible and think through issues that have been very relevant to them as they have led church plants over the past year.

Woodlands Bible School has run each 3rd Sunday, and it has been good to have visiting speakers who have brought some great insights. There have been opportunities for young leaders to speak and bring their passion and enthusiasm for Scripture to the group. We have expanded the Bible School by running three month-long weekday evening sessions each year.

This year's cohort of 13 leaders on the Leadership Learning Community have brought a lot to the discussions and have made the most of the learning opportunity. As in each year, this has been greatly appreciated.

Pastoral Care

Woodlands Church Family congregations have mid-week small groups as key elements of what it means to belong, grow as a disciple of Jesus and find contexts for serving the church. We hope that people who find faith and find their way to our church will be invited to be involved in loving and caring smaller communities. We see small groups as the first line of pastoral care and initial development of gifts and the primary place to get to know others and to be known. Many pastoral issues are picked up and managed in these small group settings.

Our second line of pastoral care includes the following:

- The Wholeness Course offers an opportunity to identify and remove barriers to growth in our personal lives, deal with gaps in our emotional development and repair hurts from the past. We had 114 people sign up for our Spring course, including people from across Woodlands Church Family and several churches around Bristol. We gathered for six weeks at Woodlands Central for evenings of testimonies, teaching and prayer ministry. Each week, the team of over 30 prayer ministers offered one-to-one prayer for people attending the course and shared things they sensed God had been saying to them for people attending the course. Many course attendees experienced healing and breakthrough in their personal lives through the teaching and prayer. In the autumn term Wholeness 2 took place; a follow up course covering three areas of personal growth and healing: 1. Overcoming disappointment. 2. Overcoming Rejection. 3. Overcoming

anxiety.

- Prayer Training: Alongside our Wholeness Courses we run regular training courses in prayer ministry to equip both the Wholeness Team and the wider church in the practices and protocols of safe, practical and theologically sound ministry to all. We have reviewed our practices this year as part of the whole church Safeguarding Review. Our courses are utilised as a resource by churches across Bristol.

- WholeMinds, our mental health and well-being website continues to be accessed regularly. The website has articles, stories and creative content designed to support and encourage good mental health and spiritual growth. This is an online space with a collection of articles and stories that encourage people across Woodlands Church Family in their mental, emotional and spiritual health journeys. It is also accessible to people from outside the church seeking spiritual solutions to mental health pressures.

- Following our decision to talk more openly about mental health in church life, we have a mental /emotional health sermon series across the church congregations once a year and this year have developed a sermon series on 'Seasons of the Soul'.

- Our team put on a Mental Health First Aid training evening for mid-week church leaders. Led by Clare Thompson and Ros Stower, who worked for 30 years in the mental health services prior to retiring, the evening covered tools for understanding and supporting good mental health, an overview of types of mental health condition and responding to mental health crises and suicidal thoughts.

- The Community Church continued to run a Wellbeing Café to provide a safe, welcoming space for those struggling with poor mental health. Every week there is an opportunity to explore how prayer and faith can help us in our wellbeing journeys.

- My Wellbeing Journey is a course developed as a Wholeness 'taster' course. The course has been warmly received and has run in several of our church plants and with individuals and is now a regular feature on the church calendar. The manual can be used by any church leader and a men's version is being developed.

The contribution of volunteers

Most of what happens in the congregations is driven by volunteers, whether that is worship, youth and children's work, practical jobs or roles requiring specialised skills. It is not possible to quantify the contribution of volunteers to Woodlands Church Family except to say that we would not be able to carry out many of our activities without them. The church seeks to provide as many opportunities as possible for volunteers to grow in their gifts and abilities and has hundreds of people volunteering in at least one role within church. The way in which volunteers have continued to serve faithfully and creatively throughout the last few challenging years is something for which we are so thankful to God.

OUR FINANCES

The finances of Woodlands Church Family are stewarded and administered by the Finance Committee, ably supported by an excellent finance team of staff and volunteers, on behalf of the Trustee Board and Senior Leadership Team. The leadership teams of the more established Woodlands Church Family sites operate with their own budget which is based on core giving from those committed to that site, local spending priorities and contributions to shared costs across the charity.

In 2024/25, total income and endowments received was £2,727,385 compared to £1,975,879 in the prior year, an increase driven primarily by the donation of assets and liabilities from the Lloyd Johnstone (Bristol) Trust at the start of the year of £644,495. In the context of a significant one-off gift received, donations have increased, but core giving to free funds (an internal key measure we use to budget for future spending) decreased by 3%. Whilst this is not a surprise in the face of a continued difficult economic environment, the Trustees are prayerfully confident that the underlying health of Woodlands Church Family will lead to steady growth in financial giving in future years.

Income from Charitable activities increased from £229,062 in the prior year to £259,782 with increased rental income and an increase in the number of events and weekends away.

Investment income remained static at £248,365 (2023/24: £248,478, with falling interest rates on cash deposits offset by increased dividend income following the donation of an investment portfolio from the Lloyd Johnstone (Bristol) Trust) at the start of the year (see note 20).

Total expenditure was £1,747,421 (2023/24: £1,624,254); a rise of 7.6%, driven by increase mission giving at home and overseas, continued investment in staffing and the ongoing development of our infrastructure. A total of £324,163 (2023/24: £282,608) was spent on grants for mission and blessing the poor and persecuted both in the UK and overseas.

Our Financial Reserves

Free reserves available for use by Woodlands Church Family are deemed to be those that are readily realisable, less funds whose uses are restricted or else designated for particular purposes. The calculation thus excludes £3,886,884 representing tangible fixed assets that will continue to be used in the day-to-day running, endowed investments of £297,815 and restricted funds of £168,504. The calculation also excludes the carrying value of charitable loans held as programme related investments of £1,951,040, which are not readily realisable assets and are held in designated funds. It also excludes other designated funds of £4,081,552 including the Capacity Development Fund of £1,510,608, which exists to enable the development of the charity's properties, meet any unexpected, exceptional asset repairs and replacements and the redevelopment of a recently purchased property for the charity's work.

The purpose, balances and movements of each designated fund are explained clearly within note 18 of the accounts.

Each year the Trustees review the level of free reserves and the appropriateness of the free reserves policy. The Board considers our exposure to major risks in terms of their likely impact on its income sources and planned expenditure in the medium term. They also consider the opportunities available to them for expansion and growth in the facilities and activities of Woodlands Church Family.

The target range for free reserves reflects the uncertain economic environment and the higher commitments relating to permanent employed staff arising from an expanding team and rising building costs.

The target range for free reserves is £563,467 to £845,201, equal to between 6 and 9 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves fund. At the year end, the actual free reserves, as clearly shown within the financial statements, were £726,427 (2023/24: £672,842), which is equivalent to 7.7 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves Fund. This is within the target range.

Financial Impact of Significant Events

The Trustees are conscious of the challenging economic and social conditions brought about by the continued global uncertainties caused by geopolitical events in Europe and North America. As well as seeking to use the charity's resources to meet some of these needs, the Trustees are thankful to God that we have not seen a significant drop in giving income or a sustained drop in other sources of income in recent years. The Trustees will be budgeting carefully for the coming financial year given these factors but are satisfied that the level of reserves held by the charity will enable the continuation of the charity's activities into the future.

The Trustees confirm their assessment that the charity is a going concern as at the date of the signing of the accounts, despite the ongoing global uncertainty.

Our Investment powers and policy
The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow the Trustees to invest in any stocks, funds, shares, securities or other investments of whatsoever nature as the Trustees shall, in their absolute discretion, think fit.

The Trustees have an Investment Policy covering the charity's Financial, Programme Related and Mixed Purpose Investments. In particular, the Trustees have sought to ensure that the time horizon of the likely use of all funds is matched well to the investment vehicle used.

In the case of Financial Investments, the charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk and has sought to articulate its responsible investments approach within its investment policy, taking into account the social, ethical and environmental impact of investments. The Trustees have joined other faith charities in signing a pledge not to invest in fossil fuels.

The investment objective for funds needed in the medium to long term is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the ongoing activities of the charity. For funds needed in the short term, the investment objective is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

Our approach grant-making
The charity has a grant making policy and makes grants to individuals and organisations engaged in mission and ministry and primarily with whom we have developed long term partnerships. Most of these partners are members of the church family serving on short-term, medium-term or long-term mission trips. With the exception of members of the church family going on short term mission, there is not a

formal application process for grant funds. Missionary financial support is instead just a part of a wider range of on-going communication and prayer support for the work.

The charity also makes grants from the Needy Saints Fund to individuals in the church facing financial hardship as a result of redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

Our approach to charging for events and activities
Woodlands Church Family is committed to making its activities accessible to as wide a range of people as possible and so seeks to minimise the cost of events and, where a charge is levied, subsidies are offered by congregational leadership teams where appropriate to ensure that money is not a barrier to people participating in activities. Church services are entirely free with no obligation to pay or give and the church offers many activities, courses and services without charge.

Our approach to fundraising
Whilst the primary source of income for the charity is voluntary donations, the church does not regularly engage in significant public fundraising. Most of the giving is from committed attenders who express their 'belonging' and commitment to the congregations through regular and one-off giving to share in the ministry costs of church life. The church prayerfully teaches about the biblical principles of financial stewardship and generosity in the context of discipleship. From time to time, the leaders encourage giving towards particular global or local partners or mission projects and, very occasionally, hold offerings for special projects such as building developments. The charity does not subscribe to any particular fundraising scheme or standards but regularly reviews the charity's practices to ensure that any incidental fundraising is carried out appropriately.

Each congregation has monthly Sunday service offerings to support global and local mission. All gifts collected, including any attributable Gift Aid and Gift Aid on Small Donations relief, is used to support our global and local mission partners without deduction. In addition, at the discretion of the local congregation leadership teams, a discretionary percentage of up to 50% is sometimes added from free reserves to such offerings.

OUR FUTURE PLANS

Woodlands Church Family has been excited to see the growth and development of new and recent church plants this year and is continuing to invest in leadership capacity and enabling the sharing of resources together to enable all sites to thrive and multiply.

Woodlands Church Family is also continuing to further develop the organisational and administration structures appropriate to a growing group of congregations in the current environment. The launch of new Woodlands Church Family websites in 2025-26 will help reinforce all of the work that has been going on to bring about coherence and unity to our vision, mission and values.

The redevelopment of the Hellier House building next door to our Woodlands Central building will be a key focus, to ensure that this asset can best serve the church going forward.

Leadership development and succession planning are always high on the agenda, and we will continue to develop the Woodlands Academy to equip leaders in all spheres of ministry and for future church planting and growth.

Following a Board Effectiveness review in 2045-25, the Trustees plan to undertake an open recruitment process to select and appoint an additional Trustee, bringing the Board to nine.

OUR STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity was formed in 2008 by the merger of four previous charities: Highgrove Christian Charitable Trust, Highgrove Fellowship Centre, Woodlands Church and Henleaze & Westbury Community Church.

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 April 2008.

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, all members of the Company are Trustees, and all Trustees are members. No other formal membership is operated. The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum. Trustees are required to meet at least once a year but in practice meet 4-5 times each year.

Any new Trustees are recruited in light of the mix of skills and experience needed on the Board. Vacancies are advertised, with invitations to apply encouraged from across Woodlands Church Family. Applicants are interviewed and invited to sit in on a Board meeting to help assess chemistry and fit and to allow all to engage in prayer and listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes and governance of Woodlands Church Family. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority of Trustees at a meeting or by a formal resolution.

Any new Trustees receive an Induction Pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with Woodlands Church Family. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication *CC3 – The Essential Trustee* together with the charity's governing document and the latest Annual Report and Accounts.

The Trustees are aware of the importance of maintaining their knowledge of current charity and related legislation and best practice, so Trustees take advantage of external trustee training sessions and, where not all members of the Board of Trustees are present, circulate any relevant information and guidance to the other Trustees for due consideration.

The role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Trustees
The SLT is responsible for the overall spiritual and day-to-day operational leadership of Woodlands Church Family. The Trustees have overall legal responsibility, taking account of the spiritual direction of Woodlands Church Family set by the Senior Leadership Team, who themselves are always to act in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the general law.

The Key Management Personnel of the charity consists of the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. Four Trustees are also members of the Senior Leadership Team. Where, as permitted by the Memorandum and Articles of Association, such individuals or those closely connected with them are remunerated by the charity, their pay is set by the non-remunerated members of the Trustee Board each year.

David Mitchell, the leader of Senior Leadership Team, is line-managed by the Chair of Trustees and reports to the Board at each meeting on key developments and challenges across Woodlands Church Family. The Board of Trustees delegates some of its functions to a Finance Committee meeting four times a year, and to a Property Strategy Group which meets when needed. Agreed terms of reference are in place for both.

Church leaders and teams
Woodlands Church Family has delegated the day-to-day oversight and direction of its eight sites to congregational leadership teams. These teams meet regularly to oversee delivery of activities in accordance with the vision, mission, values of Woodlands Church Family as it pursues its charitable purposes. Members of the Trustee Board and Senior Leadership Team regularly meet with the congregational leaders to review progress, provide any advice and assistance as required and provide accountability around goals, vision and values.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit where appropriate when exercising their powers and duties, planning and reviewing the aims, objectives and activities of Woodlands Church Family. Throughout this report, the Trustees have sought to demonstrate the many ways that it delivers benefit to the public – whether they are members of one of the congregations that are part of the church, another church or have no church or other religious affiliation.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Trustees (who are also directors of Woodlands Group of Churches for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and

- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Corporate Governance
Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure are continually reviewed to improve efficiency and enable the Trustees to discharge their responsibilities around safeguarding the charity's assets. Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and that appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team, the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- annual budgets developed by the Finance Committee;
- regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results and variances from budgets;
- delegation of day-to-day management authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

Risk Management
The Trustees have a formal risk management process, which has been reviewed and kept updated during the current financial year. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifying means of managing or mitigating the risks and the individual responsible for managing each risk.

The Trustees have a formal incident recording process to identify incidents that can inform the risk management process.

The Trustees carry out an annual review of the principal risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to manage those and other risks.

The Trustees consider the principal risks facing Woodlands Church Family to be as follows:

1. **The risk that a lack of clarity on vision impedes our ability to deliver on our charitable purposes.**
   This may arise from the loss of key leaders, an organisational focus drowning out the church being Spirit-led, poor succession planning or failing to empower the next generation of leaders. This risk is being addressed through the development of leaders through the Woodlands Academy, the establishment of a succession working group, regular times of worship and prayer across all our teams (including the Senior Leadership Team) and the implementation of a 360 review process for all staff.

2. **The risk of inconsistency and inefficiency across our sites leading to wasted effort and a lack of unity**.

This risk is being addressed through an increase in relational and operational overlap between congregation leaders, the articulation and reinforcement of shared values in 2024/25, the development of platforms to share resources and the proactive priority given by the Senior Leader in maintaining good communication and unity across all sites.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Gravita Audit Western Limited be reappointed as auditors of the charitable company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed by order of the board of Trustees:

Mr E J Marsh (Chair of Trustees)

Mr D J Mitchell (Senior Leader and Trustee)

17 July 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company registration no: 06569993
Charity registration no: 1125029

Registered office address: Woodlands Christian Centre
Belgrave Road
Clifton
Bristol BS8 2AA

Website addresses:

www.woodlandschurch.net	www.thecommunitychurch.net
www.highgrove.church	www.woodlandsmetro.church
www.branchchurch.co.uk	www.woodlandssouthside.church
www.woodlandseast.church	www.woodlandschurch.net/hillside

Members of the Board of Trustees
The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of Company law, that served during the year and since the year end, are:

Mrs A Addison	Vice-Chair
Mr S Bodley	
Mrs A Dawson	
Mr T J Dobson	
Mr E J Marsh	Chair
Mr W Matthews	Vice-Chair
Mr D J Mitchell	
Mr D Roderick	

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the Woodlands Church Family
Mr D J Mitchell (Senior Leader of the Woodlands Church Family)

Mr T J Dobson	Mrs K Jinadu (until May 2024)	Mr P O Jinadu (until May 2024)
Mrs D A Marsh	Mr E J Marsh	Mr R Pollard (until April 2024)
Mrs R Riddall	Mr D Roderick	Mr J Saunders
Mr M Smith	Mr N Savage	Mrs H C Thompson

Principal Service Providers and Professional Advisers
Auditor
Gravita Audit Western Limited, Bath House, 6-8 Bath Street, Bristol, BS1 6HL

Solicitors and Employment Advisers
Capstone Law, 62 Gloucester Road, Bristol, BS7 8BH
Keelys LLP, 28 Dam Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6AA

Banking and Investments
The Cooperative Bank plc, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP
Lloyds Bank, 15 High Street, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 3DA
Bank of Scotland, 2nd floor, Pentland House, 8 Lochside Avenue, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ.
Epworth Investment Management Ltd, 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE
Evelyn Partners Investment Management, 4th Floor, Portwall Place, Portwall Lane, Bristol, BS1 6NA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Woodlands Group of Churches (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial

statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 20, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: The Companies Act 2006, UK GAAP, The Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP.

- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks and made enquiries to the management of known or suspected instances of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes, other relevant meeting minutes and review of correspondence with regulatory bodies.

- We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the audit team included:

    - Identifying and assessing the controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;

    - Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;

    - Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates and judgments,

    - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and

    - Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the

events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Matthew Bracher BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Gravita Audit Western Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

17 July 2025

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total funds 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies							
Offerings and donations	**2**	1,253,828	44,177	276,738	-	**1,574,743**	1,498,339
Assets from The Lloyd Johnstone Trust	**20**	-	-	25,696	618,799	**644,495**	-
Charitable activities	**3**	67,651	187,395	4,736	-	**259,782**	229,062
Investments	**4**	-	237,064	11,301	-	**248,365**	248,478
Total		1,321,479	468,636	318,471	618,799	**2,727,385**	1,975,879
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Global Partnerships		34,600	60,393	170,670	-	**265,663**	252,764
City and Community Outreach		122,218	59,828	64,660	-	**246,706**	201,770
Gathered Church		377,160	60,663	3,951	-	**441,774**	424,094
Children and Youth Ministry		227,199	102,805	4,554	-	**334,558**	272,367
Student Ministry		127,897	35,793	2,837	-	**166,527**	189,299
Discipleship & Leadership Development		154,140	30,623	212	-	**184,975**	181,678
Pastoral Care		62,656	15,705	4,231	-	**82,592**	84,320
	5	1,105,870	365,810	251,115	-	**1,722,795**	1,606,292
Raising funds	**8**	21,064	-	-	3,562	**24,626**	17,962
Total		1,126,934	365,810	251,115	3,562	**1,747,421**	1,624,254
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**15**	-	55,883	-	6,936	**62,819**	204,194
Net income/(expenditure)	**9**	194,545	158,709	67,356	622,173	**1,042,783**	555,819
Transfers between funds	**18**	(140,960)	141,813	(853)	-	**-**	-
Other (losses)/gains		-	-	(95)	-	**(95)**	(509)
		53,585	300,522	66,408	622,173	**1,042,688**	555,310
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		672,842	9,293,954	102,096	-	**10,068,892**	9,513,582
Total funds carried forward	**18**	726,427	9,594,476	168,504	622,173	**11,111,580**	10,068,892

Fund comparatives are disclosed in note 20.

The notes on pages 32 to 51 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Income from:		
Donations and legacies	1,600,439	1,498,339
Charitable activities	259,782	229,062
Investments	248,365	248,478
Income in the reporting period	**2,108,586**	**1,975,879**
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	1,722,795	1,606,292
Raising funds	21,064	17,962
Total expenditure in the reporting period	**1,743,859**	**1,624,254**
Net gains on investments	55,883	204,194
Net income for the financial year	**420,610**	**555,819**

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.
All income and expenditure has arisen from the continuing activities.

The notes on pages 32 to 51 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note		2025 £		2024 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**12**	**3,886,884**		2,607,278	
Programme related investments	**13**	**1,583,540**		1,981,040	
Financial Investments	**15**	**3,570,558**		3,216,860	
			9,040,982		7,805,178
Current assets:					
Debtors	**16**	**66,501**		73,377	
Programme related investments	**13**	**368,350**		3,206	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**500,000**		500,000	
Cash at bank and on short term deposit		**1,201,179**		1,747,949	
		2,136,030		2,324,532	
Liabilities:					
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	**17**	**(65,432)**		(60,818)	
Net current assets			**2,070,598**		2,263,714
Total assets less current liabilities			**11,111,580**		10,068,892
Total net assets			**11,111,580**		10,068,892
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds					
Free reserves		**726,427**		672,842	
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)		**84,886**		123,062	
Fixed Asset NBV (designated)		**3,561,884**		2,607,278	
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)		**1,951,040**		1,981,040	
Capacity Development (designated)		**1,510,608**		408,302	
Housing the Homeless (designated)		**500,000**		511,000	
Property Purchases (designated)		**878,640**		2,644,218	
St James/UPA (designated)		**59,552**		59,018	
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)		**33,121**		14,511	
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)		**-**		36,000	
Strategic Projects (designated)		**20,431**		50,000	
Woodlands Church Family Staffing (designated)		**139,217**		60,311	
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)		**855,097**		799,214	
	19		**10,320,903**		9,966,796
Restricted income funds	**19**		**168,504**		102,096
Endowment capital funds	**19**		**622,173**		-
Total charity funds			**11,111,580**		10,068,892

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and were approved by the Trustees on 17 July 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Mr E J Marsh
Chair of Trustees

Mr D J Mitchell
Trustee and Senior Leader

Company registration number: 06569993

The notes on pages 32 to 51 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Operational cash flows			
Cash flows for operating activities			
Receipts from Donations and Legacies	**22 (A.1)**	**1,600,446**	1,493,300
Payments for Raising funds	**22 (B.1)**	**(21,064)**	(17,962)
Net inflow for operating activities		**1,579,382**	1,475,338
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Charitable activities	**22 (A.2)**	**276,179**	236,637
Payments for Charitable activities	**22 (B.2)**	**(1,714,710)**	(1,576,199)
Receipts from Programme-related investments	**22 (C.1)**	**77,426**	78,517
Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	**22 (C.2)**	**21,000**	22,000
Additions to Programme-related investments	**13**	**-**	(173,560)
Repayments from Programme-related investments	**13**	**32,125**	365,944
		(1,307,980)	(1,046,661)
Net inflow of operating activities		**271,402**	428,677
Non-operational cash flows			
Investing activities:			
Receipts from Financial investments	**22 (D.1)**	**150,865**	148,492
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**12**	**(969,037)**	(35,896)
Net cash (used in)/generated by investing activities		**(818,172)**	112,596
Net cash (outflow)/inflow for the year	**23**	**(546,770)**	541,273

Charity law prohibits the use of net cash flows on any restricted fund to offset net cash outflows on any fund outside of its own purposes, except on special authority. In practice, this restriction has not had any effect on cash flows for the year.

The notes on pages 32 to 51 form part of these financial statements

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis with the exception of financial investments which are shown at fair value. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined under FRS 102. The presentation currency is pounds sterling.

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared on the gross/direct basis, as permitted by the Charities SORP. Cash has been defined as cash in hand and short-term deposits of less than 3 months for the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows. The Balance sheet additionally includes short term deposits of less than one year within cash in hand.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, despite the economic uncertainties and inflationary pressures over the last few years. The charity has sufficient reserves to be able to meet these challenges and have also observed how well core giving income has held up over the last few years.

There have been no management judgements or any key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date in the financial statements that give rise to a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b) Funds

Unrestricted free reserves are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charitable purposes of the charity.

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and have been identified as being for particular purposes by the Trustees. They are not restricted and can be transferred to free reserves at any time at the discretion of the Trustees. Material designated funds are identified and explained in note 18.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the purposes of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. The purpose and use of each material restricted fund is set out in note 18.

Endowment funds are funds to be retained for the benefit of the charity, although these funds can be converted into income and are therefore expendable.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and receipt is probable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Donations and Legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable, except as follows:

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i. Income from offerings is recognised when received;

ii. Income from 'planned giving' is recognised only when received;

iii. When the donor specifies that donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.

Gift Aid relief on eligible donations is recognised on an accruals basis at the same point as the original donation.

Investment Income represented by interest on bank deposits, dividends receivable, interest on programme-related investments and interest on mixed purpose investments is recognised when receivable. Investment income from Mixed Purpose Investments and Bank Interest is added to the 'WCF Staffing' designated fund, with the remaining investment income being allocated to the 'Property Purchases' designated fund. The purpose of these funds is described fully in note 18.

Rental income is recognised within ***Income from Charitable Activities*** as the promotion of student community living and the hiring of the buildings for weddings and other Christian conferences and events is considered part of the activities the charity undertakes to achieve its purposes. The rental income on student rooms is recognised when invoiced (usually on a monthly basis) and, for events, is recognised in the period the event takes place. Net rental income is apportioned to the 'WCF Staffing' designated fund.

Donated services and facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their value to the charity at the date of the gift. Donated assets which are capitalised are included in the financial statements at fair value. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, no amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as and when a legal or constructive obligation arises.

Expenditure is allocated to the identified ***Charitable Activities*** directly, where applicable. Shared and support costs relating to employing church workers, administration costs and premises costs are allocated to Charitable Activities as follows:

Shared or Support cost	Basis of allocation
Church workers	Estimated time spent on each activity
Administration costs	Estimated usage of the resource
Premises costs	Estimated usage of the resource

These estimates are reviewed on an annual basis.

Grants payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which communication of the award is communicated to the recipient.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. Governance costs are included within Support costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

(e) Foreign currency
The microfinance element of the charity's programme related investments are managed in US$. In view of there being a very large number of small loans, the transactions are not converted to £s at the transaction date but the US$ balances at the year-end are converted to £s at the year-end rate. Gains and losses on exchange are treated as other gains and losses within the Statement of Financial Activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Fixed assets are stated at cost and new items costing more than £3,000 are capitalised. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of fixed assets on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold property:	No depreciation charged (see below)
Audio, Visual and office equipment:	20%
Furniture and Fittings:	20% (with some assets being depreciated at 10%)

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of disposal. No provision for depreciation has been made for freehold property as it is the view of the Trustees that the estimated residual value of each property is not materially different from the carrying value. The Trustees undertake an impairment review whenever they identify any indicators that impairment may have occurred.

Donated properties have been included in the Balance Sheet at their current value at the date of the gift.

The charity owns three residential properties located adjacent to two of its church buildings. These properties were purchased and are held for the charitable benefit derived from their proximity to the church. Such benefits include better parking and access to church premises, the use of gardens for church events and activities and the ability to offer housing to staff and volunteers, where the proximity to the churches is to the benefit of its operations. Where vacancies arise, the charity seeks to rent rooms to such volunteers or staff. Where no such tenants are in prospect, the charity makes short-term lets to other members of the public in order to steward its resources well. As the charity holds the properties primarily for the benefit of its charitable purposes rather than for rental, the properties are held as functional fixed assets and not as investment properties.

(g) Financial instruments
A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

(h) Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(i) Financial investments
Listed investments are held in both a common investment fund and as separate portfolio managed under the discretionary mandate. Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

(j) Programme-related and mixed purpose investments
Programme-related investments consist of charitable loans; some of which carry an interest rate and some which are interest-free. These investments are carried at cost less any provision for impairment less any repayments received. Mixed purpose investments are held for a financial return but also contribute to the charity's purposes.

(k) Lease contracts
Rentals applicable to operating lease agreements where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(l) Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity makes grants to financially support global partners overseas and to UK-based missionaries and mission organisations. Where an individual or organisation has been supported by the charity for a number of years, strict compliance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice may regard some arrangements as constituting constructive obligations such that future years' support is accounted immediately as a liability.

The Trustees are confident that the individuals and organisations supported would not view their support as an open-ended obligation on the part of the charity as they are aware that all support is reviewable annually.

(m) Pension costs
The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension plan on behalf of its eligible employees. The contributions are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

2 Offerings and donations

Year ended 31 March 2025	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	1,024,094	41,311	237,709	**1,303,114**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	229,734	2,866	31,148	**263,748**
Grants receivable	-	-	7,881	**7,881**
	1,253,828	44,177	276,738	**1,574,743**
Previous year ended 31 March 2024				
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	1,009,797	70,630	158,672	**1,239,099**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	222,539	9,975	26,726	**259,240**
Grants receivable	-	-	-	**-**
	1,232,336	80,605	185,398	**1,498,339**

Grants received in the current year included £3,720 of government grants in support of a Welcome Hub for Ukranian refugees and the first tranche (£2,100) of a Bristol City Leap grant towards the costs of an Eco-Friendly survey at Highgrove Church. No grants were received in the prior year.

3 Income from Charitable Activities

Year ended 31 March 2025	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Student rooms rents	-	105,868	-	**105,868**
Other rents and building hire	1,194	80,656	-	**81,850**
Church events and weekends away	66,457	871	4,736	**72,064**
	67,651	187,395	4,736	**259,782**
Previous year ended 31 March 2024				
Student rooms rents	-	96,824	-	**96,824**
Other rents and building hire	249	74,729	-	**74,978**
Church events and weekends away	57,242	-	18	**57,260**
	57,491	171,553	18	**229,062**

4 Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Bank deposit interest	-	55,389	475	**55,864**	63,498
Loan stock interest	-	20,667	-	**20,667**	22,000
Programme related investments return	-	76,833	-	**76,833**	77,986
Dividend income on financial investments	-	83,663	10,826	**94,489**	84,580
Feed in Tariff from solar panels	-	512	-	**512**	414
	-	237,064	11,301	**248,365**	248,478

All prior year Income from Investments was incurred in Unrestricted Designated Funds.

5 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Grant funding of activities £	Activities undertaken directly £	Church worker and support costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2025	(note 7)		(note 6)	
Global Partnerships	236,696	-	28,967	**265,663**
City and Community Outreach	87,467	25,812	133,427	**246,706**
Gathered Church	-	60,420	381,354	**441,774**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	33,052	301,506	**334,558**
Student Ministry	-	13,461	153,066	**166,527**
Discipleship & Leadership Development	8,455	24,846	151,674	**184,975**
Pastoral Care	4,062	1,409	77,121	**82,592**
	336,680	159,000	1,227,115	**1,722,795**
Previous year ended 31 March 2024				
	(restated)	(restated)		
Global Partnerships	229,229	-	23,535	**252,764**
City and Community Outreach	53,379	23,253	125,138	**201,770**
Gathered Church	-	46,565	377,529	**424,094**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	28,122	244,245	**272,367**
Student Ministry	-	14,561	174,738	**189,299**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	10,485	33,754	137,439	**181,678**
Pastoral Care	8,479	870	74,971	**84,320**
	301,572	147,125	1,157,595	**1,606,292**

Prior year Pastoral Care grant funding included some direct costs. These have now be re-allocated to Activities undertaken directly.

6 Church worker and Support costs

	Church worker costs £	Admin costs £	Premises costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2025				
Global Partnerships	24,217	4,750	-	**28,967**
City and Community Outreach	99,241	7,125	27,061	**133,427**
Gathered Church	261,235	11,876	108,243	**381,354**
Children and Youth Ministry	242,634	4,750	54,122	**301,506**
Student Ministry	89,444	9,500	54,122	**153,066**
Discipleship & Leadership Development	117,488	7,125	27,061	**151,674**
Pastoral Care	74,746	2,375	-	**77,121**
	909,005	47,501	270,609	**1,227,115**
Previous year ended 31 March 2024				
Global Partnerships	19,854	3,681	-	**23,535**
City and Community Outreach	91,181	5,522	28,435	**125,138**
Gathered Church	254,583	9,204	113,742	**377,529**
Children and Youth Ministry	183,693	3,681	56,871	**244,245**
Student Ministry	110,504	7,363	56,871	**174,738**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	103,482	5,522	28,435	**137,439**
Pastoral Care	73,130	1,841	-	**74,971**
	836,427	36,814	284,354	**1,157,595**

Included in Admin costs are Governance costs of £5,520 (2024: £5,262).

Church worker costs are allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on each activity.

Admin and Premises costs are allocated to activities on the basis of usage estimates.

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities

Year ended 31 March 2025	Global Partnerships £	City and Community Outreach £	Discipleship and Leadership Dev't £	Pastoral Care £	Total funds £
Grants to Institutions	94,614	81,932	-	-	**176,546**
Grants to Individuals	142,082	5,535	8,455	4,062	**160,134**
	236,696	87,467	8,455	4,062	**336,680**
Previous year ended 31 March 2024				(restated)	
Grants to Institutions	101,006	49,559	-	-	**150,565**
Grants to Individuals	128,223	3,820	10,485	8,479	**151,007**
	229,229	53,379	10,485	8,479	**301,572**

Prior year Pastoral Care grant funding included some direct costs. These have now be re-allocated to Activities undertaken directly.

Analysis of grants to institutions
Institutions receiving over £2,500 in either the current or prior year or with Trustee links have been disclosed.

Institution name	Charitable activity	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Beloved	*City and Community Outreach*	**6,305**	7,120
Bridges for Communities	*City and Community Outreach*	**2,500**	3,001
* Bristol Noise	*City and Community Outreach*	**3,600**	2,400
Home For Good	*City and Community Outreach*	**901**	4,657
InHope (Bristol)	*City and Community Outreach*	**12,578**	8,198
L4 Enterprises CIC (Grace Network)	*City and Community Outreach*	**25,000**	-
Sixty One	*City and Community Outreach*	**2,960**	2,950
Urban Pursuit	*City and Community Outreach*	**10,950**	4,650
Victioria Park Baptist Church	*City and Community Outreach*	**4,586**	1,719
The George Muller Charitable Trust	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**53,923**	59,998
Ripple Effect	*Global Partnerships*	**3,780**	-
KIVA	*Global Partnerships*	**2,097**	13,075
Frontiers	*Global Partnerships*	**-**	17,520
Tearfund	*Global Partnerships*	**5,750**	2,800
ForEthiopia	*Global Partnerships*	**2,750**	2,750
Hands at Work UK	*Global Partnerships*	**18,819**	580
* Bristol International Trust (BISC)	*Global Partnerships*	**4,290**	6,223
Other Institutional grants	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**15,757**	12,924
		176,546	150,565

Institutional grant recipients marked * have a close connection with Woodlands Group of Churches by virtue of having trustees in common or key management personnel who are also on the Woodlands Group of Churches Trustee Board.

A Dawson is part of the key management personnel of Bristol International Trust (BISC).
T J Dobson is a Trustee of Bristol Noise.

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities (continued)

The George Muller Charitable Trust facilitates prayer and financial support for a number of global and local mission partners. Woodlands Group of Churches partner with The George Muller Charitable Trust in supporting many of these partners, who also have a close partnership with our churches.

Included within the grants made to The George Muller Charitable Trust are grants totalling £26,740 (2024: £24,240) in respect of the charity's two partnerships with Hands at Work in Africa. An additional £18,819 (2024: £580) was given directly to Hands at Work UK bringing the total to £45,559 (2024: £24,820).

8 Expenditure on Raising funds

	Unrestricted Free Reserves	Unrestricted Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Fund	Total funds
Year ended 31 March 2025	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Online donation processing fees	21,064	-	-	-	**21,064**
Investment management fees	-	-	-	3,562	**3,562**
	21,064	-	-	3,562	**24,626**
Previous year ended 31 March 2024					
Online donation processing fees	17,962	-	-	**-**	**17,962**
Investment management fees	-	-	-	**-**	**-**
	17,962	-	-	-	**17,962**

9 Net income/(expenditure)

This is stated after charging:	**Total funds 2025**	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Depreciation (see note 12)	**14,431**	14,820
Auditor's remuneration for statutory audit services	**5,520**	5,262

10 People resources

A summary of the cost of church workers for the current and preceding financial year is below:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	**825,574**	768,790
Social Security Costs	**55,136**	46,222
Pension costs	**15,328**	13,128
	896,038	828,140

In the year to 31 March 2025, the average number of staff employed was 48 (2024: 51)

No employee received employment benefits of more than £60,000 in the current or preceding year.

10 People resources (continued)

The charity is heavily dependent on volunteers to conduct its activities and achieve its mission and aims.
As voluntary involvement is encouraged for all those who consider themselves a part of the churches, it is impossible to reliably quantify the numbers of people or hours that the charity receives. The Trustees' report further illustrates the impact that volunteers have on the work of the charity.

The key management personnel of the charity includes the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. The employment benefits paid to key management were £346,865 (2024: £345,918).

The charity operated a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £15,328 (2024: £13,128). The defined contribution liability is allocated between activities and funds on the same basis as the salary of the individual to whom those contributions relate.

11 Taxation

Woodlands Group of Churches is recognised as a charity for UK tax purposes and is therefore exempt from Corporation Tax on its income and gains provided that these are used for charitable purposes only.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property and Improvements £	Audio, Visual and office Equipment £	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	2,548,328	184,899	84,053	**2,817,280**
Additions	1,285,998	-	8,039	**1,294,037**
Disposals	-	(1,500)	-	**(1,500)**
At 31 March 2025	3,834,326	183,399	92,092	**4,109,817**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	-	164,538	45,464	**210,002**
Charge for the year	-	7,464	6,967	**14,431**
Disposals	-	(1,500)	-	**(1,500)**
At 31 March 2025	-	170,502	52,431	**222,933**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	3,834,326	12,897	39,661	**3,886,884**
At 31 March 2024	2,548,328	20,361	38,589	**2,607,278**

Additions of £1,294,037 include property and other asset purchases of £969,037 and properties donated to the charity of £325,000 (see note 20).

13 Programme related investments

	Global Partnership Microfinance loans £	City and Community Outreach loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2024	3,206	1,981,040	1,984,246
Written off loans (charged to Charitable Activities as grants payable)	(162)	-	(162)
Exchange rate losses	(69)	-	(69)
Amounts repaid	(2,125)	(30,000)	(32,125)
At 31 March 2025	850	1,951,040	**1,951,890**
Included within:			
Fixed assets	-	1,583,540	1,583,540
Current assets	850	367,500	368,350
	850	1,951,040	**1,951,890**

Global Partnership Microfinance loans include small short term loans to entrepreneurs in poverty.

City and Community Outreach loans include short term loans to individuals to assist in their ministries linked with the charity's City and Community Outreach activities. A fuller explanation on the nature and basis for these loans is included within the Trustees' Annual Report.

14 Mixed purpose investments

	Loan Stock £	Other Loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	500,000	-	**500,000**
Included within:			
Current assets	500,000	-	500,000
	500,000	-	**500,000**

Mixed purpose investments includes £500,000 of interest bearing loan stock issued by Green Pastures Community Benefit Society (an exempt charity). The funds are used to help house the homeless and are unsecured.
Under the charity's investment policy, the maximum that can be invested for this purpose is limited at any one time to £500,000. These funds are held in a designated fund: 'Housing the Homeless'.
The interest earned on these investments is used to contrubute towards the costs of WCF staff.

15 Financial Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value brought forward	**3,216,860**	3,012,666
Acquisitions at cost	**396,215**	-
Proceeds on disposal	**(111,207)**	-
Movement in cash held for investment	**5,871**	-
Gains/(losses) in the year	**62,819**	204,194
Market value carried forward	**3,570,558**	3,216,860

Financial Investments consist of:
- units held in two common investment funds consisting of UK and Global listed equities, managed by Waystone Management UK (formerly Epworth Investment Management).
- a discretionery management mandate with Evelyn Partners consisting of listed investments and cash which are included within the charity's expendable endowment funds.

16 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	**29,853**	36,770
Gift Aid tax reclaims	**28,061**	26,217
Prepayments and accrued income	**8,587**	10,390
	66,501	73,377

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	**4,653**	3,763
Taxation and social security	**12,783**	14,746
Accruals and deferred income	**47,996**	42,309
	65,432	60,818

18 Movement in funds

Year ended 31 March 2025	At 1 April 2024 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
Free reserves	672,842	1,321,479	(1,126,934)	(140,960)	**726,427**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	123,062	44,671	(82,847)	-	**84,886**
Fixed Asset NBV (designated)	2,607,278	-	-	954,606	**3,561,884**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	1,981,040	-	-	(30,000)	**1,951,040**
Capacity Development (designated)	408,302	-	(14,021)	1,116,327	**1,510,608**
Housing the Homeless (designated)	511,000	20,667	(11,000)	(20,667)	**500,000**
Property Purchases (designated)	2,644,218	324,312	(52,985)	(2,036,905)	**878,640**
St James/UPA (designated)	59,018	23,293	(22,759)	-	**59,552**
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)	14,511	127	(11,204)	29,687	**33,121**
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)	36,000	-	-	(36,000)	**-**
Strategic Projects (designated)	50,000	-	(29,569)	-	**20,431**
WCF Staffing Fund (designated)	60,311	55,566	(141,425)	164,765	**139,217**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	799,214	55,883	-	-	**855,097**
	9,966,796	1,845,998	(1,492,744)	853	**10,320,903**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	10,954	9,610	(13,302)	1,469	**8,731**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	11,929	18,374	(28,440)	-	**1,863**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	140	7,813	(8,131)	(140)	**(318)**
Highgrove Global Partner Fund	1,344	11,697	(14,328)	3,728	**2,441**
Woodlands Global Partner Fund	8,193	31,363	(39,648)	11,718	**11,626**
The Lloyd Johnstone Trust Fund	-	38,309	(8,535)	-	**29,774**
Microfinance	3,207	-	(2,355)	-	**852**
Local Care and Mission Fund	9,493	29,110	(29,869)	8,137	**16,871**
Needy Saints	20,732	-	(2,055)	-	**18,677**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	14,894	2,259	(10,635)	-	**6,518**
Community Church Southmead ministry	-	36,621	-	-	**36,621**
Woodlands East church plant	-	29,000	(8,708)	-	**20,292**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	347	5,000	(5,035)	(271)	**41**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	-	13,902	(11,287)	(2,615)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	3,782	-	(3,782)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	-	301	(301)	-	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	17,368	-	(17,368)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offering (Southside)	-	2,675	-	(2,675)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offering (WCF Offering)	-	11,180	(11,486)	306	**-**
Other restricted funds (see description below)	20,863	50,107	(57,095)	640	**14,515**
	102,096	318,471	(251,210)	(853)	**168,504**
Endowment Funds (expendable)					
The Lloyd Johnstone Endowment fund	-	625,735	(3,562)	-	**622,173**
	-	625,735	(3,562)	-	622,173
Total funds	10,068,892	2,790,204	(1,747,516)	-	**11,111,580**

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Previous year ended 31 March 2024	At 1 April 2023	Income and gains	Expenditure and losses	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2024
Unrestricted funds	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Free reserves	688,603	1,289,827	(1,182,596)	(122,992)	**672,842**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	127,902	80,606	(85,446)	-	**123,062**
Fixed Asset NBV (designated)	2,594,613	-	-	12,665	**2,607,278**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	2,160,225	-	-	(179,185)	**1,981,040**
Capacity Development (designated)	350,000	-	(22,194)	80,496	**408,302**
Housing the Homeless (designated)	500,000	22,000	-	(11,000)	**511,000**
Property Purchases (designated)	2,239,606	336,448	(43,968)	112,132	**2,644,218**
St James/UPA (designated)	52,370	23,718	(17,070)	-	**59,018**
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)	27,170	-	(12,659)	-	**14,511**
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)	51,000	-		(15,000)	**36,000**
Strategic Projects (designated)	-	-	(9,044)	59,044	**50,000**
WCF Staffing Fund (designated)	-	37,864	(41,106)	63,553	**60,311**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	595,020	204,194	-	-	**799,214**
	9,386,509	1,994,657	(1,414,083)	(287)	**9,966,796**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	6,151	9,384	(9,530)	4,949	**10,954**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	10,546	14,823	(13,440)	-	**11,929**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	662	24,142	(24,952)	288	**140**
Highgrove Global Partner Fund	3,700	10,604	(16,472)	3,512	**1,344**
Local Care and Mission Fund	8,158	27,611	(32,099)	5,823	**9,493**
Metro Special Offering	3,104	450	(3,554)	-	**-**
Highgrove Special Offering	-				**-**
Central Special Offering	-	7,572	(5,025)	(2,547)	**-**
WCF Special Offfering	-	15,926	(15,926)	-	**-**
Microfinance	16,882	-	(13,675)	-	**3,207**
Needy Saints	23,691	457	(3,416)	-	**20,732**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	23,930	2,293	(11,329)	-	**14,894**
Sunday Evening Offerings (Woodlands Centr	-	2,718	(95)	(2,623)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	878	4,507	(4,317)	(721)	**347**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Churc	-	9,738	(5,510)	(4,228)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	3,512	-	(3,512)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	-	2,551	(2,551)	-	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Centra	-	10,092	(754)	(9,338)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offering (South Bristol)	-	3,419	(300)	(3,119)	**-**
Woodlands Global Partner Fund	11,630	29,685	(40,284)	7,162	**8,193**
Other restricted funds (see description)	17,741	5,932	(7,451)	4,641	**20,863**
	127,073	185,416	(210,680)	287	**102,096**
Total funds	9,513,582	2,180,073	(1,624,763)	-	**10,068,892**

Description and purpose of funds and transfers

All funds with an opening balance, closing balance, income, gain, expenditure, loss or transfer greater than £10,000 have been separately disclosed. With the exception of monthly mission offerings which are disclosed in full regardless of size, all other funds have been included within 'Other restricted funds'. The charity accounts fully for all restricted funds and a summary of the movement on any smaller fund is available upon request.

