

# The Grove Centre Church

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12 v 9-13*

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Inspired by the life, teaching, and example of Jesus, we aim to share God's transforming love with a wider community, where all can belong and flourish.

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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”. Inspired by the life, teaching, and example of Jesus, we aim to share God’s transforming love with a wider community, where all can belong and flourish. 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 through our Values:

- 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, sexuality, 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 services and provides 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.



### Church summer outing to Hall Place, Bexleyheath.

A group from The Grove made our way to Hall Place after church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. It was a nice day and we enjoyed the lovely gardens, friendly owls, and even some railway rides.



## 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.*

What a year! All best laid plans and expectations with the Building for the Future project.

We started the year with high hopes that the specification for the building works would go to tender and that we could get on with the work. Unfortunately, due to ongoing worldwide financial issues the tenders all came back as unaffordable. We did however have two contractors who were a lot closer and wanted to engage in finding cost reductions. This quickly reduced to one serious contractor. Alongside these discussions we realigned some of our priorities and asked the architects to revisit the plans. An alternative solution was agreed, retaining most of the component parts although direct cellar access was removed and the lift shaft retained in the current stairwell. A revised contract value within our affordability was proposed and accepted by a Special Church Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The revised scheme unfortunately required further listed building and planning approval and a "build over agreement" from Thames Water for the public sewer which runs between the buildings. This again pushed the timetable to commence all aspects back. We did, however, commence work with the elements that permission had already been granted for.



Before work started a number of work parties took place clearing the house of furniture and redundant items, storing equipment in the cellar and attic and relocating the shed. The Church agreed for us to use the Main Hall on Sunday afternoons allowing Childrens birthday parties to continue.

The appalling weather during the first part of 2024 has seriously hampered the work, and additional issues between the buildings were uncovered requiring additional work to ensure the main buildings foundations remain intact.

While not fully finished yet it is anticipated that we will have full access back in the first week of June 2024. An official opening is planned for after the summer holiday season.

Further fund raising is still required to install the essential lift, although all the preparation work for this has been completed.





## Building funds raised and grants awarded/received

We are very grateful to the following organisations who graciously supported us with grants or other funds for the building project, most of which are payable against expenses actually incurred:

- Baptist Union Corporation Limited agreed to a capital contribution of £190,680 from the funds raised originally in 2013 through the sale and then re-purchase of the Baptist manse. This will be received by transfer from Endowment funds in the 24/25 year.
- The United Reformed Church (Southern Synod) Trust Ltd, who matched the value of the Baptist contribution, before additional interest was added, with two grants totalling £185,539. Of this £112,430.31 was claimed in 23/24, leaving £73,108.69 to claim in 24/25.
- Benefact Trust - £23,000 grant received in 23/24.
- M&G Trust - £3,000 grant received in 23/24.
- Squire Patton Trust - £250 grant received in 23/24.
- City Bridge Trust - £2,625, specifically for an access audit, which was duly completed.
- Garfield Weston Trust - £30,000 grant to be claimed against expenses in 24/25.
- Hobson Trust - £10,000 grant to be claimed against expenses in 24/25.

After the special appeal raising £59,424 (including gift aid recoveries) in the prior year, a further £31,955 was raised locally from donations and gift aid in the current year. We were also very grateful for a legacy gift of £13,000. Funds in our accounts earned £4,774 in interest. Local fund raising events brought in £2,641 during the year, bringing the total raised for the building fund to £52,370 for the year, excluding grants. Further details are provided in the Financial Review.



## Education Fund

In 2023/24 the church used gifts received in prior years to continue to support a student with a bursary towards education costs. These were restricted gifts and could only be used for this specific purpose. The fund ceased to be active after June 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

This year we have been looking forward to our 50th Anniversary and reopening of the House after its major redevelopment, part of fulfilling our strapline of being 'A Place for People'.

Following over 10 years of planning and fundraising, building work started on the House in September. In church meetings we became aware – in words and pictures – of the overlapping activities of architects, planners, quantity surveyors, and builders. Especial thanks to Ian Warren for managing this project through frustrating and difficult times, often having to work around unforeseen snags.



One of our regular hall users - The Befrienders singing group – have adapted the song 'Held by the Hills' by Una McCann. These words capture something of what we set out to do:

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

So much of what enables us to function as a church in our community is done by faithful volunteers, to whom we are very grateful for their quiet, faithful service, and without whom we could not function.

