

The Grove Centre Church

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2023



Registered as Charity No. 1129070.
2 Jews Walk, Sydenham, London SE26 6PL
Website: www.thegrovecentre.org.uk

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1. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1.1 Introduction

The Grove Centre Church is a multi-ethnic congregation worshipping in the Baptist and United Reformed traditions and sustaining a broad range of community activities for all ages through the Grove Centre – “a place for people”. We aim to be a worshipping, faithful, welcoming, growing and caring people in the heart of a wider community around Sydenham.

Within this report you will find a summary of our objects and activities in meeting our charitable aims and our core focus in both the short and longer terms.

Alongside our trustee annual report and accounts, we present additional reports from our Minister, Grove Centre Management Committee, Administrator, Church groups and various community and user groups of the Grove Centre. We hope this gives a flavour of the wide variety of uses to which our buildings are put and of the community of which we are a part.

1.2 Objectives and Activities

Public Benefit

The activities conducted by the Church and through the Grove Centre as set out below are open to a wide public. Worship and some events are open to all. Other are aimed at specific groups or age ranges, with a wide variety of regular user groups and occasional bookings.

Collectively these activities contribute to the spiritual, moral, emotional, or physical wellbeing of children from babes in arms through nursery and school years, adults at all stages with a variety of health needs and interests, and elderly people receiving social opportunities, care and nourishing lunches. The Church and Minister provide and encourage pastoral care and inclusion in a dynamic and open community that aims to be a servant of all who visit us.

The trustees have reviewed the Charity Commission guidance and are satisfied that our activities clearly demonstrate the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Our Purpose and Beliefs

The Constitution for the Grove Centre Church states that the principle purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist and URC denominations. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and /or other parts of the world.

In common with the United Reformed Church, we confess the catholic faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and believe that, in the ministry of the Word, through preaching and the study of scriptures, God makes known in each age God's saving love, will for all people, and purpose for the world.

In common with the Baptist Union's declaration of principle, we believe that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit in our common life.

Our beliefs are further expressed in our Vision Statement:

- God calls us together to be **“a worshipping people”** honouring our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- We aspire to be **“a faithful people”**, true to Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripture, through our common life and in our personal lives, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- We aim to be **“a welcoming people”**, a church where all people are welcome, regardless of age, creed, colour, race, orientation, ability or status.

- We need to be **"a growing people"**, open to change, nurturing the hope, faith and love involved in growth towards spiritual maturity, and through our lives and words drawing new people of all ages into saving faith and fellowship in Christ.
- We aim to be **"a caring people"**, who seek to understand and serve our needs and those of our local community and the wider world as laid upon us by the Holy Spirit.
- As a means of showing God's love in action and in partnership with others, we intend to sustain The Grove Centre as **"a place for people"** at the heart of the wider community in which we are set.

Church Activities

We engage in a range of activities as a Church and through the work of The Grove Centre:

- Regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- Infant Dedication and Believers Baptism, Baptism of infants and Confirmation;
- The Communion of the Lord's Supper, usually twice each month;
- The teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- Nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- Education and training for Christian and community service;
- Giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- Encouraging relationships with and supporting the work of both our denominations, other Christians and the wider community.

The church holds in person worship service and provide a Zoom log in for those unable to attend in person to join the services. A newsletter is produced each month to inform, occasionally challenge and encourage participation in the ministry and mission of the church.

Grove Centre Activities

The Grove Centre also fulfils an overall goal of supporting and encouraging charitable social action, through sustaining a 'place for people' where all are welcomed. This includes:

- Continuing to celebrate and maintain the number and diversity of user groups;
- Working with others to provide positive opportunities for older people to remain active and engaged for longer, through the Church and Centre;
- Continuing to grow the number of people using the Lunches service, its links with other users of the Centre, and related social interactions;
- Maintaining our premises to a high standard as a safe, welcoming, accessible and attractive venue for a wide range of uses and local hires for parties and events;
- A range of social and fund raising events each year for Church members and friends and the wider community;
- Working closely with our various user groups to assist them in promoting both their activities and the Grove Centre as a community resource.
- Facilitating local services through the Cherish Nursery operating within our premises.
- Delivering on the commitments made within our funding agreement with Lewisham Council to connect with other partners to expand the range of services for elderly and vulnerable adults within our local community.

Building for the Future Project

The Building for the Future project is aiming to transform The Grove Centre as a vibrant hub for community activities.

Our development will be:

- *Bright, modern, and welcoming*
- *Accessible for all, with new and improved flexible spaces for community use*
- *Sustainable and independent for the future*
- *Environmentally attractive*

And will provide:

- *Better hall, kitchen, toilet facilities and storage*
- *Opportunities for expanded community groups*
- *More space for celebrations and private or community events in the Grove Centre House and garden*
- *Improved, accessible training and educational facilities upstairs.*

Church members approved fundraising for the project in November 2016, and planning consent was eventually approved in December 2018. Further amendments had to be made to the scheme in light of forecast project costs, and with these updates the revised scheme received Listed Building Consent on 22 October 2019. Some minor parts of the project were undertaken in the Autumn of 2022 to ensure that the planning permission was secured and did not expire while we continued with our preparation of tenders and fund raising.

During 2022 the church was able to hold two Table Sales and several other local fund-raising events and continued to receive donations towards the project. We also completed the renewal of our Sharing Agreement with our denominations and agreed the framework for both denominations to provide grants to the project and protect their assets. A fund-raising group was formed which has been successful in raising a further £184,700 in grants which enabled us to go to tender in the expectation that we have funding to complete phase 1 of the project.

We also held a number of volunteer working parties, clearing various rooms and the cellar.



Education Fund

In 2022/23 the church used gifts received in prior years to continue to support a student with a bursary towards education costs. These are restricted gifts and can only be used for this specific purpose and the fund will cease in 2023.

Affiliation and Relationships

The Grove Centre Church is in membership with the Baptist Union of Great Britain (Baptist Union), the London Baptist Association and The United Reformed Church within the Southern Synod. We support and advance the work of our parent denominations through prayer, through financial contributions and through the participation of Church members.

We are also pleased to support local Baptist, URC and ecumenical gatherings including Churches Together.

1.3 Achievements and Performance

Review of the Year – Grove Centre Church

In 2022/2023 we were glad to be able to provide a full programme of activities after the previous year's restrictions and continue with the positives we developed during that time, including continuing to provide a zoom-stream of services.

In a new initiative for 2022 we joined with St. Philip's & St. Bartholomew's for an ecumenical Palm Sunday service, worshipping at each of the churches, which we enjoyed and continued in 2023. We have also had some special services; Harvest raised cash for BMS World Mission and goods for the Lewisham Foodbank, our Christmas Gift Service collected for the Foodbank, after the sad winding-up of Voluntary Services Lewisham.

During the Advent period we experimented with a sung liturgy for communion-in-the-round, and this was well received. Our Cafe Christmas also returned, and we revived our Pub Carol Singing event raising £152 for Lewisham Foodbank. The first service of 2023 was an informal service which saw us reflecting together and building gingerbread houses.

We enjoyed a Leprosy Mission Service in February 2023 and marked Christian Aid week with a service and a return to organising door-to-door collections.

The Beavers and Cubs have joined us for two services this year, adding to the enjoyment of our Sunday services, and continuing to build connections with local families.

We were asked to facilitate an 'assessed preach' for someone training with the URC and were happy to do this. We also registered with the Welcome Directory for prison leavers wishing to find a church community.

Our children are enjoying being back together for regular Junior Church activities during the service, as well as a tennis outing and celebrating with a Christmas party and a pancake party.

We held study groups via Zoom exploring 'Mental Health in the Bible' and 'God's Building Project'. We enjoyed a summer picnic in a member's garden, which offered welcome shade from the extreme heat.

We successfully bid for a Lewisham Borough of Culture grant to work with Sydenham School to create a new and updated mural for the wall overlooking the car park and Main Hall. We hope this will be completed by the summer of 2023.

Louise, our minister, established a monthly Board Game night which began in June 2022, and this has gathered a diverse and committed group of attendees from beyond the usual congregation.

We have also held a social quiz night and two Table-Top Sales to raise funds for our 'Building for the Future' project.

It was also great for the deacons to be able to get together, as we have previously done, for an evening meal before a day of prayer and planning for the forthcoming year. This enabled us to have deep discussions about our community, vision and the building work and projects that will be taking place in the next months.



Alison Cutts

Church Secretary, 2022/23

Review of the Year – Grove Centre

This year has been focused on the forthcoming "Building for the Future" project, trying to manage bookings, and considering the consequence of moving groups out of the Main Hall while work is underway.

We were sorry to lose several user groups over the year, however this has enabled us to remodel our programme to allowing all our core activities to be relocated into Main Hall for the duration of the planned works. My thanks go to all the user groups and our Manager, David Williams for agreeing all the necessary changes.

Alongside this we have managed to facilitate several other short-term groups who may eventually return after the work is completed. We are very pleased we have been able to facilitate the National Health Service in becoming established as a Blood Doner Centre monthly.

In November we received the bad news that our boiler in House Hall had been condemned and could no longer be used. As winter fast approached, we had to relocate Friendship Group into the Main Hall which did have heating. We purchased a few temporary electric heaters while quotes were obtained and decisions made about where to relocate the boiler, as this would have formed part of the pending building work.

We quickly managed to obtain a quote from a local heating company who were able to install a new combi boiler at very short notice. This boiler, being more efficient than the previous boiler and no longer having to heat hot water for the upstairs rooms only, will reduce our consumption of gas considerably. We also have remote monitoring of the heating in both the downstairs and upstairs areas which allows very precise settings in line with when the areas are in use. It even tells us when someone has opened a door or window! This again will combine with the greater efficiency to reduce our demand on fossil fuel.

The lunch service continues to operate 4 days each week and has maintained its 5-star environmental health food hygiene award. Numbers remain steady and we have seen integration with other day time user groups and the Winter warm space initiative run through Church volunteers. Another very successful Christmas lunch was held - a big thank you to all the volunteers and staff for making this happen.

I was delighted that Carole Eaton agreed to stand and was voted in as Finance Secretary. Alongside the Trustees we have a steering group made up of representatives from the Church, Ageing Well activities and lunch service. This will assist us in ensuring we are aware of local needs as well as ensuring the needs of our regular user groups are considered. I am confident this group will be helpful in shaping the development of the new user patterns once the building project is completed.