Free reserves
These funds represent the free reserves of the charity. Transfers out include £49,000 from Woodlands Central's budget surplus to the Capacity Development fund to help cover costs associated with the upcoming Hellier House redevelopment, and an additional £78,700 from annual congregational budgets to ensure funds are available for the development of buildings and the exceptional and unexpected repair and replacement of assets.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

A further transfer out of the fund of £59,375 relates to a large gift received from an individual donor to be used at the Trustees' Trustees' discretion. These funds have been allocated to two designated funds to support training and mental health initiatives.

Transfers into the fund include the annual depreciation charge of £14,430 met by the Fixed Assets NBV fund and £36,000 from the wind down of a designated fund related to the secondment of the previous Southside congregation leaders.

Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)
From time to time, the charity receives unrestricted donations and allows the donor(s) to express wishes as to their ultimate application within the charitable purposes of the charity. The application of these funds is at the full discretion of the Trustees, but they take account of the expressed wishes of the donor. The Trustees have determined it appropriate to hold these 'earmarked' funds in a designated fund.

Fixed Asset NBV (designated)
This fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets held by the charity. The transfers in and out of this fund relate to additions, depreciation and profits and loss on disposal. This year additions include £952,500 relating to the purchase of buildings, including a property next door to Woodlands Central and Emmanuel Chapel used by Branch Church.

Charitable Loans NBV (designated)
This fund represents the carrying value of the charitable loans held by the charity. These exist to further the City and Community Outreach dimension of the charity's work. This scheme is closed and no new loans have been dispersed under the scheme. The eight outstanding loans will be called in as they mature.

A capital repayment of £30,000 against one loan balance was received in the year and transferred to the Property Purchases fund.

Capacity Development (designated)
This fund enables major capital developments of existing buildings that provide increased capacity, usage and to ensure funds are available for unexpected/exceptional repair or replacement costs that may be incurred.

Transfers into this fund include a proportion of each congregation's general funds income being set aside to meet future building developments and unanticipated large emergency capital expenditure costs (total £78,700).

This year £1.05m has been transferred to the fund to cover costs related to the redevelopment of Hellier House, as we look to expand Woodlands Central's campus. These funds have been transferred from the Property Purchase fund (£1,000,000) and Woodlands Central's year end general fund surplus (£49,000).

Housing the Homeless (designated)
This fund is used to support housing for the homeless, currently through Green Pastures loans. The interest payments from these loans are being used to contribute to the WCF Staffing designated fund.

Property Purchases (designated)
This fund exists to enable the purchase of properties that will serve to help expand our Woodlands Central campus and establish church plants. After extensive work to assess the viability of several properties as potential venues for Central, Hellier House flat 3 was purchased. Woodlands now own all three flats in this building and work to develop this site to meet the needs of the Central congregation are under way. £1m funds from this fund have been transferred to the Capacity Development Fund in support of this work. This year also saw the purchase of Emmanuel Chapel (Branch Church site).

Net rental income is transferred monthly from this fund to contribute to the WCF Staffing fund (£114,410).
Transfers into the fund relate to the repayment of loan capital (£30,000).

St James/UPA (designated)
The charity started renting out accommodation in their St James building in 2021. The net rental is included within this designated fund in order to help meet the costs of future upkeep liabilities for the ageing building.

Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)
This fund was created from a gift of £30,000 received from a donor for 'use by the Trustees as deemed fit'. As Mental Health is a key priority for the Trustees, they have set aside this gift for this purpose. This fund was used to employ an in-house Well-being facilitator two days a week, and to support the running costs of a Well-being cafe at the Community Church and the WCF Well-being website.

The fund was bolstered this year by a transfer of £29,690 from general funds arising from a large one off gift received for use by the Trustees' at their discretion.

South Bristol Church Planting (designated)
This fund was created for the monthly contribution towards the stipend being paid by the West of England Baptist Network to R&N Pollard to work with Woodlands to plant a congregation in South Bristol. The Pollards have moved on from this role and this fund has been wound down and funds transferred back to general funds.

Strategic Projects (designated)
Following the Strategic Review in 2022, this fund has been created to set aside funds to meet the costs associated with the recommendations from the review that the trustees and SLT have prioritised. Costs to date relate to Rebranding, a safeguarding transformation project, website development and WCF Academy expenses.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

WCF Staffing (designated)
A number of staff do not fall solely into one congregation but serve the whole of the Woodlands Church Family.
This fund was created to meet the costs associated with employing these members of staff. Income into this fund is from sources other than general giving: mixed purpose investment loan interest, bank interest and net rental income from properties.
This year transfers into the fund include £29,690 relating to a large one off gift received for use by Trustees as they see fit.

Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)
This fund represents the cumulative unrealised investment gains from the charity's unrestricted equity investment portfolio.

Hands at Work (restricted)
Woodlands Church Family has two partnerships to support the work of the charity Hands at Work in two needy communities in Africa. These funds represent the monies raised from our congregations in support of these partnerships.
Additional funds have been raised to support missionaries serving with Hands at Work.

Highgrove Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Highgrove global and local mission partners to be supported both on a regular and on an ad hoc basis, as needs arise.

Woodlands Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Woodlands global partners to be supported both on a regular and ad hoc basis as needs arise.

The Lloyd Johnstone Trust Fund (restricted) and Lloyd Johnstone Endowment fund (expendable endowment)
These funds have arisen from the donation of assets and liabilities from The Lloyd Johnstone (Bristol) Trust (see note 20). The property and financial investments have been recognised in these accounts as an expendable endowment, with the income derived from the financial investments being recognised in the Lloyd Johnstone Trust Fund (restricted). This restricted fund is being used to fund the operation and maintenance of the property and occasional grants to mission organisations.

Microfinance (restricted)
These are funds given specifically for the purpose of investing in microfinance initiatives. Any microfinance repayments received are now being donated to a microfinance organisation called KIVA for their work.

Local Care and Mission Fund (restricted)
This fund was established for the Trustees to make discretionary gifts to local mission and care projects and organisations. The funds arise from regular offerings at the Woodlands Central congregation.

Needy Saints (restricted)
The Trustees have established a fund to be spent at their discretion on grants to those who are in financial hardship or particular need. Other members of church are invited to give into this fund.

Reach (Single Parents ministry) (restricted)
This fund arises from restricted giving to support the activities of Reach, a single parents outreach and includes the activities associated with the annual Single Parents Fair. This year the fund was used to support the cost of a community worker to reach and support single parent families in the Community Church campus.

Community Church Southmead ministry (restricted)
This fund arises from a restricted gift from a donor earmarked for sole use to expand and support the work and ministry of the Community Church in the Southmead area.

Woodlands East church plant (restricted)
Two restricted funds relating to the Woodlands East Church Plant have been created from gifts earmarked from donors for:
- contribution (£17,000) to the wage of the salaried leadership team at Woodlands East
- wind down of the Chelsea Christian Centre (previous congregation) bank account earmarked solely for Woodlands East outreach and ministry (£12,000)

WCF Offering (restricted)
The fund was established to faciliate co-ordinated giving across all congregations in response to global disasters or key appeals for which the Senior Leadership Team earmark a special/one off offering. This year, an offering was taken at Christmas for InHope (in support of the homeless in Bristol) and Tearfund (in support of the ongoing Middle East crisis).

Sunday Offerings (restricted)
Across the church, an offering is taken once a month during morning and evening services. These offerings are taken for the benefit of global partners serving overseas or for nationwide or city-based community care and outreach initiatives. Gifts are either sent directly to recipients from these funds or transferred to other funds as appropriate to their ultimate application.

19 Summary of assets and liabilities of each fund category

At 31 March 2025	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	3,561,884	-	325,000	**3,886,884**
Programme related investments	-	1,951,040	850	-	**1,951,890**
Mixed purpose investments	-	500,000	-	-	**500,000**
Financial investments	-	3,272,743	-	297,815	**3,570,558**
Cash, deposits and other current assets	791,217	308,809	167,654	-	**1,267,680**
Other current liabilities	(64,790)	-	-	(642)	**(65,432)**
	726,427	9,594,476	168,504	622,173	**11,111,580**

At 31 March 2024	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,607,278	-	-	**2,607,278**
Programme related investments	-	1,981,040	3,206	-	**1,984,246**
Mixed purpose investments	-	500,000	-	-	**500,000**
Financial investments	-	3,216,860	-	-	**3,216,860**
Cash, deposits and other current assets	733,660	988,776	98,890	-	**1,821,326**
Other current liabilities	(60,818)	-	-	-	**(60,818)**
	672,842	9,293,954	102,096	-	**10,068,892**

20 Donation of assets from the Lloyd Johnstone (Bristol) Trust

During the year, The Lloyd Johnstone (Bristol) Trust donated its assets and liabilities to Woodlands Group of Churches to enable the continuation of the work of that Trust upon its winding up. This activity relates to the provision of a flat for the short-term use of global partners returning from the mission field. This is now overseen by a small management committee on behalf of the Woodlands Group of Churches Trustees and Senior Leadership Team.

A summary of the assets and liabilities receivable at that date is below. The property and investment portfolio donated have been treated as expendable endowment funds in these accounts. The trust deed stated that the capital represented by these assets could be converted to income at the discretion of the Trustees, but has been maintained as capital until now to enable the continued funding of the ministry. The bank balance donated has been treated as a restricted income fund in these accounts called the Lloyd Johnstone Trust Fund. Any conversions of capital into income would also form part of this restricted fund.

	Restricted income funds £	Expendable Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets (property)	-	325,000	325,000
Financial investments	-	295,452	295,452
Cash balances	25,696	-	25,696
Creditors (accrued investment management fees)	-	(1,653)	(1,653)
	25,696	618,799	644,495

21 Prior year fund comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
Offerings and donations	1,232,336	80,605	185,398	-	**1,498,339**
Assets from The Lloyds Johnstone Trust	-	-	-	-	**-**
Charitable activities	57,491	171,553	18	-	**229,062**
Investments	-	248,478	-	-	**248,478**
Total	1,289,827	500,636	185,416	-	**1,975,879**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities					
Global Partnerships	46,299	62,822	143,643	-	**252,764**
City and Community Outreach	128,752	20,701	52,317	-	**201,770**
Gathered Church	381,688	42,406	-	-	**424,094**
Children and Youth Ministry	214,125	56,853	1,389	-	**272,367**
Student Ministry	162,538	18,558	8,203	-	**189,299**
Discipleship & Leadership Development	169,149	12,529	-	-	**181,678**
Pastoral Care	62,083	17,618	4,619	-	**84,320**
	1,164,634	231,487	210,171	-	**1,606,292**
Raising funds	17,962	-	-	-	**17,962**
Total	1,182,596	231,487	210,171	-	**1,624,254**
Net gains on investments	-	204,194	-	-	**204,194**
Net income	107,231	473,343	(24,755)	-	**555,819**
Transfers between funds	(122,992)	122,705	287	-	**-**
Other gains / (losses)	-	-	(509)	-	**(509)**
Net movement in funds	(15,761)	596,048	(24,977)	-	**555,310**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	688,603	8,697,906	127,073	-	**9,513,582**
Total funds carried forward	672,842	9,293,954	102,096	-	**10,068,892**

22 Reconciliation of the Statement of Financial Activities to the Statement of Cash Flows

	Statement of Financial Activities £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Cash flow £
A.1 Receipts from Donations and Legacies	2,219,238			
Donation of non-cash assets by LJT	(618,799)			
Decrease in debtors		7		**1,600,446**
A.2 Receipts from Charitable activities	259,782			
Decrease in debtors		4,800		
Increase in deferred income and other creditors			11,597	**276,179**
B.1 Payments for Raising funds	(24,626)			
Investment management costs met by portfolio	2,920			
Increase in accruals			642	**(21,064)**
B.2 Payments for Charitable activities	(1,722,795)			
Depreciation eliminated	14,431			
Non-cash grant on charitable loans	162			
Decrease in prepayments and other debtors		1,117		
Decrease in creditors and accruals			(7,625)	**(1,714,710)**
C.1 Receipts from Programme-related investments	76,833			
Non-cash foreign exchange movement	(26)			
Increase in debtors		619		**77,426**
C.2 Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	20,667			
Increase in debtors		333		**21,000**
D.1 Receipts from Investments	248,365			
Income from programme-related investments	(76,833)			
Income from mixed purpose investments	(20,667)			
				150,865
Balance sheet movements		**6,876**	**4,614**	

23 Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £	Change £
Cash in hand	272,456	314,530	**(42,074)**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	928,723	1,433,419	**(504,696)**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,201,179	1,747,949	**(546,770)**

	2024 £	2023 £	Change £
Cash in hand	314,530	188,546	**125,984**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,433,419	1,018,130	**415,289**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,747,949	1,206,676	**541,273**

24 Commitments

The charity had no capital or non-cancellable lease commitments at the end of the current or preceding period.

25 Payments to Trustees and other related party transactions

Remuneration and benefits paid to Trustees and other related parties

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Trustees have the authority to employ or engage under a contract for services a Trustee or any person connected with a Trustee as long as certain conditions are met and procedures followed. Below is a summary of these payments and those made to other related parties:

	Payments for services, Gifts and Grants £	Salary from employment £	Pension costs £	Total £
Year ended 31 March 2025				
D J Mitchell	-	41,250	1,050	**42,301**
T J Dobson	-	31,482	757	**32,239**
D Roderick	-	27,518	638	**28,156**
Close family members of Trustees	300	52,725	1,145	**54,171**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	-	157,786	3,640	**161,426**
Year ended 31 March 2024				
D J Mitchell	-	40,045	1,014	**41,059**
T J Dobson	-	30,425	726	**31,151**
D Roderick	-	23,679	523	**24,202**
Close family members of Trustees	1,154	51,325	936	**53,415**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	15,000	166,378	3,543	**184,921**

Close family members of Trustees comprises: D J Mitchell (son of D Mitchell), S Mitchell (daughter in-law of D Mitchell), D A Marsh (spouse of E J Marsh) and M Dobson (son of T Dobson).

The above disclosure of payments to Senior Leadership Team members comprises the following individuals who were not Trustees or close family members of a Trustee during the year: N J Savage, R Riddall, P Jinadu, K Jinadu, H C Thompson, J Saunders and M Smith.

Included in the prior year church worker costs are payments totalling £15,000 to the West of England Baptist Network as a contribution towards the stipend received by R and N Pollard.

R Riddall and N Savage, both members of the Senior Leadership Team and Key Management, are each in receipt of a charitable loan from the charity. The outstanding balance of the loans at the balance sheet date is £402,288 and £171,315 respectively. Both loans are secured on a property.

Donations from Trustees and related parties

The aggregate donations received from Trustees, SLT and related parties (including any related gift aid) were £55,599 (2024: £65,059).

Trustee expenses

No expenses were incurred in the current year by any trustees (2024: £127 paid to one trustee for trustee training expenses).

26 Company limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital and, in accordance with the Memorandum of Association, every member is liable to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charity in the event of the company being wound up.

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1125029

Accounts

woodlands church family

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

CHARITY NUMBER: 1125029
COMPANY NUMBER: 06569993
REGISTERED NAME: WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INTRODUCTION

This is the Board of Trustees' combined annual report for the year ended 31 March 2024 under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 together with the audited financial statements for the year. The charity has followed the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102 SORP 2019) in preparing these financial statements.

BACKGROUND

Woodlands Church Family has a shared structure, vision, values and multiple congregations based in various parts of Bristol. Woodlands Church Family is registered as Woodlands Group of Churches with registered charity number 1125029 and as a company limited by guarantee (company number 06569993). The legal entity continues to be called 'Woodlands Group of Churches', with 'Woodlands Church Family' used as a working name. These names and 'the Church' are used interchangeably throughout this report.

Motivated by the Great Commission in Matthew 28v18-20, the **Mission Statement** of the Woodlands Church Family is:

"to help reach the one million people of the Greater Bristol region, through church planting and regeneration and networking existing churches"

The goal is to see a light in every street and for every person to have opportunities to hear and see a demonstration of the Gospel.

Shared structure – The Woodlands Church Family has four main congregations:

- **Woodlands Central**, a multi-service resource congregation based in Clifton, with Woodlands Southside as a recent South Bristol plant as well as Woodies Local in Backwell.
- **Woodlands Community Church**, a multi-service resource congregation serving Southmead, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze, with Branch, a missional congregation reaching Brentry and Henbury.
- **Woodlands Highgrove**, a multi-service resource congregation serving Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle, Kingsweston, Stoke Bishop and Shirehampton.
- **Woodlands Metro**, a multi-service resource congregation based in the city centre.

Each of the congregations has its own congregational leadership team and where multi-services exist, there may be service congregational leadership teams. The Woodlands Church Family has a Senior Leadership Team and Trustee Board.

The Woodlands Church Family has several linked churches around Bristol with whom it partners. Each of these associated and affiliated churches are independently governed charities.

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

CHARITABLE PURPOSES, VISION, VALUES, ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

The declared charitable purposes of Woodlands Group of Churches are:

"The proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Christian Faith throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere."

"The organisation, sponsorship, promotion and continuing support of unincorporated bodies of Christians recognised by the Trustees as Christian churches or Christian fellowships meeting and functioning in various places in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere as the Trustees may decide for the worship of God, the instruction and edification of Christians, the care and instruction of young people and children, the evangelisation of non Christians, the relief of poverty and sickness and the advancement of the Christian Faith generally."

The **shared vision** of the Woodlands Church Family is to ***continually reproduce the life of Jesus***. We seek to achieve this vision through the following strategic aims and objectives:

1. **Commitment**
   To help an increasing number of people become committed Christians and part of the life and worship of the Church.
2. **Discipleship**
   To disciple each member in an atmosphere of love, prayer and Bible teaching to follow and become like Jesus.
3. **Service**
   To release every member into ministry and mission in the power of the Holy Spirit, with opportunities to discover, develop and fruitfully use their gifts.
4. **Unity**
   To build together in unity with other churches to reach the whole city and region with the Gospel, to be salt and light in the region and to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted, and to care for the planet.

This shared vision is motivated by the Great Command of Matthew 22v37-39, expressed in a set of **shared values** of Word and Spirit, Intimacy in Worship, Passion in Prayer, Depth of Discipleship, Infectious Witness, Love and Faithfulness in relationships, Forming and being Community, Care for the Poor, the Persecuted and the Planet.

Our principal activities to achieve our charitable purposes for the public benefit are:

- The establishment of **Global Partnerships** with Christian missionaries and organisations based at home and overseas;
- Local **City and Community Outreach** activities and events to enhance the outreach of congregations into local communities;
- The provision of **Gathered Church** services and events for the general public;
- The provision of services, events and programmes for **Children and Youth**;
- The provision of services, events, programmes and community living opportunities for **Students**;
- The provision of programmes of **Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development** and associated resources; and
- **Pastoral Care** for those of any age or background associated with Woodlands Church Family.

More detailed descriptions of the activities of the Church, together with how these deliver public benefit and our achievements for the period, are under the heading of Achievements and Performance, below.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Woodlands Church Family is committed to enabling as many people as possible to participate and become part of the life of the church. As such, we operate no formal membership structure and all are welcome, whether 'just visiting' or wishing to get connected and involved. In practice, the opportunities to attend services and take part in other activities in person are most accessible to those who live in Bristol and the surrounding region.

We continue to have a significant presence online which means that many throughout the world can and do benefit by being able to receive teaching, inspiration and interaction with the Woodlands Church Family.

In addition, our prayerful and financial support of national and international institutions, individuals and projects which advance the Christian faith, means that the Church does impact and bring benefit to sections of the public well beyond Bristol and the surrounding region.

The Senior Leadership Team and Trustees of the Woodlands Church Family have given significant time and attention this year to processing and acting on agreed recommendations from a 'Strategic Review' completed in March 2023. As well as a strategy for Youth, the Church has begun a significant exercise of transition to release David Mitchell as senior leader of the Woodlands Church Family from his embedded role as leader at the Woodlands Central congregation. A discernment process has led to the decision to appoint two of the current Core Leadership Team, Rachel Riddall and Nigel Savage as point leaders at Central with additional executive support. This transition has already begun with a view to Rachel and Nigel being fully invested in their new roles by September 2024.

Another recommendation was the formation of Woodlands Academy to bring together training resources and leadership development for the Woodlands Church Family. Tim Dobson has been asked to co-ordinate this initiative and has given a day a week to develop this new structure which is due to begin in September 2024. This will also be the vehicle for our 'Church Planting' stream and an exciting new development has been the invitation from an 'ageing' church in Easton, Chelsea Christian Centre, for Woodlands to take on their legacy and facilities and be a base for a new Woodlands 'Eastside' community.

Extensive work has also been carried out in the spheres of Wellbeing, Children's Ministry and Governance and a greater cohesion in the Woodlands Church Family is tangible.

As we look back on 2023/24, the following are examples of our key ministry activities throughout the year as we sought to put faith into practice in a variety of ways:

Global Partnerships

One of our strategic aims is 'to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted and to care for the planet'.

The Woodlands Church Family actively supports several individuals and charities who we refer to as 'global partners and global associates'. Currently there are 36 active global partners working in 16 countries all over the world, including 5 based in the UK, focused on international work.

This past year has seen further connectivity with our Global Partners and associates through on-line services, training courses, and a digital chat group. These continue to be an encouragement to those working in more remote and religiously challenging locations.

During the year:

- We made grants totalling £229,229 (2022/23: £259,764) to a significant number of individuals/families and institutions. Further details can be found in note 7 of the accounts;
- We took a special offering to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya in September 2023 and were able to send grants totalling £17,520 to Frontiers, a Christian organisation working to provide relief;
- We regularly contacted our global partners and associates to hear news of their work and ask how we might best support them through prayer;
- Prayer continues to be the bedrock of global partnerships work, with monthly prayer meetings which continue to draw 35-40 to attend in a hybrid format (face to face and virtual), where two global partners 'Zoom' into the meeting each month to share their needs. There is also regular international focus in weekly congregational prayers, on monthly global offering Sundays and in the prayer rooms during our bi-annual 24/7 prayer weeks and prayer rooms;
- In June 2023, the Global Partnership Weekend took the theme of 'Jesus - For Every Nation', with six global partners flying back to join us for the weekend to share in services and be encouraged in their ministries;
- We continued our 'Life Ministry Reviews', with 30 of our global partners submitting formal annual reviews to church leadership, highlighting areas of success, growth life changes, as well as ongoing concerns and need. This has been a very helpful exercise in supporting their ongoing pastoral and financial needs and assessing effectiveness of their work;
- A significant development and unexpected answer to prayer, has been the approach of the Lloyd Johnstone (Bristol) Trust to take on the stewardship of a two-bed flat in Henleaze that they own, for the sole benefit of returning missionaries needing short-term accommodation, free of cost. Woodlands have agreed to take this on, continuing the vision of the original trustees. This transition is currently in process and a management committee comprising three Woodlands

members is in place to take over the running of the facility. It has continued to benefit both Woodlands and non-Woodlands mission partners. One such example is a global partner, who had served effectively in the Indian Ocean islands for 17 years and could effectively transition to a new long-term posting in North Africa, after a 6 month stay here in late 2023-24. The assets being subsumed by the Woodlands Church Family will be included in the 2024/25 financial statements.

- Our partnership with Hands at Work in Africa, shared with the George Muller Charitable Trust, has continued to develop, with grants in total given of £24,240 (2022/23: £25,993);

- We gave bursaries of £1,225 (2022/23: £2,920) from our short-term mission fund to five members of Woodlands for trips ranging from YWAM DTS training and outreaches in California and South Africa, working with children in Zambia, Croatia and Romania. In January 2024 we also launched 3 targeted short-term trips to support the work of our global partners in Peru, France and Romania which are ongoing. An Easter prayer and mobilisation trip to North Africa, partnering with another mission organisation has also become a regular opportunity for Woodlands members to take part in;

- The Woodlands Climate Action Network is a recently launched initiative, led by young adults aiming to help Woodlands look at the big picture of our sustainability and challenging us as a church to move towards carbon neutral operations with some practical suggestions for change; and

- Following our participation in the Operation Noah Bright Now pledge (to abstain from financial investment in fossil fuels) in the prior year, the Highgrove congregation was awarded the Silver Eco Church award in April 2023.

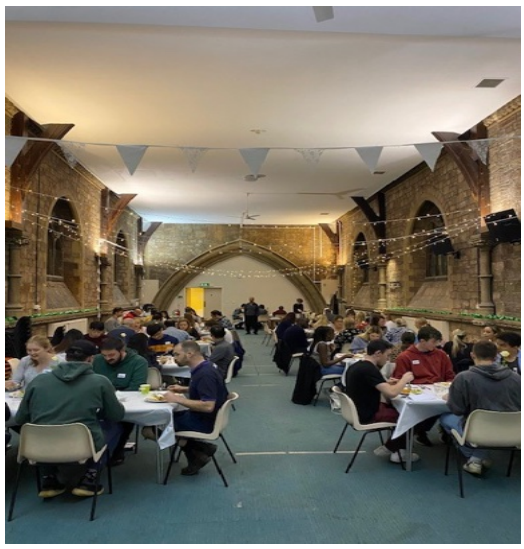
City and Community Outreach

The Woodlands Church Family is committed to social action and evangelism in the Bristol region through our own activities and in partnership with many local agencies. This includes work with the homeless, those in debt, urban regeneration and more. Much of this work is with the most marginalised members of the local community and we aim to support them through practical expressions of support as well as offering them the opportunity to get involved in Church life and come to faith.

Examples of this during the year were:

- We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with local government which means Bristol Churches have been quick to respond to urgent needs identified by the City Council. This includes work with TLG (Transforming Lives for Good), working in three primary schools across the city. Volunteers commit to sitting with an individual child one-on-one every week and improving their confidence and self-esteem. Bristol City Council has encouraged churches to support schools particularly where already vulnerable children have fallen behind with their education or have been non-attending.
- Woodlands Central has continued to run two men's football teams. These are thriving communities made up of people from inside and outside of the church, playing in the Bristol Churches League.

- The basketball outreach 'Bristol Brickers' continued with the summer sessions taking place in a park in Southmead making it easier for local children to join in. The club seeks to engage teenagers from the community, giving them a safe space to interact with other teens, get some exercise and hear some uplifting team talks. A highlight was a trip see the Bristol Flyers professional basketball team play as a source of inspiration to our young players.



- The Alpha Course is a fantastic opportunity for people from all walks of life to explore the Christian faith. The Alpha Course has run at Woodlands Central every term this year, with courses also running across the Woodlands Church Family, most notably in Backwell and at Woodlands Metro and Highgrove. This year, there was a significant increase in attendance at Alpha courses across the Woodlands Church Family. For example, at Woodlands Central there were 214 guests who came to at least one session (2022/23: 150). It's so encouraging to see the increase amongst all ages, but especially young adults and students. We have seen lots of fruit across the Woodlands Church Family from Alpha this year and it's exciting to see many continuing their journey as they join post-Alpha small groups.

- The Noise ran in May 2023 with over 700 volunteers working across many of the more disadvantaged communities of Bristol. Many projects were completed for vulnerable families, cream teas for senior citizens and fun afternoon in some of the more marginalised communities around the city. The Noise in 2024 will be the final Noise weekend, after 24 years since it first ran in Bristol, with the next season being one of encouraging churches to serve their local communities all year around through the Noise 365 initiative.

- With Foodbank outlets in Southmead run by Community Church and support given by volunteers at the NW Bristol Foodbank and the East/South Bristol Foodbank, hundreds of families received emergency food supplies. Woodlands Southside has strengthened its efforts in serving Victoria Park Foodbank in terms of people volunteering, provision of food, and a monetary gift through Southside's youth raising the foodbank's profile and participation in some sponsored activities.

- Once again, a highlight of the year was the Single Parents Fair in November 2023. We saw over 100 families during the morning and once again everything was provided free of charge. We had second-hand clothes, books and toys, family portraits, professional haircuts, a free café, cookery lessons and advice stands from a range of organisations.
- In partnership with Victoria Park Baptist Church, Woodlands Southside has been operating a weekly hub for Ukrainians. This has been really valued by our Ukrainian guests with its provision of amazing food, and fantastic and enduring friendships that have developed. There has also been quite a bit of signposting which has also helped many of the guests find appropriate paid work.
- A thriving New Wine Leaders hub runs every other month hosted by the Woodlands Church Family. Church Leaders from over 50 different churches gather to share stories of encouragement, training and times of prayer.
- Woodlands Metro was involved in the fundraising 'Sleep Out' for InHope (Bristol) in October 2023. Despite sleeping out in Storm Babet, £9,500 was raised for the Wild Goose Drop-in. We put together and donated 50 Easter hampers for Beloved in March and volunteered to collect food donations from Tesco's Eastville and Brislington stores in November and April. During last month's collection we gathered 667kg of donations which is equivalent to 56 standard food parcels or 167 meals' worth of food.
- Our Branch congregation has also offered a very successful 'Warm Space' and lunch facility throughout the winter months for some of the most vulnerable members of the local community.
- During 2023/4, the Community Church became a 'Home for Good' church championing fostering and adoption and providing a support group for local carers.
- The Sea Mills community were impacted greatly by the tragic death of three children in February 2024, which was covered in the national news. Highgrove joined with the local Anglican church to provide pastoral and prayer support to Sea Mills Primary school staff, students and families, as well as resourcing a community space for the Police and the rest of the local community in the immediate aftermath. With support from Highgrove, out of this space has developed a weekly 'Friendship Cafe' for local women, particularly those who might feel isolated, to meet, as well as an ESOL group in partnership with Sea Mills Community Initiatives and funded by the City Council.
- Highgrove continues their involvement in the local primary school with regular assemblies and RE teaching during Christmas and Easter. In the local Secondary school, Highgrove runs a reading support scheme and are about to start running wellbeing groups for students who are finding school difficult.
- After an absence of 5 years, we're again participating in Love Running in May 2024 in partnership with Love Running CIO. It's a mass entry into the Bristol 10k, widened out this year to include the Half Marathon. As before, we've been able to encourage and engage participation

from other churches in the city, not just the Woodlands Church Family. It's incredible to see nearly 250 ordinary people coming together to run and raise money for trafficked children in the Philippines as well as some of the areas of greatest need closer to home. Love Running is closing in on its £50,000 target which will take the cumulative total well over £800,000 raised through Love Running over the years.

City and Community Outreach Charitable Loans

Over the years, the Church has employed a strategy to see thriving churches in local communities by providing **short-term secured loans** to enable key workers and volunteers to be able to purchase a house in those communities. It has been our experience that having people living in the heart of communities, getting involved in community life and resourcing local outreach makes a significant difference in fruitfulness and growth. These loans have been typically 3-5 years in duration and, once repaid, were being recycled to enable further loans to be made. These loans are classified as programme-related investments in these financial statements because their purpose is not to generate a commercial financial return but to enable people to live and serve Christ in the community to which they are called.

In the prior financial year, in light of the cost-of-living crisis and escalating inflation and interest rates, the Trustees decided to close the scheme to new applications given the challenges of assessing applicant loan affordability in an uncertain economic environment. Once existing loans have been repaid, alternative uses for the funds will be determined on a case-by-case basis in order to further the purposes of the Church. The Trustees are thankful for the charitable benefit and fruitfulness that this strategy has brought over the years, but recognise that the skills required, the risk involved and the opportunity cost of continuing the scheme mean this was not a strategy that should be continued.

However, as an exception this year, the Trustees decided to extend a short-term housing loan to a member of key management personnel, in order to ensure stability during a period of transition of leadership at our Woodlands Central congregation. Details of this loan are included in note 24 of the financial statements.

The current carrying value of loans outstanding is shown as a designated fund in these financial statements. There were eight such loans outstanding at the year end (2023: eight), with one disbursed and one repaid in the year. The value of the outstanding loans was £1,981,040 (2022/23: £2,160,225).

Gathered Church

The Woodlands Church Family exists to enable people to find and grow in their relationship with God and the Christian faith, and to bless the city of Bristol, serving people of all faiths and none.

We gather on Sundays at the large central location of Woodlands Church in Clifton which runs four regular services on Sundays, and in six other neighbourhood sites in Bristol and now into North Somerset. Our model is based on an understanding that Church can exist in the modes of Cell (the small group, or Church in the home), Congregation (Church in a neighbourhood) and Celebration (Church in the City). Our Woodlands Central congregation provides that gathered Celebration context, especially at our 11am and 6.30pm services. At our 3rd Sunday evening

services, a number of churches associated with Woodlands from around the region are specially invited to join us for these services.

On a typical Sunday there will be eleven public worship services conducted over the sites where Woodlands Church Family congregations are based. In the nearby North Somerset village of Backwell we have begun a monthly family service that attracts up to 100 people. This increased to twice a month from May 2024 with a planned trajectory to begin weekly Sunday services later in 2024/5.

We continue to offer on-line worship, streaming our larger Sunday services and gathering a Zoom congregation at our 8 am service at Woodlands Central.

Woodlands Church Family congregations are very easy to find through on-line search engines, and our on-line services attract hundreds of watches each Sunday. Indeed, we have discovered that many people who are looking for a Church explore on-line services first before making in-person connection.

It has been encouraging to see our 'in person' congregations continue strongly. At Woodlands Central, over 500 first time visitors gave us their contact details, but all the congregations continue to grow with the exception of Woodlands Metro which has had some challenges this year around numerical growth. There have been large termly courses at Woodlands Central, with diverse attendance from students through to members of the recovery community.

Our most recent neighbourhood congregation, Woodlands Southside, meets on Sunday afternoons at Victoria Park Baptist Church, on the edge of Bedminster. The leaders of that congregation, Richard and Nikki Pollard were invited by a church in Sheffield to begin a ministry there. They left at Easter 2024 and Ruth Morgans, Families Minister at Woodlands Central, has been seconded to work with the volunteer leaders and head up that team alongside her current role.

Our congregation Branch Community Church meets in Emmanuel Chapel on the large estate of Henbury. The amalgamation with a small indigenous congregation at Emmanuel has solidified very well and the Church offers a vibrant and welcoming act of worship each Sunday afternoon. The Church is now often full for their 4pm service and has benefitted from the support of children and youth ministers from the wider Woodlands Church Family.

Our Highgrove congregation in Sea Mills has benefitted from the completion of a new foyer and refurbishments the Church building. Numbers at Highgrove continue to be too many for one morning service, and so this year the church has held two consecutive morning services, the earlier of which is live streamed. Highgrove held a very successful Alpha Course this term with over 20 guests, many of whom continue to engage with the congregation following the end of the course.

The Community Church in Southmead continues to welcome a number of Hong Kong Cantonese-speaking migrants. Many of these recent arrivals to the UK are choosing a path of integration, rather than affiliating to the 'Chinese Church' in Bristol. Communion is now shared with Cantonese and English speaking congregants. Fortnightly sermons in Cantonese are offered as an alternative to the regular preaching at Community Church.

Woodlands Metro has had to come to terms with declining attendance on Sundays and financial giving this year, and some of the key younger congregation leadership team have re-located to Woodlands Central. Woodlands Metro has continued a monthly morning service, with the aim of building a less transient community. Their recent house party weekend attracted over 70 people, but it has overall been a challenging year.

Philip and Kate Jinadu, the founders and leaders of this congregation, handed in their notice in May 2024 and, whilst on a 3-month sabbatical until 31 August 2024, an interim leadership team will lead the congregation consolidating to one service per Sunday whilst plans are put in place for future leadership.

A distinctive element of community at Woodlands Central has been the large church-linked community houses which are in their own right 'religious communities'. A significant factor for the Church to process is that the most prominent of these houses, which are close to Woodlands Central, will be sold by their owners, a Christian charity called The George Muller Charitable Trust. The closure for sale of one of these, Ashley Down House ('ADH'), which has been the home and office of the Woodlands Church Family Senior Leader, along with up to twenty others living in community, completed in June 2024. Our Property Strategy Group continues to look for appropriate buildings close to Woodlands Central to house office and midweek facilities which will be lost in the sale of ADH.

It was wonderful to celebrate Christmas and Easter services this year and to see large numbers attending our suite of services, as well as following on-line. Our portfolio of Christmas services included Contemporary Carols, Carols by Candlelight, 'Folky Christmas' and a midnight service. Our Easter events included family Good Friday services and events as well as a beautiful reflective service, and Easter Sunday saw full buildings with baptisms to celebrate.

Unity and prayer underpin the Woodlands Church Family, and as well as our regular congregational prayer events the New Year always begins with a week of prayer and fasting. The Tuesday of Prayer Week was again an opportunity to come together after a day of fasting, for worship and prayer, with hundreds of people from around the Church family.

Children and Youth Ministry

The Woodlands Church Family offers a wide range of activities which children and young people join in with to make friends, discover and use their gifts and talents and learn more about being disciples of Jesus.

In light of the strategic review of Children and Families ministry, Rachel Turner, the report's author, has been working with the Senior Leaders and Children and Families ministers from across the Woodlands Church Family. We have been coming together to work through the recommendations of the report to galvanise a clear vision and strategy for Children and Families ministry. The work with Rachel is still ongoing but the benefits have already been felt with a renewed sense of purpose and vision around how we can best meet the needs of discipleship and opportunities of mission in this generation.

Woodlands Church Family appointed a Youth Director in August 2023, and then appointed three full time youth workers to serve in the Congregations of Central, Highgrove and Community Church. The first

term has been an opportunity to see these youth workers bed into their respective congregations which were new to all of them. The sense of collaborative team-working has been very helpful for a joined up youth strategy which has been manifested by growing schools ministry, a successful Easter holiday club in the estate of Henbury and the release of youth worker time to support our church plants. It's been great to run a sixth form weekend away this term and see that group of year 12 & 13 young people grow in numbers and depth. Two other weekends have been run for Central and Highgrove young people.

The following are other examples of key activities and developments that took place this year:

- At Central, the regular children's groups on Sundays and mid-week group have continued to grow over the last year. All of these groups have been focusing on helping children connect with church, grow in faith and build relationships with one another. Over 220 children are registered with Woodlands Central, which represents over 140 families. On average, we have 115 children attending children's groups each Sunday with over 100 adult volunteers serving in the ministry. Alongside Sunday services we have run extra events throughout the year such as light parties, taking 40 children to attend SPREE festival, multiple Christingle services and a Good Friday family service and schools' outreach.
- Mental health continues to be a real challenge for many young people. The team have adjusted well, continuing the best they can to connect with young people. A residential weekend away happened in Autumn 2023, which again gave a sense of building community.
- The youth club 'Alberts Place' took place every Thursday during term-time and provides a fun evening of games and activities for young people from our local community as well as developing junior leaders.
- At the Highgrove congregation, work with young people is particularly strong at the moment, with around 30 young people regularly attending church, growing in their gifts by serving on Sunday teams and running worship and prayer evenings. In April 2024, a Youth Alpha course started in the church building, as well as one in the local Catholic school, where a number of Highgrove young people attend sixth form.
- Southmead Stars, one of several parent and toddler groups we run, moved permanently to the 'Ranch' a local adventure playground and now has over 50 parents and children attending. Once again on Good Friday 2024, in partnership with the parent and toddler group from another local church, Community Church ran a Family Fun morning attended by around 200 adults and children.

Student Ministry

University students are at a strategic time of their lives in terms of experiences that inspire and shape the rest of their lives, but we are aware that thousands of students in Bristol have little involvement with Church or the Christian faith. We want to play our part in reaching this demographic with the Good News of Jesus. We want to see students become Christians, to grow in their faith and be inspired and equipped to serve God with their lives.

Our Woodlands Central building is strategically located near Bristol University and our Woodlands Metro community is located near some of the new student accommodation in the centre of Bristol. Woodlands Central and Metro joined forces to run the Big Hot Dog Give Away during Freshers week. We were able to connect with hundreds of students who were new to Bristol and many new to being in a church building.

This year, after all the disruption and isolation caused by the pandemic, we've put a particular emphasis on building a strong, racially diverse community amongst students. With Woodlands Metro now meeting in the Cathedral School, they've been able to mobilise teams of students to help pupils in the Junior School with their reading. Alongside this, students have been engaged with social action and care alongside partners like Beloved, the local foodbank and Bristol Noise. We've been able to offer study spaces and drop-ins for students who don't normally connect with church, as well as taking the initiative with outreach in some University spaces. Metro has also put together a team of young professionals to provide mentoring, support and career advice for students.

Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development

We are committed to raising up a new generation of leaders to impact the city, the region and the world with the Good News about Jesus. A key part of 'continually reproducing the life of Jesus' is discipleship. This involves learning to imitate and obey Jesus Christ in every aspect of our lives.

Examples of how we have encouraged this during the year are:

- The Bristol Westminster Theological Centre ('WTC') Hub has continued this year meeting in Woodlands Foyer and their two residentials were held at Nottingham University. There have been 28 students in this year's hub. A number of the church staff team have been studying with WTC and it has had a positive impact on their confidence in handling the Bible. The church planting curriculum has helped some of our leaders think through issues that will be very relevant to us as we church plant over the coming years.

- Woodlands Bible School has run each 3rd Sunday and it has been good to have a number of visiting speakers who have brought some great insights. There have been opportunities for young leaders to speak and bring their passion and enthusiasm for Scripture to the group. A Bible summer School on the book of Hebrews ran during the month of August.

- This year's cohort of 15 leaders on the Leadership Learning Community have brought a lot to the discussions and have made the most of the learning opportunity. As in each year, this has been greatly appreciated.

Pastoral Care

Woodlands Church Family congregations have midweek small groups as key elements of what it means to belong, grow as a disciple of Jesus and find contexts for serving the church. We hope that people who find faith and find their way to our Church will be invited to be involved in loving and caring smaller communities. We see small groups as the first line of pastoral care and initial development of gifts and the primary place to get to know others and to be known. Many pastoral issues are picked up and managed in these small group settings.

Our second line of pastoral care includes the following:

- The Wholeness Course offers an opportunity to identify and remove barriers to growth in our personal lives, deal with gaps in our emotional development and repair hurts from the past. We had 75 people sign up for our Spring course, including people from across Woodlands Church

Family and several churches around Bristol. We gathered for six weeks at Woodlands Central for evenings of testimonies, teaching and prayer ministry. Each week, the team of 30 prayer ministers offered one-to-one prayer for people attending the course and shared things they sensed God had been saying to them for people attending the course. This year we had a whole post-Alpha small group attending, several of whom have not yet made professions of faith, plus a small group from a local vulnerable women's charity. Many course attendees experienced healing and breakthrough in their personal lives through the teaching and prayer. In the Autumn Wholeness two took place; a follow up course covering three areas of personal growth and healing: 1. Overcoming disappointment. 2. Overcoming Rejection. 3. Overcoming anxiety.

- WholeMinds, our mental health and well-being website continues to be accessed regularly. The website has articles, stories and creative content designed to support and encourage good mental health and spiritual growth. This is an online space with a collection of articles and stories that encourage people across the Woodlands Church Family in their mental, emotional and spiritual health journeys; it is also accessible to people from outside the church seeking spiritual solutions to mental health pressures. Alongside the website there is a growing social media presence and articles on mental health for teenagers, eating disorders and overcoming anxiety have been shared widely.

- Following our decision to talk more openly about mental health in Church life, we have a mental health sermon series across the church congregations once a year and this year have developed a sermon series on identity called Grand Designs.

- Our Mental Health Practitioner continues in her role supporting young adults by offering regular mental health support sessions via referral by student and young adult leaders. She has also facilitated three Head Space courses during the year. This is an 8-week course looking at various aspects of mental health and wellbeing that encourages people to come and share experiences and support one another along the journey towards wellness. She has also been building a resource base of material for leaders across the Woodlands Church Family to access which will include articles and suggestions for managing mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. This year she intends on promoting well-being services across the Woodlands Church Family.

- During a combined staff morning attended by 40 of our team across the congregations, our team put on a Mental Health First Aid training morning. Led by Clare Thompson and Ros Stower who worked for 30 years in the mental health services prior to retiring, the morning covered tools for understanding and supporting good mental health, an overview of types of mental health condition and responding to mental health crises and suicidal thoughts.

- Community Church continued to run a Wellbeing Café to provide a safe, welcoming space for those struggling with poor mental health. Every week there is an opportunity to explore how prayer and faith can help us in our wellbeing journeys.

- One of our Youth Pastors from Highgrove Church with the help of our Wholeness lead, has been developing some mental health and wellbeing resources for teens and has produced a 6-week course manual with leaders' notes. The Course is being piloted in the summer term of 2024.

- My Wellbeing Journey is a course developed as a simpler version of Wholeness – a Wholeness taster course. This has been piloted at Highgrove with a women's group with about 25 attendees and then run as an evening homegroup with about 12 people. The course has been warmly received and is going to be a regular feature on the church calendar. The manual can be used by any church leader and a men's version is being developed.

- We operated a Needy Saints Fund throughout the year enabling us to give gifts to those facing financial hardship through redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

Charging Policy
The Woodlands Church Family is committed to making its activities accessible to as wide a range of people as possible and so seeks to minimise the cost of events and, where a charge is levied, subsidies are offered by congregational leadership teams where appropriate to ensure that money is not a barrier to people participating in activities. Church services are entirely free with no obligation to pay or give and the church offers many activities, courses and services without charge.

Fundraising
Whilst the primary source of income for the charity is voluntary donations, the Church does not regularly engage in significant public fundraising. Most of the giving is from committed attenders who express their 'belonging' and commitment to the congregations through regular and one-off giving to share in the ministry costs of church life. The Church prayerfully teaches about the biblical principles of financial stewardship and generosity in the context of discipleship. From time to time, the leaders encourage giving towards particular global or local partners or mission projects and, very occasionally, hold offerings for special projects such as building developments. The charity does not subscribe to any particular fundraising scheme or standards but regularly reviews the charity's practices to ensure that any incidental fundraising is carried out appropriately.