Alison Cutts stood down as Church Secretary in July and Ian Bromley was elected to this role in September.



Our Sunday services throughout the year have offered guidance on how as a Church and Centre we can live up to our new Vision statement (adopted at the September Church Meeting):

*Inspired by the life, teaching, and example of Jesus, we aim to share God's transforming love with a wider community, where all can belong and flourish.*

We have continued to offer varied and creative services, especially around seasonal events, and streaming them to those unable to join us in person via Zoom.

May's Christian Aid Week service focussed on farmers in Malawi, raising £401. Our annual Harvest Service focussed on work supporting sustainable agriculture in Uganda, alongside raising £239 for BMS World Mission. Harvest offerings of goods were brought to be distributed by Lewisham Foodbank, likewise with the treats brought for our annual Christmas Gift service.

In November we held a successful launch of the new mural on the wall of the Nursery, overlooking our car park. The artwork depicting faces and group settings, representing people meeting in our spaces, was produced by young people from Sydenham School and inspired by photos of life at The Grove. We are thankful to their Head of Art, Mrs Henderson, who collaborated with Louise to cook-up the plan and bid for funding from Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022-23. The work is vibrant and will be a joy to admire from the Main Hall for many years to come.



Advent saw us sharing a sung communion in-the-round, having fun together at Café Christmas, All-age Nativity, Carol Service and Christmas Day Celebration. Our evening of advent carolling around the pubs of Sydenham had record attendance and raised a whopping £610.29(!) for Lewisham Foodbank. In this year's Christmas offering £357 was donated to Lewisham Churches for Asylum Seekers (LewCAS) and £35 to Lewisham Foodbank.



2023 concluded with our post-Christmas 'Informal' service, which this year took its theme from the historic Christian imagery in The Twelve Days of Christmas.



In February we welcomed Wendy Puccinini from the Leprosy Mission to preach, with Louise leading, in which we were educated and informed about leprosy and funds raised for the vital work of The Leprosy Mission.

This financial year was bookended with two Easters, in which we enjoyed ecumenical Palm Sunday services with St Bartholomew's and St Philip's Churches, and creative Good Friday services.



We have very much appreciated being led by the Beavers & Cubs for Parade Services in December and March, and

give thanks for them and their dedicated Akela, Julia Anstey. We look forward to being able to welcome the Scouts back into our new, enlarged facilities after many years

We continue to share in all-age worship monthly, encouraging all to worship together in an accessible way, and relieving pressure on our hard-working Junior Church leaders.

Louise continues to run a monthly outreach via gathering to play board/card games – see separate report – which draws a good number of people, predominantly from beyond the church, and has encouraged a family into regular worship with us this year.

Seasonal Study Groups have been enjoyed, with a 'Share the Light' Advent Series and surprisingly uplifting series on 'Failure' for Lent, led by Louise via zoom, allowing those who do not like going out in the dark evenings to participate from home.

We have been greatly blessed by the creation of a twice-monthly Tuesday prayer meeting, which has offered the opportunity for fellowship, and to lift the life of our fellowship before God: especially our building project.

Overall, we have achieved a lot, despite building disruption and stretched resources, for much of the year. We continue to give glory to God, and look forward to making use of our redeveloped premises, anticipating the adventures in which God will lead us in the coming year.

Ian Bromley / Rev Louise Polhill

Church Secretary / Minister 2023/24



## Review of the Year – Grove Centre

This has been a challenging and difficult year for the centre and me personally, not only coping with the impact of the building project but also having the retirement of our long-standing Manager/Administrator David Williams.

The planning for the impact of the building works and negotiating time and day changes for some of our user groups took time and care. In the main we retained most of our long standing user groups and look forward to welcoming them back into the new spaces.

The relocation of the office at exactly the same time as David's retirement while smooth left access to files and information in different places and was stressful for all concerned.

The Deacons agreed an updated Job specification for a new Manager/Administrator and a recruitment process was undertaken. From this we managed to recruit a new manager and while handover and induction time was limited and collided with the office move was managed. The new person, who did not come with any catering experience, managed the Christmas lunch superbly involving the volunteers.

Our Finance Secretary unfortunately became unwell and was unable to complete the monthly reconciliations from her hospital bed! This has also added to the issues to be handled through the latter part of the year.