We continue to be very grateful to Lewisham Council for their support through the partnership grant and look forward to continuing to meet local needs where possible into the future.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the employed team (David, Tyrone and Richard), Carole Eaton for her support as Finance Secretary, all the volunteers who open and close the buildings and to all those who supported the Centre during the year.



Ian Warren,

Chair of Grove Centre Management 2022/23

Achievements during the Year

The achievements both of the Church and Centre, with the community we support, are highlighted in the various reports provided in our annual report.

The principal achievements during 2022/23 were as follows:

- We continued to offer a vibrant and enriching act of worship each Sunday morning, and on other festival dates, continuing to use Zoom technology to enable participation for those unable to attend in person.
- We returned to a full programme of social and fundraising events, including introducing new regular activities.
- Small group fellowship, prayer and Bible studies have explored a number of areas to develop a deeper understanding and expression of the Christian faith and life.
- Junior Church activities resumed in full, and a number of successful activities have also been run for the children including parties and an outing. Cubs and Beavers also led us in worship.
- Opportunities for older people to remain active and engaged for longer, both through the Church and the Centre, have returned as restrictions allowed with many growing and now operating at full capacity.
- The kitchen, serving the lunch service, maintained the 5-star environmental health standard for quality and cleanliness, and has gone from strength to strength with increasing numbers attending.
- We ran a number of activities aimed at meeting particular post-covid needs to reduce social isolation, including coffee mornings, ICT classes and joining with other local churches to provide co-ordinated Winter Welcome (warm) spaces through the winter months.
- Through a new Partnership Grant from the London Borough of Lewisham we continue to work with them to identify and meet local social priorities and needs of elderly and vulnerable adults within our community. This work continues through:
 - Making our premises available as a place to enhance and enable community cohesion, with regular and occasional bookings and hirers,
 - Enabling many organisations to meet to deliver much needed services,
 - Working with a range of voluntary sector organisations to deliver services,
- We renewed links with the Blood Transfusion Service and now enable regular blood donor sessions.
- We commenced major fund raising to achieve the development project to improvement the accessibility of our facilities, and in particular House Hall, and have raised an additional £74,427 towards the project. We anticipate work commencing in July/August 2023.

- We completed an update of our Sharing Agreement with the United Reform Church and Baptist Union and approved a legal agreement for the sharing of any additional funds put into the buildings from one or other of the denominations.
- We completed the new lease with Cherish Day Nursery who provide a valued and much needed service from within our premises.
- We fund-raised for other charitable organisations that are dear to our hearts, including BMS World Mission, Lewisham Foodbank, Christian Aid, The Leprosy Mission, and a number of DEC appeals as they emerged.

Community Organisations

The Grove Centre continues to host a wide range of services and activities.

- Christian worship in the traditions of the Baptist and United Reformed Churches
- Junior Church
- Bible Study/Fellowship Group/Prayer Group
- Friendship Group
- Coffee Mornings
- Lunch service (Mon, Tue, Wed & Friday)
- Cherish Day Nursery (Monday - Friday)
- IT tuition classes
- Giggles after school club (Monday - Friday)
- 9th Sydenham Beavers and Cubs
- Music Group
- Keep Fit
- The Dulwich Dog School
- Funky Monkey Keyboard Classes
- Step Tuesday
- House of Prayer
- The Befrienders singing group
- Craft Group
- Body Balance (gentle exercise)

Ageing Well in Lewisham Annual Report

For the last 15 years or so, The Grove Centre has generously provided Ageing Well in Lewisham with space to host our social/ activity groups for older people. The Grove is welcoming and supportive to all, and we look forward to being there every week. Many of Ageing Well participants attend the Grove's lunches as well as other groups at the centre. It also has been a pleasure to overlap with those Grove staff members who ran the centre's Warm Welcomes initiative over the winter months.

All our groups have grown in attendance over the past year. Here's a recap of some of the past year's highlights.

BEFRIENDERS

No experience required to join this lively, creative singing group-- just a willingness to try new things and have fun. Our amazing session leader, Natasha, comes to us via Trinity Laban Conservatoire, which has partnered with Ageing Well on this group for many years. We've been



so fortunate to also work with lovely Trinity students, who gain experience in delivering groups and teaching. They provide us with piano accompaniment and teach us songs in Greek and Portuguese!

The Befrienders hosted several fun sessions at Homewalk House, the assisted living facility across the road from Grove Centre. We hope to increase our outreach to other care homes and groups in the area.

Albert's Band from Royal Albert Hall performed two concerts for us this year at the Grove Centre, featuring tuba, trumpet, and guitar. The concerts were part of the RAH's SongBook programme to bring music to older people out in communities across London. One concert covered the history of Albert Hall's most famous performers, and one was a feel-good Christmas sing-along. These free concerts also drew Grove church members, Homewalk House residents, and people from the neighbourhood.



Long-time Befrienders member, Avril writes, "Tuesday mornings are always a joy and full of laughter as Natasha introduces us to new music and encourages us to write our own lyrics.... We have recently written some new lyrics to an Irish song, and I think this verse just says it all:

*I am held by my friends at Grove Centre
By the love, the warmth and the care
I am held by the joy of singing
And the harmonies that we share."*

CRAFTS PLUS

We have gained a lovely new arts session leader, Shiree, who hails from New Zealand and keeps creativity flowing with new and imaginative projects. Members have worked with clay, painted landscapes, made Christmas ornaments and bottle gardens, constructed 3-D collages, and more.

Last Spring, Crafts Plus members contributed to the Lewisham Community Blanket coordinated by the CraftA project. We hope to collaborate with other groups and projects more.

This is relaxing, creative and nurturing group is for attendees. One woman shared that she had been depressed and lost confidence after some bereavements. "Now I join in every Tuesday class—come rain or shine," she says, "and thoroughly enjoy mixing with all the others. ... These classes mean so much more than just learning new skills."



GENTLE EXERCISE

This group has had several changes in instructor over the year, and members have gamely tried a number of different styles. Our current session leader, Joni, leads us in chair-based Zumba sessions with energising music. And the tea and chat can be just as important as the exercise.



"Exercise is so important to me personally due to my medical condition to help keep me mobile," shares a member. "but socialising is very important too."

Indeed, several participants appreciate this class for the break it provides from full-time caring duties at home. We laugh a lot and feel great after a session.

Ageing Well in Lewisham would like to sincerely thank the Grove Centre and its staff for the space and assistance provided to us over the years. Our programmes aim to reduce isolation and enhance the mental and physical well-being of older people through activities that encourage social interaction, mobility, and creativity. The welcoming space The Grove provides us allows us offer exciting projects, events, and opportunities for older people. We would not achieve what we do without this partnership with the Grove.

Winnie Carlson

Project Coordinator, Ageing Well in Lewisham

4-14 Barmeston Road, London SE6 3BH

www.ageingwellinlewisham.org



Friendship Group



Friendship Group has happily settled into the Main Hall for their Monday afternoon meetings. The decision was rather forced on us as the heating had broken down in the Grove House and it seemed a waste of energy to heat it with electric heaters just for the afternoon when the Main Hall was already warm for the lunch service. This has benefitted some of our less able members as access from the car park is flat and the newly installed doors make for a much easier access.



David's starts his 'Firework' display

Quizzes, Scrabble and Beetle Drives remain very popular and with help from Ian Bromley we have enjoyed a variety of films on DVD. Historian Barbara Portwin has now become a regular contributor as has Robin Pilcher explaining the delights of poetry.

Trinity Laban music graduate and resident pianist at the Ritz Hotel Daniella (who also plays for the Befrienders group on Tuesday mornings) has delighted us with her skill at the piano. We have enjoyed seeing holiday photos and the creation of an attractive dried flower arrangement on the theme of fireworks by our administrator David.

We heard from Gillian Goldsmith of the highs and lows, the laughs and tears of raising her brain injured daughter and Dee's account, sometimes hilarious, of working in the fur trade. These are just some of the varied items that have taken us through the year.

Sadly our usual summer visit to Elizabeth's garden came to an end as she has moved into a smaller and more manageable house. We presented her with a tortoise for her courtyard garden in memory of her pet Gertrude.



May models Dee's mink coat



Alison and Carole help with the tea



Elizabeth unwraps the tortoise



Millie checks if it's real!

We continue to support various charities and earlier in the year gave £200.00 to the Church towards the building project plus a further £100.00 at Christmas. Donations of £100.00 were also sent to each of the following; The Leprosy Mission, St. Mungo's, Leukaemia UK and Action for Children. So a big thank you to our members for their continued support.

As always, we are grateful for the use of the hall and that our chairs and tables are always set out in readiness for us. Monday afternoons are special as we share news, celebrate birthdays and support each other if life gets tough. Everyone is welcome, so do come and join us. Debbie makes a good cup of tea and you'll find much fun and laughter being shared over the tea cups.

Avril Sydee, on behalf of all the members of Friendship Group.

Cherish Nursery Annual Report

This year the Grove Centre Church has been as hospitable as ever and we are pleased to be in partnership with them. David is a pleasure to have around and is a constant source of support. The chefs are always happy to provide the staff with lunch when it is needed, providing them with energy as they look after the little ones.

The nursery continues to thrive, supported by word of mouth from the local community. Our cosy, home from home, setting is diverse, and it brings us joy in seeing different parts of the world come together and play. The children often play in the well-kept garden, a big asset to our nursery. We often look out to the planes passing by guessing which part of the world they are going to or coming from. We've watched the big tree in the garden go through seasons, losing leaves and, more recently, buds turning into leaves.

We are proud, and lucky, to call ourselves a part of the Grove Centre Church.

Bhavisha Tailor, Director

Cherish Day Nursery & Heartwood Forest School

Email: info@cherishdaynursery.com

Website: www.cherishdaynursery.com



Dulwich Dog School Annual Report

In England and Wales in 2022 there were twenty-two thousand incidents of out-of-control dogs causing injury compared to sixteen thousand in 2019.

The people that tend to take their dogs to training classes are in a minority. Most dog owners leave it to luck. More often than not those owners are ignorant of the law and allow their dogs to behave in ways that "could" get them or their dog into serious trouble.

I always tell the people that come to my classes "Thank you for being responsible owners".



It is so important that when people get puppies or rescue dogs that they get some professional help training them, and we and the local community are so lucky having the Grove Church Hall to use.