Each congregation has monthly Sunday service offerings to support global and local mission. All gifts collected, including any attributable Gift Aid and Gift Aid on Small Donations relief is used to support our global and local mission partners. In addition, at the discretion of the local congregation team, a discretionary percentage of up to 50% is added from free reserves to each offering.

Contribution of volunteers
Most of what happens in the congregations is driven by volunteers, whether that is worship, youth and children's work, practical jobs or roles requiring specialised skills. It is not possible to quantify the contribution of volunteers to the Woodlands Church Family except to say that we would not be able to carry out many of our activities without them. The Church seeks to provide as many opportunities as possible for volunteers to grow in their gifts and abilities and has hundreds of people volunteering in at least one role within Church. The way in which volunteers have continued to serve faithfully and

creatively throughout the last few challenging years is something for which we are so thankful to God for.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial position and performance of Woodlands Group of Churches is in line with the expectations of the Trustees, based on their planning and monitoring of income and expenditure throughout the year.

Total income was £1,975,879 in the year compared to £1,939,452 in the prior year, a rise of 2%. In the context of significant earmarked one-off gifts received in the prior year, donations have overall remained static, but core giving to free funds (an internal key measure we use to budget for future spending) increased by 9%, which is an encouraging sign of church health, discipleship and resilience in the face of a continued difficult economic environment.

Income from Charitable activities fell marginally from £231,819 in the prior year to £229,062.

Investment income rose from £204,442 in the prior year to £248,478, driven wholly by higher interest rates on cash deposits.

Total expenditure was £1,624,254 (2022/23: £1,542,206); a rise of 5.3%, driven by increased investment in strategic priorities in 2023/24 and a pay-benchmarking review which increased monthly payroll costs from January 2023. A total of £282,608 (2022/23: £393,010) was spent on grants for mission and blessing the poor and persecuted both in the UK and overseas. The decrease was due to the facilitation of significant earmarked gifts in the previous year as well as multiple special offerings responding to disaster relief needs.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Reserves
Free reserves available for use by Woodlands Church are deemed to be those that are readily realisable, less funds whose uses are restricted or else designated for particular purposes. The calculation thus excludes £2,607,278 representing tangible fixed assets that will continue to be used in the day-to-day running and restricted funds of £102,096. The calculation also excludes the carrying value of charitable loans held as programme related investments of £1,984,246, which are not readily realisable assets and are held in designated funds. It also excludes other designated funds of £4,705,636 including the Property Purchase Fund of £2,644,218, which exists to enable the imminent purchase of new property for the charity's work.

The purpose, balances and movements of each designated fund are explained clearly within note 18 of the accounts.

Each year the Trustees review the level of free reserves and the appropriateness of the free reserves policy. The Board considers our exposure to major risks in terms of their likely impact on its income sources and planned expenditure in the medium term. They also consider the opportunities available to them for expansion and growth in the facilities and activities of the Woodlands Church Family.

The target range for free reserves reflects the uncertain economic environment and the higher commitments relating to permanent employed staff arising from an expanding team and rising building costs.

The target range for free reserves is £591,298 to £886,947, equal to between 6 and 9 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves fund. At the year end, the actual free reserves, as clearly shown within the financial statements, were £672,842 (2022/23: £688,603), which is equivalent to 6.9 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves Fund. This is within the target range. The Trustees recognise that the operating environment is evolving rapidly and the ongoing implementation of the strategic review of the Woodlands Church Family and transitions in leadership will require our reserves policy to be regularly reviewed.

Financial Impact of Significant Events

The Trustees are conscious of the challenging economic and social conditions brought about by the continued global uncertainties caused by geopolitical events in Europe and the cost-of-living crisis. As well as seeking to use the charity's resources to meet some of these needs, the Trustees are thankful to God that we have not seen a drop in giving income or a sustained drop in other sources of income so far. The Trustees will be budgeting carefully for the coming financial year given these factors but are satisfied that the level of reserves held by the charity will enable the continuation of the charity's activities into the future.

The Trustees confirm their assessment that the charity is a going concern as at the date of the signing of the accounts, despite the ongoing global uncertainty.

Investment powers and policy
The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow the Trustees to invest in any stocks, funds, shares, securities or other investments of whatsoever nature as the Trustees shall, in their absolute discretion, think fit.

The Trustees have an Investment Policy covering the charity's Financial, Programme Related and Mixed Purpose Investments. In particular, the Trustees have sought to ensure that the time horizon of the likely use of all funds is matched well to the investment vehicle used.

In the case of Financial Investments, the charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk and have sought to articulate its responsible investments approach within its investment policy, taking into account the social, ethical and environmental impact of investments. The Trustees have joined other faith charities in signing a pledge not to invest in fossil fuels.

The investment objective for funds needed in the medium to long term is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the ongoing activities of the charity. For funds needed in the short term, the investment objective is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

Grant making
The charity has a grant making policy and makes grants to individuals and organisations engaged in mission and ministry and primarily with whom we have developed long term partnerships. Most of these partners are members of the church family serving on short-term, medium-term or long-term mission trips. With the exception of members of the Church family going on short term mission, there is not a

formal application process for grant funds. Missionary financial support is instead just a part of a wider range of on-going communication and prayer support for the work.

The charity also makes grants from the 'needy saints fund' to individuals in the church facing financial hardship as a result of redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

FUTURE PLANS

The Woodlands Church Family is excited by the opportunities for growth, ministry expansion and church planting. We will continue to engage with the needs of the city through food poverty relief and family care, including encouraging fostering and adoption and addressing mental health issues.

The Woodlands Church Family is also continuing to further develop the organisational and administration structures appropriate to a growing group of congregations in the current environment. The Woodlands Church Family is working through a rebranding exercise, as we sharpen our vision and identity.

Due to the generosity of a local religious community, we have had extensive use of a building near our Central congregation for many years. This building is in the process of being sold and so the Trustees formed a Property Strategy Group to look for alternative accommodation to meet our needs for office space and mid-sized meeting rooms in the vicinity of our Central Congregation. Over the past 12 months we have visited several sites, conducted surveys and even entered negotiations but so far we have been unsuccessful in securing a new property. We anticipate securing a suitable building in the next 12 months.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity was formed in 2008 by the merger of four previous charities: Highgrove Christian Charitable Trust, Highgrove Fellowship Centre, Woodlands Church and Henleaze & Westbury Community Church.

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 April 2008.

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, all members of the Company are Trustees, and all Trustees are members. No other formal membership is operated. The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum. Trustees are required to meet at least once a year but in practice meet 4-5 times each year.

Any new Trustees are recruited in light of the mix of skills and experience needed on the Board and on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates and after prayer and listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit. In selecting persons to be appointed, the trustees take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Woodlands Group of Churches. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority of Trustees at a meeting or by a formal resolution.

Any new Trustees receive an Induction Pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with Woodlands Group of Churches. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication *CC3 – The Essential Trustee* together with the Charity's governing document and the latest Annual Report and Accounts.

The Trustees are aware of the importance of maintaining their knowledge of current charity and related legislation and best practice so Trustees take advantage of external trustee training sessions and, where not all members of the Board of Trustees are present, circulate any relevant information and guidance to the other Trustees for due consideration.

The role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Trustees

The SLT is responsible for the overall spiritual and day-to-day operational leadership of the Woodlands Church Family. The Trustees have overall legal responsibility, taking account of the spiritual direction of the Woodlands Church Family set by the Senior Leadership Team, who themselves are always to act in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the general law.

The Key Management Personnel of the charity consists of the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. Four Trustees are also members of the Senior Leadership Team. Where such individuals or those closely connected with them are remunerated by the Charity, their pay is set by the non-remunerated members of the Trustee Board each year.

Dave Mitchell, the leader of Senior Leadership Team, is line-managed by the Chair of Trustees and reports to the Board at each meeting on key developments and challenges across the Woodlands Church Family. The Board of Trustees delegates some of its functions to a Finance Committee meeting four times a year, and to a Property Strategy Group which meets when needed. Agreed terms of reference are in place for both.

Church leaders and teams

The Woodlands Church Family has delegated the day-to-day oversight and direction of the four main congregations to congregational leadership teams. These teams meet regularly to oversee delivery of activities in accordance with the vision and purposes of the Charity. Members of the Trustee Board and Senior Leadership Team regularly meet with the congregational leaders to review progress, provide any advice and assistance as required and provide accountability around goals, vision and values.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit where appropriate when exercising their powers and duties, planning and reviewing the aims, objectives and activities of the Woodlands Church Family. Throughout this report, the Trustees have sought to demonstrate the many ways that it delivers benefit to the public – whether they are members of one of the congregations that are part of the Church, another church or have no church or other religious affiliation.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Trustees (who are also directors of Woodlands Group of Churches for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Corporate Governance

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be developed to improve efficiency and enable the Trustees to discharge their responsibilities around safeguarding the Charity's assets. Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and that appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team, the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- an annual budget approved by the Trustees;
- regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results and variances from budgets;
- delegation of day-to-day management authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

Risk Management
The Trustees have a formal risk management process, which has been reviewed and kept updated during the current financial year. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifying means of managing or mitigating the risks and the individual responsible for managing each risk.

The Trustees have a formal incident recording process to identify incidents that can inform the risk management process.

The Trustees carry out an annual review of the principal risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to manage those and other risks.

The principal risk facing the Church at this time continues to be the risk of an ineffective transition of senior leadership following Rob Scott-Cook having stepped away from a governance and operational role in July 2022, 40 years after founding the church. Planning and preparation for this transition was taking place over the previous five years and, over the past 12 months, we have convened a succession planning group that has met regularly to discuss and plan the transition from David Mitchell's leadership of our largest Congregation to the new leadership at Woodlands Central.

Following several examples around the world of spiritually abusive leaders being brought to account, Woodlands has embarked on a safeguarding transformation project in 2023/24 to rigorously review our own practices and culture, and to make sure pathways to raising concerns are clear and processes of review and investigation are transparent. This work is ongoing into the coming financial year and we anticipate implementing a revised safeguarding policy in 2024/25. Woodlands has also implemented a new social media policy this year.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Haines Watts (Western) Limited be reappointed as auditors of the charitable company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed by order of the board of Trustees:

Mr E J Marsh (Chair of Trustees)

Mr D J Mitchell (Senior Leader and Trustee)

18 July 2024

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company registration no: 06569993
Charity registration no: 1125029

Registered office address: Woodlands Christian Centre
Belgrave Road
Clifton
Bristol BS8 2AA

Website addresses: www.woodlandschurch.net www.thecommunitychurch.net
www.highgrove.church www.woodlandsmetro.church
www.branchchurch.co.uk www.woodlandssouthside.church

Members of the Board of Trustees

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of Company law, that served during the year and since the year end, are:

Mrs A Addison (Vice-Chair from 20 April 2023)
Mr S Bodley
Mrs A Dawson
Mr T J Dobson
Mr E J Marsh (Chair)
Mr W Matthews (Vice-Chair from 20 April 2023)
Mr D J Mitchell
Mr D Roderick

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the Woodlands Church Family

Mr D J Mitchell (Senior Leader of the Woodlands Church Family)

Mr T J Dobson	Mrs K Jinadu (until May 2024)	Mr P O Jinadu (until May 2024)
Mrs D A Marsh	Mr E J Marsh	Mr R Pollard (until March 2024)
Mrs R Riddall	Mr D Roderick	Mr J Saunders (from Sept 2023)
Mr N Savage	Mr M Smith (from Jan 2024)	Mr N Savage
Mrs H C Thompson		

Principal Service Providers and Professional Advisers

Auditors
Haines Watts (Western) Limited, Bath House, 6-8 Bath Street, Bristol, BS1 6HL

Solicitors and Employment Advisers
Capstone Law, 62 Gloucester Road, Bristol, BS7 8BH
Keelys LLP, 28 Dam Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6AA

Banking and Investments
The Cooperative Bank plc, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP
Lloyds Bank, 15 High Street, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 3DA
Bank of Scotland, 2nd floor, Pentland House, 8 Lochside Avenue, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ.
Epworth Investment Management Ltd, 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Woodlands Group of Churches (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial

statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 20 and 21, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: The Companies Act 2006, UK GAAP, The Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP.

- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks and made enquiries to the management of known or suspected instances of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes, other relevant meeting minutes and review of correspondence with regulatory bodies.

- We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the audit team included:

    - Identifying and assessing the controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;

    - Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;

    - Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates and judgments,

    - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and

    - Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the

events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Matthew Bracher BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Haines Watts (Western) Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

18 July 2024

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	**2**	1,232,336	80,605	185,398	**1,498,339**	1,503,191
Charitable activities	**3**	57,491	171,553	18	**229,062**	231,819
Investments	**4**	-	248,478	-	**248,478**	204,442
	Total	1,289,827	500,636	185,416	**1,975,879**	1,939,452
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
Global Partnerships		46,299	62,822	143,643	**252,764**	282,199
City and Community Outreach		128,752	20,701	52,317	**201,770**	263,718
Gathered Church		381,688	42,406	-	**424,094**	374,193
Children and Youth Ministry		214,125	56,853	1,389	**272,367**	199,486
Student Ministry		162,538	18,558	8,203	**189,299**	165,589
Discipleship and Leadership Development		169,149	12,529	-	**181,678**	173,018
Pastoral Care		62,083	17,618	4,619	**84,320**	68,247
	5	1,164,634	231,487	210,171	**1,606,292**	1,526,450
Raising funds	**8**	17,962	-	-	**17,962**	15,756
	Total	1,182,596	231,487	210,171	**1,624,254**	1,542,206
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**15**	-	204,194	-	**204,194**	(140,582)
Net income/(expenditure)	**9**	107,231	473,343	(24,755)	**555,819**	256,664
Transfers between funds	**18**	(122,992)	122,705	287	**-**	-
Other (losses)/gains		-	-	(509)	**(509)**	517
Net movement in funds		(15,761)	596,048	(24,977)	**555,310**	257,181
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		688,603	8,697,906	127,073	**9,513,582**	9,256,401
Total funds carried forward	**18**	672,842	9,293,954	102,096	**10,068,892**	9,513,582

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.
All income and expenditure has arisen from the continuing activities.
Fund comparatives are disclosed in note 20.

The notes on pages 31 to 50 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note		2024 £		2023 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**12**	**2,607,278**		2,594,613	
Programme related investments	**13**	**1,981,040**		1,442,225	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**-**		200,000	
Financial Investments	**15**	**3,216,860**		3,012,666	
			7,805,178		7,249,504
Current assets:					
Debtors	**16**	**73,377**		73,790	
Programme related investments	**13**	**3,206**		734,879	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**500,000**		300,000	
Cash at bank and on short term deposit		**1,747,949**		1,206,676	
		2,324,532		2,315,345	
Liabilities:					
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	**17**	**(60,818)**		(51,267)	
Net current assets			**2,263,714**		2,264,078
Total assets less current liabilities			**10,068,892**		9,513,582
Total net assets			**10,068,892**		9,513,582
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds					
Free reserves		**672,842**		688,603	
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)		**123,062**		127,902	
Fixed Asset NBV (designated)		**2,607,278**		2,594,613	
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)		**1,981,040**		2,160,225	
Capacity Development (designated)		**408,302**		350,000	
Housing the Homeless (designated)		**511,000**		500,000	
Property Purchases (designated)		**2,644,218**		2,239,606	
St James/UPA (designated)		**59,018**		52,370	
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)		**14,511**		27,170	
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)		**36,000**		51,000	
Strategic Projects (designated)		**50,000**		-	
Woodlands Church Family Staffing (designated)		**60,311**		-	
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)		**799,214**		595,020	
	19		**9,966,796**		9,386,509
Restricted income funds	**19**		**102,096**		127,073
Total charity funds			**10,068,892**		9,513,582

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and were approved by the Trustees on 18 July 2024 are signed on their behalf by:

Mr E J Marsh
Chair of Trustees

Mr D J Mitchell
Trustee and Senior Leader

Company registration number: 06569993

The notes on pages 31 to 50 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Operational cash flows			
Cash flows for operating activities			
Receipts from Donations and Legacies	21 (A.1)	**1,493,300**	1,496,756
Payments for Raising funds	21 (B.1)	**(17,962)**	(15,756)
Net inflow for operating activities		**1,475,338**	1,481,000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Charitable activities	21 (A.2)	**236,637**	238,649
Payments for Charitable activities	21 (B.2)	**(1,576,199)**	(1,465,792)
Receipts from Programme-related investments	21 (C.1)	**78,517**	76,317
Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	21 (C.2)	**22,000**	21,999
Additions to Programme-related investments	13	**(173,560)**	(766,882)
Repayments from Programme-related investments	13	**365,944**	163,920
		(1,046,661)	(1,731,789)
Net inflow/(outflow) of operating activities		**428,677**	(250,789)
Non-operational cash flows			
Investing activities:			
Receipts from Financial investments	21 (D.1)	**148,492**	105,014
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	12	**(35,896)**	(293,974)
Net cash generated by/(used in) investing activities		**112,596**	(188,960)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) for the year	22	**541,273**	(439,749)

Charity law prohibits the use of net cash flows on any restricted fund to offset net cash outflows on any fund outside of its own purposes, except on special authority. In practice, this restriction has not had any effect on cash flows for the year.

The notes on pages 31 to 50 form part of these financial statements

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis with the exception of financial investments which are shown at fair value. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined under FRS 102. The presentation currency is pounds sterling.

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared on the gross/direct basis, as permitted by the Charities SORP. Cash has been defined as cash in hand and short-term deposits of less than 3 months for the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows. The Balance sheet additionally includes short term deposits of less than one year within cash in hand.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, despite the economic recession and inflationary pressures over the last couple of years. The charity has sufficient reserves to be able to meet these challenges and have also observed how well core giving income has held up over the last few years.

There have been no management judgements or any key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date in the financial statements that give rise to a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b) Funds

Unrestricted free reserves are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charitable purposes of the charity.

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and have been identified as being for particular purposes by the Trustees. They are not restricted and can be transferred to free funds at any time at the discretion of the Trustees. Material designated funds are identified and explained in note 18 to the financial statements.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. The purpose and use of each material restricted fund is set out in note 18 to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and receipt is probable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Donations and Legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable, except as follows:

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i. Income from offerings is recognised when received;

ii. Income from 'planned giving' is recognised only when received;

iii. When the donor specifies that donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.

Gift Aid relief on eligible donations is recognised on an accruals basis at the same point as the original donation.

Investment Income represented by interest on bank deposits, dividends receivable, interest on programme-related investments and interest on mixed purpose investments is recognised when receivable. Investment income from Mixed Purpose Investments and Bank Interest is added to the 'WCF Staffing' designated fund, with the remaining investment income being allocated to the 'Property Purchases' designated fund. The purpose of these funds is described fully in note 18.

Rental income is recognised within ***Income from Charitable Activities*** as the promotion of student community living and the hiring of the buildings for weddings and other Christian conferences and events is considered part of the activities the charity undertakes to achieve its objects. The rental income on student rooms is recognised when invoiced (usually on a monthly basis) and, for events, is recognised in the period the event takes place. Net rental income is apportioned to the 'WCF Staffing' designated fund.

Donated services and facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their value to the charity at the date of the gift. Donated assets which are capitalised are included in the financial statements at fair value. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, no amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as and when a legal or constructive obligation arises.

Expenditure is allocated to the identified ***Charitable Activities*** directly, where applicable. Support costs relating to engaging church workers, administration costs and premises costs are allocated to Charitable Activities as follows:

Support cost	Basis of allocation
Church workers	Estimated time spent on each activity
Administration costs	Estimated usage of the resource
Premises costs	Estimated usage of the resource

These estimates are reviewed on an annual basis.

Grants payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which communication of the award is communicated to the recipient.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. Governance costs are included within Support costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

(e) Foreign currency
The microfinance element of the charity's programme related investments are managed in US$. In view of there being a very large number of small loans, the transactions are not converted to £s at the transaction date but the US$ balances at the year-end are converted to £s at the year-end rate. Gains and losses on exchange are treated as other gains and losses within the Statement of Financial Activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Fixed assets are stated at cost and new items costing more than £3,000 are capitalised. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold property:	No depreciation charged (see below)
Audio, Visual and office equipment:	20%
Furniture and Fittings:	20% (with some assets being depreciated at 10%)

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of disposal. No provision for depreciation has been made for freehold property as it is the view of the Trustees that the estimated residual value of each property is not materially different from the carrying value. The Trustees undertake an impairment review whenever they identify any indicators that impairment may have occurred.

Donated properties have been included in the Balance Sheet at their current value at the date of the gift.

The charity owns three residential properties located adjacent to two of its church buildings. These properties were purchased and are held for the charitable benefit derived from their proximity to the church. Such benefits include better parking and access to church premises, the use of gardens for church events and activities and the ability to offer housing to staff and volunteers, where the proximity to the churches is to the benefit of its operations. Where vacancies arise, the charity seeks to rent rooms to such volunteers or staff. Where no such tenants are in prospect, the charity makes short-term lets to other members of the public in order to steward its resources well. As the charity holds the properties primarily for the benefit of its charitable purposes rather than for rental, the properties are held as functional fixed assets and not as investment properties.

(g) Financial instruments
A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

(h) Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(i) Financial investments
Listed investments are held in a common investment fund and are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

(j) Programme-related and mixed purpose investments
Programme-related investments consist of charitable loans; some of which carry an interest rate and some which are interest free. These investments are carried at cost less any provision for impairment less any repayments received. Mixed purpose investments are held for a financial return but also contribute to the charity's purposes.

(k) Lease contracts
Rentals applicable to operating lease agreements where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(l) Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity makes grants to financially support global partners overseas and to UK-based missionaries and mission organisations. Where an individual or organisation has been supported by the charity for a number of years, strict compliance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice may regard some arrangements as constituting constructive obligations such that future years' support is accounted immediately as a liability.

The Trustees are confident that the individuals and organisations supported would not view their support as an open-ended obligation on the part of the charity as they are aware that all support is reviewable annually.

(m) Pension costs
The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension plan on behalf of its eligible employees. The contributions are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

2 Donations and legacies

Year ended 31 March 2024	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	1,009,797	70,630	158,672	**1,239,099**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	222,539	9,975	26,726	**259,240**
	1,232,336	80,605	185,398	**1,498,339**
Previous year ended 31 March 2023				
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	928,422	122,828	184,386	**1,235,636**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	205,375	21,617	29,763	**256,755**
Grants receivable	300	-	10,500	**10,800**
	1,134,097	144,445	224,649	**1,503,191**

No grants were received in the current year.

Grants received in the prior year included £5,500 of government grants in support of a Welcome Hub for Ukranian refugees.

3 Income from Charitable Activities

Year ended 31 March 2024	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Student rooms rents	-	96,824	-	**96,824**
Other rents and building hire	249	74,729	-	**74,978**
Church events and weekends away	57,242	-	18	**57,260**
	57,491	171,553	18	**229,062**
Previous year ended 31 March 2023				
Student rooms rents	-	92,174	-	**92,174**
Other rents and building hire	-	75,548	-	**75,548**
Church events and weekends away	63,659	-	438	**64,097**
	63,659	167,722	438	**231,819**

4 Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total funds 2024 £**	Total funds 2023 £
Bank deposit interest	-	63,498	-	**63,498**	19,909
Loan stock interest	-	22,000	-	**22,000**	21,914
Programme related investments return	-	77,986	-	**77,986**	77,514
Dividend income on financial investments	-	84,580	-	**84,580**	84,641
Feed in Tariff from solar panels	-	414	-	**414**	464
	-	248,478	-	**248,478**	204,442

All prior year Income from Investments was incurred in Unrestricted Designated Funds.

5 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Grant funding of activities £ (note 7)	Activities undertaken directly £	Church worker and support costs £ (note 6)	**Total funds £**
Year ended 31 March 2024				
Global Partnerships	229,229	-	23,535	**252,764**
City and Community Outreach	53,379	23,253	125,138	**201,770**
Gathered Church	-	46,565	377,529	**424,094**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	28,122	244,245	**272,367**
Student Ministry	-	14,561	174,738	**189,299**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	10,485	33,754	137,439	**181,678**
Pastoral Care	9,349	-	74,971	**84,320**
	302,442	146,255	1,157,595	**1,606,292**
Previous year ended 31 March 2023				
Global Partnerships	259,764	-	22,435	**282,199**
City and Community Outreach	133,246	17,661	112,811	**263,718**
Gathered Church	-	54,530	319,663	**374,193**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	23,238	176,248	**199,486**
Student Ministry	-	14,047	151,542	**165,589**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	16,918	26,947	129,153	**173,018**
Pastoral Care	13,168	-	55,079	**68,247**
	423,096	136,423	966,931	**1,526,450**

6 Church worker and Support costs

	Church worker costs £	Admin costs £	Premises costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2024				
Global Partnerships	19,854	3,681	-	**23,535**
City and Community Outreach	91,181	5,522	28,435	**125,138**
Gathered Church	254,583	9,204	113,742	**377,529**
Children and Youth Ministry	183,693	3,681	56,871	**244,245**
Student Ministry	110,504	7,363	56,871	**174,738**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	103,482	5,522	28,435	**137,439**
Pastoral Care	73,130	1,841	-	**74,971**
	836,427	36,814	284,354	**1,157,595**
Previous year ended 31 March 2023				
Global Partnerships	19,394	3,041	-	**22,435**
City and Community Outreach	84,300	4,562	23,949	**112,811**
Gathered Church	216,263	7,603	95,797	**319,663**
Children and Youth Ministry	125,309	3,041	47,898	**176,248**
Student Ministry	97,562	6,082	47,898	**151,542**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	100,642	4,562	23,949	**129,153**
Pastoral Care	53,558	1,521	-	**55,079**
	697,028	30,412	239,491	**966,931**

Included in Admin costs are Governance costs of £5,262 (2023: £4,962).

Church worker costs are allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on each activity.

Admin and Premises costs are allocated to activities on the basis of usage estimates.

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities

Year ended 31 March 2024	Global Partnerships £	City and Community Outreach £	Discipleship and Leadership Dev't £	Pastoral Care £	Total funds £
Grants to Institutions	101,006	49,559	-	-	**150,565**
Grants to Individuals	128,223	3,820	10,485	9,349	**151,877**
	229,229	53,379	10,485	9,349	**302,442**
Previous year ended 31 March 2023					
Grants to Institutions	135,103	91,806	-	-	**226,909**
Grants to Individuals	124,661	41,440	16,918	13,168	**196,187**
	259,764	133,246	16,918	13,168	**423,096**

Analysis of grants to institutions

Institutions receiving over £2,500 in either the current or prior year or with Trustee links have been disclosed.

Institution name	Charitable activity	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Beloved	*City and Community Outreach*	**7,120**	30,200
Bridges for Communities	*City and Community Outreach*	**3,001**	501
* Bristol Noise	*City and Community Outreach*	**2,400**	2,400
inHope (Bristol)	*City and Community Outreach*	**8,198**	9,913
Sixty One	*City and Community Outreach*	**2,950**	27,425
Urban Pursuit	*City and Community Outreach*	**4,650**	4,650
The George Muller Charitable Trust	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**59,998**	72,549
Christian Aid	*Global Partnerships*	**-**	12,462
KIVA	*Global Partnerships*	**13,075**	-
Frontiers	*Global Partnerships*	**17,520**	-
Open Doors	*Global Partnerships*	**2,426**	4,490
World Vision UK	*Global Partnerships*	**-**	3,009
Tearfund	*Global Partnerships*	**2,800**	5,118
ForEthiopia	*Global Partnerships*	**2,750**	3,625
* Bristol International Trust (BISC)	*Global Partnerships*	**6,223**	30,602
Other Institutional grants	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**17,454**	19,965
		150,565	226,909

Institutional grant recipients marked * have a close connection with Woodlands Group of Churches by virtue of having trustees in common or key management personnel who are also on the Woodlands Group of Churches Trustee Board.

A Dawson is part of the key management personnel of Bristol International Trust (BISC).
T J Dobson is a Trustee of Bristol Noise.

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities (continued)

The George Muller Charitable Trust facilitates prayer and financial support for a number of global and local mission partners. Woodlands Group of Churches partner with The George Muller Charitable Trust in supporting many of these partners, who also have a close partnership with our churches.

Included within the grants made to The George Muller Charitable Trust are grants totalling £24,240 (2023: £25,993) in respect of the charity's two partnerships with Hands at Work in Africa.

8 Expenditure on Raising funds

	Unrestricted Free Reserves	Unrestricted Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Year ended 31 March 2024	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Online donation processing fees	17,962	-	-	**17,962**
	17,962	-	-	**17,962**
Previous year ended 31 March 2023				
Online donation processing fees	15,756	-	-	**15,756**
	15,756	-	-	**15,756**

9 Net income/(expenditure)

This is stated after charging:	**Total funds 2024**	Total funds 2023
	£	£
Depreciation (see note 12)	**14,820**	14,975
Auditor's remuneration for statutory audit services	**5,262**	4,962

10 People resources

A summary of the cost of church workers for the current and preceding financial year is below:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	**768,790**	620,106
Social Security Costs	**46,222**	32,620
Pension costs	**13,128**	9,985
	828,140	662,711

In the year to 31 March 2024, the average number of staff employed was 51 (2023: 47)

No employee received employment benefits of more than £60,000 in the current or preceding year.

10 People resources (continued)

The charity is heavily dependent on volunteers to conduct its activities and achieve its mission and aims. As voluntary involvement is encouraged for all those who consider themselves a part of the churches, it is impossible to reliably quantify the numbers of people or hours that the charity receives. The Trustees' report further illustrates the impact that volunteers have on the work of the charity.

The key management personnel of the charity includes the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. The employment benefits paid to key management were £343,332 (2023: £256,182).

The charity operated a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £13,128 (2023: £9,985). The defined contribution liability is allocated between activities and funds on the same basis as the salary of the individual to whom those contributions relate.

11 Taxation

Woodlands Group of Churches is recognised as a charity for UK tax purposes and is therefore exempt from Corporation Tax on its income and gains provided that these are used for charitable purposes only.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property and Improvements £	Audio, Visual and office Equipment £	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	2,538,515	186,219	68,421	**2,793,155**
Additions	18,224	-	17,672	**35,896**
Disposals	(8,411)	(1,320)	(2,040)	**(11,771)**
At 31 March 2024	2,548,328	184,899	84,053	**2,817,280**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	-	155,800	42,742	**198,542**
Charge for the year	-	10,058	4,762	**14,820**
Disposals	-	(1,320)	(2,040)	**(3,360)**
At 31 March 2024	-	164,538	45,464	**210,002**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2024	2,548,328	20,361	38,589	**2,607,278**
At 31 March 2023	2,538,515	30,419	25,679	**2,594,613**

Asset disposals during the year resulted in a loss on disposal charged to the Statement of Financial Activities of £8,411.

13 Programme related investments

	Global Partnership Microfinance loans £	City and Community Outreach loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2023	16,879	2,160,225	2,177,104
Additions	2,245	171,315	173,560
Written off loans (charged to Charitable Activities as grants payable)	(92)	-	(92)
Exchange rate losses	(382)	-	(382)
Amounts repaid	(15,444)	(350,500)	(365,944)
At 31 March 2024	3,206	1,981,040	**1,984,246**
Included within:			
Fixed assets	-	1,981,040	1,981,040
Current assets	3,206	-	3,206
	3,206	1,981,040	**1,984,246**

Global Partnership Microfinance loans include small short term loans to entrepreneurs in poverty.

City and Community Outreach loans include short term loans to individuals to assist in their ministries linked with the charity's City and Community Outreach activities. A fuller explanation on the nature and basis for these loans is included within the Trustees' Annual Report.

14 Mixed purpose investments

	Loan Stock £	Other Loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	500,000	-	**500,000**
Included within:			
Current assets	500,000	-	500,000
	500,000	-	**500,000**

Mixed purpose investments includes £500,000 of interest bearing loan stock issued by Green Pastures Community Benefit Society (an exempt charity). The funds are used to help house the homeless and are unsecured. Under the charity's investment policy, the maximum that can be invested for this purpose is limited at any one time to £500,000. These funds are held in a designated fund: 'Housing the Homeless'.

15 Financial Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value brought forward	**3,012,666**	3,153,248
Gains/(losses) in the year	**204,194**	(140,582)
Market value carried forward	**3,216,860**	3,012,666

Financial Investments consist of units held in two common investment funds consisting of UK and Global listed equities, managed by Epworth Investment Management.

16 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	**36,770**	39,953
Gift Aid tax reclaims	**26,217**	24,732
Prepayments and accrued income	**10,390**	9,105
	73,377	73,790

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	**3,763**	3,120
Taxation and social security	**14,746**	9,035
Accruals and deferred income	**42,309**	39,112
	60,818	51,267

18 Movement in funds

Year ended 31 March 2024	At 1 April 2023 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
Free reserves	688,603	1,289,827	(1,182,596)	(122,992)	**672,842**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	127,902	80,606	(85,446)	-	**123,062**
Fixed Asset NBV (designated)	2,594,613	-	-	12,665	**2,607,278**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	2,160,225	-	-	(179,185)	**1,981,040**
Capacity Development (designated)	350,000	-	(22,194)	80,496	**408,302**
Housing the Homeless (designated)	500,000	22,000	-	(11,000)	**511,000**
Property Purchases (designated)	2,239,606	336,448	(43,968)	112,132	**2,644,218**
St James/UPA (designated)	52,370	23,718	(17,070)	-	**59,018**
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)	27,170	-	(12,659)	-	**14,511**
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)	51,000	-		(15,000)	**36,000**
Strategic Projects (designated)	-	-	(9,044)	59,044	**50,000**
WCF Staffing Fund (designated)	-	37,864	(41,106)	63,553	**60,311**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	595,020	204,194	-	-	**799,214**
	9,386,509	1,994,657	(1,414,083)	(287)	**9,966,796**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	6,151	9,384	(9,530)	4,949	**10,954**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	10,546	14,823	(13,440)	-	**11,929**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	662	24,142	(24,952)	288	**140**
Highgrove Global Partner Fund	3,700	10,604	(16,472)	3,512	**1,344**
Local Care and Mission Fund	8,158	27,611	(32,099)	5,823	**9,493**
Metro Special Offering	3,104	450	(3,554)	-	**-**
Central Special Offering	-	7,572	(5,025)	(2,547)	**-**
WCF Special Offffering	-	15,926	(15,926)	-	**-**
Microfinance	16,882	-	(13,675)	-	**3,207**
Needy Saints	23,691	457	(3,416)	-	**20,732**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	23,930	2,293	(11,329)	-	**14,894**
Sunday Evening Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	2,718	(95)	(2,623)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	878	4,507	(4,317)	(721)	**347**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	-	9,738	(5,510)	(4,228)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	3,512	-	(3,512)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	-	2,551	(2,551)	-	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	10,092	(754)	(9,338)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offering (South Bristol)	-	3,419	(300)	(3,119)	**-**
Woodlands Global Partner Fund	11,630	29,685	(40,284)	7,162	**8,193**
Other restricted funds (see description)	17,741	5,932	(7,451)	4,641	**20,863**
	127,073	185,416	(210,680)	287	**102,096**
Total funds	9,513,582	2,180,073	(1,624,763)	-	**10,068,892**

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Previous year ended 31 March 2023	At 1 April 2022	Income and gains	Expenditure and losses	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2023
Unrestricted funds	£	£	£	£	£
Free reserves	352,424	1,197,756	(1,101,982)	240,405	**688,603**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	150,562	144,445	(166,905)	(200)	**127,902**
Fixed Asset NBV (designated)	2,315,614	-	-	278,999	**2,594,613**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	1,593,585	-	(35,360)	602,000	**2,160,225**
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)	1,693,475	99,429	-	(1,792,904)	**-**
Capacity Development (designated)	259,537	-	(13,284)	103,747	**350,000**
Housing the Homeless (designated)	-	-	-	500,000	**500,000**
Property Purchases (designated)	1,895,266	251,002	(18,063)	111,401	**2,239,606**
St James/UPA (designated)	40,024	21,733	(9,387)	-	**52,370**
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)	29,152	-	(1,982)	-	**27,170**
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)	66,000	-	-	(15,000)	**51,000**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	735,601	-	(140,581)	-	**595,020**
	9,131,240	1,714,365	(1,487,544)	28,448	**9,386,509**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	3,654	9,667	(9,920)	2,750	**6,151**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	9,192	14,624	(13,440)	170	**10,546**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	17	24,978	(24,522)	189	**662**
Highgrove Global Partner Fund	2,778	9,244	(11,316)	2,994	**3,700**
Local Care and Mission Fund	14,297	17,932	(27,191)	3,120	**8,158**
Metro Special Offering	7,148	962	(5,006)	-	**3,104**
Highgrove Special Offering	-	28,494	-	(28,494)	**-**
Central Special Offering	-	11,608	(14,469)	2,861	**-**
Microfinance	16,453	517	(88)	-	**16,882**
Needy Saints	27,814	2,448	(6,571)	-	**23,691**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	23,839	5,216	(5,125)	-	**23,930**
Sunday Evening Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	4,320	-	(4,320)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	900	6,177	(5,952)	(247)	**878**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	-	8,505	(6,993)	(1,512)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	2,994	-	(2,994)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	60	4,648	(4,708)	-	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	9,883	-	(9,883)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offering (South Bristol)	-	733	-	(733)	**-**
Woodlands Global Partner Fund	7,344	30,905	(34,461)	7,842	**11,630**
Other restricted funds (see description)	11,665	31,749	(25,482)	(191)	**17,741**
	125,161	225,604	(195,244)	(28,448)	**127,073**
Total funds	9,256,401	1,939,969	(1,682,788)	-	**9,513,582**

Description and purpose of funds and transfers

All funds with an opening balance, closing balance, income, gain, expenditure, loss or transfer greater than £10,000 have been separately disclosed. With the exception of monthly mission offerings which are disclosed in full regardless of size, all other funds have been included within 'other restricted funds'. The Charity accounts fully for all restricted funds and a summary of the movement on any smaller fund is available upon request.

Free reserves
These funds represent the free reserves of the charity. Transfers out include £28,600 from budget surpluses to the Capacity Development fund to help cover costs associated with building improvements and an additional £79,381 from annual congregational budgets to ensure funds are available for unexpected/exceptional

18 Movement in funds (continued)

large costs that may be incurred. Further transfers out of the fund of £59,044 relate to establishing a new designated fund to support strategic projects arising from the recent strategic review.

Transfers into the fund include the annual depreciation charge of £14,820 met by the Fixed Assets NBV fund and £14,500 from the repayment of a loan previously funded from free reserves.

Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)
From time to time, the charity receives unrestricted donations and allows the donor(s) to express wishes as to their ultimate application within the charitable purposes of the charity. The application of these funds is at the full discretion of the Trustees, but they take account of the expressed wishes of the donor. The Trustees have determined it appropriate to hold these 'earmarked' funds in a designated fund.

Fixed Asset NBV (designated)
This fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets held by the charity. The transfers in and out of this fund relate to additions, depreciation and profits and loss on disposal.

Charitable Loans NBV (designated)
This fund represents the carrying value of the charitable loans held by the charity. These exist to further the City and Community Outreach dimension of the charity's work. This scheme has now closed and no new loans have been dispersed under the scheme. The eight outstanding loans will be called in as they mature. One loan was disbursed in the year for £171,000 as a measure to ensure financial stability for a key member of the leadership team.

Capacity Development (designated)
This fund enables major capital developments of existing buildings that provide increased capacity or usage. Expenditure this year includes the costs associated with the completion of the Highgrove foyer, the garden room project at Central and an architechtural survey at Albert Place (Community Church). £35,895 of these costs were taken to the balance sheet. Transfers into this fund include a proportion of each congregation's general funds income being set aside to meet any unanticipated large emergency capital expenditure costs.

Housing the Homeless (designated)
This fund is used to support housing for the homeless, currently through Green Pastures loans. From October 2023, the interest payments from these loans is being used to fund a new WCF Staffing designated fund.

Property Purchases (designated)
This fund exists to enable the purchase of a property that will serve as a campus expansion of our Woodlands Christian Centre building. With the upcoming loss of Ashley Down House as a venue for activity for Woodlands Central, there is now a lot of work being done on exploring the viability of potential venues locally to provide added capacity and potential buildings for new church plants. The fund is held at a level that ensures the fund can meet our emerging building strategy plans.

St James/UPA (designated)
The charity started renting out accommodation in their St James building in 2021. The net rental is included within this designated fund in order to help meet the costs of future upkeep liabilities for the ageing building.

Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)
This fund was created from a gift of £30,000 received from a donor for 'use by the Trustees as deemed fit'. As Mental Health is a key priority for the Trustees, they have set aside this gift for this purpose. This fund is being used to employ an in-house Well-being facilitator two days a week, and to support the runing costs of a Well-being cafe at the Community Church and the WCF Well-being website.

South Bristol Church Planting (designated)
This fund was created for the monthly contribution towards the stipend being paid by the West of England Baptist Network to R&N Pollard to work with Woodlands to plant a congregation in South Bristol. The Pollards have moved on from this role at WCF but this fund will continue to be used to support the costs associated with the interim Southside congregational leader.

Strategic Projects (designated)
Following the Strategic Review in 2022, this fund has been created to set aside funds to meet the costs associated with the recommendations from the review that the trustees and SLT have prioritised.
Costs to date relate to Rebranding and a safeguarding transformation project.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

WCF Staffing (designated)
A number of staff do not fall solely into one congregation but serve the whole of the Woodlands Church Family. The fund was created this year to meet the costs associated with employing these members of staff. Income into this fund is from sources other than general giving: mixed purpose investments' loan interest, bank interest and net rental income from properties.

Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)
This fund represents the cumulative unrealised investment gains from the charity's equity investment portfolio.

Hands at Work (restricted)
Woodlands Group of Churches has two partnerships to support the work of the charity Hands at Work in two needy communities in Africa. These funds represent the monies raised from our congregations in support of these partnerships. Additional funds have been raised to support missionaries serving with Hands at Work.

Highgrove Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Highgrove global and local mission partners to be supported both on a regular and on an ad hoc basis, as needs arise.

Local Care and Mission Fund (restricted)
This fund was established for the Trustees to make discretionary gifts to local mission and care projects and organisations. The funds arise from regular offerings at the Woodlands Central congregation.

Metro Special Offering (restricted)
This fund was established following an offering to support the vision of the Metro Campus to reach the many university students in Bristol who are unconnected with church.

Central Special Offering (restricted)
This fund was established to facilitate one-off exceptional offerings to take place. The fund ensures special offerings are ring-fenced from the monthly Sunday offerings taken. This year one special offering was taken - to raise funds at Central's Christmas events for global and local partners (InHope, Tearfund and International Justice Mission).

WCF Special Offering (restricted)
The fund was established this year to faciliate co-ordinated giving across all congregations in response to global disasters for which the Senior Leadership Team earmark for a special/one off offering. This year, one special offering was taken in response to the flooding and earthquake in North Africa.

Microfinance (restricted)
These are funds given specifically for the purpose of investing in microfinance initiatives. Any microfinance repayments received are now being donated to a microfinance organisation called KIVA for their work.

Needy Saints (restricted)
The Trustees have established a fund to be spent at their discretion on grants to those who are in financial hardship or particular need. Other members of church are invited to give into this fund.

Reach (Single Parents ministry) (restricted)
This fund arises from restricted giving to support the activities of Reach, a single parents outreach and includes the activities associated with the annual Single Parents Fair. The fund is now being used to meet the cost of a community worker to reach and support single parent families.

Sunday Offerings (restricted)
Across the church, an offering is taken once a month during the morning and evening services. These offerings are taken for the benefit of global partners serving overseas or for nationwide or city-based community care and outreach initiatives. Gifts are either sent directly to recipients from these funds or transferred to other funds as appropriate to their ultimate application.

Woodlands Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Woodlands global partners to be supported both on a regular and ad hoc basis as needs arise.

19 Summary of assets and liabilities of each fund category

At 31 March 2024	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,607,278	-	**2,607,278**
Programme related investments	-	1,981,040	3,206	**1,984,246**
Mixed purpose investments	-	500,000	-	**500,000**
Financial investments	-	3,216,860	-	**3,216,860**
Cash, Deposits and other current assets	733,660	988,776	98,890	**1,821,326**
Other current liabilities	(60,818)	-	-	**(60,818)**
	672,842	9,293,954	102,096	**10,068,892**

At 31 March 2023	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,594,613	-	**2,594,613**
Programme related investments	-	2,160,225	16,879	**2,177,104**
Mixed purpose investments	-	500,000	-	**500,000**
Financial investments	-	3,012,666	-	**3,012,666**
Cash, Deposits and other current assets	739,870	430,402	110,194	**1,280,466**
Other current liabilities	(51,267)	-	-	**(51,267)**
	688,603	8,697,906	127,073	**9,513,582**

20 Prior year fund comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and Legacies	1,134,097	144,445	224,649	**1,503,191**
Charitable activities	63,659	167,722	438	**231,819**
Investments	-	204,442	-	**204,442**
Total	1,197,756	516,609	225,087	**1,939,452**
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Global Partnerships	55,937	88,776	137,486	**282,199**
City and Community Outreach	117,406	105,275	41,037	**263,718**
Gathered Church	351,689	21,807	697	**374,193**
Children and Youth Ministry	190,098	7,102	2,286	**199,486**
Student Ministry	151,185	7,193	7,211	**165,589**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	165,047	7,766	205	**173,018**
Pastoral Care	54,864	7,061	6,322	**68,247**
	1,086,226	244,980	195,244	**1,526,450**
Raising funds	15,756	-	-	**15,756**
Total	1,101,982	244,980	195,244	**1,542,206**
Net gains on investments	-	(140,582)	-	**(140,582)**
Net income	95,774	131,047	29,843	**256,664**
Transfers between funds	240,405	(211,957)	(28,448)	**-**
Other gains	-	-	517	**517**
Net movement in funds	336,179	(80,910)	1,912	**257,181**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	352,424	8,778,816	125,161	**9,256,401**
Total funds carried forward	688,603	8,697,906	127,073	**9,513,582**

21 Reconciliation of the Statement of Financial Activities to the Statement of Cash Flows

	Statement of Financial Activities £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Cash flow £
A.1 Receipts from Donations and Legacies	1,498,339			
Increase in debtors		(5,039)		**1,493,300**
A.2 Receipts from Charitable activities	229,062			
Decrease in debtors		7,086		
Increase in deferred income and other creditors			489	**236,637**
B.1 Payments for Raising funds	(17,962)			
Investment management costs	-			**(17,962)**
B.2 Payments for Charitable activities	(1,606,292)			
Depreciation eliminated	14,820			
Non-cash loss on fixed asset disposal	8,411			
Non-cash grant on charitable loans	92			
Increase in prepayments and other debtors		(2,292)		
Increase in creditors and accruals			9,062	**(1,576,199)**
C.1 Receipts from Programme-related investments	77,986			
Non-cash foreign exchange movement	(127)			
Decrease in debtors		658		**78,517**
C.2 Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	22,000			
Decrease in debtors		-		**22,000**
D.1 Receipts from Investments	248,478			
Income from programme-related investments	(77,986)			
Income from mixed purpose investments	(22,000)			
				148,492
Balance sheet movements		**413**	**9,551**	

22 Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £	Change £
Cash in hand	314,530	188,546	**125,984**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,433,419	1,018,130	**415,289**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,747,949	1,206,676	**541,273**

	2023 £	2022 £	Change £
Cash in hand	188,546	153,276	**35,270**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,018,130	1,493,149	**(475,019)**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,206,676	1,646,425	**(439,749)**

23 Commitments

The charity had no capital or non-cancellable lease commitments at the end of the current or preceding period.

24 Payments to Trustees and other related party transactions

Remuneration and benefits paid to Trustees and other related parties

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Trustees have the authority to employ or engage under a contract for services a Trustee or any person connected with a Trustee as long as certain conditions are met and procedures followed. Below is a summary of these payments and those made to other related parties:

	Payments for services, Gifts and Grants £	Salary from employment £	Pension costs £	Total £
Year ended 31 March 2024				
D J Mitchell	-	40,045	1,014	**41,059**
T J Dobson	-	30,425	726	**31,151**
D Roderick	-	23,679	523	**24,202**
Close family members of Trustees	1,154	51,325	936	**53,415**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	15,000	166,378	3,543	**184,921**
Year ended 31 March 2023				
D J Mitchell	-	37,150	927	**38,077**
T J Dobson	-	29,301	692	**29,993**
D Roderick	-	18,288	361	**18,649**
Close family members of Trustees	300	37,096	549	**37,945**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	15,000	109,456	2,383	**126,839**

Close family members of Trustees comprises: D J Mitchell (son of D Mitchell), C Mitchell (spouse of D Mitchell), S Mitchell (daughter in-law of D Mitchell), D A Marsh (spouse of E J Marsh), M Dobson (son of T Dobson), M Roderick (spouse of D Roderick).

The above disclosure of payments to Senior Leadership Team members comprises the following individuals who were not Trustees or close family members of a Trustee during the year: N J Savage, R Riddall, P Jinadu, K Jinadu, H C Thompson, J Saunders, M Smith and R Pollard.

Included in the current and prior year church worker costs are payments totalling £15,000 to the West of England Baptist Network as a contribution towards the stipend received by R and N Pollard.

R Riddall and N Savage, both members of the Senior Leadership Team and Key Management, are each in receipt of a charitable loan from the charity. The outstanding balance of the loans at the balance sheet date is £402,288 and £171,315 respectively. Both loans are secured on a property.

Donations from Trustees and related parties

The aggregate donations received from Trustees, SLT and related parties (including any related gift aid) were £65,059 (2023: £82,899).

Trustee expenses

One trustee was reimbursed £127 for training relating to trustee duties (2023: £50 paid to one trustee for trustee training expenses).

25 Company limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital and, in accordance with the Memorandum of Association, every member is liable to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charity in the event of the company being wound up.

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1125029

Accounts

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Charity number: 1125029
Company number: 06569993

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

INTRODUCTION

This is the Board of Trustees of Woodlands Group of Churches' combined annual report for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 together with the audited financial statements for the year. The charity has followed the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102 SORP 2019) in preparing these financial statements.

BACKGROUND

Woodlands Church Family has a shared structure, vision, values, goals and multiple congregations based in various parts of Bristol. Woodlands Church Family is registered as Woodlands Group of Churches with registered charity number 1125029 and as a company limited by guarantee (company number 06569993). The legal entity continues to be called 'Woodlands Group of Churches', with 'Woodlands Church Family' increasingly used as a working name. These names and 'the Church' are used interchangeably throughout this report.

Motivated by the Great Commission in Matthew 28v18-20, the **Mission Statement** of the Woodlands Church Family is:

"to help reach the one million people of the Greater Bristol region, through church planting and regeneration and networking existing churches"

The Goal is to see a light in every street and for every person to have opportunities to hear and see a demonstration of the Gospel.

Shared structure – The Woodlands Church Family has four main congregations:

- **Woodlands Central**, a multi-service resource congregation based in Clifton, with Woodlands Southside as a recent South Bristol plant.
- **Woodlands Community Church**, a multi-service resource congregation serving Southmead, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze, with Branch, a missional congregation reaching Brentry and Henbury.
- **Woodlands Highgrove**, a multi-service resource congregation serving Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle, Kingsweston, Stoke Bishop and Shirehampton.
- **Woodlands Metro**, a multi-service resource congregation based in the city centre.

The Woodlands Church Family has three key Biblical expressions of church life through Cell, Congregation and Celebration. Cell is "being church in the home" with small groups. Congregation is "being church in the community", and Celebration is "being church in the City" through gathering congregations together.

Each of the congregations has its own congregational leadership team and where multi-services exist, there may be service congregational leadership teams. The Woodlands Church Family has a Senior Leadership Team and Trustee Board.

The Woodlands Church Family has several linked churches around Bristol with whom it partners. Each of these associated and affiliated churches are independently governed charities.

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

CHARITABLE PURPOSES, VISION, VALUES, ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

The declared charitable purposes of Woodlands Group of Churches are:

"The proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Christian Faith throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere"

"The organisation, sponsorship, promotion and continuing support of unincorporated bodies of Christians recognised by the Trustees as Christian churches or Christian fellowships meeting and functioning in various places in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere as the Trustees may decide for the worship of God, the instruction and edification of Christians, the care and instruction of young people and children, the evangelisation of non Christians, the relief of poverty and sickness and the advancement of the Christian Faith generally."

The **shared vision** of the Woodlands Church Family is to ***continually reproduce the life of Jesus***. We seek to achieve this vision through the following strategic aims and objectives:

1. **Commitment**
   To help an increasing number of people become committed Christians and part of the life and worship of the Church.
2. **Discipleship**
   To disciple each member in an atmosphere of love, prayer and Bible teaching to follow and become like Jesus.
3. **Service**
   To release every member into ministry and mission in the power of the Holy Spirit, with opportunities to discover, develop and fruitfully use their gifts.
4. **Unity**
   To build together in unity with other churches to reach the whole city and region with the gospel, to be a salt and light in the region and to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted, and to care for the planet.

This shared vision is motivated by the Great Command of Matthew 22v37-39, expressed in a set of **shared values** of Word and Spirit, Intimacy in Worship, Passion in Prayer, Depth of Discipleship, Infectious Witness, Love and Faithfulness in relationships, Forming and being Community, Care for the Poor, the Persecuted and the Planet.

Our principal activities to achieve our charitable purposes for the public benefit are:

- The establishment of **Global Partnerships** with Christian overseas missionaries and organisations;
- Local **City and Community Outreach** activities and events to enhance the outreach of congregations into local communities;
- The provision of **Gathered Church** services and events for the general public;
- The provision of services, events and programmes for **Children and Youth**;
- The provision of services, events, programmes and community living opportunities for **Students**;
- The provision of programmes of **Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development** and associated resources;
- **Pastoral Care** for those of any age or background associated with Woodlands Church Family.

More detailed descriptions of the activities of the Church, together with how these deliver public benefit and our achievements for the period, are under the heading of Achievements and Performance, below.

There are overall **shared goals** for each aspect of our vision, with regular reviews with each congregation leader. Goals prayerfully encourage:

- **Commitment** - net growth for committed adults, made up of new adult joiners less movers and leavers. This includes committed new or returning to faith believers. This has been measured by the congregational leader tracking movers, joiners and leavers, gathered church counts and Newcomers & Alpha Course follow up.
- **Discipleship** is measured through baptisms and mentoring, small group membership, Wholeness, leadership development and other courses involvement and financial giving.
- **Service** is measured through engagement in church rotas for internal service and community outreach ministries.
- **Unity** is measured through involvement in city wide and global partnership ministries. This is part of building Bristol as a 'City of Hope' and reaching the one million people of the Bristol region. Globally this involves the encouragement and support of a growing number of Woodlands Global Partners who are blessing the nations of the world, especially the poorest and the persecuted and the care for the planet.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Woodlands Church Family is committed to enabling as many people as possible to participate and become part of the life of the church. As such, we operate no formal membership structure and all are welcome, whether 'just visiting' or wishing to get connected and involved. In practice, the opportunities to attend services and take part in other activities in person are most accessible to those who live in Bristol and the surrounding region.

We continue to have a significant presence online which means that many throughout the world can and do benefit by being able to receive teaching, inspiration and interaction with the Woodlands Church Family.

In addition, our prayerful and financial support of national and international institutions, individuals and projects which advance the Christian faith, means that the Church does impact and bring benefit to sections of the public well beyond Bristol and the surrounding region.

On 2 July 2022, we held a special evening event to celebrate the ministry of Rob and Pam Scott-Cook. Rob and Pam founded the first congregation in the Woodlands Church Family when they, with a small group of people, re-opened Highgrove Church in Sea Mills as a place of worship in 1982. Rob chaired the Senior Leadership team of the Church as it grew and expanded onto multiple sites, and it was Rob's vision and perseverance that led to the purchase of the Woodlands Christian Centre in Belgrave Road from the BBC in 1995. Rob has also been Chair

of Trustees and it was a significant marker for the Church when Rob stepped down from both those roles this year.

The Church was packed for a service to thank God for their ministry. Rob and Pam continue to be significant and prayerful members of the Woodlands Church Family. Ed Marsh has succeeded Rob as Chair of Trustees, and Dave Mitchell, pastor of the Woodlands Central Congregation, now leads the Senior Leadership team.

At a significant time of transition for the Woodlands Church Family, Dave Mitchell and the Senior Leadership team commissioned a team of consultants to carry out an extensive external strategic review of its ministries and congregations. Led by Mick and Tricia Woodhead from Sheffield, a team of ten people visited us, conducted a range of interviews and collected data to assess our capacity to grow significantly over the next 7 years. Staff wellbeing was addressed and there was significant attention given to governance, and work with children and young people. The report was six months in preparation and is in practice a compilation of several reports each with significant recommendations.

The Senior Leadership Team and Trustees are working together to respond to the recommendations from the report, the effects of which are likely to shape direction and ministry for the next decade.

As we look back on 2022/23, the following are examples of our key ministry activities throughout the year as we sought to put faith into practice in a variety of ways:

Global Partnerships

One of our strategic aims is ‘to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted and to care for the planet’. The Woodlands Church Family actively supports a number of individuals and charities who we refer to as ‘global partners and global associates’. They work in a variety of countries all over the world.

This past year has seen an increased connectivity with our Global Partners as they have been able to join in with on-line services, training and courses. This has been a particular encouragement to those working in more remote and religiously challenging locations.

During the year:

- We made grants totalling £259,764 (2021/22: £242,086) to a significant number of individuals/families and institutions. Further details can be found in note 7 of the accounts.

- We took special offerings to respond to the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria in February 2023 and were able to send grants totalling £20,700 to Christian agencies working to provide relief;

- We regularly contacted our global partners and associates to hear news of their work and ask how we might best support them through prayer;

- Global prayer is the bedrock our of global partnerships work, with monthly prayer meetings which consistently drew 35-40 to attend in a hybrid format (face to face and virtual), where two global partners 'Zoomed' into the meeting each month to share their needs. There was also regular international focus in weekly congregational prayers, on monthly global offering Sundays and in the prayer rooms during our bi-annual 24/7 weeks and prayer rooms.

- In June 2022, the Global Partnership Weekend took the theme of 'The Joy of the Whole Earth', with twelve global partners joining us for the weekend to share in services and be encouraged in their ministries.

- This year, we piloted 'Life Ministry Reviews', with 23 or our global partners submitting formal annual reviews to church leadership, highlighting areas of success, growth life changes, as well as ongoing concerns and need. This has been a very helpful exercise in supporting their ongoing pastoral and financial needs and assessing effectiveness of their work.

- Global partner families from Peru and Uganda were given homes to stay in over 3-6 months and supported in extended furlough in Bristol during the last year. The generosity of the congregations in offering accommodation, car loans and hospitality was very sacrificial. These families in turn enriched the local church life through sharing and serving at multiple events, including leading a mission Bootcamp weekend to train 30 members of Woodlands in cross-cultural outreach, followed by offering them opportunities to do short term outreaches abroad in 2023-24.

- Our partnership with Hands at Work in Africa has continued to develop, with grants in total given of £25,993 (2021/22: £35,627);

- We gave bursaries of £2,920 from our short term mission fund to twelve members of Woodlands for trips ranging from an architect's internship supporting building design for Christian projects in developing countries, trauma care for refugees in Iraq and Poland/Ukraine border support for

refugees, and an on-location prayer initiative in North Africa.

- The Woodlands Climate Action Network is a new initiative, led by young adults aiming to help Woodlands look at the big picture of our sustainability and challenging us as a Church to move towards Carbon Neutral operations with some practical suggestions for change.

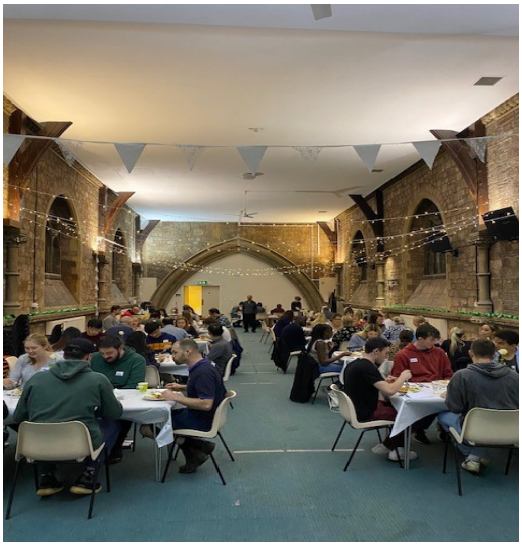
- During the year, Woodlands signed the Operation Noah Bright Now pledge to abstain from financial investment in fossil fuels.

- The Highgrove congregation was awarded the Silver Eco Church award just after the year end.

City and Community Outreach
The Woodlands Church Family is committed to social action and evangelism in the Bristol region through our own activities and in partnership with many local agencies. This includes work with the homeless, those in debt, urban regeneration and more. Much of this work is with the most marginalised members of the local community and we aim to support them through practical expressions of support as well as offering them the opportunity to get involved in Church life and come to faith.

Examples of this during the year were:

- We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with local government which means Bristol Churches have been quick where they can to respond to urgent needs identified by the City council. This includes work with TLG (Transforming Lives for Good). Bristol City Council has encouraged Churches to support schools particularly where already vulnerable children have fallen behind with disruption from COVID-19 school closures. Woodlands Central is now in three schools with training and support from TLG (a national charity). Volunteers commit to sitting with an individual child one-on-one every week and improving their confidence and self-esteem.
- Woodlands Central has continued to run two men's football teams. These are thriving communities made up of people from inside and outside of the church, playing in the Bristol Churches League.
- The basketball outreach 'Bristol Brickers' took place in Southmead and Henbury engaging teenagers from the community and giving them a safe space to interact with other teens, get some exercise and hear some uplifting team talks.



- The Alpha Course is a fantastic opportunity for people from all walks of life to explore the Christian faith. We have held the Alpha Course at Woodlands Central every term this year, with courses also running across many of the congregations of the Woodlands Church Family. It has been great to have many guests attending each course, but especially a large percentage of young adults. At the end of each course, we have had people joining mid-week Church groups as they continue their faith journey. Our most recent church plant, Woodlands Southside, has partnered with Victoria Park Baptist in running a daytime Alpha course which has seen several

people on the edge of our church communities enter into greater ownership of faith.

- The Noise ran in May 2022 and it was back to something like the pre-pandemic numbers of 700 volunteers working across many of the more disadvantaged communities of Bristol.

- With Foodbank outlets in Southmead run by Community Church and support given by volunteers at the NW Bristol Foodbank and the East/South Bristol Foodbank, 100s of families received emergency food supplies. Woodlands Southside has strengthened its efforts in serving Victoria Park Foodbank in terms of people volunteering, provision of food, and a monetary gift through Southside's youth raising the foodbank's profile and participation in some sponsored activities.

- A highlight of the year came in November 2022 when we were able to hold our annual Single Parents Fair again to bless the single parents in the community. We saw over 100 families during the morning and once again everything was provided free of charge. We had second-hand clothes, books and toys, family portraits, professional haircuts, a free café and advice stands from a range of organisations.

- In partnership with Victoria Park Baptist, Woodlands Southside has been operating a weekly hub for Ukrainians. This has been really valued by our Ukrainian guests due to the crucial context of belonging it has provided, its provision of amazing food, and fantastic and enduring friendships that have developed. There has also been quite a bit of signposting which has also helped many of the guests find appropriate paid work.

- Branch congregation has also offered a very successful 'Warm Space' and lunch facility throughout the winter months.
- Highgrove works closely with Sea Mills Community Initiatives, a charity run by the two local churches, to bless the surrounding area in a number of ways. This year they provided a Warm Space in one of their buildings with volunteers from Highgrove. Highgrove makes use of its own garden space, as well as the SMCI-run Community Garden by regularly running Muddy Church for local families, plus a Christmas wreath-making event and an Easter Garden Trail for families to discover the Easter story using hands-on activities.
- In January 2023, we partnered with the Charity Commission, Burton Sweet, Stewardship and Charity Finance Group to run a conference called Faith Charities in Focus. Bringing together over

150 Trustees and senior leaders of faith charities and churches from across the region, the morning event helped equip people to undertake their valuable roles with excellence and confidence.

City and Community Outreach Charitable Loans

Over the years, the Church has employed a particular strategy to see thriving churches in local communities in providing **short-term secured loans** to enable key workers and volunteers to be able to purchase a house in those communities. It has been our experience that having people living in the heart of communities, getting involved in community life and resourcing local outreach makes a significant difference in fruitfulness and growth. These loans have been typically 3-5 years in duration and, once repaid, were being recycled to enable further loans to be made. These loans are classified as programme-related investments in these accounts because their purpose is not to generate a commercial financial return but to enable people to live and serve Christ in the community to which they are called.

In light of the cost-of-living crisis and escalating inflation and interest rates, the Trustees decided to temporarily close the scheme to new applications (those not already in process) early in the financial year given the challenges of assessing applicant loan affordability in an uncertain economic environment. By the end of the financial year, the Trustees resolved that the scheme be permanently closed and, once existing loans have been repaid, alternative uses for the funds will be developed in order to further the purposes of the Church. The Trustees are thankful for the charitable benefit and fruitfulness that this strategy has brought over the years, but recognise that skills required, the risk involved and the opportunity cost of continuing the scheme mean this is not a strategy that should be continued.

The current carrying value of loans outstanding is shown as a designated fund in these financial statements. There were eight such loans outstanding at the year end (2022: five). The value of the outstanding loans was £2,160,225, which also includes a £14,500 short term loan to a global partner to assist them in their ministry. Funds that had previously been held to resource new loans have been redesignated to other purposes in the year.

Gathered Church

The Woodlands Church Family offers a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that are open to all members of the public and which many people of different ages and backgrounds and with different preferences find to be beneficial and fulfilling. Over the years, significant changes have made to the services to adapt to growing numbers of people attending.

On a typical Sunday there will be eleven public worship services conducted over the six sites where Woodlands Church Family congregations are based. We are committed to growing expressions of Church further into neighbourhoods in the City and region where we

feel we can serve communities, and in the nearby North Somerset village of Backwell we have begun a monthly family service that attracts up to 100 people.

We continue to offer on-line worship, streaming our larger Sunday services and gathering a Zoom congregation at our early service. We have learnt an enormous amount about how to film and distribute on-line content in a way that makes Church accessible for elderly, invalid or geographically dispersed adherents, and also those whose social anxiety makes in-person attendance challenging for them.

Woodlands Church Family congregations are very easy to find through on-line search engines, and our on-line services attract hundreds of watches each Sunday. Indeed we have discovered that many people who are looking for a Church explore on-line services first before making in-person connection.

It has been encouraging to see our 'in person' congregations return to pre-pandemic levels, in part at least through new numerical growth. At Woodlands Central last year, we saw over 500 visitors give us their contact details. There has been significant momentum in our ministry to young adults, and over 150 of them attended our recent weekend house party.

Our most recent neighbourhood congregation, Woodlands Southside, has moved its location from a Methodist building to Victoria Park Baptist Church, still on the edge of Bedminster.

Our congregation 'Branch' meets in Emmanuel Chapel on the large estate of Henbury. The amalgamation with a small indigenous congregation at Emmanuel has solidified very well and the Church offers a vibrant and welcoming act of worship each Sunday afternoon.

Our congregation at Highgrove in Sea Mills has had the exciting and challenging experience of a major building project to help accommodate its growth. Numbers at Highgrove are too many for one morning service, and so this year the Church has held two consecutive morning services, the earlier of which is live streamed. A new foyer has been built and is on the cusp of completion to help access and space to facilitate this burgeoning congregation, which has the highest percentage of children in any of our congregations.

An exciting development for our congregation in Southmead, the 'Community Church' has been the growing attendance of a significant number of Hong Kong Cantonese speaking migrants. Many of these recent arrivals to the UK are choosing a path of integration, rather than affiliating to the 'Chinese Church' in Bristol, but the large numbers mean that occasional sermons in Cantonese are offered as an alternative to the regular preaching at Community Church.

Woodlands Metro has had a challenging year in some respects. Shortly after returning from COVID-19 restrictions to in-person meetings in the very prominent 'We the Curious' building which has been their home, there was a serious fire in the roof space of that venue. It closed for repair and has remained closed, and the congregation has had to re-locate to Bristol Cathedral School. It is relatively nearby but less visible and the Church has had to work hard to consolidate as the student and young adult community which are its key demographic are so mobile.

Woodlands Metro has begun a monthly morning service in response to that consolidation, and with increasing numbers of married members are building a less transient community. Their recent house party weekend attracted over 90 people and included children for the very first time.

A distinctive element of community at Woodlands Central has been the large Church-linked community houses which are in their own right 'religious communities'. A significant factor for the Church to process is that the most prominent of these houses, which are close to Woodlands Central, will be sold in 2024 by their owners, a Christian charity called The George Muller Charitable Trust. A working group has looked at the feasibility of Woodlands purchasing one of these houses. At present it is anticipated that the market may make this the wrong priority for us, and the working group are also looking at alternative accommodation to serve the growth and midweek needs of Woodlands Central.

It was wonderful to celebrate Christmas and Easter services in-person this year and to see large numbers attending our suite of services, as well as following on-line. Our portfolio of Christmas services included Contemporary Carols, Carols by Candlelight, 'Folky Christmas' and a midnight service. Our Easter events included family Good Friday services and events as well as a beautiful reflective service, and Easter Sunday saw full buildings with again some Easter Sunday baptisms to celebrate.

Unity and prayer underpin the Woodlands Church Family, and as well as our regular congregational prayer events the New Year always begins with a week of prayer and fasting. This year was exceptionally encouraging as on the Tuesday of Prayer Week, after a day when many chose to fast, hundreds of us gathered at Woodlands Central for a combined prayer and worship event that emphasised our unity, but also prioritised the life of the Spirit together.

Children and Youth Ministry

The Woodlands Church Family offers a wide range of activities which children and young people join in with to make friends, discover and use their gifts and talents and learn more about being disciples of Jesus. Activities are a varied as activity based open youth clubs, basketball training, youth church and discussion groups.

The following are examples of key activities and developments that took place this year:

- Children's Church has run each Sunday throughout the year. All the Sunday groups have continued to thrive, including football church with over 150 children regularly connecting across the groups. We've also started new groups - a Sunday dance ministry and a monthly mid-week group called 'T Club' for older children. All of these groups have been focusing on helping children connect with church, grow in faith and build relationships with one another.

- It was so encouraging to see consistent attendance at youth gatherings. There have been a large number of non-church youth engaging with our regular programmes.

- Mental health continues to be a real challenge for many young people. The team have adjusted well to continuing the best they can to connect with young people. A residential weekend away happened in the autumn which again gave a sense of building community.

- Our Youth Club 'Alberts Place' relaunched and is providing a fun evening of games and activities for young people from our local community.

- Highgrove have supported families throughout the year by running a number of parenting courses. The church co-ordinates the chaplaincy in their local secondary school, with a team of volunteers from local churches who listen to Year 7 students read each week. There is a team who are continuing to provide assemblies for the local primary school, as well as outreach events around the church calendar, like a Candlelight Nativity and Holiday Clubs.

- Southmead Stars, one of several parent and toddler groups we run, relocated to the 'Ranch' a local adventure playground and now has over 50 parents and children attending. On Good Friday 2023, in partnership with the parent and toddler group from another local church, we ran an Family Fun morning attended by around 200 adults and children.

Student Ministry

University students are at a strategic time of their lives in terms of experiences that inspire and shape the rest of their lives but we are aware that thousands of students in Bristol have little involvement with Church or the Christian faith. We want to play our part in reaching this demographic with the gospel. Our Woodlands Christian Centre building is strategically located in the midst of Bristol University and our Woodlands Metro community is located near much of the new student accommodation in the centre of Bristol. We want to see students become Christians, to grow in their faith and be inspired and equipped to serve God with their lives.

This year, after all the disruption and isolation caused by the pandemic, we've put a particular emphasis on building a strong, racially diverse community amongst students. With Woodlands Metro now meeting in Cathedral School, we've been able to mobilise teams of students to help pupils in the Junior School with their reading. Alongside this we've engaged students with social action and care alongside partners like Beloved, the FoodBank and The Noise. We've been able to offer study spaces and drop-ins for students who don't normally connect with church, as well as taking the initiative with outreach in some University spaces. Metro has also put together a team of young professionals to provide mentoring, support and career advice for students.

Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development

We are committed to raising up a new generation of leaders to impact the city, the region and the world with the gospel. A key part of 'continually reproducing the life of Jesus' is discipleship. This involves learning to imitate and obey Jesus Christ in every aspect of our lives.

Examples of how we have encouraged this during the year are:

- The Bristol Westminster Theological Centre Hub has continued this year meeting in Woodlands Foyer and their two residentials were held at Nottingham University. There have been 28 students in this year's hub. WTC faculty delivered two theology events for staff team, Associate Church leaders and church members. A number of the church staff team have been studying with WTC and it has had a positive impact on their confidence in handling the Bible.

- Woodlands Bible School has run each 3rd Sunday and it has been good to have a number of visiting speakers who have brought some great insights. This year's cohort of 13 leaders on the Leadership Learning Community have thrown themselves into the discussion and learning, and it has been greatly appreciated.

Pastoral Care

All of our congregations have midweek small groups as key elements of what it means to belong, and we follow a memorable formula to describe our mission, Find, Love, Follow, Serve. We hope that people who find faith and find their way to our Church will be invited to be involved in loving and caring smaller communities. We see small groups as the first line of pastoral care and initial development of gifts and the primary place to get to know others and to be known. Many pastoral issues are picked up and managed in these small group settings.

Our second line of pastoral care includes the following:

- The Wholeness Course offers an opportunity to identify and remove barriers to growth in our personal lives, deal with gaps in our emotional development and repair hurts from the past. We had 90 people sign up for our spring course, including people from several churches around Bristol as we gathered for six weeks at Woodlands Central for evenings of testimonies, teaching and prayer ministry. Each week, the team of 30 prayer ministers offer one-to-one prayer for people attending the course and shared things they sensed God had been saying to them for people attending the course. Many Course attendees experienced healing and breakthrough in their personal lives through the teaching and prayer. We have had many follow up emails with wonderful stories of freedom and healing from people who attended and the whole team were as always very encouraged by taking part.

- Last year, we launched a new mental health website, Whole Minds. The website has articles, stories and creative content designed to support and encourage good mental health and spiritual growth. The idea for the website came out of a survey about mental health across the Woodlands Church Family. It was felt that there was a growing need to acknowledge the increased mental health pressure that many people are experiencing, particularly following the pandemic. Following the survey we felt that it would be good to develop an online space to collect articles and stories that would encourage people across the Woodlands Church family in their mental, emotional and spiritual health journeys, and also to develop an online presence that would be accessible to people from outside the church seeking spiritual solutions to mental health pressures. We acknowledged the need to talk more openly about mental health in church life and followed the website launch with a mental health sermon series across the church congregations. Alongside the website there is a growing social media presence and articles on mental health for teenagers, eating disorders and overcoming anxiety have been shared widely.

- Shortly after the year end, we employed a Mental Health Practitioner in a role that involves her supporting young adults by offering regular mental health support sessions via referral by student and young adult leaders. It was felt that with mental health currently a serious concern amongst these communities we need to find ways to support and encourage good mental health practices and provide spaces for reflection and community for those isolated and struggling with their mental health. She will also be facilitating Head Space an 8-week course looking at various aspects of mental health and wellbeing that encourages people to come and share experiences and support one another along the journey towards wellness. She will be building a resource base of material for leaders to access across the WCF which will include articles and suggestions for managing mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.

- The Community Church are launching a Wellbeing Café to provide a safe, welcoming space for those struggling with poor mental health.

- We operated a ‘needy saints fund’ throughout the year enabling us to give gifts totalling £6,571 (2021/22: £5,935) to those facing financial hardship through redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

Charging Policy

The Woodlands Church Family is committed to making its activities accessible to as wide a range of people as possible and so seeks to minimise the cost of events and, where a charge is levied, subsidies are offered by congregational leadership teams where appropriate to ensure that money is not a barrier

to people participating in activities. Church services are entirely free with no obligation to pay or give and the church offers many activities, courses and services without charge.

Fundraising
Whilst the primary source of income for the charity is voluntary donations, the Church does not regularly engage in significant public fundraising. Most of the giving is from committed attenders who express their 'belonging' and commitment to the congregations through regular and one-off giving to share in the ministry costs of church life. The Church prayerfully teaches about the biblical principles of financial stewardship and generosity in the context of discipleship. From time to time, the leaders encourage giving towards particular global partners or mission projects and, very occasionally, hold offerings for special projects such as building developments. The charity does not subscribe to any particular fundraising scheme or standards but regularly reviews the charity's practices to ensure that any incidental fundraising is carried out appropriately.

Each congregation has monthly Sunday service offerings to support global and local mission. All gifts collected, including any attributable Gift Aid and Gift Aid on Small Donations relief is used to support our global and local mission partners. In addition, a discretionary percentage of up to 50% is added from free reserves to each offering.

Contribution of volunteers
Most of what happens in the congregations is driven by volunteers, whether that is worship, youth and children's work, practical jobs or roles requiring specialised skills. It is not possible to quantify the contribution of volunteers to the Woodlands Church Family except to say that we would not be able to carry out many of our activities without them. The Church seeks to provide as many opportunities as possible for volunteers to grow in their gifts and abilities and has hundreds of people volunteering in at least one role within Church. The way in which volunteers have continued to serve who faithfully and creatively throughout the last few challenging years is something we are so thankful to God for.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial position and performance of Woodlands Group of Churches is in line with the expectations of the Trustees, based on their planning and monitoring of income and expenditure throughout the year.

Total income was £1,939,452 in the year compared to £1,654,686 in the prior year, a rise of 17%. Donations have risen overall by 16%, with core giving to free funds (a key measure we use to budget for future spending) having increased by 9.8%, which is a remarkable and encouraging result with all the economic and social challenges brought about by the continued global economic uncertainty and the cost of living crisis.

Income from Charitable activities rose from £196,127 in the prior year to £231,819 and has now risen above pre-pandemic levels.

Investment income rose from £159,287 in the prior year to £204,442, driven by higher interest rates and Financial Investments performance. Investment income includes the income both from Financial Investments and from a number of interest-bearing charitable loans classified as programme related investments in the accounts and interest-bearing loan stock classified as mixed purpose investments.

Total expenditure was £1,542,206 (2021/22: £1,265,887); a rise of 22%. Activity levels have significantly increased this year and a pay-benchmarking review has led to monthly payroll costs increasing by 10% from January 2023. A total of £393,010 (2022: £299,458) spent on grants for mission and blessing the poor and persecuted both in the UK and overseas.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Reserves
Free reserves available for use by Woodlands Church are deemed to be those that are readily realisable, less funds whose uses are restricted or else designated for particular purposes. The calculation thus excludes £2,594,613 representing tangible fixed assets that will continue to be used in the day-to-day running and restricted funds of £127,073. The calculation also excludes the carrying value of charitable loans held as programme related investments of £2,160,225, which are not readily realisable assets and are held in designated funds. It also excludes other designated funds of £3,943,068 including the Property Purchase Fund of £2,239,606, which exists to enable the opportunistic purchase of new property.

The purpose, balances and movements of each designated fund are explained clearly within note 18 of the accounts.

Each year the Trustees review the level of free reserves and the appropriateness of the free reserves policy. The Board considers our exposure to major risks in terms of their likely impact on its income sources and planned expenditure in the medium term. They also consider the opportunities available to them for expansion and growth in the facilities and activities of the Woodlands Church Family.

This year, the Trustees decided to increase the target range for free reserves to reflect the uncertain economic environment and the higher commitment relating to permanent employed staff arising from an expanding team and the recent pay review.

The revised target range for free reserves is £550,991 to £826,487, equal to between 6 and 9 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves fund. At the year end, the actual free reserves, as clearly shown within the accounts, were £688,603 (2021/22: £352,424), which is equivalent to 7.5 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves Fund. This is within the target range. The Trustees recognise that the operating environment is evolving rapidly and that the current strategic review of the Woodlands Church Family may result in a need to significantly change our financial operating model. All reserves held will be subject to a thorough review in the coming financial year.

Financial Impact of Significant Events

The Trustees are conscious of the challenging economic and social conditions brought about by the continued global uncertainties caused by geopolitical events in Europe and the cost-of-living crisis. As well as seeking to use the charity's resources to meet some of these needs, the Trustees are thankful to God that we have not seen a drop in giving income or a sustained drop in other sources of income so far. The Trustees will be budgeting carefully for the coming financial year given these factors but are

satisfied that the level of reserves held by the charity will enable the continuation of the charity's activities into the future.

The Trustees confirm their assessment that the charity is a going concern as at the date of the signing of the accounts, despite the ongoing global uncertainty.

Investment powers and policy
The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow the Trustees to invest in any stocks, funds, shares, securities or other investments of whatsoever nature as the Trustees shall, in their absolute discretion, think fit.

The Trustees have an Investment Policy covering the charity's Financial, Programme Related and Mixed Purpose Investments. In particular, the Trustees have sought to ensure that the time horizon of the likely use of all funds is matched well to the investment vehicle used.

In the case of Financial Investments, the Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk and this year have more clearly articulated its responsible investments approach, taking into account the social, ethical and environmental impact of investments. The Trustees have joined other faith charities in signing a pledge not to invest in fossil fuels.

The investment objective for funds needed in the medium to long term is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the ongoing activities of the Charity. For funds needed in the short term, the investment objective is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

Grant making
The Charity has a grant making policy and makes grants to individuals and organisations engaged in mission and ministry and primarily with whom we have developed long term partnerships. Most of these partners are members of the church family serving on short term, medium term or long-term mission trips. With the exception of members of the church family going on short term mission, there is not a formal application process for grant funds. Missionary financial support is instead just a part of a wider range of on-going communication and prayer support for the work.

The Charity also makes grants from the 'needy saints fund' to individuals in the church facing financial hardship as a result of redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

FUTURE PLANS

The Woodlands Church Family is excited by the opportunities for growth, ministry expansion and church planting. We will continue to engage with the needs of the city through food poverty relief and family care, including encouraging fostering and adoption and addressing mental health issues.

As we continue to unpack the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Review report, it is anticipated that significant investment and development will be required as we enter this next season.

The Woodlands Church Family is also continuing to further develop the organisational and administration structures appropriate to a growing group of congregations in the current environment. The key operational leads have met a number of times throughout the year to revise and update the charity's risk management process. The Woodlands Church Family is embarking on a rebranding exercise, as we sharpen our vision and identity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Charity was formed in 2008 by the merger of four previous charities: Highgrove Christian Charitable Trust, Highgrove Fellowship Centre, Woodlands Church and Henleaze & Westbury Community Church.

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 April 2008.

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, all members of the Company are Trustees, and all Trustees are members. No other formal membership is operated. The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum. Trustees are required to meet at least once a year.

Any new Trustees are recruited in light of the mix of skills and experience needed on the Board and on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates and after prayer and listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Woodlands Group of Churches. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority by Trustees at a meeting or by a formal resolution.

Any new Trustees receive an Induction Pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with Woodlands Group of Churches. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication *CC3 – The Essential Trustee* together with the Charity's governing document and the latest Annual Report and Accounts.

The Trustees are aware of the importance of maintaining their knowledge of current charity and related legislation and best practice so Trustees take advantage of external trustee training sessions and, where not all members of the Board of Trustees are present, circulate any relevant information and guidance to the other Trustees for due consideration.

The role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Trustees

The SLT is responsible for the overall spiritual and day-to-day operational leadership of the Woodlands Church Family. The Senior Leader of the SLT provides apostolic input to the SLT, which operates as an Ephesians 4 ministry team (Ephesians 4v11-12). The Trustees have overall legal responsibility, taking account of the spiritual direction of the Woodlands Church Family set by the Senior Leadership Team, who themselves are always to act in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the general law.

Rob Scott-Cook stood back as Senior leader of the Senior Leadership team from 1 July 2022 and stood down as a Trustee from December 2022. Dave Mitchell is now Senior Leader of the SLT and Ed Marsh was elected Chair of Trustees. Alison Dawson and Steve Bodley were appointed to the Board in July 2022.

The Key Management Personnel of the Charity consists of the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. Where such individuals or those closely connected with them are remunerated by the Charity, their pay is set by the non-remunerated members of the Trustee Board at a meeting each year.

Church leaders and teams

The Woodlands Church Family has delegated the day-to-day oversight and direction of the four congregations to congregational leadership teams. These teams meet regularly to oversee delivery of activities in accordance with the vision and purposes of the Charity. Members of the Trustee Board and Senior Leadership Team regularly meet with the congregational leaders to review progress, provide any advice and assistance as required and provide accountability around goals, vision and values.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit where appropriate when exercising their powers and duties, planning and reviewing the aims, objectives and activities of the Woodlands Church Family. Throughout this report, the Trustees have sought to demonstrate the many ways that it delivers benefit to the public – whether they are members of one of the congregations that are part of the Church, another church or have no church /religious affiliation.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Trustees (who are also directors of Woodlands Group of Churches for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Corporate Governance
Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be developed to improve efficiency and enable the Trustees to discharge their responsibilities around safeguarding the Charity's assets. Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and that appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed regularly by both the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- an annual budget approved by the Trustees;
- regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results and variances from budgets;
- delegation of day-to-day management authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

Charity Governance Code
The Trustees have reviewed the Charity Governance Code. The Trustees consider that the Charity is already applying most of its recommendations and is working towards further application of its recommended practice.

Risk Management
The Trustees have a formal risk management process, which has been reviewed, revised and improved during the current financial year. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifying means of managing or mitigating the risks and the individual responsible for managing each risk.

The Trustees have a formal incident recording process to identify incidents that can inform the risk management process.

The Trustees carry out an annual review of the principal risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to manage those and other risks.

The principal risk facing the Church at this time is the possibility of an ineffective transition of senior leadership undertaken in July 2022 following 40 years from the founding of the Church. Planning and preparation for this transition has been taking place over the last five years and the Trustees and Senior Leadership Team have been working on the leadership structure and teams needed to help the Church to thrive in this new era.

The Trustees have been continuing to closely manage the risk of further cyber attacks following a serious incident in 2019/20 and especially in light of the extra risks the current operating environment has presented. This has included training and new guidelines issued to charity staff and a charity-wide IT infrastructure review project.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Haines Watts Bristol Limited be reappointed as auditors of the charitable company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed by order of the board of Trustees:

Mr E J Marsh (Chair of Trustees)

Mr D J Mitchell (Senior Leader and Trustee)

20 July 2023

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company registration number: 06569993
Charity registration number: 1125029

Members of the Board of Trustees

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of Company law, that served during the year and since the year end, are:

Mr E J Marsh	(Chair from 1 January 2023)
Mr D J Mitchell	
Mr T J Dobson	
Mrs A Addison	(Vice-Chair from 20 April 2023)
Mr W Matthews	(Vice-Chair from 20 April 2023)
Mr D Roderick	
Mrs A Dawson	(appointed 14 July 2022)
Mr S Bodley	(appointed 14 July 2022)
Mr R L Scott-Cook	(resigned as Trustee and Chair on 31 December 2022)

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the Woodlands Church Family

Mr D J Mitchell (Senior Leader of the Woodlands Church Family)

Mr E J Marsh	Mr T J Dobson	Mrs D A Marsh
Mr N Savage	Mrs R Riddall	Mr P O Jinadu
Mrs K Jinadu	Mr D Roderick	Mrs H C Thompson
Mr R Pollard	Mr R L Scott-Cook *(stepped down in July 2022)*	

Principal Professional Advisers

Bankers
Lloyds TSB, High Street, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 3DA
Bank of Scotland, 2nd floor, Pentland House, 8 Lochside Avenue, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ.

Auditors
Haines Watts Bristol Limited, Bath House, 6-8 Bath Street, Bristol, BS1 6HL

Registered office address: Woodlands Christian Centre
Belgrave Road
Clifton
Bristol BS8 2AA

Website addresses: www.woodlandschurch.net
www.thecommunitychurch.net
www.highgrove.church
www.woodlandsmetro.church
www.woodlandssouthside.church
www.branchchurch.co.uk

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Woodlands Group of Churches (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial

statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 19 and 20, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: The Companies Act 2006, UK GAAP, The Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP.

- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks and made enquiries to the management of known or suspected instances of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes, other relevant meeting minutes and review of correspondence with regulatory bodies.

- We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the audit team included:

    - Identifying and assessing the controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;

    - Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;

    - Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates and judgments,

    - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and

    - Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of

instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Matthew Bracher FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Haines Watts Bristol Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

20 July 2023

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and Legacies	**2**	1,134,097	144,445	224,649	**1,503,191**	1,299,272
Charitable activities	**3**	63,659	167,722	438	**231,819**	196,127
Investments	**4**	-	204,442	-	**204,442**	159,287
	Total	1,197,756	516,609	225,087	**1,939,452**	1,654,686
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
Global Partnerships		55,937	88,776	137,486	**282,199**	261,040
City and Community Outreach		117,406	105,275	41,037	**263,718**	168,553
Gathered Church		351,689	21,807	697	**374,193**	279,770
Children and Youth Ministry		190,098	7,102	2,286	**199,486**	165,951
Student Ministry		151,185	7,193	7,211	**165,589**	155,056
Discipleship and Leadership Development		165,047	7,766	205	**173,018**	160,637
Pastoral Care		54,864	7,061	6,322	**68,247**	58,289
	5	1,086,226	244,980	195,244	**1,526,450**	1,249,296
Raising funds	**8**	15,756	-	-	**15,756**	16,591
	Total	1,101,982	244,980	195,244	**1,542,206**	1,265,887
Net (losses)/gains on investments	**15**	-	(140,582)	-	**(140,582)**	184,249
Net income	**9**	95,774	131,047	29,843	**256,664**	573,048
Transfers between funds	**18**	240,405	(211,957)	(28,448)	**-**	-
Other gains		-	-	517	**517**	369
Net movement in funds		336,179	(80,910)	1,912	**257,181**	573,417
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		352,424	8,778,816	125,161	**9,256,401**	8,682,984
Total funds carried forward	**18**	688,603	8,697,906	127,073	**9,513,582**	9,256,401

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.

Fund comparatives are disclosed in note 20.