Di Karn (The Dulwich Dog School) www.dulwichdogschool.co.uk

Sydenham Police Ward Panel

The Sydenham Police Ward Panel consists of residents' associations, tenants' associations, neighbourhood watch groups, local councillors, and other agencies.

We meet 3 to 4 times a year with the Sydenham Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Police Officers to discuss any issues and current concerns relating to Sydenham. We also look crime/incidents statistics relevant to Sydenham, so that we can set Ward promises for the SNT to act on/investigate and report back to us at our next meeting.

At our last Ward Panel meeting we had a visit from Lewisham's SNT Inspector Adrian Hanna, who updated the Panel on the Mets new 'Turnaround Plan' and how it would directly affect community policing and what the implications were for Sydenham.

The Ward Panel members are extremely grateful that The Grove Centre can host this very important community meeting.

Angela Hall – Chair Sydenham Ward Panel

Grove Boardgamers

Our board game group meets monthly, usually on the first Friday, and is open to anyone to come along and join in. It has continued to grow since our first evening in June '22, and regularly attracts a dozen or more people from our local community.

It's a very inclusive group with all ages, from children to the elderly. We play a range of games, from classics, to brand new games, from very simple to more complex strategy games. I bring a trolley full of board and card games each meeting, and others also bring along games they think the group might enjoy. Mike is especially good at introducing us to new games! We've grown so much that we're starting our evenings with games that work for everyone playing together, before splitting into smaller groups to play a variety of games.

We're a very friendly group and always keen to welcome new people. Why not drop in?

Revd Louise Polhill

Funky Monkey Keyboard Classes

Funky Monkey Keyboard Classes have had another successful year hosting their after school electronic keyboard sessions for 4-8 year olds at the Grove Centre. We have 3 full classes that attend every Tuesday, and they are steadily making their way through our colourful books, learning to read, write and play music to the first Grade.

Our middle class are now on their exam level and will be graduating from us in July 2023 - exciting times but also sad to see such a lovely class go! We have also held our holiday workshops there, which are always lots of fun.



David and the team are as supportive as ever, negotiating all sorts of minor issues with usual good humour and kindness.

We look forward to continuing and seeing the development of the Hall in 2023 and 2024 - we would love to add another day in Sydenham as we have quite a waiting list but are waiting for the building works to be completed before doing so!

Ali Edwards

Director and Founder www.funkymonkey.info
01732 457100

GROVE BOARDGAMERS

 The Grove Centre Church,
2 Jews Walk, Sydenham, SE26 6PL
Registered Charity number: 1129070



Regular board and card game night. Open to all.
A range of games are available
from classics to contemporary, strategic to silly.
Bring your own if you like!

First Friday of each month
7:30pm-10:00pm
Free to play.
Donations towards costs welcome.

Tea & Coffee provided.
Feel free to also bring your own drinks and snacks.

This group is aimed at adults, though children are welcome to
play age-appropriate games if supervised by appropriate adults.



“Coffee with IT” Annual Report

We continued with our Coffee with IT sessions until January 2023 by which time we appeared to have assisted everyone who needed help being confident with going online.

The sessions consisted of 4 weeks learning everything from how to turn an Ipad on, to going online to shop, book a doctor's appointment and send and reply to emails. The local community police gave us brochures about telephone and online scams which were very helpful and highlighted reasons to be careful when answering emails/phone calls from people you don't know.

At the last week of each session, they learnt how to take photos or videos and how to edit and print them. Every person who came left with a graduation picture of the group.

We had a great range of people come to use our equipment and enjoy the social side of the group, chatting about their lives, what had happened in the past week and what they hoped to do in the future.

Alison Cutts

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings were held on Mondays from 10am to noon and ran until the Winter Welcome started in November 2022, serving hot drinks, cakes and biscuits.

The donations collected from the coffee morning cakes went towards our 'Building for the Future' fund and totalled £70.

It is hoped this will re-start in the Autumn.

Alison Cutts

Winter Welcome Nov 2022 – March 2023

The Grove Centre took part in Sydenham's Winter Welcome. This was an initiative set up in Sydenham by the Ignition Brewery and supported by Lewisham Council.

We started by opening our doors on Mondays & Wednesdays from 10am until 2pm as a warm space for anyone that needed it, all were welcome and offered hot drinks and biscuits for free, as well as a place to chat to others and find out about activities that happen in the Grove Centre and beyond. Unfortunately, the uptake of this service wasn't large enough to warrant the 2 days and we reduced it to Wednesdays only as this was the more popular day.



During this 6-month period we have seen about 20 people come through our doors. Some came regularly and some just the once. Three became regular lunch users and others have joined in with Ageing Well activities. We have had a range of people all different, but all appreciative of the warmth and hot drinks.

I was pleased to receive a request from Ellie Reeves (our local MP) to come and visit us at The Grove Centre on a Winter Welcome day. It also gave us an opportunity to explain the building work that will be happening in 2023.

Ellie was impressed with the amount of groups/activities that happen and use our premises, and as it was a Friendship group day she said a quick hello to them. Then Louise and I showed her around 2 Jews Walk and explained our plans to her. She was very positive about our aim to be a community place for all people and asked if it was alright for her to post about us on her social media, that was a definite yes from me.



On a personal note it has been a memorable experience to meet and chat with lots of people with a range of knowledge. I have learnt how to get around on the buses via routes I'd never heard of, tales of places visited that I didn't even know existed, heard of work experiences that made me shudder and tales of woe that made me want to weep. I met an amazing group of people that I wouldn't have come into contact with if we as a Centre/Church had not supported this initiative.

Alison Cutts

Junior Church Annual Report

Calling all children and parents of children!

Junior Church starts at 10.30am as part of the adult church service. We then break out for our own activities. Currently we have children from age 3 to 14 years. Children seem to have a natural faith in God.

We aim to explore and nurture that faith through participating in activities, stories, discussion, music, art, craftwork, and games.

Along with the main church we practice a progressive Christian ethos. We run a range of activities through the year outside of Sunday services – including sessions in members' houses and trips. We recently had a much enjoyed pancake party. If you would like you or your children to join us then either come to a church service at the Grove Centre Church, or contact us via the Grove Centre Office, www.thegrovecentre.org.uk

Richard Neal

Junior Church Leader for The Grove Centre Church

Junior
Church



Grove Centre Church Music Group

Music is an important part of the life of the Church.

We are a group of people who love to sing. Our aim is to enrich the life of the Church. Singing is good for body, mind and soul, we always leave our meetings feeling better than when we arrived. At the same time, we share fellowship together and offer each other friendship and support. There is always laughter.

After two Christmases affected by the pandemic, December 2022 was joyous.

At our meetings we look at music that:

- reflects the community we serve, so may include music from many world communities;
- reflects the issues affecting our members, the local and global communities, so may include songs of joy and celebration, pain and loss, reflection, social issues, the environment;
- explores music we may have heard and want to share;
- looks ahead to the festivals, special services and the readings for the coming month.

Often the music we look at is new and may come from a variety of sources. We take a collective approach, and all are encouraged to bring music they want to share. We are influenced by music heard at events, conferences, from broadcast services, visiting preachers, visits to other congregations, and recommendations. Other resources are sourced through internet searches, particularly an Australian website, *Singing from the Lectionary*. We will often discuss whether a piece of music would add to our worship and how best to use it; however the choice of music for worship on a Sunday is made by the preacher.

You are welcome to come and join us and you do not have to be able to read music. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 8.0pm. (Contact the office for info. regarding location).

Anne Neal



Giggles After-School Club Annual Report

Giggles have been running an after-school club since 2003 so we know about children and parents and what they want and need. So much has changed since we started back then. We have tried to move with the times. We have always put the children's needs and happiness above all.

The past 2 years has been difficult, which has pushed us to make changes to the service we provide. We offered drop home via public transport to our parents who will struggle to make collection to the site by 6pm. We also offered an hourly rate, which helped parents save money where they can by only booking exactly what they need, rather than set session prices. As a child care organisation, we care for all that parents need from us. We also provide a mobile Crèche, birthday party organising, after school club, breakfast club, Holiday scheme and babysitting.

Sadly Giggles had to close for our regular service at Easter 2023, due in part to competition from free services provided by schools. We still hope to run a holiday club in summer 2023, aimed at vulnerable families. Thank you Grove.

Please visit our website at: www.giggleskidsclub.co.uk

Email address: gigglesnews@hotmail.co.uk



9th Sydenham Beavers and Cubs Annual Report

We are glad to report that the 9th Sydenham beavers and cubs are thriving. The children are continuing to learn through doing and having fun with lots of games. The number of badges being earned has increased, so some children have a full sleeve of badges by the time they move on to scouts.



We have 18 beavers, 28 cubs, 3 young leaders (aged 14 – 17 years) and 4 adult leaders plus 4 regular helpers and good support from parents. We meet on Wednesdays in term time and follow the Scout Association graded programme of activities and learning. This includes being outdoors, being adventurous, enjoying the wider world, caring for others and ourselves and being creative and reflective. It is great to have the facilities of the Grove Centre in which to meet - a good size hall to run around in and, in summer, a garden to enjoy too. Apart from our regular weekly meetings our beavers and our cubs both had sleep-overs at our local District campsite near Selsdon, which we are intending to replicate in 2023.



We have strong links with the Grove Centre. The Church has a formal sponsorship agreement with 9th Sydenham Scout group, which includes representation on our Executive Committee.



We continue to be grateful for all their support. We held church parade services in November '22 and March '23, where the children took an active contribution to the service. Also, we have delivered Christmas bulbs to older members of the congregation, on behalf of the church.

Julia Anstey

Group Scout Leader, 9th Sydenham Scout Group

Step Tuesday

We are the Tuesday evening step meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and we meet at the Grove Centre from 8 - 9.30pm.

The meeting is open to anyone who thinks they may have a problem with alcohol and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

After the meeting being a bit quiet post Covid it has gone from strength to strength. We now have good numbers and are welcoming newcomers including those at their first meeting almost every week.

The group are very grateful for the opportunity to use the space, and at over 40 years old 'Jews Walk Tuesday' is one of the longest running meetings in South London.

Love your Community

Rock-I Organisation Community Project reaches out to people suffering with mental health, lonely, isolated vulnerable and disenfranchised,

The project main aim is to reduce, isolation, loneliness, anxiety and improve the quality of life, social, recreational and mental well-being.