The notes on pages 30 to 49 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note		2023 £		2022 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**12**	**2,594,613**		2,315,614	
Programme related investments	**13**	**1,442,225**		1,191,297	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**200,000**		200,000	
Financial Investments	**15**	**3,012,666**		3,153,248	
			7,249,504		6,860,159
Current assets:					
Debtors	**16**	**73,790**		64,274	
Programme related investments	**13**	**734,879**		418,724	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**300,000**		300,000	
Cash at bank and on short term deposit		**1,206,676**		1,646,425	
		2,315,345		2,429,423	
Liabilities:					
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	**17**	**(51,267)**		(33,181)	
Net current assets			**2,264,078**		2,396,242
Total assets less current liabilities			**9,513,582**		9,256,401
Total net assets			**9,513,582**		9,256,401
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds					
Free reserves		**688,603**		352,424	
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)		**127,902**		150,562	
Fixed asset NBV (designated)		**2,594,613**		2,315,614	
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)		**2,160,225**		1,593,585	
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)		**-**		1,693,475	
Capacity Development (designated)		**350,000**		259,537	
Housing the Homeless (designated)		**500,000**		-	
Property Purchases (designated)		**2,239,606**		1,895,266	
St James/UPA (designated)		**52,370**		40,024	
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)		**27,170**		29,152	
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)		**51,000**		66,000	
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)		**595,020**		735,601	
	19		**9,386,509**		9,131,240
Restricted income funds	**19**		**127,073**		125,161
Total charity funds			**9,513,582**		9,256,401

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and were approved by the Trustees on 20 July 2023 are signed on their behalf by:

Mr E J Marsh
Chair of Trustees

Mr D J Mitchell
Trustee

Company registration number: 06569993

The notes on pages 30 to 49 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Operational cash flows			
Cash flows for operating activities			
Receipts from Donations and Legacies	21 (A.1)	**1,496,756**	1,305,986
Payments for Raising funds	21 (B.1)	**(15,756)**	(15,034)
Net inflow for operating activities		**1,481,000**	1,290,952
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Charitable activities	21 (A.2)	**238,649**	192,534
Payments for Charitable activities	21 (B.2)	**(1,465,792)**	(1,227,038)
Receipts from Programme-related investments	21 (C.1)	**76,317**	68,127
Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	21 (C.2)	**21,999**	30,000
Additions to Programme-related investments	13	**(766,882)**	(416,057)
Repayments from Programme-related investments	13	**163,920**	401,582
Additions to Mixed purpose investments	14	**-**	(300,000)
Repayments from Mixed purpose investments	14	**-**	400,000
		(1,731,789)	(850,852)
Net (outflow)/inflow of operating activities		**(250,789)**	440,100
Non-operational cash flows			
Investing activities:			
Receipts from Financial investments	21 (D.1)	**105,014**	62,756
Purchase of investments	15	**-**	(500,000)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	12	**(293,974)**	(23,858)
Net cash used in investing activities		**(188,960)**	(461,102)
Net cash outflow for the year	22	**(439,749)**	(21,002)

Charity law prohibits the use of net cash flows on any restricted fund to offset net cash outflows on any fund outside of its own purposes, except on special authority. In practice, this restriction has not had any effect on cash flows for the year.

The notes on pages 30 to 49 form part of these financial statements

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis with the exception of financial investments which are shown at fair value. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined under FRS 102. The presentation currency is pounds sterling.

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared on the gross/direct basis, as permitted by the Charities SORP. Cash has been defined as Cash on hand and short-term deposits of less than 3 months for the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows. The Balance sheet additionally includes short term deposits of less than one year within Cash on hand.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, despite the ongoing uncertainty and inflationary pressures arising from the geopolitical crisis in Europe and the lingering impact of Brexit and COVID-19. The charity has sufficient reserves to be able to meet these challenges and have also observed how well core giving income has held up over the last few years.

There have been no management judgements or any key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date in the accounts that give rise to a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b) Funds

Unrestricted free reserves are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charitable purposes of the charity.

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and have been identified as being for particular purposes by the Trustees. They are not restricted and can be transferred to free funds at any time at the discretion of the Trustees. Material designated funds are identified and explained in note 18 to the financial statements.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. The purpose and use of each material restricted fund is set out in note 18 to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and receipt is probable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Donations and Legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable, except as follows:

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i. Income from offerings is recognised when received;

ii. Income from 'planned giving' is recognised only when received;

iii. When the donor specifies that donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods;

Gift Aid relief on eligible donations is recognised on an accruals basis at the same point as the original donation.

Investment Income represented by interest on bank deposits, dividends receivable, interest on programme-related investments and interest on mixed purpose investments is recognised when receivable. Investment income from Charitable Loans and Mixed Purpose Investments is added to the 'Available for Charitable Loans' fund, with the remaining investment income apportioned between the 'Property Purchases' and 'Capacity Improvement' designated funds. The purpose of these funds is described fully in note 18.

Rental income is recognised within ***Income from Charitable Activities*** as the promotion of student community living and the hiring of the buildings for weddings and other Christian conferences and events is considered part of the activities the charity undertakes to achieve its objects. The rental income on student rooms is recognised when invoiced (usually on a monthly basis) and, for events, is recognised in the period the event takes place. Rental income is apportioned to the Property Purchase Fund.

Donated services and facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their value to the charity at the date of the gift. Donated assets which are capitalised are included in the accounts at fair value. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, no amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as and when a legal or constructive obligation arises.

Expenditure is allocated to the identified ***Charitable Activities*** directly, where applicable. Support costs relating to engaging church workers, administration costs and premises costs are allocated to Charitable Activities as follows:

Support cost	Basis of allocation
Church workers	Estimated time spent on each activity
Administration costs	Estimated usage of the resource
Premises costs	Estimated usage of the resource

These estimates are reviewed on an annual basis.

Grants payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which communication of the award is communicated to the recipient.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. Governance costs are included within Support costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

(e) Foreign currency
The microfinance element of the charity's programme related investments are managed in US$. In view of there being a very large number of small loans, the transactions are not converted to £s at the transaction date but the US$ balances at the year-end are converted to £s at the year-end rate. Gains and losses on exchange are treated as other gains and losses within the Statement of Financial Activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Fixed assets are stated at cost and new items costing more than £3,000 are capitalised (increased from £1,000 from 1 April 2022). Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold property:	No depreciation charged (see below)
Audio, Visual and office equipment:	20%
Furniture and Fittings:	20% (with some assets being depreciated at 10%)

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of disposal. No provision for depreciation has been made for freehold property as it is the view of the Trustees that the estimated residual value of each property is not materially different from the carrying value. The Trustees undertake an impairment review whenever they identify any indicators that impairment may have occurred.

Donated properties have been included in the Balance Sheet at their current value at the date of the gift.

The charity owns three residential properties located adjacent to two of its church buildings. These properties were purchased and are held for the charitable benefit derived from their proximity to the church. Such benefits include better parking and access to church premises, the use of gardens for church events and activities and the ability to offer housing to staff and volunteers, where the proximity to the churches is to the benefit of its operations. Where vacancies arise, the charity seeks to rent rooms to such volunteers or staff. Where no such tenants are in prospect, the charity makes short-term lets to other members of the public in order to steward its resources well. As the charity holds the properties primarily for the benefit of its charitable purposes rather than for rental, the properties are held as functional fixed assets and not as investment properties.

(g) Financial instruments
A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

(h) Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(i) Financial investments
Listed investments are held in a common investment fund and are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

(j) Programme-related and mixed purpose investments
Programme-related investments consist of charitable loans; some of which carry an interest rate and some which are interest free. These investments are carried at cost less any provision for impairment less any repayments received. Mixed purpose investments are held for a financial return but also contribute to the charity's purposes.

(k) Lease contracts
Rentals applicable to operating lease agreements where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(l) Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity makes grants to financially support global partners overseas and to UK-based missionaries and mission organisations. Where an individual or organisation has been supported by the charity for a number of years, strict compliance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice may regard some arrangements as constituting constructive obligations such that future years' support is accounted immediately as a liability.

The Trustees are confident that the individuals and organisations supported would not view their support as an open-ended obligation on the part of the charity as they are aware that all support is reviewable annually.

(m) Pension costs
The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension plan on behalf of its eligible employees. The contributions are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

2 Donations and Legacies

Year ended 31 March 2023	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	928,422	122,828	184,386	**1,235,636**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	205,375	21,617	29,763	**256,755**
Grants receivable	300	-	10,500	**10,800**
	1,134,097	144,445	224,649	**1,503,191**
Previous year ended 31 March 2022				
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	844,442	48,938	183,167	**1,076,547**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	188,670	3,778	30,277	**222,725**
	1,033,112	52,716	213,444	**1,299,272**

Included in Grants receivable in the current year are £5,500 of government grants in support of a Welcome Hub for Ukrainian refugees.

No grants were received in the prior year.

3 Income from Charitable Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Student rooms rents	-	92,174	-	**92,174**
Other rents and building hire	-	75,548	-	**75,548**
Church events and weekends away	63,659	-	438	**64,097**
	63,659	167,722	438	**231,819**
Previous year ended 31 March 2022				
Student rooms rents	-	84,143	-	**84,143**
Other rents and building hire	-	67,725	-	**67,725**
Church events and weekends away	44,259	-	-	**44,259**
	44,259	151,868	-	**196,127**

4 Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank deposit interest	-	19,909	-	**19,909**	552
Loan stock interest	-	21,914	-	**21,914**	28,875
Programme related investments return	-	77,514	-	**77,514**	67,656
Dividend income on financial investments	-	84,641	-	**84,641**	61,702
Feed in Tariff from solar panels	-	464	-	**464**	502
	-	204,442	-	**204,442**	159,287

All prior year Income from Investments was incurred in Unrestricted Designated Funds.

5 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Grant funding of activities £	Activities undertaken directly £	Church worker and support costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2023	(note 7)		(note 6)	
Global Partnerships	259,764	-	22,435	**282,199**
City and Community Outreach	133,246	17,661	112,811	**263,718**
Gathered Church	-	54,530	319,663	**374,193**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	23,238	176,248	**199,486**
Student Ministry	-	14,047	151,542	**165,589**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	16,918	26,947	129,153	**173,018**
Pastoral Care	13,168	-	55,079	**68,247**
	423,096	136,423	966,931	**1,526,450**
Previous year ended 31 March 2022				
Global Partnerships	242,086	-	18,954	**261,040**
City and Community Outreach	57,372	15,230	95,951	**168,553**
Gathered Church	-	37,313	242,457	**279,770**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	16,256	149,695	**165,951**
Student Ministry	-	14,424	140,632	**155,056**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	8,963	23,214	128,460	**160,637**
Pastoral Care	7,448	-	50,841	**58,289**
	315,869	106,437	826,990	**1,249,296**

6 Church worker and Support costs

	Church worker costs £	Admin costs £	Premises costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2023				
Global Partnerships	19,394	3,041	-	**22,435**
City and Community Outreach	84,300	4,562	23,949	**112,811**
Gathered Church	216,263	7,603	95,797	**319,663**
Children and Youth Ministry	125,309	3,041	47,898	**176,248**
Student Ministry	97,562	6,082	47,898	**151,542**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	100,642	4,562	23,949	**129,153**
Pastoral Care	53,558	1,521	-	**55,079**
	697,028	30,412	239,491	**966,931**
Previous year ended 31 March 2022				
Global Partnerships	15,881	3,073	-	**18,954**
City and Community Outreach	73,765	4,610	17,576	**95,951**
Gathered Church	164,468	7,684	70,305	**242,457**
Children and Youth Ministry	111,468	3,073	35,154	**149,695**
Student Ministry	99,332	6,147	35,153	**140,632**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	106,274	4,610	17,576	**128,460**
Pastoral Care	49,304	1,537	-	**50,841**
	620,492	30,734	175,764	**826,990**

Included in Admin costs are Governance costs of £4,962 (2022: £4,680).

Church worker costs are allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on each activity.
Admin and Premises costs are allocated to activities on the basis of usage estimates.

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities

Year ended 31 March 2023	Global Partnerships £	City and Community Outreach £	Discipleship and Leadership Dev't £	Pastoral Care £	Total funds £
Grants to Institutions	135,103	91,806	-	-	**226,909**
Grants to Individuals	124,661	41,440	16,918	13,168	**196,187**
	259,764	133,246	16,918	13,168	**423,096**
Previous year ended 31 March 2022					
Grants to Institutions	129,155	51,192	-	-	**180,347**
Grants to Individuals	112,931	6,180	8,963	7,448	**135,522**
	242,086	57,372	8,963	7,448	**315,869**

Analysis of grants to institutions

*Institutions receiving over £2,500 in either the current or prior year **or** with Trustee links have been disclosed.*

Institution name	Charitable activity	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Beloved	*City and Community Outreach*	**30,200**	9,848
* Bristol Noise	*City and Community Outreach*	**2,400**	1,000
inHope (Bristol)	*City and Community Outreach*	**9,913**	11,485
Sixty One	*City and Community Outreach*	**27,425**	2,621
Urban Pursuit	*City and Community Outreach*	**4,650**	4,650
* Sea Mills Community Initiatives	*City and Community Outreach*	**680**	463
South Bristol Methodist Church	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	3,000
* The George Muller Charitable Trust	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**72,549**	66,018
Christian Aid	*Global Partnerships*	**12,462**	-
Open Doors	*Global Partnerships*	**4,490**	1,740
World Vision UK	*Global Partnerships*	**3,009**	1,853
Tearfund	*Global Partnerships*	**5,118**	21,049
ForEthiopia	*Global Partnerships*	**3,625**	3,250
The Bridge Trust	*Global Partnerships*	**-**	8,000
Friends of Asha GB	*Global Partnerships*	**-**	8,166
Hands at Work (UK) - see below	*Global Partnerships*	**-**	4,169
* Bristol International Trust (BISC)	*Global Partnerships*	**30,602**	3,265
International Justice Mission	*Global Partnerships*	**-**	15,000
Other Institutional grants	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**19,786**	14,770
		226,909	180,347

Institutional grant recipients marked * have at least one trustee in common with Woodlands Group of Churches:

A Dawson is the Director of Bristol International Trust (BISC)

T J Dobson is a Trustee of Bristol Noise

E J Marsh was a Trustee of The George Muller Charitable Trust until 3 July 2023.

S P I Marsh (brother of E J Marsh) was a Trustee of Sea Mills Community Initiatives until 3 November 2022.

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities (continued)

The George Muller Charitable Trust facilitates prayer and financial support for a number of global and local mission partners. Woodlands Group of Churches partner with The George Muller Charitable Trust in supporting many of these partners, who also have a close partnership with our churches.

Included within the grants made to The George Muller Charitable Trust are grants totalling £25,993 (2022: £31,458) in respect of the charity's two partnerships with Hands at Work in Africa.

8 Expenditure on Raising funds

Year ended 31 March 2023	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Online donation processing fees	15,756	-	-	**15,756**
	15,756	-	-	**15,756**
Previous year ended 31 March 2022				
Online donation processing fees	15,034	-	-	**15,034**
Investment management fees (see note 15)	-	1,557	-	**1,557**
	15,034	1,557	-	**16,591**

9 Net income

This is stated after charging:	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Depreciation (see note 12)	**14,975**	20,354
Auditor's remuneration for statutory audit services	**4,962**	4,680

10 People resources

A summary of the cost of church workers for the current and preceding financial year is below:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and Salaries	**620,106**	573,618
Social Security Costs	**32,620**	29,350
Pension costs	**9,985**	8,980
	662,711	611,948

In the year to 31 March 2023, the average number of staff employed was 47 (2022: 42)

No employee received employment benefits of more than £60,000 in the current or preceding year.

10 People resources (continued)

The charity is heavily dependent on volunteers to conduct its activities and achieve its mission and aims. As voluntary involvement is encouraged for all those who consider themselves a part of the churches, it is impossible to reliably quantify the numbers of people or hours that the charity receives. The Trustees' report further illustrates the impact that volunteers have on the work of the charity.

The key management personnel of the charity includes the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. The employment benefits paid to key management were £256,182 (2022: £220,355).

The charity operated a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £9,985 (2022: £8,980). The defined contribution liability is allocated between activities and funds on the same basis as the salary of the individual to whom those contributions relate.

11 Taxation

Woodlands Group of Churches is recognised as a charity for UK tax purposes and is therefore exempt from Corporation Tax on its income and gains provided that these are used for charitable purposes only.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property and Improvements £	Audio, Visual and office Equipment £	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	2,254,766	182,222	63,193	**2,500,181**
Additions	283,749	4,997	5,228	**293,974**
Disposals	-	(1,000)	-	**(1,000)**
At 31 March 2023	2,538,515	186,219	68,421	**2,793,155**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	-	147,065	37,502	**184,567**
Charge for the year	-	9,735	5,240	**14,975**
Disposals	-	(1,000)	-	**(1,000)**
At 31 March 2023	-	155,800	42,742	**198,542**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2023	2,538,515	30,419	25,679	**2,594,613**
At 31 March 2022	2,254,766	35,157	25,691	**2,315,614**

13 Programme related investments

	Global Partnership Microfinance loans £	City and Community Outreach loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2022	16,436	1,593,585	1,610,021
Additions	26,882	740,000	766,882
Written off loans (charged to Charitable Activities as grants payable)	(88)	(1,500)	(1,588)
Increase in provision (charged to Charitable Activities as grants payable)	-	(35,360)	(35,360)
Exchange rate gains	1,069	-	1,069
Amounts repaid	(27,420)	(136,500)	(163,920)
At 31 March 2023	16,879	2,160,225	**2,177,104**
Included within:			
Fixed assets	-	1,442,225	1,442,225
Current assets	16,879	718,000	734,879
	16,879	2,160,225	**2,177,104**

Global Partnership Microfinance loans include small short term loans to entrepreneurs in poverty.

City and Community Outreach loans include short term loans to local charities and individuals to assist in their ministries linked with the charity's City and Community Outreach activities. A fuller explanation on the nature and basis for these loans is included within the Trustees' report.

14 Mixed purpose investments

	Loan Stock £	Other Loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2022	500,000	-	500,000
Additions	-	-	-
Amounts repaid	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2023	500,000	-	**500,000**
Included within:			
Fixed assets	200,000	-	200,000
Current assets	300,000	-	300,000
	500,000	-	**500,000**

Mixed purpose investments includes £500,000 of interest bearing loan stock issued by Green Pastures Community Benefit Society (an exempt charity). The funds are used to help house the homeless and are unsecured. Under the charity's investment policy, the maximum that can be invested for this purpose is limited at any one time to £500,000.

15 Financial Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market value brought forward	**3,153,248**	2,470,556
Acquisitions at cost	**-**	500,000
Investment management fees (see note 8)	**-**	(1,557)
(Losses)/gains in the year	**(140,582)**	184,249
Market value carried forward	**3,012,666**	3,153,248

16 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	**39,953**	33,648
Gift Aid tax reclaims	**24,732**	23,292
Prepayments and accrued income	**9,105**	7,334
	73,790	64,274

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	**3,120**	1,853
Taxation and social security	**9,035**	8,857
Accruals and deferred income	**39,112**	22,471
	51,267	33,181

18 Movement in funds

Year ended 31 March 2023	At 1 April 2022 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Free reserves	352,424	1,197,756	(1,101,982)	240,405	**688,603**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	150,562	144,445	(166,905)	(200)	**127,902**
Fixed asset NBV (designated)	2,315,614	-	-	278,999	**2,594,613**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	1,593,585	-	(35,360)	602,000	**2,160,225**
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)	1,693,475	99,429	-	(1,792,904)	**-**
Capacity Development (designated)	259,537	-	(13,284)	103,747	**350,000**
Housing the Homeless (designated)	-	-	-	500,000	**500,000**
Property Purchases (designated)	1,895,266	251,002	(18,063)	111,401	**2,239,606**
St James/UPA (designated)	40,024	21,733	(9,387)	-	**52,370**
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)	29,152	-	(1,982)	-	**27,170**
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)	66,000	-	-	(15,000)	**51,000**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	735,601	-	(140,581)	-	**595,020**
	9,131,240	1,714,365	(1,487,544)	28,448	**9,386,509**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	3,654	9,667	(9,920)	2,750	**6,151**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	9,192	14,624	(13,440)	170	**10,546**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	17	24,978	(24,522)	189	**662**
Highgrove Global Partner Fund	2,778	9,244	(11,316)	2,994	**3,700**
Local Care and Mission Fund	14,297	17,932	(27,191)	3,120	**8,158**
Metro Special Offering	7,148	962	(5,006)	-	**3,104**
Highgrove Special Offering	-	28,494		(28,494)	**-**
Central Special Offering	-	11,608	(14,469)	2,861	**-**
Microfinance	16,453	517	(88)	-	**16,882**
Needy Saints	27,814	2,448	(6,571)	-	**23,691**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	23,839	5,216	(5,125)	-	**23,930**
Sunday Evening Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	4,320	-	(4,320)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	900	6,177	(5,952)	(247)	**878**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	-	8,505	(6,993)	(1,512)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	2,994	-	(2,994)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	60	4,648	(4,708)	-	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	9,883	-	(9,883)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offering (South Bristol)	-	733		(733)	**-**
Woodlands Global Partner fund	7,344	30,905	(34,461)	7,842	**11,630**
Other restricted funds (see description)	11,665	31,749	(25,482)	(191)	**17,741**
	125,161	225,604	(195,244)	(28,448)	**127,073**
Total funds	9,256,401	1,939,969	(1,682,788)	-	**9,513,582**

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Previous year ended 31 March 2022	At 1 April 2021	Income and gains	Expenditure and losses	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2022
Unrestricted funds	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Free reserves	567,688	1,077,371	(922,826)	(369,809)	**352,424**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	205,213	51,711	(76,362)	(30,000)	**150,562**
Fixed asset NBV (designated)	2,312,110	-	-	3,504	**2,315,614**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	1,578,960	-	-	14,625	**1,593,585**
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)	1,580,481	139,722	(12,103)	(14,625)	**1,693,475**
Capacity Development (designated)	262,437	8,603	(11,503)	-	**259,537**
Property Purchases (designated)	1,467,080	140,019	(11,833)	300,000	**1,895,266**
St James/UPA (designated)	25,501	23,816	(9,293)	-	**40,024**
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)	-	-	(848)	30,000	**29,152**
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)	-	-	-	66,000	**66,000**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	551,352	184,249	-	-	**735,601**
	8,550,822	1,625,491	(1,044,768)	(305)	**9,131,240**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	5,167	10,643	(12,414)	258	**3,654**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	6,405	16,596	(13,809)	-	**9,192**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	142	27,503	(27,947)	319	**17**
Highgrove GP Fund	3,705	7,425	(11,670)	3,318	**2,778**
Local Care and Mission Fund	15,624	24,886	(29,664)	3,451	**14,297**
Metro Special Offering	11,175	712	(4,739)	-	**7,148**
Microfinance	16,182	369	(98)	-	**16,453**
Needy Saints	26,959	6,850	(5,935)	(60)	**27,814**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	15,688	10,308	(2,157)	-	**23,839**
Sunday Evening Offerings (Woodlands Centr	-	2,155	-	(2,155)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	-	6,119	(5,435)	216	**900**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	-	7,447	(7,447)	-	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	3,767	-	(3,767)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	558	6,808	(7,306)	-	**60**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	5,828	(332)	(5,496)	**-**
Woodlands GP fund	16,776	54,152	(64,923)	1,339	**7,344**
Other restricted funds (see description)	13,781	22,245	(27,243)	2,882	**11,665**
	132,162	213,813	(221,119)	305	**125,161**
Total funds	8,682,984	1,839,304	(1,265,887)	-	**9,256,401**

Description and purpose of funds and transfers

All funds with an opening balance, closing balance, income, gain, expenditure, loss or transfer greater than £10,000 have been separately disclosed. With the exception of monthly mission offerings which are disclosed in full regardless of size, all other funds have been included within 'other restricted funds'. The Charity accounts fully for all restricted funds and a summary of the movement on any smaller fund is available upon request.

Free reserves
These funds represent the free reserves of the charity. Transfers out include £10,225 to the Fixed Asset NBV Fund representing assets purchased with free funds. Transfers into the fund include the annual depreciation charge of £14,975 met by the Fixed Assets NBV fund and £235,000 from the Available for Charitable loans fund in line with the decision to wind down the Charitable loans scheme and to increase the Free Reserves target from 3-6 months to 6-9 months.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)
From time to time, the charity receives unrestricted donations and allows the donor to express wishes as to their ultimate application within the charitable purposes of the charity. The application of these funds is at the full discretion of the Trustees, but they take account of the expressed wishes of the donor. The Trustees have determined that it appropriate to hold these 'earmarked' funds in a designated fund.

Fixed asset NBV (designated)
This fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets held by the charity. The transfers in and out of this fund relate to additions and depreciation.

Charitable Loans NBV (designated)
This fund represents the carrying value of the charitable loans held by the charity. These exist to further the City and Community Outreach dimension of the charity's work. As at the year end, the trustees have decided to close this scheme and no new loans will be dispersed.

Available for Charitable Loans (designated)
This fund was used to hold the funds from repaid Charitable loans ready for recycling into other loans. This fund has now been wound down in line with the decision to close the Charitable loan scheme. No new loans will be dispersed. Transfers of funds from this fund were made to Free Reserves (£235,000), the Property Purchases fund (£111,400), the Capacity Development fund (£359,000) and to create a new fund, '*Housing the Homeless*' (£500,000).

Capacity Development (designated)
This fund enables major capital developments of existing buildings that provide increased capacity or usage. Expenditure this year includes the costs associated with the Central congregation garden development project, renovations to Albert Place building (Community Church) and extensive development at the Highgrove building. £283,750 of these incurred costs were taken to the balance sheet.

Housing the Homeless (designated)
A new fund created this year which is used to support housing for the homeless, currently through Green Pastures loans.

Property Purchases (designated)
This fund exists to enable the opportunistic purchase at short notice of a property that will serve as a campus expansion of our Woodlands Christian Centre building. With the upcoming loss of Ashley Down House as a venue for activity, there is now a lot of work being done on exploring the viability of potential venues locally to provide added capacity. With the Charitable loans scheme being wound down, funds were transferred from the Available for Charitable loans fund (£111,400), to ensure the balance stays at a level that can meet our emerging building strategy plans.

South Bristol Church Planting (designated)
A fund created for the monthly contribution towards the stipend being paid by the West of England Baptist Network to R&N Pollard to work with Woodlands to plant a congregation in South Bristol.

Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)
The fund was created from a gift of £30,000 received from a donor for 'use by the trustees as deemed fit'. As Mental Health is a key priority for the trustees, they have set aside this gift for this purpose. This fund is being used to employ an in-house Well-being facilitator two days a week.

St James/UPA (designated)
The charity started renting out accommodation in their St James building in 2021. The net rental is included within this designated fund in order to help meet the costs of future upkeep liabilities for the ageing building.

Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)
This fund represents the cumulative unrealised investment gains from the charity's equity investment portfolio.

Hands at Work (restricted)
Woodlands Group of Churches has two partnerships to support the work of the charity Hands at Work in two needy communities in Africa. These funds represent the monies raised from our congregations in support of these partnerships. Additional funds have been raised to support missionaries serving with Hands at Work.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Highgrove Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Highgrove Global and Local mission partners to be supported both on a regular and on an ad hoc basis, as needs arise.

Local Care and Mission Fund (restricted)
This fund was established for the Trustees to make discretionary gifts to Local Mission and Care Projects and organisations. The funds arise from regular offerings at the Woodlands Central congregation.

Metro Special Offering (restricted)
This fund was established following an offering to support the vision of the Metro Campus to reach the many university students in Bristol who are unconnected with church.

Highgrove Special Offering (restricted)
This fund was established to facilitate one-off exceptional offerings to take place. The fund ensures special offerings are ring-fenced from the monthly offerings taken. This year, one special offering was taken - to raise funds towards the cost of building work at Highgrove.

Central Special Offering (restricted)
This fund was established to facilitate one-off exceptional offerings to take place. The fund ensures special offerings are ring-fenced from the monthly Sunday offerings taken. This year two special offerings were taken - to raise funds at Central's Christmas events for a global and local partner and for an offering towards the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal.

Microfinance (restricted)
These are funds given specifically for the purpose of investing in Microfinance initiatives. Any microfinance repayments received are reinvested as part of the same restricted fund.

Needy Saints (restricted)
The Trustees have established a fund to be spent at their discretion on grants to those who are in financial hardship or particular need. Other members of church are invited to give into this fund.

Reach (Single Parents ministry) (restricted)
This fund arises from restricted giving to support the activities of Reach, a Single Parents outreach and includes the activities associated with the annual Single Parents Fair. The fund is now being used to meet the cost of a community worker to reach and support single parent families.

Sunday Offerings (restricted)
Across the church, an offering is taken once a month during the morning and evening services. These offerings are taken for the benefit of global partners serving overseas or for nationwide or city-based community care and outreach initiatives. Gifts are either sent directly to recipients from these funds or transferred to other funds as appropriate to their ultimate application.

Woodlands Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Woodlands Global Partners to be supported both on a regular and ad hoc basis as needs arise.

19 Summary of assets and liabilities of each fund category

At 31 March 2023	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,594,613	-	**2,594,613**
Programme related investments	-	2,160,225	16,879	**2,177,104**
Mixed purpose investments	-	500,000	-	**500,000**
Financial investments	-	3,012,666	-	**3,012,666**
Cash, Deposits and other current assets	739,870	430,402	110,194	**1,280,466**
Other current liabilities	(51,267)	-	-	**(51,267)**
	688,603	8,697,906	127,073	**9,513,582**

At 31 March 2022	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,315,614	-	**2,315,614**
Programme related investments	-	1,593,585	16,436	**1,610,021**
Mixed purpose investments	-	500,000	-	**500,000**
Financial investments	-	3,153,248	-	**3,153,248**
Cash, Deposits and other current assets	385,605	1,216,369	108,725	**1,710,699**
Other current liabilities	(33,181)	-	-	**(33,181)**
	352,424	8,778,816	125,161	**9,256,401**

20 Prior year fund comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:				
Donations and Legacies	1,033,112	52,716	213,444	**1,299,272**
Charitable activities	44,259	151,868	-	**196,127**
Investments	-	159,287	-	**159,287**
Total	1,077,371	363,871	213,444	**1,654,686**
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Global Partnerships	44,961	50,027	166,052	**261,040**
City and Community Outreach	113,146	12,370	43,037	**168,553**
Gathered Church	251,692	26,348	1,730	**279,770**
Children and Youth Ministry	157,946	8,005	-	**165,951**
Student Ministry	133,833	18,379	2,844	**155,056**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	155,625	4,073	939	**160,637**
Pastoral Care	50,589	1,183	6,517	**58,289**
	907,792	120,385	221,119	**1,249,296**
Raising funds	15,034	1,557	-	**16,591**
Total	922,826	121,942	221,119	**1,265,887**
Net gains on investments	-	184,249	-	**184,249**
Net income/(expenditure)	154,545	426,178	(7,675)	**573,048**
Transfers between funds	(369,809)	369,504	305	**-**
Other gains	-	-	369	**369**
Net movement in funds	(215,264)	795,682	(7,001)	**573,417**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	567,688	7,983,134	132,162	**8,682,984**
Total funds carried forward	352,424	8,778,816	125,161	**9,256,401**

21 Reconciliation of the Statement of Financial Activities to the Statement of Cash Flows

	Statement of Financial Activities £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Cash flow £
A.1 Receipts from Donations and Legacies	1,503,191			
Decrease in debtors		(6,435)		**1,496,756**
A.2 Receipts from Charitable activities	231,819			
Increase in debtors		(1,309)		
Increase in deferred income and other creditors			8,139	**238,649**
B.1 Payments for Raising funds	(15,756)			
Investment management costs	-			**(15,756)**
B.2 Payments for Charitable activities	(1,526,450)			
Depreciation eliminated	14,975			
Non-cash grant on charitable loans	1,588			
Provision for Charitable loans	35,360			
Increase in prepayments and other debtors		(1,212)		
Increase in creditors and accruals			9,947	**(1,465,792)**
C.1 Receipts from Programme-related investments	77,514			
Non-cash foreign exchange movement	(552)			
Increase in debtors		(645)		**76,317**
C.2 Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	21,914			
Decrease in debtors		85		**21,999**
D.1 Receipts from Investments	204,442			
Income from programme-related investments	(77,514)			
Income from mixed purpose investments	(21,914)			
				105,014
Balance sheet movements		**(9,516)**	**18,086**	

22 Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £	Change £
Cash in hand	188,546	153,276	**35,270**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,018,130	1,493,149	**(475,019)**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,206,676	1,646,425	**(439,749)**

	2022 £	2021 £	Change £
Cash in hand	153,276	204,825	**(51,549)**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,493,149	1,462,602	**30,547**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,646,425	1,667,427	**(21,002)**

23 Commitments

The charity had no capital or non-cancellable lease commitments at the end of the current or preceding period.

24 Payments to Trustees and other related party transactions

Remuneration and benefits paid to Trustees and other related parties

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Trustees have the authority to employ or engage under a contract for services a Trustee or any person connected with a Trustee as long as certain conditions are met and procedures followed. Below is a summary of these payments and those made to other related parties:

	Payments for services, Gifts and Grants £	Salary from employment £	Pension costs £	Total £
Year ended 31 March 2023				
D J Mitchell	-	37,150	927	**38,077**
T J Dobson	-	29,301	692	**29,993**
D Roderick	-	18,288	361	**18,649**
Close family members of Trustees	300	37,096	549	**37,945**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	15,000	109,456	2,383	**126,839**
Year ended 31 March 2022				
D J Mitchell	-	36,608	911	**37,519**
T J Dobson	-	28,846	678	**29,524**
D Roderick	-	17,271	331	**17,602**
Close family members of Trustees	1,280	30,052	405	**31,737**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	9,000	97,106	2,164	**108,270**

Close family members of Trustees comprises: D J Mitchell (son of D Mitchell), C Mitchell (spouse of D Mitchell), D A Marsh (spouse of E J Marsh), M Dobson (son of T Dobson).

The above disclosure of payments to Senior Leadership Team members comprises the following individuals who were not Trustees or close family members of a Trustee during the year: N J Savage, R Riddall, P O Jinadu, K Jinadu, H C Thompson and R Pollard. Included in the current year is grants of £15,000 to the West of England Baptist Network as a contribution towards the stipend received by R and N Pollard.

R Riddall, a member of the Senior Leadership Team and Key Management, is in receipt of a charitable loan from the charity. The outstanding balance of the loan was £402,288 at the balance sheet date and is secured on a property. The rate of interest charged is on the same basis as that charged to the charity's other loan holders.

Donations from Trustees and related parties

The aggregate donations received from Trustees, SLT and related parties were £82,899 (2022: £85,118).

Trustee expenses

One trustee was reimbursed £50 for training relating to trustee duties (2022: £562 paid to three trustees for travel expenses).

25 Company limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital and, in accordance with the Memorandum of Association, every member is liable to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charity in the event of the company being wound up.

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1125029

Accounts

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity number: 1125029
Company number: 06569993

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

INTRODUCTION

This is the Board of Trustees of Woodlands Group of Churches' combined annual report for the year ended 31 March 2022 under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 together with the audited financial statements for the year. The charity has followed the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102 SORP 2019) in preparing these financial statements.

BACKGROUND

Woodlands Church Family has a shared structure, vision, values, goals and multiple congregations based in various parts of Bristol. To help recognise its multi-congregation nature, Woodlands Church Family is registered as Woodlands Group of Churches with registered charity number 1125029 and as a company limited by guarantee (company number 06569993). The legal entity continues to be called 'Woodlands Group of Churches', with 'Woodlands Church Family' as a working name used on the ground. These names and 'the Church' are used interchangeably throughout this report.

Motivated by the Great Commission in Matthew 28v18-20, the **Mission Statement** of the Woodlands Church Family is:

"to help reach the one million people of the Greater Bristol region, through church planting and regeneration and networking existing churches"

The Goal is to see a light in every street and for every person to have opportunities to hear and see a demonstration of the Gospel.

Shared structure – Woodlands Church Family has four main congregations:

- **Woodlands Central**, a multi-service resource congregation based in Clifton, with Woodlands Southside as the new South Bristol plant, including All Saints missional community in Hartcliffe.
- **Woodlands Community Church**, a multi-service resource congregation serving Southmead, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze, with Branch, a missional congregation reaching Brentry and Henbury.
- **Woodlands Highgrove**, a multi-service resource congregation serving Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle, Kingsweston, Stoke Bishop and Shirehampton.
- **Woodlands Metro**, a multi-service resource congregation based in the city centre.

Woodlands Church Family has three key Biblical expressions of church life through Cell, Congregation and Celebration. Cell is "being church in the home" with small groups. Congregation is "being church in the community", and Celebration is "being church in the City" through gathering congregations together.

Each of the congregations has its own congregational leadership team and where multi-services exist, there may be service congregational leadership teams. Woodlands Church Family has a Senior Leadership Team and Trustee Board.

Woodlands Church Family has several linked churches around Bristol with whom it partners. Each of these associated and affiliated churches are independently governed charities.

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

CHARITABLE PURPOSES, VISION, VALUES, ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

The declared charitable purposes of Woodlands Group of Churches are:

"The proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Christian Faith throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere"

"The organisation, sponsorship, promotion and continuing support of unincorporated bodies of Christians recognised by the Trustees as Christian churches or Christian fellowships meeting and functioning in various places in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere as the Trustees may decide for the worship of God, the instruction and edification of Christians, the care and instruction of young people and children, the evangelisation of non Christians, the relief of poverty and sickness and the advancement of the Christian Faith generally."

The **shared vision** of the Woodlands Church Family is to ***continually reproduce the life of Jesus***. We seek to achieve this vision through the following strategic aims and objectives:

1. **Commitment**
   To help an increasing number of people become committed Christians and part of the life and worship of the Church.
2. **Discipleship**
   To disciple each member in an atmosphere of love, prayer and Bible teaching to follow and become like Jesus.
3. **Service**
   To release every member into ministry and mission in the power of the Holy Spirit, with opportunities to discover, develop and fruitfully use their gifts.
4. **Unity**
   To build together in unity with other churches to reach the whole city and region with the gospel, to be a salt and light in the region and to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted, and to care for the planet.

This shared vision is motivated by the Great Command of Matthew 22v37-39, expressed in a set of **shared values** of Word and Spirit, Intimacy in Worship, Passion in Prayer, Depth of Discipleship, Infectious Witness, Love & Faithfulness in relationships, Forming and being Community, Care for the Poor, the Persecuted and the Planet.

Our principal activities to achieve our charitable purposes for the public benefit are:

- The establishment of **Global Partnerships** with Christian overseas missionaries and organisations;
- Local **City and Community Outreach** activities and events, including making charitable loans to enhance the outreach of congregations into local communities;
- The provision of **Gathered Church** services and events for the general public;
- The provision of services, events and programmes for **Children and Youth**;
- The provision of services, events, programmes and community living opportunities for **Students**;
- The provision of programmes of **Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development** and associated resources;
- **Pastoral Care** for those of any age or background associated with Woodlands Church Family.

More detailed descriptions of the activities of the Church, together with how these deliver public benefit and our achievements for the period, are under the heading of Achievements and Performance, below.

There are overall **shared goals** for each aspect of our vision, with regular reviews with each congregation leader. Goals prayerfully encourage:

- **Commitment** - net growth for committed adults, made up of new adult joiners less movers and leavers. This includes committed new or returning to faith believers. This has been measured by the congregational leader tracking movers, joiners and leavers, gathered church counts and Newcomers & Alpha Course follow up.
- **Discipleship** is measured through baptisms and mentoring, small group membership, Wholeness, leadership development and other courses involvement and financial giving.
- **Service** is measured through engagement in church rotas for internal service and community outreach ministries
- **Unity** measured through involvement in city wide and global partnership ministries. This is part of building Bristol as a 'City of Hope' and reaching the one million people of the Bristol region. Globally this involves the encouragement and support of a growing number of Woodlands Global Partners who are blessing the nations of the world, especially the poorest and the persecuted and the care for the planet.

Five Year Goals
Each congregation also has their own local goals for the next five years within the overall vision of the Woodlands Church Family. For example:

- Woodlands Central to plant a significant resource congregation in South Bristol in partnership with the West of England Baptist Network, which will multiply missional communities across South Bristol
- Woodlands Highgrove to become a multi-service resource congregation and "lengthen its chords and strengthen its stakes" in developing ministry and missional communities in surrounding areas.
- Woodlands Community Church to develop missional communities in the new Filton, Brabazon and Cribbs Causeway communities and to consolidate Branch in reaching Henbury & Brentry meeting at Emmanuel.
- Woodlands Metro to significantly develop its own city centre hub to facilitate multiple missional communities in the Bristol region.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Woodlands Church Family is committed to enabling as many people as possible to attend our services and become part of the life of the church. As such, we operate no formal membership structure and all are welcome, whether 'just visiting' or wishing to get connected and involved. In practice, the opportunity to attend services and take part in other activities in person is most accessible to those who live in Bristol and the surrounding region.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an accelerant in developing a significant presence online which

means that many throughout the world can and do benefit by being able to receive teaching, inspiration and interaction with the Woodlands Church Family. We have maintained this presence online even after the return of in-person services and activities.

In addition, our prayerful and financial support of national and international institutions, individuals and projects which advance the Christian faith, means that the Church does impact and bring benefit to sections of the public well beyond Bristol and the surrounding region.

In previous reports, we have described the significant impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic from mid-March 2020 on the activities of the charity and its pursuit of its charitable purposes

With high local infection rates in early 2021, congregational leadership teams deemed it appropriate for all in-person gatherings to be paused and most then resumed on Easter weekend 2021.

The Trustees continued to monitor local leadership teams in carrying out regular risk reviews of ongoing arrangements and the Senior Leadership Team regularly shared together best practice in the implementation of fresh worship, ministry and outreach strategies in the midst of the restrictions that social distancing has brought.

Worship is now mostly in-person again but a hybrid of in-person and online engagement across all congregations and ministries is here to stay to varying degrees.

The Church has also provided significant voluntary and financial assistance to meeting the needs of the city at this time, not least in the area of food poverty. In addition, the conflict in Ukraine has meant that much energy in the final few weeks of the financial year has gone into responding in prayerful and practical ways to the refugee crisis.

The following are examples of our key ministry activities throughout the year as we sought to put faith into practice in a variety of ways:

Global Partnerships

One of our strategic aims is ‘to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted and to care for the planet’. The Woodlands Church Family actively supports a number of individuals and charities who we refer to as ‘global partners and global associates’. They work in a variety of countries all over the world.

This past year has seen an increased connectivity with our Global Partners as they have been able to join in with on-line services, training and courses. This has been a particular encouragement to those working in more remote and religiously challenging locations.

During the year:

- We made grants totalling £242,086 (2020/21: £209,120) to a significant number of individuals/families and institutions. Further details can be found in note 7 of the accounts.
- We took special offerings to respond to the crisis in Ukraine in early 2022 and were able to send grants totalling £22,721 to two Christian agencies working to provide relief for Ukrainian refugees;
- We regularly contacted our global partners and associates to hear news of their work and ask how we might best support them through prayer;
- We held regular prayer meetings where news of global partners and associates was shared and pertinent needs prayed for and we have established regular geographically focussed prayer meetings. The proliferation of Zoom as a platform for prayer meetings has meant that many overseas partners have been able to join in too!
- In June 2021, Global Partnership Weekend included a number of special events and training opportunities around the theme of 'Global Partnerships and Care for the Planet'.
- Our partnership with Hands at Work in Africa has continued to develop, with grants in total given of £35,627 (2020/21: £57,330, including some large one-off gifts);
- A number of short term mission trips were again not possible this year because of continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, but further trips are planned for 2022/23;

- Woodlands People and Planet are a group of people who have continued to meet regularly to pray for the world and to seek ways of how Woodlands can reduce its impact on the environment as a church, in our communities and in our personal lives.
- The Woodlands Highgrove congregation was given the Bronze Eco Church award this year.

City and Community Outreach
The Woodlands Church Family is committed to social action and evangelism in the Bristol region through our own activities and in partnership with many local agencies. This includes work with the homeless, those in debt, urban regeneration and more. Much of this work is with the most marginalised members of the local community and we aim to support them through practical expressions of support as well as offering them the opportunity to get involved in Church life and come to faith. The way in which such

activities took place was of course significantly impacted by the pandemic, but in many ways the need and our responses to it have increased this year.

Examples of this during the year were:

- Woodlands has continued to run two men's football teams and one women's football team. There has also been a women's netball team. These have been particularly appreciated as a means of physical exercise as well as helping people's mental health through camaraderie and team activities.

- The Noise ran in May 2021 but due to the pandemic and the "Rule of Six", there were reduced activities and no Fun Afternoon gatherings as usual. But it was wonderful to join in with Christians across the city in showing the love of Jesus in practical ways.

- The basketball outreach 'Bristol Brickers' took place in Southmead and Henbury engaging teenagers from the community and giving them a safe space to interact with other teens, get some exercise and hear some uplifting team talks.

- Our Life Recovery Group has been meeting regularly to provide much needed support for those recovering from addiction.

- The Foodbank outlet provided much needed support throughout the pandemic and, with the lifting of restrictions, was able to return to the Greenway Centre and meet people face to face again.

- A highlight of the year came in November 2021 when we were able to hold our annual Single Parents Fair again to bless the single parents in the community. We weren't able to do all that we would usually, but we were able to provide second-hand clothes, a family portrait and lots of fun activities for the children.

- It has been wonderful to move our Alpha Courses back to 'in-person' from September 2021 as well as also running an online course for guests who aren't able to come along to in person. This followed the Woodlands Central Spring Alpha which remained online in May 2021. Despite the uncertainties of COVID-19, we have been thankful that we have managed to sustain Alpha courses each term. It has been so great to see guests join post-Alpha groups and to hold our first post-lockdown baptisms on Easter Sunday 2022, which included 3 guests who had come through these Alpha courses.

A key strategy being employed by the Church to see thriving churches in local communities is to provide **short-term secured loans** to enable key workers and volunteers to be able to purchase a house in those communities. Our experience is that having people living in the heart of communities, getting involved in community life and resourcing local outreach makes a significant difference in fruitfulness and growth. These loans are typically 3-5 years in duration and, once repaid, are being recycled to enable further loans to be made. These loans are classified as programme-related investments in these accounts because their purpose is not to generate a commercial financial return but to enable people to live and serve Christ in the community to which they are called. The Church has made significant funds available to pursue this fruitful church growth strategy. These are designated funds, which have accumulated over many years and are occasionally supplemented by specific earmarked giving. The capital for this fruitful church growth strategy continues to grow through earmarked gifts and interest from the loans and the fund investments with the vision of keeping in step with housing costs and church growth. There were five such loans outstanding at the year end (2021: seven), with two loans having been repaid and with a number of others in the pipeline ready to be disbursed in 2022/23. The value of the outstanding loans was £1,556,725 with a further loan of £36,860 having been made to support a needy local family, and a further £1,693,475 earmarked for use for future loans.

Gathered Church

The Woodlands Church Family offers a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that are open to all members of the public and which many people of different ages and backgrounds and with different preferences find to be beneficial and fulfilling. Over the years, significant changes have made to the services to adapt to growing numbers of people attending.

Gathered Church has been a vital area of our ministry even with all the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 regulations. With the lifting of restrictions our congregations have maintained many of the features incorporated in ‘lock down Church’, to facilitate increased accessibility to all, as well as offering the possibility of engagement in worship for those still shielding or otherwise nervous about in-person worship. Our congregations have worked hard to deliver a blended range of public worship online and in-person, streamed, pre-recorded and via Zoom in our varied locations, to ensure that as many people as possible were able to engage in Christian worship. While we made stringent efforts to keep our various congregations connecting with familiar faces, we have also attracted and maintained a new audience of people from different parts of the country and overseas who had connections with us or otherwise found out about us. People are still able to ‘tune in’ on an equal basis with locals, as are housebound folk who now were able to worship without feeling disadvantaged from the mainstream.

For many of those who found our Churches on-line, the next step has been to show up in person at a Sunday service and we have seen a steady stream of newcomers attending and joining over the last year. Many of those new people have been young adults, and a highlight for Woodlands Central was a weekend away, the first for three years, with over 90 young adults in attendance.

One noticeable effect of COVID-19 and lock down has been to strengthen the neighbourhood emphasis that is part of our vision. As a City church we aim to be both gathered and dispersed, or in the words of Jesus to his followers 'Salt and Light'. In January, Woodlands Central launched weekly afternoon services in Bedminster with our 'Woodlands Southside' Congregation. The congregation is a partnership with 'webnet', the West of England Baptist association who have seconded Rev. Richard Pollard and his wife Nikki to be on team at Woodlands. A core of 50 adults and 20 children have committed to this new work which not only serves Woodlands members living in South Bristol, but has a strong emphasis of caring for some of the most marginalised in this area of the City.

One manifestation of this care has been the partnership of Woodlands with TLG (Transforming Lives for Good). Bristol City Council has encouraged churches to support schools particularly where already vulnerable children have fallen behind with disruption from COVID-19 school closures. Woodlands Central is now in three schools with training and support from TLG which is a national charity. Volunteers commit to sitting with an individual child one on one every week and improving their confidence and self-esteem.

Rural neighbourhood ministry has also been served by regular monthly gatherings in North Somerset, bringing Christians together from more dispersed contexts to be a witness and encouragement in village settings.

Over the last 26 years, the Woodlands Church Family has also expressed smaller community through a growing network of community houses. The vision for this way of living is simply to be 'Church' every day, and to 'set the lonely in families' with up to twenty people living under the same roof and sharing a 'rule of life'. The proximity of several large houses to Woodlands Central used for Christian community purposes has allowed a number of vulnerable people to be housed alongside Church members, and facilitated a pipeline of volunteering and leadership development, as well as providing non institutional room space for a wide variety of Church usages.

It was wonderful to celebrate Christmas and Easter services in person this year and to see large numbers attending our suite of services, as well as following on-line. We ran two 'folky' Christmas services at Woodlands Central, with fiddles and banjos, watched by 1,200 people online as well as by many in the building. Our Carols by Candlelight ran over three services but in addition was streamed by 1,000 people. Our Easter Day services included the baptism by immersion of 13 people around the Woodlands Church family from a wide variety of ages and backgrounds, and great was the rejoicing!

The Community Church new evening service is now an established meeting, giving prominence to younger people in leading in an interactive dynamic.

Our church plant Branch Community Church started meeting in Emmanuel Chapel in Henbury on Sunday afternoons and gradually the small church that was meeting there in the mornings has merged with our afternoon service. The new Branch@Emmanuel Chapel officially launched on Easter Sunday 2022 following a week of community outreach activities.

Across the congregations, prayer meetings have largely stayed on Zoom which is especially helpful in the early morning, but there has been a return to in person 24/7 prayer weeks around the Church family, as well as some large prayer and worship gatherings which have been particularly well supported by our younger members.

The 9.15am Family Service at Woodlands Central moved off Zoom to meet again live in the church building. Since gathering back in person, we've launched a new 'All In' service once a month and we've had new families joining us throughout the year. We celebrated Easter Sunday by having an outdoors Easter trail for all the families to experience as part of our worship service.

When permitted by the prevailing regulations, Woodlands Metro pioneered several 'pop-up' venues across the city during lockdown. The Metro Sunday evening service was broadcast live weekly from the studio at Woodlands Christian Centre and into smaller communities gathered in local community buildings, using large screen projection. This has helped us to innovate new models for church planting and community engagement that we aim to develop further in the coming years. Once lockdown measures eased, Woodlands Metro were able to meet again at We The Curious but, as with other congregations, continue to broadcast online and reach a wider group of people.

Children and Youth Ministry

The Woodlands Church Family offers a wide range of activities which children and young people join in with to make friends, discover and use their gifts and talents and learn more about being disciples of Jesus. Inevitably, most in-person children and youth activities needed to be suspended during the pandemic, but there were significant continued activities, connections and discipleship opportunities online and in-person, when the regulations permitted.

The following are examples of key activities and developments that took place this year:

- Children's Church has also been welcoming children back into the building on Sundays. All the Sunday groups have restarted, including football church with over 150 children regularly connecting across the groups. We've also started new groups - a Sunday dance ministry and a monthly mid-week group called 'T Club' for older children. All of these groups have been focussing on helping children reconnect with church, grow in faith and re-building relationships with one another.

- At Woodlands Community Church, it has been wonderful to be able to restart our Sunday morning children's groups and a number of our community groups.
- It was so encouraging to see consistent in person youth gatherings once the lockdown ended. There have been a large number of non-church youth engaging with our regular programmes, which has been encouraging.
- Mental health continues to be a real challenge for many young people. The team have adjusted well to continuing the best they can to connect with young people. A residential weekend away happened in the autumn which again gave a sense of returning to "normality".

- Woodlands Highgrove is co-ordinating the chaplaincy in their local secondary school. We are also involved in running discussion groups in their well-being unit as well as co-ordinating volunteers from churches in the area to listen to students read each week. The team is also continuing to provide assemblies for the local primary school, as well as extra events around the church calendar.

Student Ministry

University students are at a strategic time of their lives in terms of experiences that inspire and shape the rest of their lives but we are aware that thousands of students in Bristol have little involvement with Church or the Christian faith. We want to play our part in reaching this demographic with the gospel. Our Woodlands Christian Centre building is strategically located in the midst of Bristol University and our Woodlands Metro community is located near much of the new student accommodation in the centre of Bristol. We want to see students become Christians, to grow in their faith and be inspired and equipped to serve God with their lives.

Our Student ministry continued throughout a very challenging time for students. An immediate effect of the pandemic was on international students, many of whom left Bristol and have not been able to return. We followed the example of Bristol University by offering significant rent rebates to those students in our church accommodation who were advised to return home, but kept in touch with them via Zoom. Woodlands Metro again experienced its highest ever number of first year connections and we have a strong core of students in Metro, Central and Highgrove congregations. The mental health and well-being of students both in and outside our congregations has been a priority. Training has been offered to our student pastoral workers and one of our team has been piloting and researching implementation of mental health and well-being groups in the University contexts where we work.

Together with other local churches, Woodlands Highgrove have been running a Wednesday drop-in time on the North Campus of the University of Bristol. This has involved detached work chatting to people around the campus then a programme of events in the Monica Wills Chapel including a Carol Service, Prayer Space and an Alpha course.

Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development

We are committed to raising up a new generation of leaders to impact the city, the region and the world with the gospel. A key part of 'continually reproducing the life of Jesus' is discipleship. This involves learning to imitate and obey Jesus Christ in every aspect of our lives.

Examples of how we have encouraged this during the year are:

- The Bristol Westminster Theological Centre Hub held their sessions via Zoom and in-person and their two residentials were held in the new venue at Nottingham University. There have been 24 students in this year's hub with an additional 3 students already signed up for next year. WTC faculty delivered two theology events for staff team, Associate Church leaders and church members. A number of the church staff team have been studying with WTC and it has had a positive impact on their confidence in handling the Bible.

- Woodlands Bible School has run in person since the Autumn and it has been good to have a number of visiting speakers who have brought some great insights. This year's cohort of 11 leaders on the Leadership Learning Community have met in-person and the discussion and learning has been greatly appreciated. Recording the video sessions has been helpful for those who have missed a meeting.

Pastoral Care

Sunday Church services carry a sense of celebration together, but we see Church as community, built from the bottom up via small groups and pastorates which usually take place mid-week. We see small groups as the first line of pastoral care and initial development of gifts and the primary place to get to know others and to be known. We try to provide a range of groups meeting in different locations, at different times and aiming at different age groups. Most of these have needed to meet online throughout the year, but these have provided valuable connection.

Pastoral care has been expressed in the following ways:

- The Wholeness Course offers an opportunity to identify and remove barriers to growth in our personal lives, deal with gaps in our emotional development and repair hurts from the past. We had nearly a hundred people sign up for our Spring course from several churches around Bristol as we gathered for six weeks at Woodlands for evenings of testimonies, teaching and prayer ministry. Each week, the team of 25 prayer ministers shared things they sensed God had been saying to them for people attending the

course and there were some amazing moments of connection with God and healing as people paired up for prayer ministry. We have had many follow up emails with wonderful stories of freedom and healing from people who attended and the whole team were as always very encouraged by taking part.

- This year we launched a new mental health website, Whole Minds. The website has articles, stories and creative content designed to support and encourage good mental health and spiritual growth. The idea for the website came out of a survey about mental health across the Woodlands Church Family. It was felt that there was a growing need to acknowledge the increased mental health pressure that many people are experiencing, particularly following the pandemic. Following the survey we felt that it would be good to develop an online space to collect articles and stories that would encourage people across the Woodlands Church family in their mental, emotional and spiritual health journeys, and also to develop an online presence that would be accessible to people from outside the church seeking spiritual solutions to mental health pressures. We acknowledged the need to talk more openly about mental health in church life and followed the website launch with a mental health sermon series across the church congregations. Alongside the website there is a growing social media presence and articles on mental health for teenagers, eating disorders and overcoming anxiety have been shared widely.

- We operated a 'needy saints fund' throughout the year enabling us to give gifts totalling £5,935 to those facing financial hardship through redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

Charging Policy
The Woodlands Church Family is committed to making its activities accessible to as wide a range of people as possible and so seeks to minimise the cost of events and, where a charge is levied, subsidies are offered by congregational leadership teams where appropriate to ensure that money is not a barrier to people participating in activities. Church services are entirely free with no obligation to pay or give and the church offers many activities, courses and services without charge.

Fundraising
Whilst the primary source of income for the charity is voluntary donations, the Church does not regularly engage in significant public fundraising. Most of the giving is from committed attenders who express their 'belonging' and commitment to the congregations through regular and one-off giving to share in the ministry costs of church life. The Church prayerfully teaches about the biblical principles of financial stewardship and generosity in the context of discipleship. From time to time, the leaders encourage giving towards particular global partners or mission projects and, very occasionally, hold offerings for special projects such as building developments. The charity does not subscribe to any particular fundraising scheme or standards but regularly reviews the charity's practices to ensure that any incidental fundraising is carried out appropriately.

Each congregation has monthly Sunday service offerings to support global and local mission. All gifts collected, including any attributable Gift Aid and Gift Aid on Small Donations relief is used to support our

global and local mission partners. In addition, a discretionary 50% is added from free reserves to each offering.

Contribution of volunteers

Most of what happens in the congregations is driven by volunteers, whether that is worship, youth and children's work, practical jobs or roles requiring specialised skills. It is not possible to quantify the contribution of volunteers to the Woodlands Church Family except to say that we would not be able to carry out many of our activities without them. The Church seeks to provide as many opportunities as possible for volunteers to grow in their gifts and abilities and has hundreds of people volunteering in at least one role within Church. The way in which volunteers have continued to serve faithfully and creatively throughout the pandemic is something we are so thankful to God for.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial position and performance of Woodlands Group of Churches is in line with the expectations of the Trustees, based on their planning and monitoring of income and expenditure throughout the year.

Total income was £1,654,686 in the year compared to £1,556,145 in the prior year, a rise of 6.3%. This overall increase is driven primarily by an increase in investment income and charitable activities income, reflecting the bouncing back of these income streams as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. Whilst donations received have risen overall by 1%, core giving to general funds is at the same level as the previous year, which is a remarkable and encouraging result with all the economic and social challenges brought about by the pandemic and continued global economic uncertainty.

Income from charitable activities rose from £137,235 in the prior year to £196,127 but is still much lower than pre-pandemic levels.

Investment income rose from £132,116 in the prior year to £159,287 which is comparable to pre-pandemic levels. Investment income includes the income both from financial investments and from a number of interest-bearing charitable loans classified as programme related investments in the accounts and interest-bearing loan stock classified as mixed purpose investments.

Total expenditure was £1,265,887 (2020/21: £1,121,986); a rise of 12.8%. A total of £315,869 (2021: £278,828) was spent on grants for mission and blessing the poor and persecuted both in the UK and overseas.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Reserves

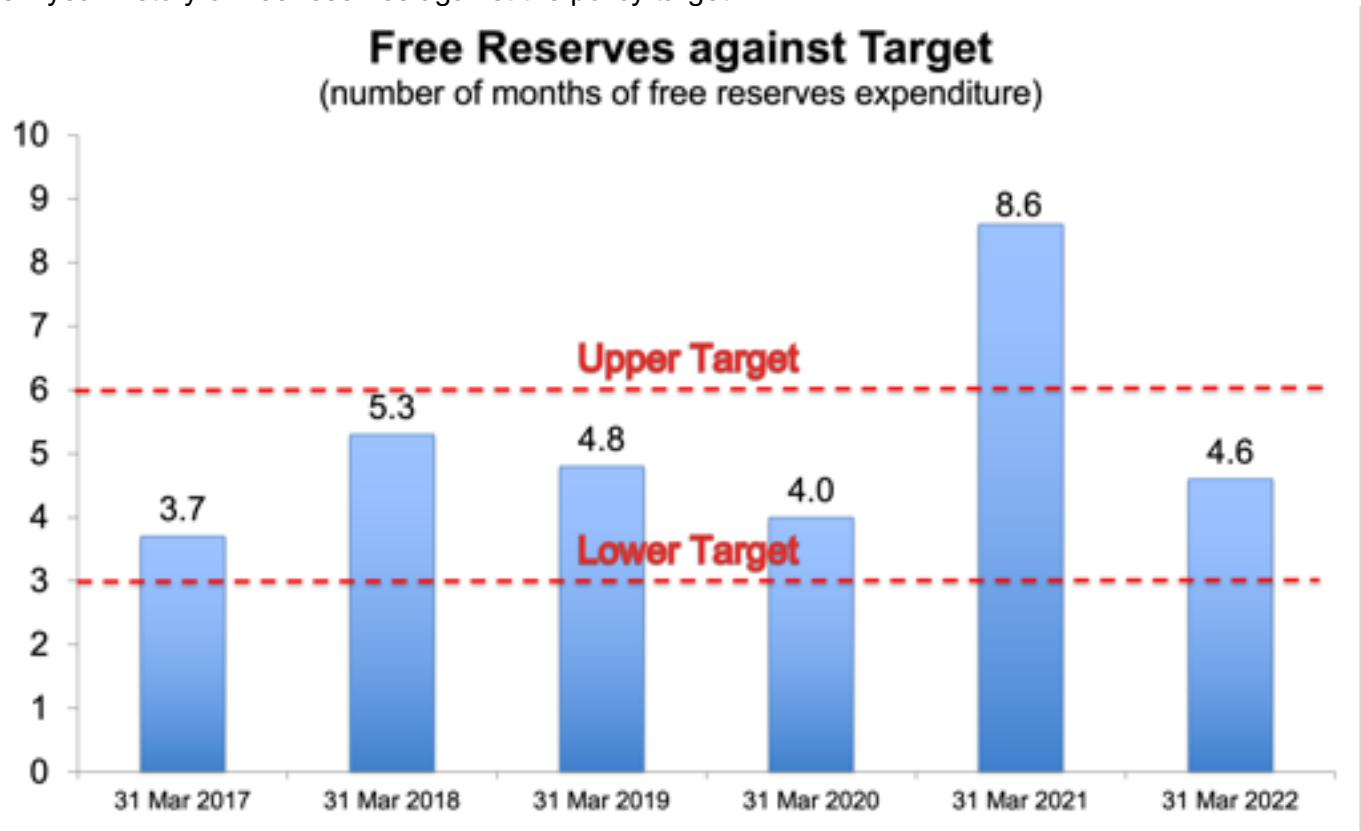
Free reserves available for use by Woodlands Church are deemed to be those that are readily realisable, less funds whose uses are restricted or else designated for particular purposes. The

calculation thus excludes £2,315,614 representing tangible fixed assets that will continue to be used in the day-to-day running and restricted funds of £125,161. The calculation also excludes the carrying value of charitable loans held as programme related investments of £1,593,585, which are not readily realisable assets and are held in designated funds. It also excludes other designated funds of £4,869,617, including the Property Purchase Fund of £1,895,266, which exists to enable the opportunistic purchase of a new property.

The purpose, balances and movements of each designated fund are explained clearly within note 18 of the accounts.

As a matter of policy, each year the Trustees review the level of free reserves. The Board considers our exposure to major risks in terms of their likely impact on its income sources and planned expenditure in the medium term. They also consider the opportunities available to them for expansion and growth in the facilities and activities of the Woodlands Church Family.

The present target range for free reserves is £230,707 to £461,413, equal to between 3 and 6 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves fund. At the year end, the actual free reserves, as clearly shown within the accounts, were £352,424 (2020/21: £567,688), which is equivalent to 4.6 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves Fund. This is within the target range. The Trustees recognise that the operating environment has significantly changed in the last couple of years and are planning to undertake a thorough review of the reserves policy later in 2022 in light of this. The graph below shows a six-year history of free reserves against the policy target:



Financial Impact of Significant Events

The Trustees are conscious of the challenging economic and social conditions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued global uncertainties caused by geopolitical events in Europe. As well as seeking to use the charity's resources to meet some of these needs, the Trustees are thankful to God that we have not seen a drop in giving income or a sustained drop in other sources of income so far. The Trustees will be budgeting carefully for the coming financial year given these factors but are satisfied that the level of reserves held by the charity will enable the continuation of the charity's activities into the future.

The Trustees confirm their assessment that the charity is a going concern as at the date of the signing of the accounts, despite the ongoing global uncertainty.

Investment powers and policy
The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow the Trustees to invest in any stocks, funds, shares, securities or other investments of whatsoever nature as the Trustees shall, in their absolute discretion, think fit.

The Trustees have an Investment Policy covering the charity's Financial, Programme Related and Mixed Purpose Investments. In particular, the Trustees have sought to ensure that the time horizon of the likely use of all funds is matched well to the investment vehicle used.

In the case of Financial Investments, the Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk and taking into account the social, ethical and environmental impact of investments. The investment objective for funds needed in the medium to long term is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the ongoing activities of the Charity. For funds needed in the short term, the investment objective is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

Grant making
The Charity has a grant making policy and makes grants to individuals and organisations engaged in mission and ministry and primarily with whom we have developed long term partnerships. Most of these partners are members of the church family serving on short term, medium term or long-term mission trips. With the exception of members of the church family going on short term mission, there is not a formal application process for grant funds. Missionary financial support is instead just a part of a wider range of on-going communication and prayer support for the work.

The Charity also makes grants from the 'needy saints fund' to individuals in the church facing financial hardship as a result of redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

Development of buildings

The Trustees continue to review the buildings used and/or owned by the Woodlands Church Family to ensure that they are meeting the developing needs of the congregations. During this year, the Trustees have investigated options for purchasing buildings close to Woodlands Central to expand capacity. We are also taking the opportunity to explore the development of city centre space for the development of Woodlands Metro. Woodlands Highgrove secured planning permission for developments to the building this year and Woodlands Community Church continue to increase their use of Alberts Place for additional activities. Branch Church are now meeting at Emmanuel Chapel in Henbury in partnership with the existing congregation there and are exploring improvements to that building to enhance its charitable use.

FUTURE PLANS

The Woodlands Church Family is continuing to plan not just for recovery from the pandemic, but for renewal with a renewed sense of vision for the future. There have been new opportunities for mission and growth, and this has already been the experience so far with a new blended approach of in-person and continued online activities. Our online platforms and social media channels are continuing to grow in reach and influence and more people than ever are engaging with us online. We will continue to explore fresh ways of engaging with a post COVID-19 society. We will continue to engage with the needs of the city through food poverty relief and family care, including encouraging fostering and adoption and addressing mental health issues.

The Woodlands Church Family is also continuing to further develop the organisational and administration structures appropriate to a growing group of congregations in the current environment. The IT infrastructure has been improved and is in the process of being embedded. The key operational leads have met a number of times throughout the year to revise and update the Charity's risk management process. The Woodlands Church Family is embarking on a rebranding exercise and hope to complete this by Easter 2023.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Charity was formed in 2008 by the merger of four previous charities: Highgrove Christian Charitable Trust, Highgrove Fellowship Centre, Woodlands Church and Henleaze & Westbury Community Church.

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 April 2008.

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, all members of the Company are Trustees, and all Trustees are members. No other formal membership is operated. The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum. Trustees are required to meet at least once a year.

Alison Dawson and Steve Bodley were appointed to the Board in July 2022. Rachel Clark stood down as a Trustee in January 2022. The Trustees are so grateful for all that Rachel contributed during her period as a Trustee.

Any new Trustees are recruited in light of the mix of skills and experience needed on the Board and on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates and after prayer and listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Woodlands Group of Churches. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority by Trustees at a meeting or by a formal resolution.

Any new Trustees receive an Induction Pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with Woodlands Group of Churches. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication *CC3 – The Essential Trustee* together with the Charity's governing document and the latest Annual Report and Accounts.

The Trustees are aware of the importance of maintaining their knowledge of current charity and related legislation and best practice so Trustees take advantage of external trustee training sessions and, where not all members of the Board of Trustees are present, circulate any relevant information and guidance to the other Trustees for due consideration.

The role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Trustees

The SLT is responsible for the overall spiritual and day-to-day operational leadership of the Woodlands Church Family. The Senior Leader of the SLT provides apostolic input to the SLT, which operates as an Ephesians 4 ministry team (Ephesians 4v11-12). The Trustees have overall legal responsibility, taking account of the spiritual direction of the Woodlands Church Family set by the Senior Leadership Team, who themselves are always to act in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the general law.

Rob Scott-Cook stood back as Senior leader of the Senior Leadership team from 1 July 2022 and intends to stand down as Chair of Trustees from December 2022. Rob and Pam are so grateful for God's faithfulness in the planting and growth of the Woodlands Church Family over 40 years (1982 – 2022). In prayer, by the Spirit, they helped to build Bristol as A City of Sanctuary & A City of Hope, remembering the poorest of the world in 52 years of ministry, 1970 - 2022.

The Key Management Personnel of the Charity consists of the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. Where such individuals or those closely connected with them are remunerated by the Charity, their pay is set by the non-remunerated members of the Trustee Board at a meeting each year.

Church leaders and teams

The Woodlands Church Family has delegated the day-to-day oversight and direction of the four congregations to congregational leadership teams. These teams meet regularly to oversee delivery of activities in accordance with the vision and purposes of the Charity. Members of the Trustee Board and

Senior Leadership Team regularly meet with the congregational leaders to review progress, provide any advice and assistance as required and provide accountability around goals, vision and values.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit where appropriate when exercising their powers and duties, planning and reviewing the aims, objectives and activities of the Woodlands Church Family. Throughout this report, the Trustees have sought to demonstrate the many ways that it delivers benefit to the public – whether they are members of one of the congregations that are part of the Church, another church or have no church /religious affiliation.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Trustees (who are also directors of Woodlands Group of Churches for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Corporate Governance

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be developed to improve efficiency and enable the Trustees to discharge their responsibilities around safeguarding the Charity's assets. Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and that appropriate management

information is prepared and reviewed regularly by both the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- an annual budget approved by the Trustees;
- regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results and variances from budgets;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

Charity Governance Code
The Trustees have reviewed the Charity Governance Code. The Trustees consider that the Charity is already applying most of its recommendations and is working towards further application of its recommended practice.

Risk Management
The Trustees have a formal risk management process, which has been reviewed, revised and improved during the current financial year. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifying means of managing or mitigating the risks and the individual responsible for managing each risk.

The Trustees have a formal incident recording process to identify incidents that can inform the risk management process.

The Trustees carry out an annual review of the principal risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to manage those and other risks.

The principal risk facing the Church at this time is the possibility of an ineffective transition of senior leadership undertaken in July 2022 following 40 years from the founding of the Church. Planning and preparation for this transition has been taking place over the last five years and the Trustees and Senior Leadership Team have been working on the leadership structure and teams needed to help the Church to thrive in this new era.

The Trustees have been continuing to closely manage the risk of further cyber attacks following a serious incident in 2019/20 and especially in light of the extra risks the COVID-19 pandemic has presented. This has included training and new guidelines issued to charity staff and a charity-wide IT infrastructure review project, the recommendations of which are currently being implemented.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed by order of the board of Trustees:

Mr R L Scott-Cook (Chair of Trustees)

Mr E J Marsh (Vice Chair of Trustees)

14 July 2022

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company registration number: 06569993
Charity registration number: 1125029

Members of the Board of Trustees

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of Company law, that served during the year and since the year end, are:

Mr R L Scott-Cook	(Chair)
Mr E J Marsh	(Vice Chair and Treasurer)
Mr D J Mitchell	
Mr T J Dobson	
Mrs A Addison	
Mr W Matthews	
Mr D Roderick	
Mrs R Clark	(resigned January 2022)
Mrs A Dawson	(appointed July 2022)
Mr S Bodley	(appointed July 2022)

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the Woodlands Church Family

Mr R L Scott-Cook *(stepped down in July 2022)*

Mr D J Mitchell	Mr R Pollard	Mr T J Dobson
Mr E J Marsh	Mrs D A Marsh	Mr N Savage
Mrs R Riddall	Mr P O Jinadu	Mr D Roderick
Mrs N Pollard	Mrs H C Thompson	

Principal Professional Advisers

Bankers
Lloyds TSB, High Street, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 3DA
Bank of Scotland, 2nd floor, Pentland House, 8 Lochside Avenue, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ.

Auditors
Haines Watts Bristol Limited, Bath House, 6-8 Bath Street, Bristol, BS1 6HL

Registered office address: Woodlands Christian Centre
Belgrave Road
Clifton
Bristol BS8 2AA

Website addresses: www.woodlandschurch.net
www.thecommunitychurch.net
www.highgrove.church
www.woodlandsmetro.church
www.woodlandssouthside.church
www.branchchurch.co.uk

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Woodlands Group of Churches (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial

statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: The Companies Act 2006, UK GAAP, The Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP.

- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks and made enquiries to the management of known or suspected instances of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes, other relevant meeting minutes and review of correspondence with regulatory bodies.

- We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the audit team included:

    - Identifying and assessing the controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;

    - Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;

    - Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates and judgments,

    - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and

    - Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of

instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Matthew Bracher BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Haines Watts Bristol Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

14 July 2022

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and Legacies	**2**	1,033,112	52,716	213,444	**1,299,272**	1,286,794
Charitable activities	**3**	44,259	151,868	-	**196,127**	137,235
Investments	**4**	-	159,287	-	**159,287**	132,116
	Total	1,077,371	363,871	213,444	**1,654,686**	1,556,145
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
Global Partnerships		44,961	50,027	166,052	**261,040**	229,199
City and Community Outreach		113,146	12,370	43,037	**168,553**	151,642
Gathered Church		251,692	26,348	1,730	**279,770**	239,155
Children and Youth Ministry		157,946	8,005	-	**165,951**	148,270
Student Ministry		133,833	18,379	2,844	**155,056**	128,061
Discipleship and Leadership Development		155,625	4,073	939	**160,637**	157,977
Pastoral Care		50,589	1,183	6,517	**58,289**	56,890
	5	907,792	120,385	221,119	**1,249,296**	1,111,194
Raising funds	**8**	15,034	1,557	-	**16,591**	10,792
	Total	922,826	121,942	221,119	**1,265,887**	1,121,986
Net gains on investments	**15**	-	184,249	-	**184,249**	557,034
Net income/(expenditure)	**9**	154,545	426,178	(7,675)	**573,048**	991,193
Transfers between funds	**18**	(369,809)	369,504	305	**-**	-
Other gains/(losses)		-	-	369	**369**	(1,986)
Net movement in funds		(215,264)	795,682	(7,001)	**573,417**	989,207
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		567,688	7,983,134	132,162	**8,682,984**	7,693,777
Total funds carried forward	**18**	352,424	8,778,816	125,161	**9,256,401**	8,682,984

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.

Fund comparatives are disclosed in note 20.

The notes on pages 30 to 48 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note		2022 £		2021 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**12**	**2,315,614**		2,312,110	
Programme related investments	**13**	**1,191,297**		1,110,100	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**200,000**		200,000	
Financial Investments	**15**	**3,153,248**		2,470,556	
			6,860,159		6,092,766
Current assets:					
Debtors	**16**	**64,274**		67,565	
Programme related investments	**13**	**418,724**		485,026	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**300,000**		400,000	
Cash at bank and on short term deposit		**1,646,425**		1,667,427	
		2,429,423		2,620,018	
Liabilities:					
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	**17**	**(33,181)**		(29,800)	
Net current assets			**2,396,242**		2,590,218
Total assets less current liabilities			**9,256,401**		8,682,984
Total net assets			**9,256,401**		8,682,984
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds					
Free reserves		**352,424**		567,688	
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)		**150,562**		205,213	
Fixed asset NBV (designated)		**2,315,614**		2,312,110	
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)		**1,593,585**		1,578,960	
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)		**1,693,475**		1,580,481	
Capacity Development (designated)		**259,537**		262,437	
Property Purchases (designated)		**1,895,266**		1,467,080	
St James/UPA (designated)		**40,024**		25,501	
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)		**29,152**		-	
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)		**66,000**		-	
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)		**735,601**		551,352	
	19		**9,131,240**		8,550,822
Restricted income funds	**19**		**125,161**		132,162
Total charity funds			**9,256,401**		8,682,984

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and were approved by the Trustees on 14 July 2022 are signed on their behalf by:

Mr R L Scott-Cook
Chair of Trustees

Mr E J Marsh FCA DChA
Vice Chair and Treasurer

Company registration number: 06569993

The notes on pages 30 to 48 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	**Total funds 2022** £	Total funds 2021 £
Operational cash flows			
Cash flows for operating activities			
Receipts from Donations and Legacies	**21 (A.1)**	**1,305,986**	1,285,796
Payments for Raising funds	**21 (B.1)**	**(15,034)**	(10,792)
Net inflow for operating activities		**1,290,952**	1,275,004
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Charitable activities	**21 (A.2)**	**192,534**	132,421
Payments for Charitable activities	**21 (B.2)**	**(1,227,038)**	(1,087,601)
Receipts from Programme-related investments	**21 (C.1)**	**68,127**	56,059
Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	**21 (C.2)**	**30,000**	36,000
Additions to Programme-related investments	**13**	**(416,057)**	(546,675)
Repayments from Programme-related investments	**13**	**401,582**	213,630
Additions to Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**(300,000)**	-
Repayments from Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**400,000**	424,000
		(850,852)	(772,166)
Net inflow of operating activities		**440,100**	502,838
Non-operational cash flows			
Investing activities:			
Receipts from Financial investments	**21 (D.1)**	**62,756**	40,840
Purchase of investments	**15**	**(500,000)**	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**12**	**(23,858)**	(25,658)
Net cash used in investing activities		**(461,102)**	15,182
Net cash inflow for the year	**22**	**(21,002)**	518,020

Charity law prohibits the use of net cash flows on any restricted fund to offset net cash outflows on any fund outside of its own purposes, except on special authority. In practice, this restriction has not had any effect on cash flows for the year.

The notes on pages 30 to 48 form part of these financial statements

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis with the exception of financial investments which are shown at fair value. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined under FRS 102. The presentation currency is pounds sterling.

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared on the gross/direct basis, as permitted by the Charities SORP. Cash has been defined as Cash on hand and short term deposits of less than 3 months for the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows. The Balance sheet additionally includes short term deposits of less than one year within Cash on hand.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, despite the ongoing uncertainty and inflationary pressures arising from the continued impact of the worldwide COVID-19 crisis and the geopolitical crisis in Europe. Whilst the Trustees expect there to be a continued impact on the charity's operations over the next year or two, the charity has sufficient reserves to be able to meet these challenges.

There have been no management judgements or any key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date in the accounts that give rise to a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b) Funds

Unrestricted free reserves are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charitable purposes of the charity.

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and have been identified as being for particular purposes by the Trustees. They are not restricted and can be transferred to free funds at any time at the discretion of the Trustees. Material designated funds are identified and explained in note 18 to the financial statements.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. The purpose and use of each material restricted fund is set out in note 18 to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and receipt is probable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Donations and Legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable, except as follows:

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i. Income from offerings is recognised when received;

ii. Income from 'planned giving' is recognised only when received;

iii. When the donor specifies that donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods;

Gift Aid relief on eligible donations is recognised on an accruals basis at the same point as the original donation.

Investment Income represented by interest on bank deposits, dividends receivable, interest on programme-related investments and interest on mixed purpose investments is recognised when receivable. Investment income from Charitable Loans and Mixed Purpose Investments is added to the 'Available for Charitable Loans' fund, with the remaining investment income recognised in the 'Property Purchases' designated fund. The purpose these funds is described fully in note 18.

Rental income is recognised within ***Income from Charitable Activities*** as the promotion of student community living and the hiring of the buildings for weddings and other Christian conferences and events is considered part of the activities the charity undertakes to achieve its objects. The rental income on student rooms is recognised when invoiced (usually on a monthly basis) and, for events, is recognised in the period the event takes place. Rental income is apportioned to the Property Purchase Fund.

Donated services and facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their value to the charity at the date of the gift. Donated assets which are capitalised are included in the accounts at fair value. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, no amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as and when a legal or constructive obligation arises.

Expenditure is allocated to the identified ***Charitable Activities*** directly, where applicable. Support costs relating to engaging church workers, administration costs and premises costs are allocated to Charitable Activities as follows:

Support cost	Basis of allocation
Church workers	Estimated time spent on each activity
Administration costs	Estimated usage of the resource
Premises costs	Estimated usage of the resource

These estimates are reviewed on an annual basis.

Grants payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which communication of the award is communicated to the recipient.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. Governance costs are included within Support costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

(e) Foreign currency
The microfinance element of the charity's programme related investments are managed in US$. In view of there being a very large number of small loans, the transactions are not converted to £s at the transaction date but the US$ balances at the year-end are converted to £s at the year-end rate. Gains and losses on exchange are treated as other gains and losses within the Statement of Financial Activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Fixed assets are stated at cost and new items costing more than £1,000 are capitalised. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold property:	No depreciation charged (see below)
Audio, Visual and office equipment:	20%
Furniture and Fittings:	20% (with some assets being depreciated at 10%)

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of disposal. No provision for depreciation has been made for freehold property as it is the view of the Trustees that the estimated residual value of each property is not materially different from the carrying value. The Trustees undertake an impairment review whenever they identify any indicators that impairment may have occurred.

Donated properties have been included in the Balance Sheet at their current value at the date of the gift.

The charity owns three residential properties located adjacent to two of its church buildings. These properties were purchased and are held for the charitable benefit derived from their proximity to the church. Such benefits include better parking and access to church premises, the use of gardens for church events and activities and the ability to offer housing to staff and volunteers, where the proximity to the churches is to the benefit of its operations. Where vacancies arise, the charity seeks to rent rooms to such volunteers or staff. Where no such tenants are in prospect, the charity makes short-term lets to other members of the public in order to steward its resources well. As the charity holds the properties primarily for the benefit of its charitable purposes rather than for rental, the properties are held as functional fixed assets and not as investment properties.

(g) Financial instruments
A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

(h) Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(i) Financial investments
Listed investments are held in a common investment fund and are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

(j) Programme-related and mixed purpose investments
Programme-related investments consist of charitable loans; some of which carry an interest rate and some which are interest free. These investments are carried at cost less any provision for impairment less any repayments received. Mixed purpose investments are held for a financial return but also contribute to the charity's purposes.

(k) Lease contracts
Rentals applicable to operating lease agreements where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(l) Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity makes grants to financially support global partners overseas and to UK-based missionaries and mission organisations. Where an individual or organisation has been supported by the charity for a number of years, strict compliance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice may regard some arrangements as constituting constructive obligations such that future years' support is accounted immediately as a liability.

The Trustees are confident that the individuals and organisations supported would not view their support as an open-ended obligation on the part of the charity as they are aware that all support is reviewable annually.

(m) Pension costs
The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension plan on behalf of its eligible employees. The contributions are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

2 Donations and Legacies

Year ended 31 March 2022	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	844,442	48,938	183,167	**1,076,547**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	188,670	3,778	30,277	**222,725**
	1,033,112	52,716	213,444	**1,299,272**
Previous year ended 31 March 2021				
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	850,392	44,594	147,092	**1,042,078**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	189,888	1,566	26,084	**217,538**
Grants receivable	22,178	5,000	-	**27,178**
	1,062,458	51,160	173,176	**1,286,794**

No government grants were received in the current year. In the prior year, grants receivable included £22,178 in respect of government grants. This consisted of £12,378 from the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and £9,800 from Bristol City Council with respect to COVID support.

3 Income from Charitable Activities

Year ended 31 March 2022	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Student rooms rents	-	84,143	-	**84,143**
Other rents and building hire	-	67,725	-	**67,725**
Church events and weekends away	44,259	-	-	**44,259**
	44,259	151,868	-	**196,127**
Previous year ended 31 March 2021				
Student rooms rents	-	59,955	-	**59,955**
Other rents and building hire	800	65,773	-	**66,573**
Church events and weekends away	10,707	-	-	**10,707**
	11,507	125,728	-	**137,235**

4 Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total funds 2022 £**	Total funds 2021 £
Bank deposit interest	-	552	-	**552**	4,939
Loan stock interest	-	28,875	-	**28,875**	33,995
Programme related investments return	-	67,656	-	**67,656**	57,281
Dividend income on financial investments	-	61,702	-	**61,702**	35,593
Feed in Tariff	-	502	-	**502**	308
	-	159,287	-	**159,287**	132,116

All prior year Income from Investments was incurred in Unrestricted Designated Funds.

5 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Grant funding of activities £	Activities undertaken directly £	Church worker and support costs £	**Total funds £**
Year ended 31 March 2022	(note 7)		(note 6)	
Global Partnerships	242,086	-	18,954	**261,040**
City and Community Outreach	57,372	15,230	95,951	**168,553**
Gathered Church	-	37,313	242,457	**279,770**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	16,256	149,695	**165,951**
Student Ministry	-	14,424	140,632	**155,056**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	8,963	23,214	128,460	**160,637**
Pastoral Care	7,448	-	50,841	**58,289**
	315,869	106,437	826,990	**1,249,296**
Previous year ended 31 March 2021				
Global Partnerships	209,120	1,851	18,228	**229,199**
City and Community Outreach	59,140	2,761	89,741	**151,642**
Gathered Church	-	12,942	226,213	**239,155**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	4,482	143,788	**148,270**
Student Ministry	-	1,673	126,388	**128,061**
Discipleship and Leadership Dev't *(restated)*	4,808	24,830	128,339	**157,977**
Pastoral Care	5,760	-	51,130	**56,890**
	278,828	48,539	783,827	**1,111,194**

Prior year costs of £4,808 have been reclassified from 'Activities undertaken directly' to 'Grant funding of activities'.

6 Church worker and Support costs

	Church worker costs £	Admin costs £	Premises costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2022				
Global Partnerships	15,881	3,073	-	**18,954**
City and Community Outreach	73,765	4,610	17,576	**95,951**
Gathered Church	164,468	7,684	70,305	**242,457**
Children and Youth Ministry	111,468	3,073	35,154	**149,695**
Student Ministry	99,332	6,147	35,153	**140,632**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	106,274	4,610	17,576	**128,460**
Pastoral Care	49,304	1,537	-	**50,841**
	620,492	30,734	175,764	**826,990**
Previous year ended 31 March 2021				
Global Partnerships	14,985	3,243	-	**18,228**
City and Community Outreach	64,615	4,865	20,261	**89,741**
Gathered Church	137,062	8,108	81,043	**226,213**
Children and Youth Ministry	100,023	3,243	40,522	**143,788**
Student Ministry	79,380	6,486	40,522	**126,388**
Discipleship and Leadership Dev't (restated)	103,213	4,865	20,261	**128,339**
Pastoral Care	49,508	1,622	-	**51,130**
	548,786	32,432	202,609	**783,827**

Included in Admin costs are Governance costs of £4,680 (2021: £4,440).

Church worker costs are allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on each activity.
Admin and Premises costs are allocated to activities on the basis of usage estimates.

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities

Year ended 31 March 2022	Global Partnerships £	City and Community Outreach £	Discipleship and Leadership Dev't £	Pastoral Care £	Total funds £
Grants to Institutions	129,155	51,192	-	-	**180,347**
Grants to Individuals	112,931	6,180	8,963	7,448	**135,522**
	242,086	57,372	8,963	7,448	**315,869**
Previous year ended 31 March 2021					
Grants to Institutions	92,507	50,647	-	-	**143,154**
Grants to Individuals *(restated)*	116,613	8,493	4,808	5,760	**135,674**
	209,120	59,140	4,808	5,760	**278,828**

Analysis of grants to institutions

*Institutions receiving over £2,500 in either the current or prior year **or** with Trustee links have been disclosed.*

Institution name	Charitable activity	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Beloved	*City and Community Outreach*	**9,848**	4,792
* Bristol Noise	*City and Community Outreach*	**1,000**	-
inHope (Bristol)	*City and Community Outreach*	**11,485**	8,431
Sixty One	*City and Community Outreach*	**2,621**	2,603
Urban Pursuit	*City and Community Outreach*	**4,650**	4,650
City Road Baptist Church	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	2,813
Feeding Bristol	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	4,659
Community Initiatives South West	*City and Community Outreach*	**648**	3,427
Counterslip Foodbank	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	3,427
North Bristol & Bristol NW Foodbanks	*City and Community Outreach*	**1,898**	11,495
* Sea Mills Community Initiatives	*City and Community Outreach*	**463**	250
South Bristol Methodist Church	*City and Community Outreach*	**3,000**	-
* The George Muller Charitable Trust	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**66,018**	77,548
Tearfund	*Global Partnerships*	**21,049**	-
ForEthiopia	*Global Partnerships*	**3,250**	-
The Bridge Trust	*Global Partnerships*	**8,000**	-
Friends of Asha GB	*Global Partnerships*	**8,166**	-
Hands at Work (UK) - see below	*Global Partnerships*	**4,169**	3,000
* Bristol International Trust (BISC)	*Global Partnerships*	**3,265**	638
International Justice Mission	*Global Partnerships*	**15,000**	5,000
Other Institutional grants	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**15,817**	10,421
		180,347	143,154

Institutional grant recipients marked * have at least one trustee in common with Woodlands Group of Churches:

R L Scott-Cook is a Trustee and A Dawson is the Director of Bristol International Trust (BISC)
T J Dobson is a Trustee of Bristol Noise
E J Marsh is a Trustee of The George Muller Charitable Trust
S P I Marsh (brother of E J Marsh) is a Trustee of Sea Mills Community Initiatives

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities (continued)

The George Muller Charitable Trust facilitates prayer and financial support for a number of global and local mission partners. Woodlands Group of Churches partner with The George Muller Charitable Trust in supporting many of these partners, who also have a close partnership with our churches.

Included within the grants made to The George Muller Charitable Trust are grants totalling £31,458 (2021: £54,330) in respect of the charity's two partnerships with Hands at Work in Africa. This is in addition to the gift of £4,169 given directly to Hands at Work (UK).