We offer and engage the users with recreational activities for all, with activities such as dominoes, arts and crafts, ICT digital inclusion for beginners, and sewing peers support groups including a hot delicious soup and meal.

The community-led activities help to increase confidence and life skills as well as assessment and counselling to improve their social life and their emotional and Mental well-being.

We currently have 52 registered service users 27 are females and 25 are males.

Rock-I Organisation was awarded £10,000 from the NCIL Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy to provide services in the Crofton Park area, but unfortunately had to relocate and fortunately found a temporary venue to host our service users here at the Grove Church Centre from December to March on Wednesdays 1.00pm – 5.00pm.

We appreciate the time and space offered to us throughout the duration of time we spent at the Grove Centre and would like to resume a place back at the Grove Church Centre once the pending building project is completed.

I know that we are in challenging times, but we are praying that with your help and support, we will pull through the impact of this cost-of-living crisis that we are facing at this time.

We wish you all the best on your AGM.

God bless

Bishop Leroy Johnson -Director
Rock-iorganisation Community Project
Unit 28 Leegate Shopping Centre
Lee Green SE12 8SS
M : 07723 296385



1.4 Financial Review

Treasurer's Report

The Grove Centre Church accounts consist of the Church General Fund (shown as the "Unrestricted Fund"), the Grove Centre Management Committee ("Grove Centre Designated Fund"), a number of smaller funds and appeals, and the valuation of the premises with which the church is endowed through the Baptist and URC trusts.

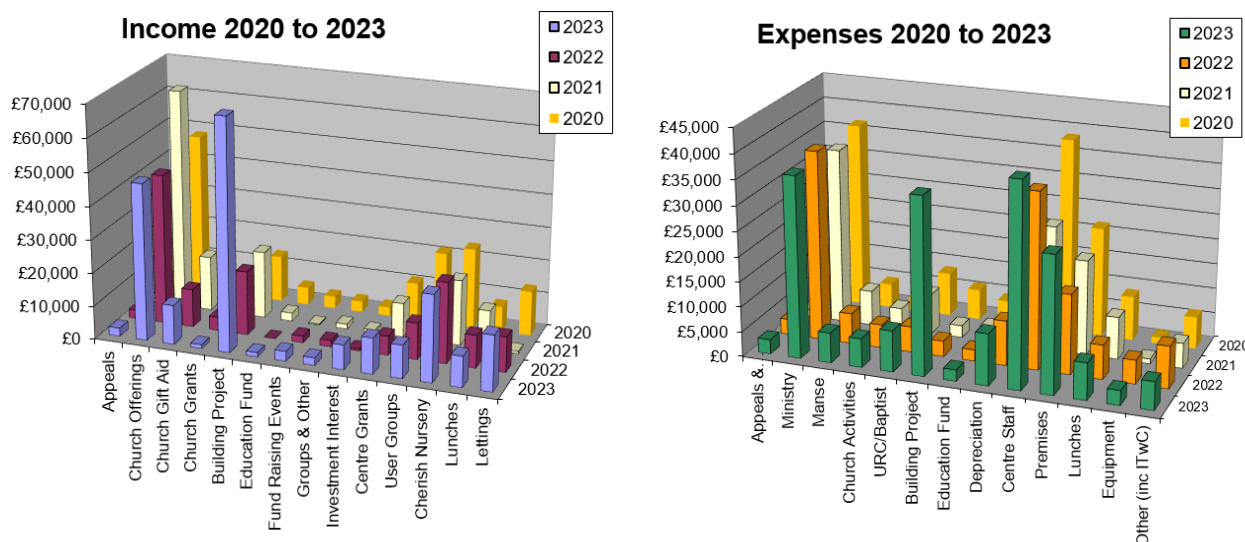
Regular donations to the Church, through standing orders, envelope giving, and the open plate totalled £46,395 (Prior year £44,700), a 3.8% increase.

Income was supported by £750 of one-off donations, £100 from the Friendship Group and a grant of £250 towards Platinum Jubilee celebrations. An important £11,859 of gift aid recovery (prior year £11,445), and £796 of interest earned on accounts, brought overall General Fund income to a very similar level to 2021/22.

Church expenses excluding contributions to the Centre were £56,629 (prior year £54,721), an increase of 3.5%. This included a one-off £1,380 'thank offering' each to our URC and Baptist denominational funds from the cessation of Baptist Pension deficit contributions. We had reduced both denominational contributions in 2021/21 due to a URC re-calculation.

The regular contribution of £6,000 was made towards Grove Centre costs. The General Fund transferred £51,384 to Building for the Future with the closure of the Nationwide Building Society 95-day account and move to an interest-bearing BUC seven day account.

The Grove Centre Financial report provides a commentary on the year for the Grove Centre (Designated Fund). The charts below provide an overview of the year.



Building Fund Report

The church made a special appeal for the Building Fund in 2022, including £10,000 of donated match funding. In total £59,424 was donated including gift aid recoveries (prior year £19,254), which was a fantastic result. A further £20,000 is pledged for 2023/24 but not yet received.

We were also very grateful for a legacy gift of £10,000. Moving funds into a seven-day account with the Baptist Union Corporation in December meant that £2,079 was added in interest received. Notice was given on the 95-day account with Nationwide Building Society, and this was also moved to the BUC account in readiness for the project. £51,284 was transferred into the BUC account for the project from General Funds. The Friendship Group also made a donation of £200.

Expenses were incurred for architect work on preparing tenders and various professional fees. Preparatory work began and included knocking out a wall to achieve practical commencement. Legal work secured the Baptist capital contribution from former manse sale funds as part of an updated Sharing Agreement, signed by the church in September 2022.

Local fund raising raised £2,924 during the year. This came from:

Simnel Cake raffle May 2022 - £129.00	Coffee mornings & cakes - £189.00
Table Sale June 2022 - £1,072.38	Quiz Night October 2022 - £110.00
Table Sale October 2022 - £1,021.70	Marmalade sale - £50.00
Christmas Hamper raffle - £225.00	Simnel Cake raffle March 2023 - £127.00

Thank you to everyone who led or participated in the fund raising initiatives over the year.

Building Funds have a year-end surplus of £202,263 from prior and current year funds.

An additional £71,278 is available from General Funds, £185,539 from the former manse sale, and 161,700 from a grant awarded by URC Southern Synod (to reimburse building costs). Adding pledges for 2023/24, **we have £640,780 available or promised for the Phase 1 work.**

Education Fund Report

Continuing from 2017 the church received gifts from members to be used to support students with a bursary towards education costs. These are restricted gifts and can only be used for this specific purpose. £2,250 was provided in bursary support during the financial year. £1,300 was received in the year including gift aid. This will complete the planned bursary in June 2023.

Other Charitable Appeals

Charitable appeals raised £926 for Christian Aid Week and £535 for the DEC appeal for the Turkey/Syria earthquake, also donated to Christian Aid, a DEC partner.

The Church raised £343 towards the Baptist World Mission "Good Land" Harvest Appeal supporting Christians in Nepal. £242 was donated to Lewisham Churches for Asylum Seekers and £420 was donated to Lewisham Foodbank, both Christmas offerings (including carol singing for Foodbank). The total donated was £2,466.

Confidence in IT Fund Report

The Church received a Hope Beyond grant from All Churches Trust (now renamed Benefact Trust), to be used to support IT confidence building to enhance social inclusion in the digital world. This was recognised as income in 2020/21, but was spent in 2021/22.

Borough of Culture Report

The Church received a grant of £900 from London Borough of Lewisham as part of the Lewisham Borough of Culture programme. This was used to enable Sydenham School to purchase art material to renew the art displayed on the Youth Hall. The new art installation is being prepared, and some funds remain to be spent to complete the project in 2023.

Paul Treece,

Church Treasurer 2022/23

Grove Centre Financial Report

The detail for the Grove Centre Management accounts can be found within the main accounts under section 11.5 which are the areas administered by the Grove Centre.

Overall income grew by £4,955 over the previous year. Within this the Church has not needed to support the centre in the same way as the previous year during the pandemic, and there was a

reduction in support of £7,000. Income therefore has recovered by £11,955 over the previous year. Most of this improvement came from one off lettings of the Halls. This would not be possible without the help of the volunteers and staff who open and close the buildings on a regular basis. We are also grateful to the London Borough of Lewisham for their support via the partnership grant which commenced in April 2022.

Conversely costs also grew. Without the furlough scheme and our ongoing efforts to get salaries for all staff up to the London Living Wage, costs increased by £5,349 over the previous year. This will again continue to escalate into 2023 as the large increase in the minimum wage and cost of living has pushed the London Living Wage target even higher.

We also incurred a number of unplanned maintenance issues including replacement of the hot water heater in the Main Hall ladies' toilets, roof repairs and replacement of the gas cupboard doors and frame. We also carried some of the costs relating to commencement of the "Building for the Future" project to ensure that planning permission was confirmed.

Utility costs have increased due to escalating costs caused by the war in Ukraine. It is difficult to fully determine what this may mean going forwards as we have benefited from the installation of a more efficient heating and control system in House Hall and a rebate due to having been incorrectly charged 20% VAT on some of our electricity bills (charities only pay 8%). An overall increase of only £3,648 over the previous year does however show good overall control of our energy usage.

Revaluation of the premises has reduced the insurance premium slightly and through discussions with PRS/PPL we have managed to reduce the Centre's music licence costs considerably.

We also incurred the costs of the replacement of the side doors to the Main Hall car park of £6,320. This cost will be spread in future accounts over a 10-year period. Taking this into account, the Centre made a small loss of £1,771 for the year. It is challenging looking forward to predict what next year has in store, as the building project will have an impact on both costs and income but we hope our assumptions will be met and we will grow once the building works are complete.

I have been supported and am very grateful for the ongoing work of David Williams, our Centre Manager who inputs the data, and to Paul Treece who then checks and inputs the Centre accounts into the main Church/Charity accounts.

Carole Eaton,

Finance Secretary 2022/23

Accounting Standards

The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been produced as Accruals Accounts, with a Statement of Financial Activities and a full Balance Sheet. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published in October 2019.

Though the threshold for mandatory accruals accounting is above the gross income of the charity, accruals accounting has been used, as is permitted by law, to provide a consistent basis for the presentation and assessment of the financial state of the Church.