8 Expenditure on Raising funds

	Unrestricted Free Reserves	Unrestricted Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Year ended 31 March 2022	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Online donation processing fees	15,034	-	-	**15,034**
Investment management fees (see note 15)	-	1,557	-	**1,557**
	15,034	1,557	-	**16,591**
Previous year ended 31 March 2021				
Online donation processing fees	10,792	-	-	**10,792**
	10,792	-	-	**10,792**

9 Net income

This is stated after charging:	**Total funds 2022**	Total funds 2021
	£	£
Depreciation (see note 12)	**20,354**	23,034
Auditor's remuneration for statutory audit services	**4,680**	4,440

10 People resources

A summary of the cost of church workers for the current and preceding financial year is below:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	**573,618**	530,504
Social Security Costs	**29,350**	26,448
Pension costs	**8,980**	8,324
Payments under consultancy contracts	**-**	4,325
	611,948	569,601

In the year to 31 March 2022, the average number of staff employed was 42 (2021: 41)

No employee received employment benefits of more than £60,000 in the current or preceding year.

10 People resources (continued)

The charity is heavily dependent on volunteers to conduct its activities and achieve its mission and aims. As voluntary involvement is encouraged for all those who consider themselves a part of the churches, it is impossible to reliably quantify the numbers of people or hours that the charity receives. The Trustees' report further illustrates the impact that volunteers have on the work of the charity.

The key management personnel of the charity includes the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. The employment benefits paid to key management were £220,355 (2021: £208,388).

The charity operated a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £8,980 (2021: £8,324). The defined contribution liability is allocated between activities and funds on the same basis as the salary of the individual to whom those contributions relate.

11 Taxation

Woodlands Group of Churches is recognised as a charity for UK tax purposes and is therefore exempt from Corporation Tax on its income and gains provided that these are used for charitable purposes only.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property and Improvements £	Audio, Visual and office Equipment £	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2021	2,254,766	166,579	56,518	**2,477,863**
Additions	-	17,183	6,675	**23,858**
Disposals	-	(1,540)	-	**(1,540)**
At 31 March 2022	2,254,766	182,222	63,193	**2,500,181**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2021	-	133,368	32,385	**165,753**
Charge for the year	-	15,237	5,117	**20,354**
Disposals	-	(1,540)	-	**(1,540)**
At 31 March 2022	-	147,065	37,502	**184,567**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2022	2,254,766	35,157	25,691	**2,315,614**
At 31 March 2021	2,254,766	33,211	24,133	**2,312,110**

13 Programme related investments

	Global Partnership Microfinance loans £	City and Community Outreach loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2021	16,166	1,578,960	1,595,126
Additions	22,932	393,125	416,057
Written off loans (charged to Charitable Activities as grants payable)	(98)	-	(98)
Exchange rate gains	518	-	518
Amounts repaid	(23,082)	(378,500)	(401,582)
At 31 March 2022	16,436	1,593,585	**1,610,021**
Included within:			
Fixed assets	-	1,191,297	1,191,297
Current assets	16,436	402,288	418,724
	16,436	1,593,585	**1,610,021**

Global Partnership Microfinance loans include small short term loans to entrepreneurs in poverty.

City and Community Outreach loans include short term loans to local charities and individuals to assist in their ministries linked with the charity's City and Community Outreach activities. A fuller explanation on the nature and basis for these loans is included within the Trustees' report.

14 Mixed purpose investments

	Loan Stock £	Other Loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2021	600,000	-	600,000
Additions	300,000	-	300,000
Amounts repaid	(400,000)	-	(400,000)
As at 31 March 2022	500,000	-	**500,000**
Included within:			
Fixed assets	200,000	-	200,000
Current assets	300,000	-	300,000
	500,000	-	**500,000**

Mixed purpose investments includes £500,000 of interest bearing loan stock issued by Green Pastures Community Benefit Society (an exempt charity). The funds are used to help house the homeless and are unsecured. Under the charity's investment policy, from 2021/22, the maximum that can be invested for this purpose is limited at any one time to £500,000.

15 Financial Investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Market value brought forward	**2,470,556**	1,913,522
Acquisitions at cost	**500,000**	-
Investment management fees (see note 8)	**(1,557)**	-
Gains/(losses) in the year	**184,249**	557,034
Market value carried forward	**3,153,248**	2,470,556

16 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	**33,648**	35,854
Gift Aid tax reclaims	**23,292**	23,472
Prepayments and accrued income	**7,334**	8,239
	64,274	67,565

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	**1,853**	7,235
Taxation and social security	**8,857**	7,069
Accruals and deferred income	**22,471**	15,496
	33,181	29,800

18 Movement in funds

Year ended 31 March 2022	At 1 April 2021	Income and gains	Expenditure and losses	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2022
Unrestricted funds	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Free reserves	567,688	1,077,371	(922,826)	(369,809)	**352,424**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	205,213	51,711	(76,362)	(30,000)	**150,562**
Fixed asset NBV (designated)	2,312,110	-	-	3,504	**2,315,614**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	1,578,960	-	-	14,625	**1,593,585**
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)	1,580,481	139,722	(12,103)	(14,625)	**1,693,475**
Capacity Development (designated)	262,437	8,603	(11,503)	-	**259,537**
Property Purchases (designated)	1,467,080	140,019	(11,833)	300,000	**1,895,266**
St James/UPA (designated)	25,501	23,816	(9,293)	-	**40,024**
Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)	-	-	(848)	30,000	**29,152**
South Bristol Church Planting (designated)	-	-	-	66,000	**66,000**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	551,352	184,249	-	-	**735,601**
	8,550,822	1,625,491	(1,044,768)	(305)	**9,131,240**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	5,167	10,643	(12,414)	258	**3,654**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	6,405	16,596	(13,809)	-	**9,192**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	142	27,503	(27,947)	319	**17**
Highgrove Global Partner Fund	3,705	7,425	(11,670)	3,318	**2,778**
Local Care and Mission Fund	15,624	24,886	(29,664)	3,451	**14,297**
Metro Special Offering	11,175	712	(4,739)	-	**7,148**
Microfinance	16,182	369	(98)	-	**16,453**
Needy Saints	26,959	6,850	(5,935)	(60)	**27,814**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	15,688	10,308	(2,157)	-	**23,839**
Sunday Evening Offerings	-	2,155	-	(2,155)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	-	6,119	(5,435)	216	**900**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	-	7,447	(7,447)	-	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	3,767	-	(3,767)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	558	6,808	(7,306)	-	**60**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	5,828	(332)	(5,496)	**-**
Woodlands Global Partner fund	16,776	54,152	(64,923)	1,339	**7,344**
Other restricted funds (see description)	13,781	22,245	(27,243)	2,882	**11,665**
	132,162	213,813	(221,119)	305	**125,161**
Total funds	8,682,984	1,839,304	(1,265,887)	-	**9,256,401**

Previous year ended 31 March 2021	At 1 April 2020	Income and gains	Expenditure and losses	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2021
Unrestricted funds	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Free reserves	287,316	1,073,965	(796,365)	2,772	**567,688**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	220,772	46,160	(77,744)	16,025	**205,213**
Fixed asset NBV (designated)	2,309,486	-	-	2,624	**2,312,110**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	1,248,884	-	-	330,076	**1,578,960**
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)	1,771,114	151,386	(11,944)	(330,075)	**1,580,481**
Capacity Development (designated)	296,504	14,863	(48,930)	-	**262,437**
Property Purchases (designated)	1,425,271	71,446	(5,637)	(24,000)	**1,467,080**
St James/UPA (designated)	9,222	25,149	(8,870)	-	**25,501**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	-	557,034	-	(5,682)	**551,352**
	7,568,569	1,940,003	(949,490)	(8,260)	**8,550,822**

18 Movement in funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds total (from previous page)	7,568,569	1,940,003	(949,490)	(8,260)	**8,550,822**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	4,566	13,264	(21,831)	9,168	**5,167**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	12,324	20,521	(26,440)	-	**6,405**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	1,208	27,021	(28,087)	-	**142**
Highgrove GP Fund	1,500	8,935	(10,108)	3,378	**3,705**
Local Care and Mission Fund	5,244	21,302	(12,291)	1,369	**15,624**
Metro Special Offering	15,568	250	(4,643)	-	**11,175**
Microfinance	18,168	-	(1,986)	-	**16,182**
Needy Saints	24,225	6,898	(4,164)	-	**26,959**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	10,563	5,337	(212)	-	**15,688**
Sunday Evening Offerings	-	2,033	(809)	(1,224)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	-	383	(278)	(105)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	-	8,684	(7,926)	(758)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	3,403	(5)	(3,398)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	5,387	6,774	(11,603)	-	**558**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	2,040	(35)	(2,005)	**-**
Woodlands GP fund	13,022	30,763	(28,094)	1,085	**16,776**
Other restricted funds (see description)	13,433	15,568	(15,970)	750	**13,781**
	125,208	173,176	(174,482)	8,260	**132,162**
Total funds	7,693,777	2,113,179	(1,123,972)	-	**8,682,984**

Description and purpose of funds and transfers

All funds with an opening balance, closing balance, income, gain, expenditure, loss or transfer greater than £10,000 have been separately disclosed. With the exception of monthly mission offerings which are disclosed in full regardless of size, all other funds have been included within 'other restricted funds'. The Charity accounts fully for all restricted funds and a summary of the movement on any smaller fund is available upon request.

Free reserves
These funds represent the free reserves of the charity. Transfers out include £23,858 to the Fixed Asset NBV Fund representing assets purchased with free funds. Transfers into the fund include the annual depreciation charge of £20,354 met by the Fixed Assets NBV fund.

The Trustees agreed to transfer £300,000 to the Property Purchases fund to ensure this fund is maintained at a level that enhances the prospects of being able to purchase of a building in the vicinity of the Central congregation's campus. In addition, £75,000 was transferred out of free reserves to create a designated fund for the monthly contribution towards the stipend being paid by the West of England Baptist Network to R&N Pollard to work with Woodlands to plant a congregation based on South Bristol.

Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)
From time to time, the charity receives unrestricted donations and allows the donor to express wishes as to their ultimate application within the charitable purposes of the charity. The application of these funds is at the full discretion of the Trustees, but they take account of the expressed wishes of the donor. The Trustees have determined that it appropriate to hold these 'earmarked' funds in a designated fund.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Fixed asset NBV (designated)
This fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets held by the charity. The transfers in and out of this fund relate to additions and depreciation.

Charitable Loans NBV (designated)
This fund represents the carrying value of the charitable loans held by the charity. These consist of global partnership microfinance loans and charitable loans held locally to further the City and Community Outreach dimension of the charity's work. Transfers are made to and from the 'Available for Charitable loans' fund as and when new loans are disbursed or repayments are made.

Available for Charitable Loans (designated)
This fund is used to hold the funds from repaid Charitable loans ready for recycling into other loans. Up until the end of Quarter 2, net rental income and the investment income on Charitable loans and Mixed purpose investments was added to the fund to enable it to keep pace with property inflation. From October 2021 only the investment income on Charitable loans and Mixed Purpose investments is added to the fund to keep the balance at a reasonable level for requirements.

Capacity Development (designated)
This fund enables major capital developments of existing buildings that provide increased capacity or usage. Income and expenditure this year includes the income and costs associated with the Central congregation garden development project and improvements to the Emmanuel Church building that Branch has taken on.

Property Purchases (designated)
This fund exists to enable the opportunistic purchase at short notice of a property nearby our Woodland Road building to enable much needed extra capacity and facilities to support the ongoing ministry of the church. To avoid the need for significant loan finance, the Trustees have determined it appropriate to hold funds ready to respond to such purchase opportunities as they arise, and to use investment income from Listed and Cash Investments and make appeals where appropriate, to keep this fund broadly in line with property inflation. During the year, the Trustees transferred £300,000 from accumulated free reserves into this fund having considered the current market prices of local buildings which would be of a location and size needed to fulfil the needs identified

South Bristol Church Planting (designated)
A fund of £75,000 was created this year for the monthly contribution towards the stipend being paid by the West of England Baptist Network to R&N Pollard to work with Woodlands to plant a congregation in South Bristol.

Mental Health and Wellbeing (designated)
The fund was created from a gift of £30,000 received from a donor for 'use by the trustees as deemed fit'. As Mental Health is a key priority for the trustees, they have set aside this gift for this purpose.

St James/UPA (designated)
The charity started renting out accommodation in their St James building last year. The net rental is included within this designated fund in order to help meet the costs of future upkeep liabilities for the ageing building.

Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)
This funds represents the cumulative unrealised investment gains from the charity's equity investment portfolio.

Hands at Work (restricted)
Woodlands Group of Churches has two partnerships to support the work of the charity Hands at Work in two needy communities in Africa. These funds represent the monies raised from our congregations in support of these partnerships. Additional funds have been raised to support missionaries serving with Hands at Work.

Highgrove Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Highgrove Global and Local mission partners to be supported both on a regular and on an ad hoc basis, as needs arise.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Local Care and Mission Fund (restricted)
This fund was established for the Trustees to make discretionary gifts to Local Mission and Care Projects and organisations. The funds arise from regular offerings at the Woodlands Central congregation.

Metro Special Offering (restricted)
This fund was established following an offering to support the vision of the Metro Campus to reach the many university students in Bristol who are unconnected with church.

Microfinance (restricted)
These are funds given specifically for the purpose of investing in Microfinance initiatives. Any microfinance repayments received are reinvested as part of the same restricted fund.

Needy Saints (restricted)
The Trustees have established a fund to be spent at their discretion on grants to those who are in financial hardship or particular need. Other members of church are invited to give into this fund.

Reach (Single Parents ministry) (restricted)
This fund arises from restricted giving to support the activities of Reach, a Single Parents outreach and includes the activities associated with the annual Single Parents Fair. It is anticipated that the fund will be used to meet the cost of a community worker to reach and support single parent families in the coming financial year.

Sunday Offerings (restricted)
Across the church, an offering is taken once a month during the morning and evening services. These offerings are taken for the benefit of global partners serving overseas or for nationwide or city-based community care and outreach initiatives. Gifts are either sent directly to recipients from these funds or transferred to other funds as appropriate to their ultimate application.

Woodlands Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Woodlands Global Partners to be supported both on a regular and ad hoc basis as needs arise.

19 Summary of assets and liabilities of each fund category

At 31 March 2022	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,315,614	-	**2,315,614**
Programme related investments	-	1,593,585	16,436	**1,610,021**
Mixed purpose investments	-	500,000	-	**500,000**
Financial investments	-	3,153,248	-	**3,153,248**
Cash, Deposits and other current assets	385,605	1,216,369	108,725	**1,710,699**
Other current liabilities	(33,181)	-	-	**(33,181)**
	352,424	8,778,816	125,161	**9,256,401**

At 31 March 2021	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,312,110	-	**2,312,110**
Programme related investments	-	1,578,960	16,166	**1,595,126**
Mixed purpose investments	-	600,000	-	**600,000**
Financial investments	-	2,470,556	-	**2,470,556**
Cash, Deposits and other current assets	597,488	1,021,508	115,996	**1,734,992**
Other current liabilities	(29,800)	-	-	**(29,800)**
	567,688	7,983,134	132,162	**8,682,984**

20 Prior year fund comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:				
Donations and Legacies	1,062,458	51,160	173,176	**1,286,794**
Charitable activities	11,507	125,728	-	**137,235**
Investments	-	132,116	-	**132,116**
Total	1,073,965	309,004	173,176	**1,556,145**
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Global Partnerships	46,579	49,048	133,572	**229,199**
City and Community Outreach	101,563	23,109	26,970	**151,642**
Gathered Church	202,661	35,877	617	**239,155**
Children and Youth Ministry	133,521	14,749	-	**148,270**
Student Ministry	103,846	21,179	3,036	**128,061**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	147,187	7,477	3,313	**157,977**
Pastoral Care	50,216	1,686	4,988	**56,890**
	785,573	153,125	172,496	**1,111,194**
Raising funds	10,792	-	-	**10,792**
Total	796,365	153,125	172,496	**1,121,986**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	557,034	-	**557,034**
Net income/(expenditure)	277,600	712,913	680	**991,193**
Transfers between funds	2,772	(11,032)	8,260	**-**
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	(1,986)	**(1,986)**
Net movement in funds	280,372	701,881	6,954	**989,207**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	287,316	7,281,253	125,208	**7,693,777**
Total funds carried forward	567,688	7,983,134	132,162	**8,682,984**

21 Reconciliation of the Statement of Financial Activities to the Statement of Cash Flows

	Statement of Financial Activities £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Cash flow £
A.1 Receipts from Donations and Legacies	1,299,272			
Decrease in debtors		6,714		**1,305,986**
A.2 Receipts from Charitable activities	196,127			
Increase in debtors		(4,328)		
Increase in deferred income and other creditors			735	**192,534**
B.1 Payments for Raising funds	(16,591)			
Investment management costs	1,557			**(15,034)**
B.2 Payments for Charitable activities	(1,249,296)			
Depreciation eliminated	20,354			
Non-cash grant on microfinance loans	98			
Increase in prepayments and other debtors		(840)		
Increase in creditors and accruals			2,646	**(1,227,038)**
C.1 Receipts from Programme-related investments	67,656			
Non-cash foreign exchange movement	(149)			
Decrease in debtors		620		**68,127**
C.2 Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	28,875			
Decrease in debtors		1,125		**30,000**
D.1 Receipts from Investments	159,287			
Income from programme-related investments	(67,656)			
Income from mixed purpose investments	(28,875)			
				62,756
Balance sheet movements		**3,291**	**3,381**	

22 Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £	Change £
Cash at bank and in hand	153,276	204,825	**(51,549)**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,493,149	1,462,602	**30,547**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,646,425	1,667,427	**(21,002)**

	2021 £	2020 £	Change £
Cash at bank and in hand	204,825	91,731	**113,094**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,462,602	1,057,676	**404,926**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,667,427	1,149,407	**518,020**

23 Commitments

The charity had no capital or non-cancellable lease commitments at the end of the current or preceding period.

24 Payments to Trustees and other related party transactions

Remuneration and benefits paid to Trustees and other related parties

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Trustees have the authority to employ or engage under a contract for services a Trustee or any person connected with a Trustee as long as certain conditions are met and procedures followed. Below is a summary of these payments and those made to other related parties:

	Payments for services, Gifts and Grants £	Salary from employment £	Pension costs £	Total £
Year ended 31 March 2022				
D J Mitchell	-	36,608	911	**37,519**
T J Dobson	-	28,846	678	**29,524**
D Roderick	-	17,271	331	**17,602**
Close family members of Trustees	1,280	30,052	405	**31,737**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	9,000	97,106	2,164	**108,270**
Year ended 31 March 2021				
D J Mitchell	-	34,640	852	**35,492**
T J Dobson	-	27,656	643	**28,299**
D Roderick	-	16,112	296	**16,408**
Close family members of Trustees	675	23,610	362	**24,647**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	-	91,301	1,991	**93,292**

Close family members of Trustees comprises: D J Mitchell (son of D Mitchell), C Mitchell (spouse of D Mitchell), D A Marsh (spouse of E J Marsh), M Dobson (son of T Dobson), S Mitchell (daughter-in-law of D Mitchell)

The above disclosure of payments to Senior Leadership Team members comprises the following individuals who were not Trustees or close family members of a Trustee during the year: N J Savage, R Riddall, P O Jinadu, H C Thompson, R Pollard and N Pollard. Included in the current year is grants of £9,000 to the West of England Baptist Network as a contribution towards the stipend received by R and N Pollard.

R Riddall, a member of the Senior Leadership Team and Key Management, is in receipt of a charitable loan from the charity. The outstanding balance of the loan was £402,288 at the balance sheet date and is secured on a property. The rate of interest charged is on the same basis as that charged to the charity's other loan holders.

Donations from Trustees and related parties

The aggregate donations received from Trustees, SLT and related parties were £85,118 (2021: £48,544).

Trustee expenses

Three trustees were reimbursed a total of £562 for travel expenses and training (2021: £78 paid to one trustee).

25 Company limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital and, in accordance with the Memorandum of Association, every member is liable to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charity in the event of the company being wound up.

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

England & Wales - Charity number 1125029

Accounts

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity number: 1125029
Company number: 06569993

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INTRODUCTION

This is the Board of Trustees of Woodlands Group of Churches' combined annual report for the year ended 31 March 2021 under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 together with the audited financial statements for the year. The charity has followed the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102 SORP 2019) in preparing these financial statements.

BACKGROUND

Woodlands Church is one church, with one vision, shared values and multiple congregations based in various parts of Bristol. For charity and company registration, to help recognise its multi-congregation nature, Woodlands Church is registered as Woodlands Group of Churches with registered charity number 1125029 and a company limited by guarantee (company number 06569993). Woodlands Church and Woodlands Group of Churches are titles that may be interchanged throughout this report.

Woodlands Church has three main congregations:

- **Woodlands Central**, a multi-service congregation based in Clifton and the city centre.
- **The Community Church**, a multi-service congregation serving the communities of Southmead, Henleaze, Henbury and Brentry.
- **Highgrove Church**, a congregation serving the communities of Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle, Kingsweston, Stoke Bishop and Shirehampton.

Sunday gatherings have been held both online and at the following physical locations:

- Woodlands Christian Centre, Belgrave Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2AA
- We the Curious/iMax, Anchor Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB
- South Bristol Methodist Church, Mowcroft Road, Hartcliffe, Bristol, BS13 0LT
- The Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Southmead, Bristol, BS10 5PY
- Alberts Place, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 4AF
- Bristol Community Link North, Lanercost Road, Southmead, Bristol, BS10 6HZ
- Highgrove Church, 10 High Grove, Sea Mills, Bristol, BS9 2NL

Each of the congregations has its own leadership team but they are overseen by the Board of Trustees, the Eldership and the Senior Leadership Team of Woodlands Church. More information about the Structure, Governance and Management of the charity is on page 15.

Woodlands Church has several linked churches around Bristol with whom it partners. Each of these associated and affiliated churches are independently governed charities.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The declared charitable purposes of Woodlands Group of Churches are:

"The proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Christian Faith throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere"

"The organisation, sponsorship, promotion and continuing support of unincorporated bodies of Christians recognised by the Trustees as Christian churches or Christian fellowships meeting and functioning in various places in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere as the Trustees may decide for the worship of God, the instruction and edification of Christians, the care and

instruction of young people and children, the evangelisation of non Christians, the relief of poverty and sickness and the advancement of the Christian Faith generally."

The vision of Woodlands Church is to ***continually reproduce the life of Jesus***. We seek to achieve this vision through the following strategic aims and objectives:

1. **Commitment**
   To help people become committed Christians and part of the life and worship of the Church.
2. **Discipleship**
   To disciple each member in an atmosphere of love, prayer and Bible teaching to follow and become like Jesus.
3. **Service**
   To release every member into ministry and mission in the power of the Holy Spirit, with opportunities to discover, develop and fruitfully use one's gifts.
4. **Unity**
   To build together in unity with other churches to reach the whole city and region with the gospel, to be a salt and light in the region and to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted and to care for the planet.

Our principal activities to achieve these purposes for the public benefit are:

- The establishment of **Global Partnerships** with Christian overseas missionaries and organisations;
- Local **City and Community Outreach** activities and events, including making charitable loans to enhance the outreach of congregations into local communities;
- The provision of **Gathered Church** services and events for the general public;
- The provision of services, events and programmes for **Children and Youth**;
- The provision of services, events, programmes and community living opportunities for **Students**;
- The provision of programmes of **Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development** and associated resources;
- **Pastoral Care** for those of any age or background associated with the Woodlands Church.

More detailed descriptions of the activities of Woodlands Church, together with how these deliver public benefit and our achievements for the period, are under the heading of Achievements and Performance, below.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT OF COVID-19

Woodlands Church is committed to enabling as many people as possible to attend our services and become part of the life of the church. As such, we operate no formal membership structure and all are welcome, whether 'just visiting' or wishing to get connected and involved. In practice, the opportunity to attend services and take part in other activities in person is most accessible to those who live in Bristol and the surrounding region.

However, we have a significant presence online which means that many throughout

the world can and do benefit by being able to receive teaching, inspiration and interaction with Woodlands Church. This online presence has developed and significantly increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and is set to continue beyond it.

In addition, our prayerful and financial support of national and international institutions, individuals and projects which advance the Christian faith, means that Woodlands Group of Churches does impact and bring benefit to sections of the public well beyond Bristol and the surrounding region.

In reporting on the key activities and achievements, it is impossible to ignore the significant impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic from mid-March 2020 on the activities of the charity and its pursuit of its charitable purposes up to the date of signing this report and beyond.

In line with government control measures, the charity closed all of its buildings and ceased to gather for physical services in the early part of the financial year.

The phased reopening of church buildings commenced again in late Summer/early Autumn 2020 in line with government guidance but, with local infection rates rising in early 2021, congregational leadership teams deemed it appropriate for all in-person gatherings to be paused again.

The Trustees continued to monitor local leadership teams in carrying out regular risk reviews of ongoing arrangements and the Senior Leadership Team regularly shared together best practice in the implementation of fresh worship, ministry and outreach strategies in the midst of the restrictions that social distancing has brought.

Worship continues as a hybrid of in-person and online engagement across all congregations and ministries. Woodlands Church has also provided significant voluntary and financial assistance to meeting the needs of the city at this time, not least in the area of food poverty. Leaders and volunteers from Woodlands Church have been at the forefront of the churches' response to the urgent needs of the city of Bristol at this time.

The following examples of our key ministry activities throughout the year need to be read in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our activities sought to put faith into practice in a variety of ways:

Global Partnerships

One of our strategic aims is 'to bless the nations of the world, especially the poorest and persecuted and to care for the planet'. Woodlands Church actively supports a number of individuals and charities who we refer to as 'global partners and global associates'. They work in a variety of countries all over the world.

This past year has seen an increased connectivity with our Global Partners as they have been able to join in with on-line services, training and courses. This has been a particular encouragement to those working in more remote and religiously challenging locations.

During the year:

- We made grants totalling £209,120 (2019/20: £170,353) to a significant number of individuals/families and institutions. Further details can be found in note 7 of the accounts.
- We regularly contacted our global partners and associates to hear news of their work and ask how we might best support them through prayer;
- We held regular prayer meetings where news of global partners and associates was shared and pertinent needs prayed for and we have established regular geographically focussed prayer meetings. The proliferation of Zoom as a platform for prayer meetings has meant that many overseas partners have been able to join in too!
- Our partnership with Hands at Work in Africa continued to grow, with grants in total given of £57,330 (2019/20: £26,160);
- A number of planned short term mission trips were cancelled or postponed this year because of the pandemic;
- Woodlands People and Planet are a group of people who have continued to meet regularly to pray for the world and to seek ways of how Woodlands can reduce its impact on the environment as a church, in our communities and in our personal lives.

City and Community Outreach

Woodlands Church is committed to social action and evangelism in the Bristol region through our own activities and in partnership with many local agencies. This includes work with the homeless, those in debt, urban regeneration and more. Much of this work is with the most marginalised members of the local community and we aim to support them through practical expressions of support as well as offering them the opportunity to get involved in Church life and come to faith. The way in which such activities took place was of course significantly impacted by the pandemic, but in many ways the need and our responses to it have increased this year.

Examples of this during the year were:

- Woodlands has continued, when allowed by government restrictions, to run four men's football teams and two women's football teams. There has also be a women's netball team. These have been particularly appreciated as a means of physical exercise as well as helping people's mental health through camaraderie and team activities.
- The Noise was cancelled in May 2020 year due to the pandemic, but we maintained some of our social action projects throughout. The Greenway outlet of the Foodbank served well over 100 families in crisis. While restrictions allowed people came to the Greenway Centre to collect food. During full lockdown food parcels were delivered to people's homes.

- Whenever the rules permitted, our basketball outreach 'Bristol Brickers' took place in Southmead engaging teenagers from the community and giving them a safe space to interact with other teens, get some exercise and hear some uplifting team talks.

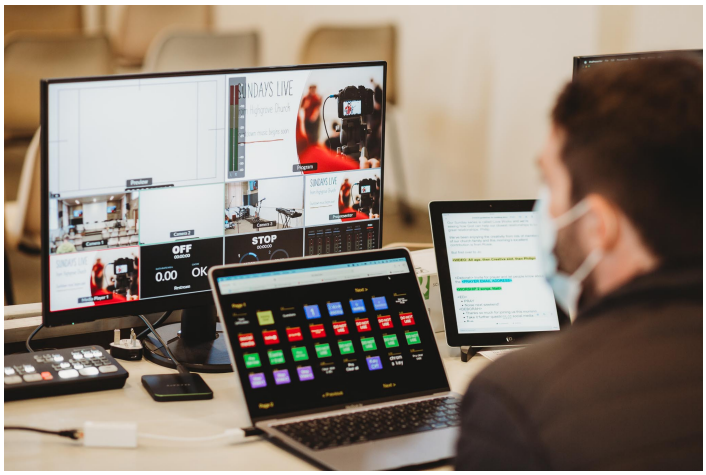
- Whenever possible our Life Recovery Group continued to meet and provide much needed support for those recovering from addiction.

- The Exploring Easter outdoor trail in Sea Mills in 2021 attracted over 100 people and Little Acorns parent and toddler group regularly provided online fun sessions and gave away free craft packs at the local playground.

- Several of our congregations moved the Alpha Course online as soon as lock down hit in March 2020. Since then, we have run 5 online Alphas and been so encouraged by its take up. We have had guests from the US, Turkey, Portugal and all over England and Wales! Around 160 have come along. Church members have invited friends and family and the accessibility of participating in a course from the comfort of your own sofa has proved a hit! We have been excited by the stories of lives changed and the impact of the Holy Spirit among the guests, even over Zoom! Follow up of these guests has continued online too with some joining existing post Alpha groups and small groups and with several post alpha small groups starting in Spring 2021.

A key strategy being employed by Woodlands Church to see thriving churches in local communities is to provide **short-term secured loans** to enable key workers and volunteers to be able to purchase a house in those communities. Our experience is that having people living in the heart of communities, getting involved in community life and resourcing local outreach makes a significant difference in fruitfulness and growth. These loans are typically 3-5 years in duration and, once repaid, are being recycled to enable further loans to be made. These loans are classified as programme-related investments in these accounts because their purpose is not to generate a commercial financial return but to enable people to live and serve Christ in the community to which they are called. The charity has made significant funds available to pursue this fruitful church growth strategy. These are designated funds, which have accumulated over many years and continue to be topped up by specific earmarked giving. The capital for this fruitful church growth strategy continues to grow through earmarked gifts and interest from the loans and the fund investments with the vision of keeping in step with housing costs and church growth. There were seven such loans outstanding at the year end having made three new loans in the year and the repayment of one other. The value of these outstanding loans was £1,542,100 with a further loan of £36,860 having been made to support a needy local family, and a further £1,580,481 earmarked for use for future loans.

Gathered Church



Woodlands Church offers a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that are open to all members of the public and which many people of different ages and backgrounds and with different preferences find to be beneficial and fulfilling. Over the years, the leaders of Woodlands Church have made significant changes to the services to adapt to growing numbers of people attending.

Gathered Church has been a vital area of our ministry even with all the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 regulations. All of our congregations worked hard to deliver a blended range of public worship online, and where possible in-person, to ensure that as many people as possible were able to engage in Christian worship. The teams needed to 'skill up' rapidly and collegiate sharing of best practice and equipment helped us deliver across the congregations up to ten different services each Sunday, including Zoom services, pre-recorded broadcast services, and live streaming from our buildings on YouTube and Facebook when permitted. While we made stringent efforts to keep our various congregations connecting with familiar faces, we also attracted a new audience of people from different parts of the country and overseas who had connections with us or otherwise found out about us. People were able to 'tune in' on an equal basis with locals, as did housebound folk who now were able to worship without feeling disadvantaged from the mainstream.

We put particular effort into our Christmas and Easter services and were rewarded by higher take up than in non-covid times. For example the Easter Sunday morning service at Woodlands Central has over 2,000 hits on our YouTube channel.

As in so many ways the pandemic has been an 'accelerant'. The challenge of using newer technology and serving a wider 'virtual' congregation means that for all our congregations some permanent changes are outcomes from our experience. We will continue to broadcast on line services even when lockdown restrictions are fully lifted.

In the intervals where we felt it safe to allow worshippers into our buildings, following government guidance with appropriate social distancing measures, we were able to welcome each week first time worshippers who had encountered us on line but were keen to connect in person.

The Community Church launched a new evening service online using a livestream Q&A as a way to engage those watching and increase opportunities to interact.

Across the congregations, prayer meetings have moved onto Zoom and this has significantly increased the number of people attending, especially those early in the morning!

At the start of lockdown, the 9.15am Family Service at Woodlands Central moved on to Zoom where we regularly had 50 families joining us each week. This included doing our Nativity and Easter Services with live doorstep surprises and featuring live animals. We've been gratefully able to keep connection with families throughout lockdown.

When permitted by the prevailing regulations, Woodlands Metro have pioneered several 'pop-up' venues across the city during lockdown. The Metro Sunday evening service is broadcast live weekly from the studio at Woodlands Christian Centre and into smaller communities gathered in local community buildings.

Children and Youth Ministry

Woodlands Church offers a wide range of activities which children and young people join in with to make friends, discover and use their gifts and talents and learn more about being disciples of Jesus. Inevitably, most in-person children and youth activities needed to be suspended during the pandemic, but there were significant continued activities, connections and discipleship opportunities online and in-person, when the regulations permitted.

The following are examples of key activities and developments that took place this year:

- All Children's Church activities moved online and we provided weekly video services for our under 5s and family worship times on Zoom. We regularly had up to 50 children attending our Zoom groups. We started new mid-week groups for children including a Mario Kart and Bible study group. We provided weekly resources for families to encourage discipleship at home whilst not able to meet in person.

- At The Community Church, recognising that some parents were nervous about bring their children into the building in September, we launched Forest Church and families were able to explore the nearby Badocks Wood and engage in activities that that helped teach them about Jesus and our faith.

- We moved all our youth connection points and services online, except from September - November where we managed to meet in-person. Our online activities included staying connected with young people through social media and community Zoom calls on Tuesdays, Friday evenings and Sundays. We also invested in our Group Mentoring programme which increased the number of young people being mentored by 33.

- Our Devotion youth teams have found this year hard work. There have been so many challenges around education, exam results, home schooling, social distancing and poor mental health, but the team have adjusted well to continuing the best they can to connect with young people. Groups moved online and where government guidelines allowed one-to-one mentoring continued on socially distanced walks. When restrictions were slackened, there were in person meetings in the church buildings. With the wearing of masks and keeping a safe distance, these weren't normal gatherings, but having been on-line for such a long time, they were much appreciated.

- Highgrove Church began offering mentors to assist with reading in the local secondary school and continued to produce online assemblies with the local primary school in partnership with another local church. As the weather has improved in Spring 2021, Highgrove Church have made good use of their garden for outdoor children's activities and teaching.

Student Ministry

University students are at a strategic time of their lives in terms of experiences that inspire and shape the rest of their lives but we are aware that thousands of students in Bristol have little involvement with Church or the Christian faith. We want to play our part in reaching this demographic with the gospel. Our Woodlands Christian Centre building is strategically located in the midst of Bristol University and our Woodlands Metro community is located near much of the new student accommodation in the centre of Bristol. We want to see students become Christians, to grow in their faith and be inspired and equipped to serve God with their lives.

Our Student ministry continued throughout a very challenging time for students. An immediate effect of the pandemic was on international students, many of whom left Bristol and have not been able to return. We followed the example of Bristol University by offering significant rent rebates to those students in our church accommodation who were advised to return home, but kept in touch with them via Zoom. Woodlands Metro actually experienced its highest ever number of first year connections and we have a strong core of students in Metro and Central congregations. The mental health and well-being of students both in and outside our congregations has been a priority. Training has been offered to our student pastoral workers and one of our

team has been piloting and researching implementation of mental health and well-being groups in the University contexts where we work.

Discipleship, Teaching and Leadership Development
We are committed to raising up a new generation of leaders to impact the city, the region and the world with the gospel. A key part of 'continually reproducing the life of Jesus' is discipleship. This involves learning to imitate and obey Jesus Christ in every aspect of our lives.

Examples of how we have encouraged this during the year are:

- The Bristol Westminster Theological Centre Hub held all their sessions via Zoom and their two residentials had to be delivered online too. One church leader from an Associate Church in Yate told us that these weekly WTC times have been a real lifeline for him during lockdown. There have been 21 students in this year's hub with an additional 5 students signed up for next year. WTC faculty delivered two theology events for staff team and church members via Zoom.
- Woodlands Bible School has run online alternating between the Woodlands Central Facebook page and on Zoom. One advantage has been that people have watched on catch up if they hadn't been free at the time. This year's cohort of 12 leaders on the Leadership Learning Community have had to meet online via Zoom. Recording the video sessions has been helpful for those who have missed a meeting. Similar sessions have been run at Highgrove Church and The Community Church.
- As the pandemic has caused a lot of mental health issues, we ran a training evening for our mid-week church leaders to give tips and signposts for "Emotional health and wellbeing".

Pastoral Care
Sunday Church services carry a sense of celebration together, but we see Church as community, built from the bottom up via small groups and pastorates which usually take place mid-week. We see small groups as the first line of pastoral care and initial development of gifts and the primary place to get to know others and to be known. We try to provide a range of groups meeting in different locations, at different times and aiming at different age groups. Most of these have needed to meet online throughout the year, but these have provided valuable connection.

Pastoral care has been expressed in the following ways:

- 122 signed up to the Wholeness Course this year. This course offers an opportunity to identify and remove barriers to growth in our personal lives, deal with gaps in our emotional development and repair hurts from the past. Remarkably, it took place on Zoom, with an additional 35 people volunteering on the prayer ministry team. We adapted the course to make it more suitable for Zoom, making it more interactive and visually

engaging. We had testimonies each week, self-assessment questionnaires, pause for reflection moments, teaching and prayer ministry in breakout rooms. Most weeks we had 50 breakout rooms operating and prayer ministry was incredibly well received. It was great to pray with people from all over the UK and to be able to pray with one of our Global Partners in Hungary, who had been wanting to be able to do Wholeness for 10 years! We have had many emails with wonderful stories of freedom and healing.

- We operated a 'needy saints fund' throughout the year enabling us to give gifts totalling £4,164 to those facing financial hardship through redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

Charging Policy
Woodlands Church is committed to making its activities accessible to as wide a range of people as possible and so seeks to minimise the cost of events and, where a charge is levied, subsidies are offered by congregational leadership teams where appropriate to ensure that money is not a barrier to people participating in activities. Woodlands Church services are entirely free with no obligation to pay or give and the church offers many activities, courses and services without charge.

Fundraising
Whilst the primary source of income for the charity is voluntary donations, the charity does not regularly engage in significant public fundraising. Most of the giving is from committed attenders who express their 'belonging' and commitment to the congregations through regular and one-off giving to share in the ministry costs of church life. Woodlands Church prayerfully teach about the biblical principles of financial stewardship and generosity in the context of discipleship. From time to time, the leaders encourage giving towards particular global partners or mission projects and, very occasionally, hold offerings for special projects such as building developments. The charity does not subscribe to any particular fundraising scheme or standards but regularly reviews the charity's practices to ensure that any incidental fundraising is carried out appropriately.

Each congregation has monthly Sunday service offerings to support global and local mission. All gifts collected, including any attributable Gift Aid and Gift Aid on Small Donations relief is used to support our global and local mission partners. In addition, a discretionary 50% is added from general funds to each offering.

Contribution of volunteers
Most of what happens in the congregations is driven by volunteers, whether that is worship, youth and children's work, practical jobs or roles requiring specialised skills. It is not possible to quantify the contribution of volunteers to Woodlands Church except to say that we would not be able to carry out many of our activities without them. Woodlands Church seeks to provide as many opportunities as possible for volunteers to grow in their gifts and abilities and has hundreds of people volunteering in at least one role within Church. The way in which volunteers have continued to serve who faithfully and creatively throughout the pandemic is something we are so thankful to God for.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial position and performance of Woodlands Group of Churches is in line with the expectations of the Trustees, based on their planning and monitoring of income and expenditure throughout the year.

Total income was £1,556,145 in the year compared to £1,785,541 in the prior year. This overall decrease is due to some significant earmarked gifts received in the prior year where the donors expressed non-binding wishes as to their use combined with a drop in investment income and charitable activities income, reflecting the impact of the pandemic. However, core giving to general funds has increased by 1.5% over the previous year, which is a remarkable and encouraging result with all the challenges that the pandemic has brought.

Income from Charitable activities fell from £217,113 in the prior year to £137,235. This reflects lower income from student room rentals as well as the fact that weekends away and a range of other events did not take place during the pandemic.

Investment income fell from £155,826 in the prior year to £132,116 due to the greater proportion of cash held, as well as a fall in dividend income. Investment income includes the income both from Financial Investments and from a number of interest-bearing charitable loans classified as programme related investments in the accounts and interest bearing loan stock classified as mixed purpose investments.

Total expenditure was £1,121,985 (2019/20: £1,204,201), with a total of £274,020 (2020: £277,990) spent on grants for mission and blessing the poor and persecuted both in the UK and overseas.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

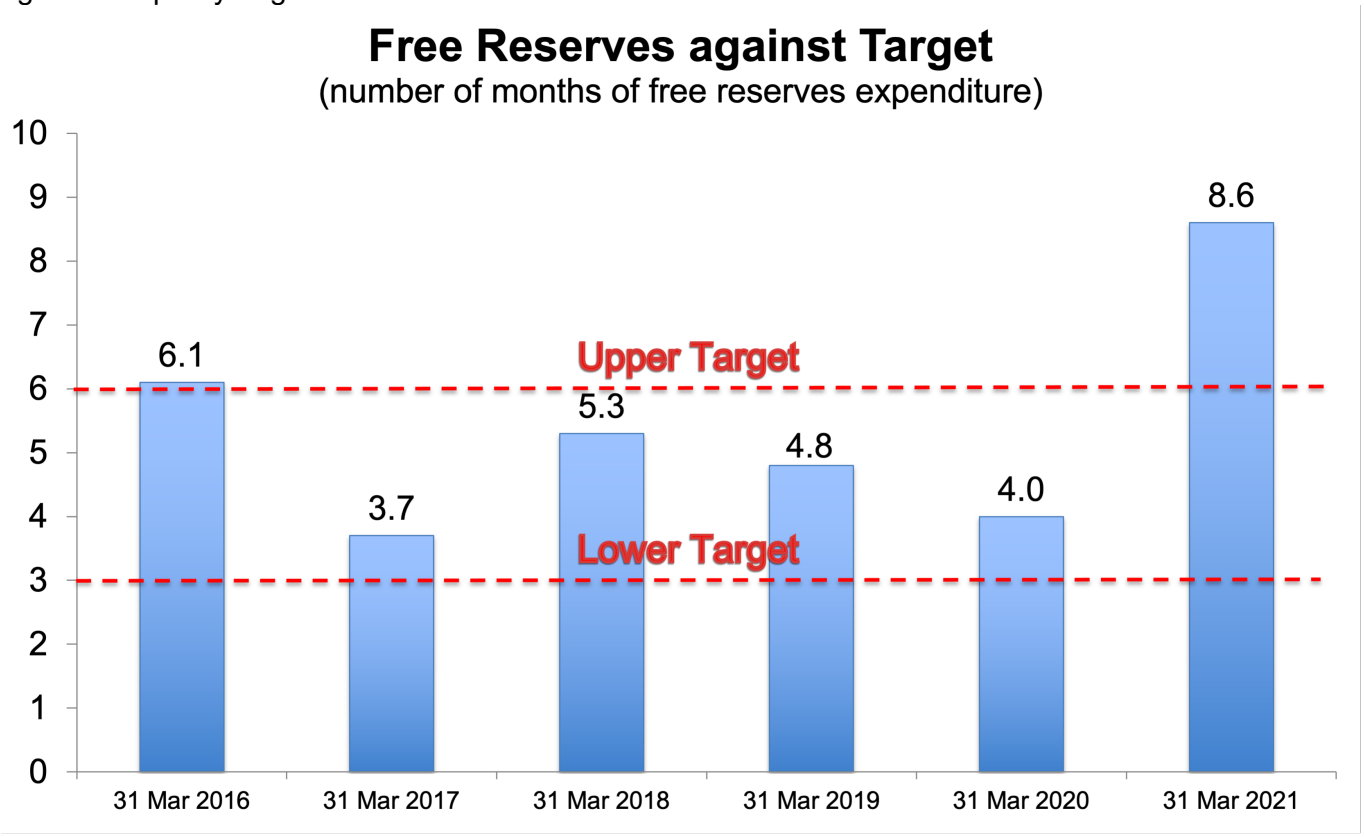
Reserves
Free reserves available for use by Woodlands Church are deemed to be those that are readily realisable, less funds whose uses are restricted or else designated for particular purposes. The calculation thus excludes £2,312,110 tangible fixed assets that will continue to be used in the day-to-day running and restricted funds of £132,162. The calculation also excludes the carrying value of charitable loans held as programme related investments of £1,578,960, which are not readily realisable assets and are held in designated funds. It also excludes other designated funds of £4,092,063, including the Property Purchase Fund of £1,467,080, which exists to enable the opportunistic purchase of a new property.

The purpose, balances and movements of each designated fund are explained clearly within note 18 of the accounts.

As a matter of policy, each year the Trustees review the level of free reserves. The Board considers our exposure to major risks in terms of their likely impact on its income sources and planned expenditure in the medium term. They also consider the opportunities available to them for expansion and growth in the facilities and activities of Woodlands Church.