Reserves Policy

As required by the Charities Act 2011 the deacons, as trustees of the church, have reviewed the Reserves Policy, taking guidance from the Baptist Union (F07 Charity Reserves, 2018).

The Grove Centre Church needs to maintain adequate reserves in order to cover large unexpected bills or repairs, to contribute towards occasional substantial building projects (e.g. new windows or roof) and to allow time for adjustments to be made if there is a significant reduction in income or increase in expenditure.

The trustees consider that current assets (debtors, investments, bank and cash) of six months' regular income provide an appropriate target level of working capital and reserves.

In view of the likely draw on funds for the building project, the trustees have decided that a minimum of three months' reserves should be retained for contingencies.

The net current assets of the Church, excluding Restricted and Endowment funds, were at £307,825 on 31st March 2023, equivalent to 26.9 months' income (excluding special funds). This is £273,541 above the minimum three-month level of £34,284. This is in addition to the £185,539 available from the sale of the former Baptist manse.

After providing for three months' reserves, the Church had £459,080 in funds that could be used towards Building for the Future, with the agreement of both parent denominations and subject to decision of Church Meeting. A grant of £161,700 towards Building for the Future was awarded by URC Southern Synod in July 2022 to be claimed against building expenses.

1.5 Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Grove Centre Church (including the Grove Centre) is constituted as a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission on 8 April 2009 under the charity number 1129070. It is governed by the Constitution for the Grove Centre Church approved in January 2009.

Organisational Structure

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. The trustees meet together as a body monthly (except in August) and are responsible for the decisions taken in relation to running the Church and community facilities and the activities provided by the charity. To assist in the smooth running of the charity the trustees have set up a management committee that oversees the running of the facilities and community activities.

The Grove Centre Management Committee (GCMC) oversees the day to day running of the buildings and works to fulfil the vision for the Centre from the Church.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The trustees are appointed in line with the Constitution, with nominations and elections from amongst the members of the Grove Centre Church. Long serving members of the Church who have been appointed as Life Deacons (where attending meetings), the Minister and the elected Deacons and Officers constitute the trustees.

The Grove Centre Management Committee is supported by a balance of nominated Church representatives, and representatives from the Centre's various user groups. Consideration is given in appointing Church representatives to the Management Committee with relevant personal competence, specialist knowledge and skills.

Induction and Training of the Trustees

Following the election and appointment, new trustees are introduced to their role and the policies and procedures adopted by the charity along with a publication from the Charity Commission

explaining the roles and obligations of a trustee. Trustees are also provided with an induction into the buildings to highlight issues connected to the operation of the Centre enabling them to be able to open up, lock up and operate the facilities as per the operational instructions. This assists in ensuring that the Trustees are aware of the scope of their responsibilities under the Charities Act and assists with the smooth running of the Centre.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the risks the charity faces and have drawn up a risk matrix which identifies the major risks by area of activity, the nature of those risks and the likelihood of the risks happening and the measures taken to manage them. The Trustees review this risk matrix on an annual basis. The Trustees are satisfied that systems are in place, or arrangements are in hand to manage the risks that have been identified.

In particular, insurance cover is in place and the finances of the Grove Centre Church and Grove Centre are kept under review. Financial controls were reviewed during the year.

Appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, supported by regular review of policies for those who work with children (Grove Centre Church) and vulnerable adults (Grove Centre) are undertaken in accordance with guidance from the Home Office.

1.6 Reference and Administrative Details

Legal Information

The Grove Centre Church is registered as Charity No. 1129070.

Church Address

2 Jews Walk, Sydenham, London SE26 6PL

Website: www.thegrovecentre.org.uk

Trustees

The officers, life deacons and deacons of The Grove Centre Church, together with the Minister, are the Trustees. Those serving during the financial year were:

Minister:	Revd Louise Polhill
Church Secretary:	Mrs Alison Cutts
Church Treasurer:	Mr Paul Treece
Chair of Grove Centre Management:	Mr Ian Warren
Grove Centre Financial Secretary:	Mrs Carole Eaton (appointed 3 July 2022)
Deacons:	Mr Ian Bromley
	Mrs Carole Eaton (retired 3 July 2022)
	Mrs Grace Harawa (appointed 3 July 2022)
	Dr Richard Neal
	Mrs Helen Reilly (retired 3 July 2022)
	Mrs Avril Sydee (appointed 3 July 2022)
	Mrs Judith Warren
Life Deacon:	Mrs Elizabeth Noon

No trustees held the title to property belonging to the charity in the reporting period.

Bankers

Grove Centre Church: Co-operative Bank plc, Nationwide Building Society and Baptist Union Corporation. Grove Centre: HSBC plc, Beckenham Branch.

2. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2a	59,254	82,187	4,666		146,107	89,586
Charitable activities	2b		61,729			61,729	55,480
Other trading activities	2c		3,211			3,211	2,535
Investment income	2d	796	2,316	8	4,317	7,437	588
Total Income		60,050	149,443	4,674	4,317	218,484	148,189
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds	3a		145			145	
Charitable activities							
Grant funding of activities	3b	8,172	400	4,716		13,288	10,436
Church activities undertaken directly	3c	48,457	324		9,198	57,979	57,291
Grove Centre Church		56,629	869	4,716	9,198	71,412	67,727
Restricted Grants	3d			688		688	3,918
Grove Centre Management	3e		82,495			82,495	66,786
Building Project	3f		34,978			34,978	3,137
Total Expenditure		56,629	118,342	5,404	9,198	189,573	141,568
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		3,421	31,101	(730)	(4,881)	28,911	6,621
Transfers between funds		(57,224)	43,710		13,514	0	0
Other recognised gains/(losses)							
Net gains/(losses) on revaluations of fixed assets	4				48,618	48,618	119,455
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	15	18,100				18,100	4,840
Net Movement in Funds		(35,703)	74,811	(730)	57,251	95,629	130,916
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total Funds brought forward 1 st April 2022		128,246	142,904	2,187	2,356,075	2,629,412	2,498,496
Total Funds carried forward 31st March 2023		92,543	217,715	1,457	2,413,326	2,725,041	2,629,412

Comparative figures for each fund are shown in the notes to the accounts

3. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	General	Designated				
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Tangible fixed assets	4	2,443			2,227,787	2,230,230	2,178,344
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		2,443			2,227,787	2,230,230	2,178,344
Current Assets							
Debtors	5	11,535	11,254	378		23,167	19,142
Investments	6		191,968		185,539	377,507	242,972
Bank and Cash	7	78,565	18,664	1,079		98,308	214,231
<i>Total current assets</i>		90,100	221,886	1,457	185,539	498,982	476,345
Current Liabilities							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8		(4,171)			(4,171)	(7,177)
Net Current Assets							
<i>Net current assets</i>		90,100	217,715	1,457	185,539	494,811	469,168
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		92,543	217,715	1,457	2,413,326	2,725,041	2,647,512
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year							
<i>Net assets or (liabilities) excluding pension liability</i>		92,543	217,715	1,457	2,413,326	2,725,041	2,647,512
Defined benefit pension scheme (liability)							(18,100)
Total net assets or liabilities		92,543	217,715	1,457	2,413,326	2,725,041	2,629,412
Charity Funds							
Endowment funds	9				1,645,230	1,645,230	1,636,597
Revaluation reserve	4				768,096	768,096	719,478
Restricted funds	10			1,457		1,457	2,187
<i>Total restricted funds</i>				1,457	2,413,326	2,414,783	2,358,262
Designated funds	11		217,715			217,715	142,904
Unrestricted funds	12	92,543				92,543	146,346
Pension reserve	15						(18,100)
<i>Total unrestricted funds</i>		92,543	217,715			310,258	271,150
Total Charity Funds		92,543	217,715	1,457	2,413,326	2,725,041	2,629,412

The notes on pages 28 to 43 form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20th June 2023 and are signed on their behalf by

Church Treasurer



Church Secretary



4. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1. Accounting Policies

1a Basis of Accounting

The Grove Centre Church is a registered charity no 1129070 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared 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 (Charities SORP 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, also noting guidance on church accounts provided by the United Reformed Church and the Baptist Union.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the 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 issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £. The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

There are no material uncertainties regarding the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1b Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives.

Designated funds are Unrestricted funds that have been designated for a specific purpose at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives, including grants for general Grove Centre running costs and subsidiary funds held within the groups and activities of the church.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant, including appeals for specific charitable causes.

Endowment funds are funds the capital of which must be maintained; normally only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose and terms on which the endowment was established.

1c Tangible Fixed Assets

The Church premises – Main Hall, House and Youth Hall – and the Manse were included in the balance sheet at insurance rebuilding valuation in 2007 and are adjusted annually in line with insurance renewals, net of depreciation of major works that are substantially part of the building structure and thus included in the insurance value. Rebuilding valuations were re-assessed by Bernard Pett Surveying (Chartered Surveyors) at the request of the trustees in October 2012 and updated in May 2022.

The cost valuation of buildings has been taken as the insurance valuation at 31st March 2014, updated from the 2012 values, for the opening position for FRS102. A revaluation reserve has been created for the movement in insurance valuation since 31st March 2014.

Furniture and equipment in the church premises and manse purchased before 1st April 2006 is considered fully depreciated to zero net book value. Building renewals and improvements, furniture and equipment over £1,000 purchased after 1st April 2006 are included at cost less depreciation charged.

1d Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the Church or Manse premises, because in the opinion of the Trustees, the residual value of the asset is not less than the original cost price.

Depreciation on other building renewals and improvements and other fixed assets is calculated to write of the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Building renewals and improvements	5% straight line (20 years) or 10% straight line (10 years)
Furniture and long lasting fittings	5% straight line (20 years) or 10% straight line (10 years)
Boilers, long-life kitchen appliances, other plant and musical instruments	10% straight line (10 years)
Amplification, computer equipment and dishwasher	20% straight line (5 years)

1e Investment Assets

The charity has current asset investments which include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year held for investment purposes rather than to meet short-term cash commitments as they fall due.

Quoted investments are stated at market value. All other investment assets are shown at cost. Changes in valuation over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1f Income

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received. Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Cash donations of up to £30 are recognised under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme within its annual limits. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

The charity recognises Gift Aid recoveries due from HMRC as a debtor in the balance sheet until payment is received.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

The charity has received government grants in the reporting period from the London Borough of Lewisham.

Legacies are included in the SOFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

All other income is generally recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

1g Expenses and Liabilities

The URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates. The church has a policy to contribute at the same level to the URC and to the Baptist Union, London Baptist Association, Baptist Home Mission Fund and Baptist Mission Society combined, thereby maintaining equal contributions to both parent denominations.

Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty. An example is hall deposits held for future events.

No material stock items are held as assets either for charitable activities or for sale as other trading activities. Small purchases of Traidcraft and food for the Lunches service are accounted for as expenses when invoices are settled.

Governance and support costs are not material for the charity, so are not reported separately in the accounts.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1h Taxation

As part of the United Reformed Church and the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly, it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2. Income and Endowments Notes

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
2a Donations and Legacies						
Charitable appeals			2,348		2,348	2,558
Standing order giving	40,800	60			40,860	39,450
Envelope scheme	4,625				4,625	4,231
Church collections	970				970	1,079
Sundry donations	750	1,039			1,789	1,184
Tax refunds under Gift Aid	11,859		118		11,977	11,480
Grants received	250				250	4,000
Grove Centre Church	59,254	1,099	2,466		62,819	63,982
Sundry donations			1,040		1,040	
Tax refunds under Gift Aid			260		260	
Education Fund			1,300		1,300	
Sundry donations		47,879			47,879	11,578
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		11,545			11,545	2,676
Legacies		10,000			10,000	5,000
Building Project		69,424			69,424	19,254
Sundry donations		900			900	600
Grove Centre Grants		10,764	900		11,664	5,750
Grove Centre Management		11,664	900		12,564	6,350
Total	59,254	82,187	4,666		146,107	89,586
2b Charitable activities						
Lunches service		9,239			9,239	9,772
Cherish nursery		25,934			25,934	24,226
Grove Centre user groups		9,905			9,905	10,936
Grove Centre lettings		16,651			16,651	10,546
Grove Centre Management		61,729			61,729	55,480
Total		61,729			61,729	55,480

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
2c Income from other trading activities						
Building fund events		2,924			2,924	2,028
IT with Coffee subs						288
Grove Centre Church		2,924			2,924	2,316
Traidcraft & Fair Trade		118			118	69
Office services		57			57	14
Lunches social		112			112	136
Grove Centre Management		287			287	219
Total		3,211			3,211	2,535
2d Investment Income						
Bank interest	91	111			202	45
Investment interest	705	2,205	8		2,918	169
BUC Manse Trust TS106				4,317	4,317	374
Total	796	2,316	8	4,317	7,437	588

3. Expenditure Notes

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
3a Raising Funds						
Building project (book of grants)		145			145	
Total		145			145	
3b Grant funding of activities						
Charitable appeals (10.4)			2,466		2,466	2,619
Friendship Group grants (11.7)		400			400	130
Church grants (12.4.2d)	8,172				8,172	5,437
Grants to institutions	8,172	400	2,466		11,038	8,186
Education fund (10.7)			2,250		2,250	2,250
Grants to individuals			2,250		2,250	2,250
Total	8,172	400	4,716		13,288	10,436
3c Church activities undertaken directly						
Ministry costs (12.4.2a)	36,030				36,030	37,681
Manse costs (12.4.2b)	5,980				5,980	6,061
Church activities (12.4.2c)	6,447				6,447	5,542
Endowments depreciation				9,198	9,198	7,858
Friendship Group (Monday)		324			324	149
Total	48,457	324		9,198	57,979	57,291
3d Restricted grant-funded activities undertaken directly						
Art material (Borough of Culture)			688		688	
Salary costs (IT with coffee)						1,517
Equipment and sundries (ITwC)						2,401
Total			688		688	3,918

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
3e Grove Centre Management activities undertaken directly						
Staff costs (11.5.2a)		40,256			40,256	34,907
Food costs (11.5.2b)		7,338			7,338	6,803
Equipment costs (11.5.2c)		2,910			2,910	4,742
Premises costs (11.5.2d)		27,092			27,092	15,864
Other costs (11.5.2e)		4,899			4,899	4,470
Total		82,495			82,495	66,786
3f Building Project activities undertaken directly						
Preparatory works		2,712			2,712	
Architects & professional fees		29,820			29,820	
Legal advice & fees		2,446			2,446	3,137
Total		34,978			34,978	3,137

3g Support and Governance costs

The administration of The Grove Centre is a charitable activity included in staff costs under note 11.5.2a.
No costs were incurred for Governance in the year

4. Balance Sheet Notes

4 Tangible fixed assets

Notes	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Leasehold Land & Buildings £	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
4.1 Cost						
Brought forward 1 st April 2022	2,204,418			55,632	2,260,050	2,136,130
Additions (major works)	6,320			7,194	13,514	4,465
Disposals						
Revaluation of fixed assets	48,618				48,618	119,455
C/forward 31 st March 2023	2,259,356			62,826	2,322,182	2,260,050
4.2 Accumulated Depreciation						
Brought forward 1 st April 2022	45,404			36,302	81,706	72,800
Net charge for the year	5,898			4,348	10,246	8,906
Disposals						
C/forward 31 st March 2023	51,302			40,650	91,952	81,706
4.3 Net Book Value						
Brought forward 1 st April 2022	2,159,014			19,330	2,178,344	2,063,330
C/forward 31 st March 2023	2,208,054			22,176	2,230,230	2,178,344

See Note 1c for accounting policy and the basis of valuations and the revaluation reserve.

All of the fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

4.4 Tangible fixed assets by fund

Notes	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Brought forward 1 st April 2022	3,491			2,174,853	2,178,344	2,063,330
Additions (major works)				13,514	13,514	4,465
Depreciation	(1,048)			(9,198)	(10,246)	(8,906)
Revaluation of fixed assets				48,618	48,618	119,455
C/forward 31 st March 2023	2,443			2,227,787	2,230,230	2,178,344
Revaluation reserve				768,096	768,096	719,478
Book value before revaluation	2,443			1,459,691	1,462,134	1,458,866
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Notes	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
5 Debtors						
5.1 Debtors at 31st March 2023						
HMRC – Gift Aid Receivable	11,535	10,295	378		22,208	13,821
Cherish Nursery Receivable		959			959	5,321
Balance at 31 st March 2023	11,535	11,254	378		23,167	19,142
5.2 Movements on debtors in year						
Brought forward 1 st April 2022	11,110	7,997	35		19,142	20,587
Movement in year	425	3,257	343		4,026	(1,445)
C/forward 31 st March 2023	11,535	11,254	378		23,167	19,142
6 Investments (short term)						
6.1 Investments at 31st March 2023						
Nationwide 95day Saver A/c						61,750
BUC Manse Trust TS106				185,539	185,539	181,222
BUC GT022 7-Day A/c		191,968			191,968	
Balance at 31 st March 2023		191,968		185,539	377,507	242,972
6.2 Movements on investments (short term) in year						
Brought forward 1 st April 2022	42,158	19,105	487	181,222	242,972	242,429
Additional deposits in year		190,000			190,000	
Addition of interest in year	705	2,205	8	4,317	7,235	543
Disposals withdrawn in year	(42,863)	(19,342)	(495)		(62,700)	
C/forward 31 st March 2023		191,968		185,539	377,507	242,972
7 Bank and Cash						
7.1 Bank and cash at 31st March 2023						
Co-operative Church A/c	30,252	180	584		31,016	127,145
Nationwide Instant Saver A/c	48,313	15,592	495		64,400	81,498
HSBC Grove Centre A/c		2,395			2,395	3,894
Cash Grove Centre A/c		98			98	115
Barclays Luncheon Social Club						1,135
Cash Friendship Monday Group		399			399	444
Balance at 31 st March 2023	78,565	18,664	1,079		98,308	214,231
7.2 Movements on bank and cash in year						
Brought forward 1 st April 2022	90,964	121,602	1,665		214,231	200,190
Movement in year	44,734	(160,273)	(586)		(116,125)	13,996
Addition of interest in year	91	111			202	45
Transfers between funds	(57,224)	57,224				
C/forward 31 st March 2023	78,565	18,664	1,079		98,308	214,231
8 Creditors						
8.1 Creditors at 31st March 2023 (falling due within 12 months)						
Nursery deposits held						3,750
Hall hire deposits held		2,150			2,150	2,050
Electricity Jan-Mar'23		2,021			2,021	
Solicitors invoices not settled						1,377
Balance at 31 st March 2023		4,171			4,171	7,177
8.2 Movements on creditors in year						
Brought forward 1 st April 2022	1,377	5,800			7,177	5,100
Movement in year	(1,377)	(1,629)			(3,006)	2,077
C/forward 31 st March 2023		4,171			4,171	7,177

9. Endowment Funds

9.1 Movement in Endowment Funds during year

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grove Centre Church and Youth Hall, Jews Walk	1,193,622		5,743	(172,119)	6,320	1,022,080
Grove Centre House, 2 Jews Walk	632,184		3,296	178,889	7,194	814,971
Baptist Manse	530,269	4,317	159	41,848		576,275
Movement in funds for year to 31 st March 2023	2,356,075	4,317	(9,198)	48,618	13,514	2,413,326

9.2 Assets in Endowment Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets		31 st March 2023
			Gift Aid / Receivable	Investments (short term) Bank / cash	
Grove Centre Church and Youth Hall, Jews Walk	1,022,080				1,022,080
Grove Centre House, 2 Jews Walk	814,971				814,971
Baptist Manse	390,736			185,539	576,275
C/forward 31 st March 2023	2,227,787			185,539	2,413,326
Revaluation reserve	(768,096)				(768,096)
Book value before revaluation	1,459,691			185,539	1,645,230

9.3 Transfers into and out of Endowment Funds in year

	Transfers into Fund	Transfers out of Fund	Net Transfers	Description	Date of Transfer
Building Fund (Designated)	7,194		7,194	New boiler for GC House	31/03/23
Grove Centre Fund	6,320		6,320	New GC car park doors	31/03/23
Total transfers in / out	13,514		13,514		

9.4 Movement in Endowment Funds (prior year)

	1 st April 2021	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grove Centre Church and Youth Hall, Jews Walk	1,127,813		5,126	67,910	3,025	1,193,622
Grove Centre House, 2 Jews Walk	596,399		2,573	38,358		632,184
Baptist Manse	516,867	374	159	13,187		530,269
Movement in funds for year to 31 st March 2022	2,241,079	374	(7,858)	119,455	3,025	2,356,075

9.5 Grove Centre Church and Youth Hall, Jews Walk

The land and buildings of The Grove Centre Church and Youth Hall in Jews Walk are held in Trust by the London Congregational Union Incorporated (administered by the United Reformed Church (Southern Province) Trust Limited) and are subject to a Sharing Agreement with the Baptist Union Corporation Limited from 21st January 1972.