The present target range for free reserves is £199,091 to £398,182, equal to between 3 and 6 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves fund. At the year end, the actual free reserves, as clearly shown within the accounts, were £567,688 (2019/20: £287,316), which is equivalent to 8.6 months of reported expenditure in the Free Reserves Fund. The Trustees recognise that this is above their long term target range but deem it appropriate to hold reserves at above the target level given the continued

uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the effects of which may not yet have been fully realised in the financial results of the charity. The graph below shows a five-year history of free reserves against the policy target:



Financial Impact of Significant Events

The Trustees are very aware of the potential for a sustained drop in giving income and investment income linked with the COVID-19 crisis even though the 2020-21 results were much better than expected. The Trustees will be budgeting carefully for the coming financial year given these factors but are satisfied that the level of reserves held by the charity will enable the continuation of the charity's activities into the future.

The Trustees confirm their assessment that the charity is a going concern as at the date of the signing of the accounts, despite the ongoing global uncertainty caused by the crisis.

Investment powers and policy
The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow the Trustees to invest in any stocks, funds, shares, securities or other investments of whatsoever nature as the Trustees shall, in their absolute discretion, think fit.

The Trustees have an Investment Policy covering the charity's Financial, Programme Related and Mixed Purpose Investments. In particular, the Trustees have sought to ensure that the time horizon of the likely use of all funds is matched well to the investment vehicle used.

In the case of Financial Investments, the Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk and taking into account the social, ethical and environmental impact of

investments. The investment objective for funds needed in the medium to long term is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the ongoing activities of the Charity. For funds needed in the short term, the investment objective is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

Grant making

The Charity has a grant making policy and makes grants to individuals and organisations engaged in mission and ministry and primarily with whom we have developed long term partnerships. Most of these partners are members of the church family serving on short term, medium term or long-term mission trips. With the exception of members of the church family going on short term mission, there is not a formal application process for grant funds. Missionary financial support is instead just a part of a wider range of on-going communication and prayer support for the work.

The Charity also makes grants from the 'needy saints fund' to individuals in the church facing financial hardship as a result of redundancy, loss, relationship breakdown or low income.

Development of buildings

The Trustees continue to review the buildings used and/or owned by Woodlands Church to ensure that they are meeting the developing needs of the congregations. During this year, the Trustees have investigated options for purchasing buildings close to Woodlands Central to expand capacity. We are also taking the opportunity to explore the development of city centre space for the development of Woodlands Metro. Highgrove Church are continuing their building development and exploring other local buildings for increased capacity and the Community Church are improving Alberts Place for increased capacity, while keeping open about its future use.

FUTURE PLANS

Woodlands Church is planning not just for recovery, but for renewal with a renewed sense of vision for the future. We are confident that the current COVID-19 crisis will present new opportunities for mission and growth, and this has already been the experience so far with a new blended approach of in-person and continued online activities. Our online platforms and social media channels are continuing to grow in reach and influence and more people than ever are engaging with us online. We will continue to explore fresh ways of engaging with a post COVID-19 society. We will continue to engage with the needs of the city through food poverty relief and family care, including encouraging fostering and adoption and addressing mental health issues.

Woodlands Church is also continuing to further develop the organisational and administration structures appropriate to a growing group of congregations in the current environment. Alongside a current IT infrastructure review project, the Trustees have established a finance committee to grow the charity's financial reporting and budgeting procedures and processes, following the appointment of a Finance Manager at the end of the previous financial year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Charity was formed in 2008 by the merger of four previous charities: Highgrove Christian Charitable Trust, Highgrove Fellowship Centre, Woodlands Church and Henleaze & Westbury Community Church.

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 April 2008.

The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum. Trustees are required to meet at least once a year.

Will Matthews, Rachel Clark and David Roderick were appointed to the Board in June 2020. Former Trustee Brad Askew continued to fulfil the role of Company Secretary until April 2021.

Any new Trustees are recruited in light of the mix of skills and experience needed on the Board and on the basis of the knowledge of the existing Trustees of suitable candidates and after prayer and listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit. In selecting persons to be appointed, the Trustees take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her professional qualifications or experience to make a contribution to the pursuit of the purposes or the management of Woodlands Group of Churches. Selected candidates are appointed by a simple majority by Trustees at a meeting or by a formal resolution.

Any new Trustees receive an Induction Pack appropriate to their level of existing knowledge of and involvement with Woodlands Group of Churches. As a minimum, new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission publication *CC3 – The Essential Trustee* together with the Charity's governing document and the latest Annual Report and Accounts.

The Trustees are aware of the importance of maintaining their knowledge of current charity and related legislation and best practice so Trustees take advantage of external trustee training sessions and, where not all members of the Board of Trustees are present, circulate any relevant information and guidance to the other Trustees for due consideration.

The role of Eldership, Senior Leadership Team and the Trustees

The Spiritual leadership of Woodlands Church rests with the Eldership and they are responsible for appointing their successors. The Elders meet monthly as part of the wider Senior Leadership Team. The Trustees fulfil their legal duties taking account of the spiritual direction of the Church set by the Senior Leadership Team who themselves are always to act in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the general law.

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, all members of the Company are Trustees, and all Trustees are members. No other formal membership is operated.

The Key Management Personnel of the Charity consists of the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. Where such individuals or those closely connected with them are remunerated by the Charity, their pay is set by the non-remunerated members of the Trustee Board at a meeting each year.

Church leaders and teams

Woodlands Church has delegated the day-to-day oversight and direction of the three congregations to congregational leadership teams. These teams meet regularly to oversee delivery of activities in

accordance with the vision and purposes of the Charity. Members of the Trustee Board and Senior Leadership Team regularly meet with the congregational leaders to review progress, provide any advice and assistance as required and provide accountability around goals, vision and values.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit where appropriate when exercising their powers and duties, planning and reviewing the aims, objectives and activities of Woodlands Church. Throughout this report, Woodlands Church has sought to demonstrate the many ways that it delivers benefit to the public – whether they are members of one of the congregations that are part of the group, another church or have no church /religious affiliation.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Trustees (who are also directors of Woodlands Group of Churches for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Corporate Governance

Internal controls over all forms of commitment and expenditure continue to be developed to improve efficiency and enable the Trustees to discharge their responsibilities around safeguarding the Charity's

assets. Processes are in place to ensure that performance is monitored and that appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed regularly by both the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- an annual budget approved by the Trustees;
- regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results and variances from budgets;
- delegation of day to day management authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

Charity Governance Code
The Trustees have reviewed the Charity Governance Code. The Trustees consider that the Charity is already applying most of its recommendations and is working towards further application of its recommended practice.

Risk Management
The Trustees have a formal risk management process. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifying means of managing or mitigating the risks and the individual or group responsible for managing each risk.

The Trustees have a formal incident recording process to identify incidents that can inform the risk management process.

The Trustees carry out an annual review of the principal risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to manage those and other risks.

The principal risk facing the charity at this time continues to be the threat of COVID-19 in hindering the charity's ability to carry out its vision and pursue its purposes. The Trustees are also closely monitoring the financial performance and position of the charity and will be undertaking a careful budgeting exercise in the early part of the 2021-22 financial year.

The Trustees are also acutely aware of the heightened safeguarding risks presented by increased reliance of online activities at this time and have been keeping policies and practices under continual review.

The Trustees have been continuing to closely manage the risk of further cyber attacks following a serious incident in 2019/20. This has included training and new guidelines issued to charity staff and a charity-wide IT infrastructure review project, the recommendations of which are currently being implemented.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Haines Watts Bristol Limited be reappointed as auditors of the charitable company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed by order of the board of Trustees:

Mr R L Scott-Cook (Chair of Trustees)

Mr E J Marsh (Vice Chair of Trustees)

24 June 2021

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company registration number: 06569993
Charity registration number: 1125029

Members of the Board of Trustees

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of Company law, that served during the year and since the year end, are:

Mr R L Scott-Cook	(Chair)
Mr E J Marsh FCA DChA	(Vice Chair and Treasurer)
Mr D J Mitchell	
Mr T J Dobson	
Mrs A Addison	
Mrs R Clark	(appointed June 2020)
Mr W Matthews	(appointed June 2020)
Mr D Roderick	(appointed June 2020)

Company secretary
Mr B L Askew (resigned April 2021)

Senior Leadership Team of Woodlands Church

Mr R L Scott-Cook (Elder)	Mr D J Mitchell (Elder)
Mr T J Dobson (Elder)	Mr E J Marsh (Elder)
Mr N Savage	Mrs R Riddall
Mr P O Jinadu	Mr D Roderick
Mrs D A Marsh	Mrs H C Thompson

Principal Professional Advisers

Bankers
Lloyds TSB, High Street, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 3DA
Bank of Scotland, 2nd floor, Pentland House, 8 Lochside Avenue, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ.

Auditors
Haines Watts Bristol Limited, Bath House, 6-8 Bath Street, Bristol, BS1 6HL

Registered office address: Woodlands Christian Centre
Belgrave Road
Clifton
Bristol BS8 2AA

Website addresses: www.woodlandschurch.net
www.thecommunitychurch.net
www.highgrove.church
www.woodlandsmetro.church
www.branchchurch.co.uk

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Woodlands Group of Churches (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, not all future events or conditions can be predicted. The COVID-19 viral pandemic is one of the most significant economic events for the UK with unprecedented levels of uncertainty of outcomes. It is therefore difficult to evaluate all of the potential implications on the charity's operations and activities. The trustees' view on the impact of COVID-19 is disclosed on page 13 of the Trustees' Report and in note 1 to the financial statements.

Other information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages xx and xx, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: The Companies Act 2006, UK GAAP, The Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP.

- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks and made enquiries to the management of known or suspected instances of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes, other relevant meeting minutes and review of correspondence with regulatory bodies.

- We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the audit team included:

    - Identifying and assessing the controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;

    - Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;

    - Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates and judgments,

    - Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and

    - Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Matthew Bracher FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Haines Watts Bristol Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

24 June 2021

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:						
Donations and Legacies	2	1,062,458	51,160	173,176	**1,286,794**	1,412,602
Charitable activities	3	11,507	125,728	-	**137,235**	217,113
Investments	4	-	132,116	-	**132,116**	155,826
Total		1,073,965	309,004	173,176	**1,556,145**	1,785,541
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
Global Partnerships		46,579	49,048	133,572	**229,199**	206,193
City and Community Outreach		101,563	23,109	26,970	**151,642**	196,279
Gathered Church		202,661	35,877	617	**239,155**	246,281
Children and Youth Ministry		133,521	14,749	-	**148,270**	185,359
Student Ministry		103,846	21,179	3,036	**128,061**	139,422
Discipleship and Leadership Development		147,187	7,477	3,313	**157,977**	151,108
Pastoral Care		50,216	1,686	4,988	**56,890**	64,604
	5	785,573	153,125	172,496	**1,111,194**	1,189,246
Raising funds	8	10,792	-	-	**10,792**	14,955
Total		796,365	153,125	172,496	**1,121,986**	1,204,201
Net (losses)/gains on investments	15	-	557,034	-	**557,034**	(179,834)
Net income/(expenditure)	9	277,600	712,913	680	**991,193**	401,506
Transfers between funds	18	2,772	(11,032)	8,260	**-**	-
Other (losses)/gains		-	-	(1,986)	**(1,986)**	888
Net movement in funds		280,372	701,881	6,954	**989,207**	402,394
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		287,316	7,281,253	125,208	**7,693,777**	7,291,383
Total funds carried forward	18	567,688	7,983,134	132,162	**8,682,984**	7,693,777

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the period as set out above.

Fund comparatives are disclosed in note 20.

The notes on pages 27 to 45 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note		2021 £		2020 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**12**	**2,312,110**		2,309,486	
Programme related investments	**13**	**1,110,100**		1,080,024	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**200,000**		600,000	
Financial Investments	**15**	**2,470,556**		1,913,522	
			6,092,766		5,903,032
Current assets:					
Debtors	**16**	**67,565**		77,181	
Programme related investments	**13**	**485,026**		183,239	
Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**400,000**		424,000	
Cash at bank and on short term deposit		**1,667,427**		1,149,407	
		2,620,018		1,833,827	
Liabilities:					
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	**17**	**(29,800)**		(43,082)	
Net current assets			**2,590,218**		1,790,745
Total assets less current liabilities			**8,682,984**		7,693,777
Total net assets			**8,682,984**		7,693,777
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds					
Free reserves		**567,688**		287,316	
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)		**205,213**		220,772	
Fixed asset NBV (designated)		**2,312,110**		2,309,486	
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)		**1,578,960**		1,248,884	
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)		**1,580,481**		1,771,114	
Capacity Development (designated)		**262,437**		296,504	
Property Purchases (designated)		**1,467,080**		1,425,271	
St James/UPA (designated)		**25,501**		9,222	
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)		**551,352**		-	
	19		**8,550,822**		7,568,569
Restricted income funds	**19**		**132,162**		125,208
Total charity funds			**8,682,984**		7,693,777

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Compani Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and were approved by the Trustees on 24 June 2021 and are on their behalf by:

Mr R L Scott-Cook
Chair of Trustees

Mr E J Marsh FCA DChA
Vice Chair and Treasurer

Company registration number: 06569993

The notes on pages 27 to 45 form part of these financial statements

WOODLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	**Total funds 2021** £	Total funds 2020 £
Operational cash flows			
Cash flows for operating activities			
Receipts from Donations and Legacies	**21 (A.1)**	**1,285,796**	1,392,873
Payments for Raising funds	**21 (B.1)**	**(10,792)**	(9,073)
Net inflow for operating activities		**1,275,004**	1,383,800
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Charitable activities	**21 (A.2)**	**132,421**	207,081
Payments for Charitable activities	**21 (B.2)**	**(1,087,601)**	(1,135,442)
Receipts from Programme-related investments	**21 (C.1)**	**56,059**	62,815
Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	**21 (C.2)**	**36,000**	45,001
Additions to Programme-related investments	**13**	**(546,675)**	(772,971)
Repayments from Programme-related investments	**13**	**213,630**	1,139,132
Repayments from Mixed purpose investments	**14**	**424,000**	-
		(772,167)	(454,384)
Net inflow of operating activities		**502,838**	929,416
Non-operational cash flows			
Investing activities:			
Receipts from Financial investments	**21 (D.1)**	**40,840**	50,529
Purchase of investments	**15**	**-**	(854,144)
Disposal of investments	**15**	**-**	354,144
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**12**	**(25,658)**	(263,195)
Net cash used in investing activities		**15,182**	(712,666)
Net cash inflow for the year	**22**	**518,020**	216,750

Charity law prohibits the use of net cash flows on any restricted fund to offset net cash outflows on any fund outside of its own purposes, except on special authority. In practice, this restriction has not had any effect on cash flows for the year.

The notes on pages 27 to 45 form part of these financial statements

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis with the exception of financial investments which are shown at fair value. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined under FRS 102. The presentation currency is pounds sterling.

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared on the gross/direct basis, as permitted by the Charities SORP. Cash has been defined as Cash on hand and short term deposits of less than 3 months for the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows. The Balance sheet additionally includes short term deposits of less than one year within Cash on hand.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, despite the significant uncertainty being caused by the worldwide COVID-19 crisis. Whilst the Trustees expect there to be a significant impact on the charity's operations over the next year or two, the charity has sufficient reserves to be able to meet these challenges.

There have been no management judgements or any key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date in the accounts that give rise to a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b) Funds

Unrestricted free reserves are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charitable purposes of the charity.

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and have been identified as being for particular purposes by the Trustees. They are not restricted and can be transferred to free funds at any time at the discretion of the Trustees. Material designated funds are identified and explained in note 18 to the financial statements.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. The purpose and use of each material restricted fund is set out in note 18 to the financial statements.

(c) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and receipt is probable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Donations and Legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable, except as follows:

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i. Income from offerings is recognised when received;

ii. Income from 'planned giving' is recognised only when received;

iii. When the donor specifies that donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods;

Gift Aid relief on eligible donations is recognised on an accruals basis at the same point as the original donation.

Investment Income represented by interest on bank deposits, dividends receivable, interest on programme-related investments and interest on mixed purpose investments is recognised when receivable. Investment income is apportioned between the 'Property Purchases', 'Available for Charitable loans' and 'Capacity Improvement' designated funds based on the balances on these funds at the start of the financial year. The purpose of both funds is described fully in note 18.

Rental income is recognised within ***Income from Charitable Activities*** as the promotion of student community living and the hiring of the buildings for weddings and other Christian conferences and events is considered part of the activities the charity undertakes to achieve its objects. The rental income on student rooms is recognised when invoiced (usually on a monthly basis) and, for events, is recognised in the period the event takes place. Rental income is apportioned between funds in the same way as Investment income (as described above).

Donated services and facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their value to the charity at the date of the gift. Donated assets which are capitalised are included in the accounts at fair value. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, no amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d) Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as and when a legal or constructive obligation arises.

Expenditure is allocated to the identified ***Charitable Activities*** directly, where applicable. Support costs relating to engaging church workers, administration costs and premises costs are allocated to Charitable Activities as follows:

Support cost	Basis of allocation
Church workers	Estimated time spent on each activity
Administration costs	Estimated usage of the resource
Premises costs	Estimated usage of the resource

These estimates are reviewed on an annual basis.

Grants payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which communication of the award is communicated to the recipient.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. Governance costs are included within Support costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

(e) Foreign currency
The microfinance element of the charity's programme related investments are managed in US$. In view of there being a very large number of small loans, the transactions are not converted to £s at the transaction date but the US$ balances at the year-end are converted to £s at the year-end rate. Gains and losses on exchange are treated as other gains and losses within the Statement of Financial Activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Fixed assets are stated at cost and new items costing more than £1,000 are capitalised. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold property:	No depreciation charged (see below)
Audio, Visual and office equipment:	20%
Furniture and Fittings:	20%

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of disposal. No provision for depreciation has been made for freehold property as it is the view of the Trustees that the estimated residual value of each property is not materially different from the carrying value. The Trustees undertake an impairment review whenever they identify any indicators that impairment may have occurred.

Donated properties have been included in the Balance Sheet at their current value at the date of the gift.

The charity owns three residential properties located adjacent to two of its church buildings. These properties were purchased and are held for the charitable benefit derived from their proximity to the church. Such benefits include better parking and access to church premises, the use of gardens for church events and activities and the ability to offer housing to staff and volunteers, where the proximity to the churches is to the benefit of its operations. Where vacancies arise, the charity seeks to rent rooms to such volunteers or staff. Where no such tenants are in prospect, the charity makes short-term lets to other members of the public in order to steward its resources well. As the charity holds the properties primarily for the benefit of its charitable purposes rather than for rental, the properties are held as functional fixed assets and not as investment properties.

(g) Financial instruments
A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

(h) Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(i) Financial investments
Listed investments are held in a common investment fund and are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

(j) Programme-related and mixed purpose investments
Programme-related investments consist of charitable loans; some of which carry an interest rate and some which are interest free. These investments are carried at cost less any provision for impairment less any repayments received. Mixed purpose investments are held for a financial return but also contribute to the charity's purposes.

(k) Lease contracts
Rentals applicable to operating lease agreements where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(l) Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity makes grants to financially support global partners overseas and to UK-based missionaries and mission organisations. Where an individual or organisation has been supported by the charity for a number of years, strict compliance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice may regard some arrangements as constituting constructive obligations such that future years' support is accounted immediately as a liability.

The Trustees are confident that the individuals and organisations supported would not view their support as an open-ended obligation on the part of the charity as they are aware that all support is reviewable annually.

(m) Pension costs
The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension plan on behalf of its eligible employees. The contributions are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

2 Donations and Legacies

Year ended 31 March 2021	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	850,392	44,594	147,092	**1,042,078**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	189,888	1,566	26,084	**217,538**
Grants receivable	22,178	5,000	-	**27,178**
	1,062,458	51,160	173,176	**1,286,794**
Previous year ended 31 March 2020				
Tithes, offerings, donations and legacies	897,576	61,661	162,002	**1,121,239**
Gift Aid tax reclaims	196,390	5,121	24,327	**225,838**
Grants receivable	1,040	56,885	7,600	**65,525**
	1,095,006	123,667	193,929	**1,412,602**

In the current year, grants receivable includes £22,178 in respect of government grants. This consisted of £12,378 from the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and £9,800 from Bristol City Council with respect to COVID support. No government grants were received in the prior year.

3 Income from Charitable Activities

Year ended 31 March 2021	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Student rooms rents	-	59,955	-	**59,955**
Other rents and building hire	800	65,773	-	**66,573**
Church events and weekends away	10,707	-	-	**10,707**
	11,507	125,728	-	**137,235**
Previous year ended 31 March 2020				
Student rooms rents	-	84,596	-	**84,596**
Other rents and building hire	-	65,691	-	**65,691**
Church events and weekends away	62,324	-	4,502	**66,826**
	62,324	150,287	4,502	**217,113**

4 Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Bank deposit interest	-	4,939	-	**4,939**	7,066
Loan stock interest	-	33,995	-	**33,995**	45,334
Programme related investments return	-	57,281	-	**57,281**	59,963
Dividend income on financial investments	-	35,593	-	**35,593**	42,990
Feed in Tariff	-	308	-	**308**	473
	-	132,116	-	**132,116**	155,826

All prior year Income from Investments was incurred in Unrestricted Designated Funds.

5 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Grant funding of activities £	Activities undertaken directly £	Church worker and support costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2021	(note 7)		(note 6)	
Global Partnerships	209,120	1,851	18,228	**229,199**
City and Community Outreach	59,140	2,761	89,741	**151,642**
Gathered Church	-	12,942	226,213	**239,155**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	4,482	143,788	**148,270**
Student Ministry	-	1,673	126,388	**128,061**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	-	29,638	128,339	**157,977**
Pastoral Care	5,760	-	51,130	**56,890**
	274,020	53,347	783,827	**1,111,194**
Previous year ended 31 March 2020				
Global Partnerships	170,354	19,581	16,258	**206,193**
City and Community Outreach	89,558	25,887	80,834	**196,279**
Gathered Church	-	54,323	191,958	**246,281**
Children and Youth Ministry	-	27,256	158,103	**185,359**
Student Ministry	-	9,925	129,497	**139,422**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	300	30,793	120,015	**151,108**
Pastoral Care	17,778	1,139	45,687	**64,604**
	277,990	168,904	742,352	**1,189,246**

6 Church worker and Support costs

	Church worker costs £	Admin costs £	Premises costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2021				
Global Partnerships	14,985	3,243	-	**18,228**
City and Community Outreach	64,615	4,865	20,261	**89,741**
Gathered Church	137,062	8,108	81,043	**226,213**
Children and Youth Ministry	100,023	3,243	40,522	**143,788**
Student Ministry	79,380	6,486	40,522	**126,388**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	103,213	4,865	20,261	**128,339**
Pastoral Care	49,508	1,622	-	**51,130**
	548,786	32,432	202,609	**783,827**
Previous year ended 31 March 2020				
Global Partnerships	13,671	2,587	-	**16,258**
City and Community Outreach	54,856	3,880	22,098	**80,834**
Gathered Church	97,101	6,466	88,391	**191,958**
Children and Youth Ministry	111,320	2,587	44,196	**158,103**
Student Ministry	80,128	5,173	44,196	**129,497**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	94,037	3,880	22,098	**120,015**
Pastoral Care	44,394	1,293	-	**45,687**
	495,507	25,866	220,979	**742,352**

Included in Admin costs are Governance costs of £4,440 (2020: £4,032).

Church worker costs are allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on each activity.
Admin and Premises costs are allocated to activities on the basis of usage estimates.

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities

Year ended 31 March 2021	Global Partnerships £	City and Community Outreach £	Discipleship and Leadership Dev't £	Pastoral Care £	Total funds £
Grants to Institutions	92,507	50,647	-	-	**143,154**
Grants to Individuals	116,613	8,493	-	5,760	**130,866**
	209,120	59,140	-	5,760	**274,020**
Previous year ended 31 March 2020					
Grants to Institutions	71,571	82,919	-	-	**154,490**
Grants to Individuals	98,783	6,639	300	17,778	**123,500**
	170,354	89,558	300	17,778	**277,990**

Analysis of grants to institutions

Institutions receiving over £2,500 in either the current or prior year or with Trustee links have been disclosed.

Institution name	Charitable activity	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Beloved	*City and Community Outreach*	**4,792**	10,981
* Bristol Noise	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	1,497
In Hope (Crisis Centre Ministries)	*City and Community Outreach*	**8,431**	12,264
* Love Running CIO	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	3,268
Sixty One	*City and Community Outreach*	**2,603**	3,324
Urban Pursuit	*City and Community Outreach*	**4,650**	5,950
* ADH Association	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	2,500
City Road Baptist Church	*City and Community Outreach*	**2,813**	-
Biblios	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	5,000
Feeding Bristol	*City and Community Outreach*	**4,659**	8,750
Community Initiatives South West	*City and Community Outreach*	**3,427**	-
Counterslip Foodbank	*City and Community Outreach*	**3,427**	-
North Bristol & Bristol NW Foodbank	*City and Community Outreach*	**11,495**	5,433
* Sea Mills Community Initiatives	*City and Community Outreach*	**250**	4,096
TLG The Education Charity	*City and Community Outreach*	**1,492**	5,000
Wall of Answered Prayer	*City and Community Outreach*	**-**	5,000
* The George Muller Charitable Trust	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**77,548**	52,402
Hands at Work (UK) - see below	*Global Partnerships*	**3,000**	5,000
* Bristol International Trust (BISC)	*Global Partnerships*	**638**	5,402
International Justice Mission	*Global Partnerships*	**5,000**	1,250
Other Institutional grants	*Global Partnerships & City/Comm'ty Outreach*	**8,929**	17,373
		143,154	154,490

Institutional grant recipients marked * have at least one trustee in common with Woodlands Group of Churches:

R L Scott-Cook is a Trustee of Bristol International Trust (BISC)
E J Marsh and T J Dobson are Trustees of Bristol Noise
E J Marsh is a Trustee of Love Running CIO
E J Marsh is a Trustee of The George Muller Charitable Trust
S P I Marsh (brother of E J Marsh) is a Trustee of Sea Mills Community Initiatives
D J Mitchell and his spouse C A Mitchell exercise control of ADH Association

7 Grant funding of Charitable activities (continued)

The George Muller Charitable Trust facilitates prayer and financial support for a number of global and local mission partners. Woodlands Group of Churches partner with The George Muller Charitable Trust in supporting many of these partners, who also have a close partnership with our churches.

Included within the grants made to The George Muller Charitable Trust are grants totalling £54,330 (2020: £26,160) in respect of the charity's two partnerships with Hands at Work in Africa. This is in addition to the gift of £3,000 given directly to Hands at Work (UK).

8 Expenditure on Raising funds

	Unrestricted Free Reserves	Unrestricted Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Year ended 31 March 2021	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Online donation processing fees	10,792	-	-	**10,792**
Investment management fees (see note 15)	-	-	-	**-**
	10,792	-	-	**10,792**
Previous year ended 31 March 2020				
Online donation processing fees	9,073	-	-	**9,073**
Investment management fees (see note 15)	-	5,882	-	**5,882**
	9,073	5,882	-	**14,955**

9 Net income

This is stated after charging:	**Total funds 2021**	Total funds 2020
	£	£
Depreciation (see note 12)	**23,034**	25,684
Auditor's remuneration for statutory audit services	**4,440**	4,032

10 People resources

A summary of the cost of church workers for the current and preceding financial year is below:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	**530,504**	453,031
Social Security Costs	**26,448**	22,992
Pension costs	**8,324**	6,882
Payments under consultancy contracts	**4,325**	8,898
	569,601	491,803

In the year to 31 March 2021, the average number of staff employed was 41 (2020: 35)

No employee received employment benefits of more than £60,000 in the current or preceding year.

10 People resources (continued)

The charity is heavily dependent on volunteers to conduct its activities and achieve its mission and aims. As voluntary involvement is encouraged for all those who consider themselves a part of the churches, it is impossible to reliably quantify the numbers of people or hours that the charity receives. The Trustees' report further illustrates the impact that volunteers have on the work of the charity.

The key management personnel of the charity includes the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. The employment benefits paid to key management were £208,388 (2020: £194,375).

The charity operated a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £8,324 (2020: £6,882). The defined contribution liability is allocated between activities and funds on the same basis as the salary of the individual to whom those contributions relate.

11 Taxation

Woodlands Group of Churches is recognised as a charity for UK tax purposes and is therefore exempt from Corporation Tax on its income and gains provided that these are used for charitable purposes only.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property and Improvements £	Audio, Visual and office Equipment £	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2020	2,254,766	152,941	51,216	**2,458,923**
Additions	-	15,138	10,520	**25,658**
Disposals	-	(1,500)	(5,218)	**(6,718)**
At 31 March 2021	2,254,766	166,579	56,518	**2,477,863**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2020	-	117,367	32,070	**149,437**
Charge for the year	-	17,501	5,533	**23,034**
Disposals	-	(1,500)	(5,218)	**(6,718)**
At 31 March 2021	-	133,368	32,385	**165,753**
Net book value				
At 31 March 2021	2,254,766	33,211	24,133	**2,312,110**
At 31 March 2020	2,254,766	35,574	19,146	**2,309,486**

13 Programme related investments

	Global Partnership Microfinance loans £	City and Community Outreach loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2020	14,379	1,248,884	1,263,263
Additions	15,362	531,313	546,675
Exchange rate losses	(1,183)	-	(1,183)
Amounts repaid	(12,393)	(201,237)	(213,630)
At 31 March 2021	16,166	1,578,960	**1,595,126**
Included within:			
Fixed assets	-	1,110,100	1,110,100
Current assets	16,166	468,860	485,026
	16,166	1,578,960	**1,595,126**

Global Partnership Microfinance loans include small short term loans to entrepreneurs in poverty.

City and Community Outreach loans include short term loans to local charities and individuals to assist in their ministries linked with the charity's City and Community Outreach activities. A fuller explanation on the nature and basis for these loans is included within the Trustees' report.

14 Mixed purpose investments

	Loan Stock £	Other Loans £	Total £
At 1 April 2020	1,000,000	24,000	1,024,000
Amounts repaid	(400,000)	(24,000)	(424,000)
As at 31 March 2021	600,000	-	**600,000**
Included within:			
Fixed assets	200,000	-	200,000
Current assets	400,000	-	400,000
	600,000	-	**600,000**

Mixed purpose investments includes £600,000 of interest bearing loan stock issued by Green Pastures Community Benefit Society (an exempt charity). The funds are used to help house the homeless and are unsecured.

The unsecured interest-bearing working capital loans of £24,000 to an arts and faith-based charity called The Gate Trust were repaid fully in May 2020.

15 Financial Investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Market value brought forward	**1,913,522**	1,599,238
Acquisitions at cost	**-**	854,144
Proceeds on disposal	**-**	(354,144)
Investment management fees (see note 8)	**-**	(5,882)
Gains/(losses) in the year	**557,034**	(179,834)
Market value carried forward	**2,470,556**	1,913,522

16 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	**35,854**	24,738
Gift Aid tax reclaims	**23,472**	35,286
Prepayments and accrued income	**8,239**	17,157
	67,565	77,181

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	**7,235**	6,858
Taxation and social security	**7,069**	6,317
Accruals and deferred income	**15,496**	29,907
	29,800	43,082

18 Movement in funds

Year ended 31 March 2021	At 1 April 2020 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
Free reserves	287,316	1,073,965	(796,365)	2,772	**567,688**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	220,772	46,160	(77,744)	16,025	**205,213**
Fixed asset NBV (designated)	2,309,486	-	-	2,624	**2,312,110**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	1,248,884	-	-	330,076	**1,578,960**
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)	1,771,114	151,386	(11,944)	(330,075)	**1,580,481**
Capacity Development (designated)	296,504	14,863	(48,930)	-	**262,437**
Property Purchases (designated)	1,425,271	71,446	(5,637)	(24,000)	**1,467,080**
St James/UPA (designated)	9,222	25,149	(8,870)	-	**25,501**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	-	557,034	-	(5,682)	**551,352**
	7,568,569	1,940,003	(949,490)	(8,260)	**8,550,822**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	4,566	13,264	(21,831)	9,168	**5,167**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	12,324	20,521	(26,440)	-	**6,405**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	1,208	27,021	(28,087)	-	**142**
Highgrove Global Partner Fund	1,500	8,935	(10,108)	3,378	**3,705**
Local Care and Mission Fund	5,244	21,302	(12,291)	1,369	**15,624**
Metro Special Offering	15,568	250	(4,643)	-	**11,175**
Microfinance	18,168	-	(1,986)	-	**16,182**
Needy Saints	24,225	6,898	(4,164)	-	**26,959**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	10,563	5,337	(212)	-	**15,688**
Sunday Evening Offerings	-	2,033	(809)	(1,224)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	-	383	(278)	(105)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	-	8,684	(7,926)	(758)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	3,403	(5)	(3,398)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	5,387	6,774	(11,603)	-	**558**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	2,040	(35)	(2,005)	**-**
Woodlands Global Partner fund	13,022	30,763	(28,094)	1,085	**16,776**
Other restricted funds (see description)	13,433	15,568	(15,970)	750	**13,781**
	125,208	173,176	(174,482)	8,260	**132,162**
Total funds	7,693,777	2,113,179	(1,123,972)	-	**8,682,984**

Previous year ended 31 March 2020	At 1 April 2019 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
Free reserves	407,826	1,157,330	(861,495)	(416,345)	**287,316**
Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)	193,620	123,667	(99,415)	2,900	**220,772**
Fixed asset NBV (designated)	2,071,975	-	124	237,387	**2,309,486**
Charitable Loans NBV (designated)	1,611,260	-	-	(362,376)	**1,248,884**
Available for Charitable Loans (designated)	1,199,241	238,649	(29,151)	362,375	**1,771,114**
Capacity Development (designated)	299,398	-	(2,894)	-	**296,504**
Property Purchases (designated)	1,214,441	50,529	(6,132)	166,433	**1,425,271**
St James/UPA (designated)	-	16,935	(7,713)	-	**9,222**
Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)	174,152	-	(179,834)	5,682	**-**
	7,171,913	1,587,110	(1,186,510)	(3,944)	**7,568,569**

18 Movement in funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds total (from previous page)	7,171,913	1,587,110	(1,186,510)	(3,944)	**7,568,569**
Restricted Funds					
Hands at Work (Bhandeni)	5,885	10,629	(15,669)	3,721	**4,566**
Hands at Work (Houtbos)	5,929	23,399	(17,004)	-	**12,324**
Hands at Work (Missionary support)	497	17,245	(16,534)	-	**1,208**
Highgrove GP Fund	4,911	6,068	(13,422)	3,943	**1,500**
Local Care and Mission Fund	8,237	4,705	(18,571)	10,873	**5,244**
Metro Special Offering	17,884	2,058	(4,374)	-	**15,568**
Microfinance	17,735	888	(455)	-	**18,168**
Needy Saints	19,702	20,708	(17,025)	840	**24,225**
Reach (Single Parents Ministry)	8,573	9,342	(7,352)	-	**10,563**
Sunday Evening Offerings	-	13,080	(3,510)	(9,570)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Branch)	161	1,601	(1,351)	(411)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Community Church)	881	9,267	(7,401)	(2,747)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Highgrove)	-	4,409	(466)	(3,943)	**-**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Metro)	50	7,472	(2,085)	(50)	**5,387**
Sunday Mission Offerings (Woodlands Central)	-	20,405	-	(20,405)	**-**
Woodlands GP fund	12,584	12,376	(28,986)	17,048	**13,022**
Other restricted funds (see description)	16,441	35,667	(43,320)	4,645	**13,433**
	119,470	199,319	(197,525)	3,944	**125,208**
Total funds	7,291,383	1,786,429	(1,384,035)	-	**7,693,777**

Description and purpose of funds and transfers

All funds with an opening balance, closing balance, income, gain, expenditure, loss or transfer greater than £10,000 have been separately disclosed. With the exception of monthly mission offerings which are disclosed in full regardless of size, all other funds have been included within 'other restricted funds'. The Charity accounts fully for all restricted funds and a summary of the movement on any smaller fund is available upon request.

Free reserves
These funds represent the free reserves of the charity. Transfers out include £22,451 to the Fixed Asset NBV Fund representing assets purchased with free funds. Transfers into the fund include the annual depreciation charge of £19,827 met by the Fixed Assets NBV fund.

Earmarked Giving Funds (designated)
From time to time, the charity receives unrestricted donations and allows the donor to express wishes as to their ultimate application within the charitable purposes of the charity. The application of these funds is at the full discretion of the Trustees, but they take account of the expressed wishes of the donor. The Trustees have determined that it appropriate to hold these 'earmarked' funds in a designated fund.

Fixed asset NBV (designated)
This fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets held by the charity. The transfers in and out of this fund relate to additions and depreciation.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Charitable Loans NBV (designated)
This fund represents the carrying value of the charitable loans held by the charity. These consist of global partnership microfinance loans and charitable loans held locally to further the City and Community Outreach dimension of the charity's work. Transfers are made to and from the 'Available for Charitable loans' fund as and when new loans are disbursed or repayments are made.

Available for Charitable Loans (designated)
This fund is used to hold the funds from repaid Charitable loans ready for recycling into other loans. Each year, net rental income and the investment income on Charitable loans and Mixed purpose investments is added to the fund to enable it to keep pace with property inflation.

Capacity Development (designated)
This fund enables major capital developments of existing buildings that provide increased capacity or usage. Work started at the beginning of this year on building improvements to Highgrove Church and was completed with a total cost of £47,757.

Property Purchases (designated)
This fund exists to enable the opportunistic purchase at short notice of a property nearby one of our current buildings to enable much needed extra capacity and facilities to support the ongoing ministry of the churches. To avoid the need for significant loan finance, the Trustees have determined it appropriate to hold funds ready to respond to such purchase opportunities as they arise, and to use investment income from Listed and Cash Investments and make appeals where appropriate, to keep this fund broadly in line with property inflation.

St James/UPA (designated)
The charity started renting out accommodation in their St James building last year. The net rental is being included within this designated fund in order to help meet the costs of future upkeep liabilities for the ageing building.

Unrealised Investment Gains (designated)
This funds represents the cumulative unrealised investment gains from the charity's equity investment portfolio.

Hands at Work (restricted)
Woodlands Group of Churches has two partnerships to support the work of the charity Hands at Work in two needy communities in Africa. These funds represent the monies raised from our congregations in support of these partnerships. Additional funds have been raised to support missionaries serving with Hands at Work.

Highgrove Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Highgrove Global and Local mission partners to be supported both on a regular and on an ad hoc basis, as needs arise.

Local Care and Mission Fund (restricted)
This fund was established for the Trustees to make discretionary gifts to Local Mission and Care Projects and organisations. The funds arise from regular offerings at Woodlands Church.

Metro Special Offering (restricted)
This fund was established following an offering to support the vision of the Metro Campus to reach the many university students in Bristol who are unconnected with church. The funds are being used to meet part of the cost of a student minister working specifically with Woodlands Metro.

Microfinance (restricted)
These are funds given specifically for the purpose of investing in Microfinance initiatives. Any microfinance repayments received are reinvested as part of the same restricted fund.

Needy Saints (restricted)
The Trustees have established a fund to be spent at their discretion on grants to those who are in financial hardship or particular need. Other members of church are invited to give into this fund and such donations are recognised as restricted income.

Reach (Single Parents ministry) (restricted)
This fund arises from restricted giving to support the activities of Reach, a Single Parents outreach and includes the activities associated with the annual Single Parents Fair.

18 Movement in funds (continued)

Sunday Offerings (restricted)
Across the group of churches, an offering is taken once a month during the morning and evening services. These offerings are taken for the benefit of global partners serving overseas or for nationwide or city based community care and outreach initiatives. Gifts are either sent directly to recipients from these funds or transferred to other funds as appropriate to their ultimate application.

Woodlands Global Partners Fund (restricted)
This fund arises from offerings and is held to enable Woodlands Global Partners to be supported both on a regular and ad hoc basis as needs arise.

19 Summary of assets and liabilities of each fund category

At 31 March 2021	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,312,110	-	**2,312,110**
Programme related investments	-	1,578,960	16,166	**1,595,126**
Mixed purpose investments	-	600,000	-	**600,000**
Financial investments	-	2,470,556	-	**2,470,556**
Cash, Deposits and other current assets	597,488	1,021,508	115,997	**1,734,992**
Other current liabilities	(29,800)	-	-	**(29,800)**
	567,688	7,983,134	132,162	**8,682,984**

At 31 March 2020

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £
Tangible assets	-	2,309,486	-	**2,309,486**
Programme related investments	-	1,245,095	18,168	**1,263,263**
Mixed purpose investments	-	1,024,000	-	**1,024,000**
Financial investments	-	1,913,522	-	**1,913,522**
Cash, Deposits and other current assets	330,398	789,150	107,040	**1,226,588**
Other current liabilities	(43,082)	-	-	**(43,082)**
	287,316	7,281,253	125,208	**7,693,777**

20 Prior year fund comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Free Reserves £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:				
Donations and Legacies	1,095,006	123,667	193,929	**1,412,602**
Charitable activities	62,324	150,287	4,502	**217,113**
Investments	-	155,826	-	**155,826**
Total	1,157,330	429,780	198,431	**1,785,541**
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Global Partnerships	36,355	45,116	124,722	**206,193**
City and Community Outreach	102,050	47,415	46,814	**196,279**
Gathered Church	224,892	21,309	80	**246,281**
Children and Youth Ministry	175,969	7,100	2,290	**185,359**
Student Ministry	120,816	14,222	4,384	**139,422**
Discipleship and Leadership Development	145,525	3,575	2,008	**151,108**
Pastoral Care	46,815	562	17,227	**64,604**
	852,422	139,299	197,525	**1,189,246**
Raising funds	9,073	5,882	-	**14,955**
Total	861,495	145,181	197,525	**1,204,201**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	(179,834)	-	**(179,834)**
Net income/(expenditure)	295,835	104,765	906	**401,506**
Transfers between funds	(416,345)	412,401	3,944	**-**
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	888	**888**
Net movement in funds	(120,510)	517,166	5,738	**402,394**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	407,826	6,764,087	119,470	**7,291,383**
Total funds carried forward	287,316	7,281,253	125,208	**7,693,777**

21 Reconciliation of the Statement of Financial Activities to the Statement of Cash Flows

	Statement of Financial Activities £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Cash flow £
A.1 Receipts from Donations and Legacies	1,286,794			
Increase in debtors		(998)		**1,285,796**
A.2 Receipts from Charitable activities	137,235			
Increase in debtors		555		
Decrease in deferred income and other creditors			(5,369)	**132,421**
B.1 Payments for Raising funds	(10,792)			
Investment management costs	-			**(10,792)**
B.2 Payments for Charitable activities	(1,111,194)			
Depreciation eliminated	23,034			
Decrease in prepayments and other debtors		8,472		
Increase in creditors and accruals			(7,913)	**(1,087,601)**
C.1 Receipts from Programme-related investments	57,281			
Non-cash movement on microfinance loans	(804)			
Decrease in debtors		(418)		**56,059**
C.2 Receipts from Mixed Purpose investments	33,995			
Increase in debtors		2,005		**36,000**
D.1 Receipts from Investments	132,116			
Income from programme-related investments	(57,281)			
Income from mixed purpose investments	(33,995)			
				40,840
Balance sheet movements		**9,616**	**(13,282)**	

22 Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £	Change £
Cash in hand	204,825	91,731	**113,094**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,462,602	1,057,676	**404,926**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,667,427	1,149,407	**518,020**

	2020 £	2019 £	Change £
Cash in hand	91,731	92,036	**(305)**
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,057,676	840,621	**217,055**
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,149,407	932,657	**216,750**

23 Commitments

The charitable company had no capital or non-cancellable lease commitments at the end of the current or preceding accounting period.

24 Payments to Trustees and other related party transactions

Remuneration and benefits paid to Trustees and other related parties

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charitable company, the Trustees have the authority to employ or engage under a contract for services a Trustee or any person connected with a Trustee as long as certain conditions are met and procedures followed.

Below is a summary of these payments and those made to other related parties:

	Payments for services & earmarked gifts £	Salary from employment £	Pension costs £	Total funds £
Year ended 31 March 2021				
D J Mitchell	-	34,640	852	**35,492**
T J Dobson	-	27,656	643	**28,299**
D Roderick	-	16,112	296	**16,408**
Close family members of Trustees	675	23,610	362	**24,647**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	-	91,301	1,991	**93,292**
Year ended 31 March 2020				
D J Mitchell	-	34,240	843	**35,083**
T J Dobson	-	27,342	636	**27,978**
Close family members of Trustees	10,497	17,685	346	**28,528**
Senior Leadership Team (if not included above)	-	96,567	1,976	**98,543**

Close family members of Trustees comprises: D J Mitchell (son of D J Mitchell), C Mitchell (spouse of D J Mitchell), D A Marsh (spouse of E J Marsh).

The above disclosure of payments to Senior Leadership Team members comprises the following individuals who were not Trustees or close family members of a Trustee during the year: N J Savage, R Riddall, P O Jinadu and H C Thompson.

R Riddall, a member of the Senior Leadership Team and Key Management, is in receipt of a charitable loan from the charity. The outstanding balance of the loan was £402,288 at the balance sheet date and is secured against a property. The rate of interest charged is calculated on the same basis as that charged to the charity's other loan holders.

Donations from Trustees and related parties

The aggregate donations received from Trustees, SLT and related parties were £48,544 (2020: £92,276).

Trustee expenses

One Trustee was reimbursed £78 for travel expenses (2020: £nil).

25 Company limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital and, in accordance with the Memorandum of Association, every member is liable to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charity in the event of the company being wound up.