9.6 Grove Centre House, 2 Jews Walk

The land and buildings of The Grove Centre Church House, 2 Jews Walk are held in Trust by the London Congregational Union Incorporated (administered by the United Reformed Church (Southern Province) Trust Limited) and is subject to a Sharing Agreement with the Baptist Union Corporation Limited from 21st January 1972.

9.7 Baptist Manse

The land and buildings of the Baptist Manse, 41 Beaulieu Avenue, purchased on 1st August 2013, are held in Trust by the Baptist Union Corporation Limited and are subject to a Sharing Agreement with the London Congregational Union Incorporated (administered by the United Reformed Church Southern Synod) from 19th December 1972.

The previous manse at 17 Gaynesford Road was sold in 2013. The net proceeds are held in BUC Trust Fund TS106.

10. Restricted Funds

10.1 Movement in Restricted Funds during year

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church & Centre Appeals		2,466	2,466			
Organ Fund (Restricted)	487	8				495
Confidence in IT with Coffee						
Education Fund (Restricted)	1,700	1,300	2,250			750
Building Project (Restricted)						
Borough of Culture (Restricted)		900	688			212
Movement in funds for year to 31 st March 2023	2,187	4,675	(5,405)			1,457

10.2 Assets in Restricted Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Debtors Due within 12 months	Net Current Assets			31 st March 2023
	£	£	Gift Aid Receivable	Investments (short term)	Bank / cash	£
Church & Centre Appeals			118		(118)	
Organ Fund (Restricted)					495	495
Confidence in IT with Coffee						
Education Fund (Restricted)			260		490	750
Building Project (Restricted)						
Borough of Culture (Restricted)					212	212
Carried forward 31 st Mar 2023			378		1,079	1,457

10.3 Movement in Restricted Funds (prior year)

	1 st April 2021	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church & Centre Appeals	26	2,593	2,619			
Organ Fund (Restricted)	485	2				487
Confidence in IT with Coffee	4,350	288	3,918		(720)	
Education Fund (Restricted)	3,950		2,250			1,700
Building Project (Restricted)	125	905	1,030			
Movement in funds for year to 31 st March 2022	8,936	3,788	(9,817)		(720)	2,187

10.4 Church & Centre Appeals

The Appeals Fund is used to ring-fence donations made in response to specific charitable appeals and grants.

	Offerings collected	Gift Aid tax recovery	Total Year 2023	Description	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Christian Aid Week	926		926	Christian Aid Week	704
DEC Turkey/Syria appeal	535		535	DEC Afghanistan appeal	315
				DEC Ukraine appeal	823
BMS Harvest Good Land	343		343	BMS Harvest I Will Stand	390
LewCAS Christmas offering	202	40	242	LewCAS Christmas offering	387
Foodbank carols & offering	342	78	420		
Total for Church Appeals	2,348	118	2,466		2,619

Gift aid tax recovery is only made on cash offerings and payments made to The Grove Centre Church. Gift aided offerings made out to named charities are passed on for their own tax recovery in due course.

Notes	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£

10.5 Organ Fund (Restricted)

The Organ Fund was created by the legacy of Olive Carter and has been added to by the Church in prior years. It was given to repair the organ in the Grove Centre or replace it with a modern instrument. The organ has now been removed, as it was beyond repair. The future use of this fund is subject to the trustees' decision.

Interest on investments		8			8	2
Total for Organ Fund (Rest)	487	495			495	487

10.6 Confidence in IT with Coffee (Restricted)

The Confidence in IT with coffee fund was for the delivery of a grant funded by Hope Beyond Benefact Trust to support education in the use of IT to engage in social and online activities. No funds were expended during 2022/23.

Grant received						
Weekly subscriptions						288
Total incoming resources						288
Salary costs						1,517
Equipment purchases/maint						2,336
Grove Centre hire						720
Sundries & refreshments						65
Total resources expended						4,638
Movement in fund for year to 31 st March 2023						

10.7 Education Fund (Restricted)

The Education Fund is used to provide bursaries to students supported by Restricted gifts to the Grove Centre Church.

Donations to fund		1,040			1,040	
Income tax recovery		260			260	
Education bursaries & grants			2,250		(2,250)	(2,250)
Movement in fund for year to 31 st March 2023	1,700	1,300	(2,250)		750	1,700

10.8 Building Project (Restricted)

The Building Project fund was created in 2012 to manage funds raised and expended on planning and surveys for the possible redevelopment of the Grove Centre House and passage between the House and the Main Hall.

Donations to fund						905
Income tax recovery						
Legal advice & fees						(1,030)
Movement in fund for year to 31 st March 2023						

10.9 Borough of Culture (Restricted)

The Borough of Culture fund was created in 2022 to manage a grant awarded by London Borough of Lewisham for a project with Sydenham School to replace artwork displayed on the exterior of the Youth Hall building.

Grant from LB Lewisham		900			900	
Art materials for school use			688		(688)	
Movement in fund for year to 31 st March 2023		900	(688)		212	

11. Designated Funds

11.1 Movement in Designated Funds during year

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Project (Designated)	118,569	74,427	35,123		44,390	202,263
Grove Centre Management	7,372	73,680	82,495		724	(719)
Luncheon Social Club	1,044				(1,044)	
Friendship Group (Monday)	384	1,039	724		(300)	399
Organ Fund (Designated)	625	10				635
Sarham Carers Group	60				(60)	
Youth Project	14,850	287				15,137
Movement in funds for year to 31 st March 2023	142,904	149,443	(118,342)		43,710	217,715

11.2 Assets in Designated Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Creditors Due within 12 months	Net Current Assets Rent/Gift Aid Receivable	Investments (short term)	Bank / cash	31 st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Project (Designated)			10,295	191,968		202,263
Grove Centre Management		(4,171)	959		2,493	(719)
Fellowship Group (Monday)					399	399
Organ Fund (Designated)					635	635
Youth Project					15,137	15,137
C/forward 31 st March 2023		(4,171)	11,254	191,968	18,664	217,715

11.3 Movement in Designated Funds (prior year)

	1 st April 2021	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Project (Designated)	100,277	20,399	2,107			118,569
Grove Centre Management	2,854	62,049	66,786		9,255	7,372
Luncheon Social Club	1,040	4				1,044
Friendship Group (Monday)	11	752	279		(100)	384
Organ Fund (Designated)	624	1				625
Sarham Carers Group	60					60
Youth Project	14,750	100				14,850
Movement in funds for year to 31 st March 2022	119,616	83,305	(69,172)		9,155	142,904

11.4 Building Project (Designated)

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Building Project fund was created in 2012 to manage funds raised and expended on planning and surveys for the possible redevelopment of the Grove Centre House and passage between the House and the Main Hall.						
Donations to Building fund		47,879		51,584	99,463	10,673
Social and fund raising events		2,924			2,924	2,028
Legacies received		10,000			10,000	5,000
Income tax recovery		11,545			11,545	2,676
Interest received		2,079			2,079	22
Total incoming resources		74,427		51,584	126,011	20,399

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund raising costs			145		145	2,107
Preparatory works			2,712		2,712	2,107
Architects & professional fees			29,820		29,820	2,107
Legal advice & fees			2,446		2,446	2,107
Total resources expended			35,123		35,123	2,107
Major Works (GC House Boiler)				7,194	7,194	4,465
Total resources expended			35,123	7,194	42,317	71,251
Movement in fund for year to 31 st March 2023	118,569	74,427	(35,123)	44,390	202,263	118,569

11.4a Transfers into and out of Building Fund (Designated) in year

	Transfers into Fund	Transfers out of Fund	Net Transfers	Description	Date of Transfer
	£	£	£		
General Fund	51,384		51,384	Funds for building project	31/12/22
Friendship Group (Monday)	200		200	Funds for building project	30/05/22
Endowment Fund (Trusts)		7,194	(7,194)	New boiler for GC House	31/03/23
Total transfers in / out	51,584	(7,194)	44,390		

11.5 Grove Centre Management

The Grove Centre Management Fund is used to maintain the premises at Jews Walk and to run the community activities of The Grove Centre. It is administered by The Grove Centre Management Committee.

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
11.5.1 Grove Centre Income						
Donations and legacies						
Sundry donations		900			900	600
Grove Centre Church				6,000	6,000	13,000
Grants received (LBL)		10,764			10,764	5,750
		11,664		6,000	17,664	19,350
Charitable activities						
Lunches service		9,239			9,239	9,772
Cherish nursery		25,934			25,934	24,226
Grove Centre user groups		9,905		1,044	10,949	11,656
Grove Centre lettings		16,651			16,651	10,546
		61,729		1,044	62,773	56,200
Other trading activities						
Traidcraft & Fair Trade		118			118	69
Office services		57			57	14
Lunches social		112			112	136
		287			287	219
Total incoming resources		73,680		7,044	80,724	75,769

11.5.2 Grove Centre Expenditure

11.5.2a Staff Costs

Centre staff salaries	39,339	39,339	36,990
HMRC job support scheme			(2,922)
Employer pension contribution	917	917	768
Employer National Insurance			71
	40,256	40,256	34,907

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
11.5.2b Food Costs						
Lunches service food			7,205		7,205	6,690
Traidcraft & fair trade food			133		133	113
			7,338		7,338	6,803
11.5.2c Equipment Costs						
Equipment purchases			299		299	1,125
Equipment maintenance			1,212		1,212	2,098
Equipment leasing			1,399		1,399	1,519
			2,910		2,910	4,742
11.5.2d Premises Costs						
Minor works / maintenance			8,828		8,828	1,342
Centre Electricity			4,846		4,846	3,580
Centre Gas			6,549		6,549	4,167
Waste Collection			1,147		1,147	978
Water and Sewerage			1,908		1,908	1,662
Cleaning materials/services			1,766		1,766	1,634
Insurance			2,048		2,048	2,501
			27,092		27,092	15,864
11.5.2e Other Costs						
Licences			231		231	579
Centre sundries & postage			1,073		1,073	618
Volunteer expenses			53		53	171
Stationery & print / copies			583		583	583
Telephone / Internet			2,828		2,828	2,461
Bank charges			131		131	58
			4,899		4,899	4,470
Total resources exc Major Wks			82,495		82,495	66,786
Major Work (GC car park doors)				6,320	6,320	4,465
Total resources expended			82,495	6,320	88,815	71,251
Movement in fund for year to 31 st March 2023	7,372	73,680	(82,495)	724	(719)	7,372

11.5.3 Transfers into and out of Grove Centre Fund in year

	Transfers into Fund	Transfers out of Fund	Net Transfers	Description	Date of Transfer
	£	£	£		
General Fund	6,000		6,000	Church fund to Centre	£500 pm
Luncheon Social Club Fund	1,044		1,044	LSC closing balance	14/04/22
Endowment – GC asset		(6,320)	(6,320)	GC main car park doors	31/03/23
Total transfers in / out	7,044	(6,320)	724		

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
11.6 Luncheon Social Club						
The Luncheon Social Club Fund was used to pay for social activities for members of the Grove Centre Luncheon Club. The fund was closed and the balance returned to the Grove Centre Designated Fund in April 2022.						
Closing balance to Centre				(1,044)		
Movement in fund for year to 31 st March 2023	1,044			(1,044)		1,044

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
11.7 Friendship Group (Monday)						
The Friendship Group meets each Monday afternoon, providing general charitable and social activities funded by weekly offerings. It is administered by Mrs A.Sydee.						
Weekly offerings		1,039			1,039	752
Total incoming resources		1,039			1,039	752
Sundries & refreshments			324		324	149
Donation to Building Fund				200	200	100
Donation to GC Church				100	100	100
Other donations (ELF, St. Mungos, Leprosy Mission, Action for Children)			400		400	130
Total resources expended			724	300	1024	379
Movement to 31 st March 2023	384	1,039	(724)	(300)	399	384

11.8 Organ Fund (Designated)						
The Organ Fund (Designated) is money originally set aside by the church for the replacement of the organ.						
Investment income		10			10	1
Movement to 31 st March 2023	625	10			635	625

11.9 Sarham Carers & Toddler Group						
The Sarham Fund was used for the activities of the Grove Centre Sarham Carers and Toddler Group, administered by Mrs.J.Warren. The group ceased operating in 2021 and the balance was transferred to the General Fund in March 2023.						
Movement to 31 st March 2023	60					60

11.10 Youth Project						
The Youth Project Fund is used to support activities for children and young people, funded in part by contributions towards events. It is administered with other church funds, but was not used during the year.						
Donations to Youth Fund		60			60	60
Interest on investments		227			227	40
Total incoming resources		287			287	100
Total resources expended						
Movement to 31 st March 2023	14,850	287			15,137	14,850

12. Unrestricted Funds

12.1 Movement in Unrestricted Funds during year						
	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church General Fund	146,346	60,050	56,629		(57,224)	92,543
Movement in funds for year to 31 st March 2023	146,346	60,050	(56,629)		(57,224)	92,543

12.2 Assets in Unrestricted Funds						
	Tangible	Creditors	Net Current Assets			31 st March
	Fixed Assets	Due within 12 months	Gift Aid Receivable	Investments (short term)	Bank / cash	2023
Church General Fund	2,443		11,535		78,565	92,543
C/forward 31 st March 2023	2,443		11,535		78,565	92,543

12.3 Movement in Unrestricted Funds (prior year)

	1 st April 2021	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church General Fund	151,805	60,722	54,721		(11,460)	146,346
Movement in funds for year to 31 st March 2022	151,805	60,722	(54,721)		(11,460)	146,346

12.4 Church General Fund

The Church General Fund is used to run the general charitable activities of The Grove Centre Church.

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
12.4.1 Church Income						
Standing order giving		40,800			40,800	39,390
Envelope scheme		4,625			4,625	4,231
Church collections		970			970	1,079
Sundry Donations		750		160	910	532
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		11,859			11,859	11,445
Grants received		250			250	4,000
Investment income		796			796	145
Total incoming resources		60,050		160	60,210	60,822
12.4.2 Church Expenditure						
12.4.2a Ministry Expenses						
Stipend			28,938		28,938	28,104
Employers Nat. Insurance						233
Employers pension contrib.			4,952		4,952	7,554
Ministry expenses			167		167	127
Training and events			1,253		1,253	672
Travel costs			280		280	361
Visiting preachers			440		440	630
			36,030		36,030	37,681
12.4.2b Manse Expenses						
Manse works & maintenance			1,441		1,441	1,758
Manse council and water			2,910		2,910	2,799
Manse telephone / internet			819		819	808
Manse building insurance			810		810	696
			5,980		5,980	6,061
12.4.2c Church Activities						
Worship expenses			78		78	198
Junior church			96		96	52
Licences			557		557	521
Church sundries & posters			872		872	1,178
Platinum Jubilee celebration			353		353	
Equipment and maintenance			275		275	1,168
Depreciation of assets			1,048		1,048	1,048
Legal advice & fees			3,168		3,168	1,377
			6,447		6,447	5,542
12.4.2d Church Grants payable						
URC Ministry & Mission			3,926		3,926	2,546
Baptist Ministry & Mission			3,926		3,926	2,546
Baptist Northern College			150		150	150
Other grants and donations			170		170	195
			8,172		8,172	5,437

	1 st April 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 st March 2023	Prior Year 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
GC Cooker 2021						(1,440)
Church contributions to Centre				6,000	6,000	13,000
Transfer to Building Fund				51,384	51,384	
Total resources expended			56,629	57,384	114,013	66,281
Movement in fund for year to 31 st March 2023	146,346	60,050	(56,629)	(57,224)	92,543	146,346

12.5 Transfers into and out of General Fund in year

	Transfers into Fund	Transfers out of Fund	Net Transfers	Description	Date of Transfer
	£	£	£		£
Grove Centre Fund		6,000	(6,000)	Church contribution to Grove Centre costs	£500 pm
Grove Centre Fund		51,384	(51,384)	Nationwide balance transfer into building project funds	31/12/22
Friendship Group (Monday)	100		100	Donation to Church	23/11/22
Sarham Group	60		60	Closing balance of fund	31/03/23
Total transfers in / out	160	(57,384)	(57,224)		

13. Disclosure of trustee and staff remuneration, related party and other transactions

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	31 st March 2023	31 st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipend & Salaries	28,938	39,339			68,277	66,611
HMRC job support scheme						(2,992)
Employer's national insurance						304
Employer's pension contribution	4,952	917			5,869	8,322
Manse costs	5,980				5,980	6,061
Total	39,870	40,256			80,126	78,306
Average number of employees during year					5 (3.2 FTE)	5 (3.3 FTE)

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2022 none)

One Trustee, who is also an employee, lived in housing wholly owned by the church.

One Trustee was also a part time employee for delivery of the "Confidence in IT with Coffee" scheme.

Aggregate donations received from Trustees during year: 62,435 39,579

No sums were reimbursed to the Trustees for their work as Trustees (2022 none).

No sums were reimbursed to Saleemi Associates for their work as independent examiners (2022 none).

The Church pays pension contributions for its Minister to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the church. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

14. Related Charities

It is a policy of the church to make an equal contribution to the official schemes of the URC and the Baptist denominations in recognition of the shared heritage of The Grove Centre Church.

14.1 United Reformed Church

A custodian Trustee of the church is the United Reformed Church (Southern Province) Trust Limited which is charity number 282270.

The church made donations from General Funds to the URC Ministry & Mission Fund as set out under Grants payable.

14.2 Baptist Union Corporation

A custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and of the London Baptist Association.

The church made donations from General Funds to Baptist Ministry & Missions as set out under Grants payable.

15. Pensions

15.1 Baptist Pension Scheme

The Church is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers, the scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The Minister is eligible to join the Scheme.

The total pension cost for the Church for DC Plan contributions is £3,558 (Prior year £3,443).

15.2 Actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2019

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was carried out by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

The key assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of financial assumption	% p.a.
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income Increase Adjustment (above CPI)	0.50
Pre-retirement assumed investment returns (gilt yield plus 1.75% pa)	2.95
Post retirement assumed investment returns (including benefits matched by the insurance policy) (gilt yield plus 0.5% pa)	1.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 0.5%)	3.20
Deferred pension increases (based on RPI)	
- Pre April 2009	3.20
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
- Based on CPI with an annual floor of 0% and annual cap of 5%	2.70

Mortality is assumed in accordance with 80% of the S3NA standard mortality table. Future improvements projected from 2013 in line with the "CMI 2019" projection with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.75% p.a. for males and 1.5% p.a. for females with the core smoothing parameter and with additional initial mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

The total pension cost for the Church for DB Plan deficiency contributions is £1,393 (Prior year £4,111).

15.3 Recovery Plan

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan. Following the 2019 valuation a Recovery Plan was signed in September 2020 under which deficiency contributions are payable until June 2026. These contributions were broadly based on each employer's membership at 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules.

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

15.4 Movement in DB Plan Balance Sheet liability

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out in the table below.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance sheet liability at year start	18,100	22,940
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(1,393)	(4,111)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	526	104
Remaining change to balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	(17,232)	(834)
Balance sheet liability at year end	-	18,100

* Comprises any change in agreed deficit recovery plan and change in assumptions between year-ends.

This liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022	31 Mar 2021
Discount rate	5.6%	3.0%	0.5%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	3.4%	5.0%	3.2%

The Church has been advised that there is no debt for the church to buy out their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 March 2023. (Prior year £21,700). The Pension and BUGB Trustees sent a joint communication at the end of July 2022 regarding the Buy In with Just. As a result of that announcement no further employer debt estimate reports are being published for the time being. Effectively there is no shortfall debt at the present time. However, there will be an administrative cost of £1,000 to process any employers leaving the Scheme.

Treasurer's Statement

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 26 to 43 for the year ended 31st March 2023.



Mr Paul Treece, Church Treasurer

1st May 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Grove Centre Church

Year ended 31st March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Grove Centre Church (Charity No. 1129070) for the year ended 31st March 2023 set out on pages 26 to 43.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mohammad Saleemi-FCA

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Surrey

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Tel: 0208 777 3055

Date : 20/06/2023