Alongside the Trustees we have a steering group made up of representatives from the Church, the Ageing Well activities and lunch service. This assist us in ensuring we are aware of local needs as well as ensuring the needs of our regular user groups are considered.

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 were possible into the future.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the employed team (Alexandra, Tyrone and Richard) all of the volunteers who open and close the buildings and help with covering our cooks annual leave. It has also been good to see the many helpers at work parties to prepare the House for its makeover.

As I look forward to this coming year I hope we will have put the foundations in place to allow the Centre to grow and meet its core objectives for our local community. Having been acting as either Vice Chair, Finance Secretary or Chair for well over 30 years we are on the lookout for someone to take on this role in the future. I will not disappear and will remain in a supporting capacity for as long as is needed but the time has come for fresh ideas to come in and take the Centre forward.



Ian Warren,

Chair of Grove Centre Management 2023/24



## 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 2023/24 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 continue a full programme of social and fundraising events, despite the disruption of major building work.
- Successfully rearranged the community programme to maintain activities as far as possible.
- An art project with Sydenham School has produced a lively and vibrant new mural with adorns the external walls of the Nursery, funded through a Lewisham Borough of Culture Grant



- Junior Church included a number of successful activities and Junior Church continued on Sunday mornings. Cubs and Beavers also led us in worship.
- 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.
- Opportunities for older people to remain active and engaged for longer, both through the Church and the Centre, have continue to flourish and grow.
- The kitchen, serving the lunches, maintained the 5-star environmental health standard for quality and cleanliness continuing the valuable service to the community in a friendly environment.
- Through a 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 host the Blood Transfusion Service enabling regular blood donor sessions.
- Cherish Day Nursery continue to provide a valued service from our premises.
- We fund-raised for other charitable organisations that are dear to our hearts, including BMS World Mission, Lewisham Foodbank, Christian Aid and The Leprosy Mission.





- We continued major fund raising to achieve the development project to improve the accessibility of our facilities, in particular House Hall, and raised £52,370 towards the project.
- The Sharing Agreement with the United Reformed Church and Baptist Union of Great Britain was signed and sealed.

## 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
- Boardgame Club
- Lunch service (Mon, Tue, Wed & Friday)
- Cherish Day Nursery (Monday - Friday)
- 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 well over a decade, the Grove Centre Church has generously provided Ageing Well in Lewisham with space to host our weekly social/ activity groups for people aged 60+. Our programmes aim to reduce isolation and enhance the mental and physical well-being of older people, regardless of faith or culture, through activities that encourage social interaction, mobility, and creativity.

A number of Ageing Well's participants attend the Grove Centre's lunches as well as other church-organised groups at the Centre. The Grove is welcoming and supportive to all, and we look forward to being there every week. We are looking forward to having our new office space at The Grove from May!

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

### BEFRIENDERS (Tuesdays, 10 – 11:45 am)

No experience required to join this lively, creative singing group-- just a willingness to try new things and have fun. We are very lucky to have our amazing session leader, Natasha, who has been with the group for about 13 years. We have continued to work with Trinity Laban alumni, who have taken more hands-on roles in leading the group. We enjoy working with students and young people looking to gain experience in working with a community group.



The Befrienders also have developed a rewarding relationship over the past year with the local Venner Road Dementia Café, a group for people living with dementia and their carers. The Befrienders have visited the Venner Road group several times for a joint session of singing,



creativity, and friendship. The groups have celebrated together and collaborated on songs. One long-time Befrienders member, Avril, shared, "We are really thrilled that we have made this connection and long may it last." The group has definite plans to continue their outreach sessions to different locales in the upcoming year, bringing joy and song out into the community.

### **CRAFTS PLUS (Tuesdays, 1 – 3 pm)**

This relaxing and laid-back arts and crafts group offers fun, inspiring new projects every week. Participants have tried different painting and drawing techniques, collage, sculpture, and working with clay. We also enjoy upcycling materials such as used boxes



and bottles into new bespoke works of art. There is beauty all around us and everyone has their own unique, creative perspective to share.



"Now into my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of craft class and learning something new every time," shared regular attendee, Sue. "Everyone can enjoy the afternoon at their own pace, with no stress. I am really happy to be part of this gathering and would say come along and join us!"

### **BODY & BINGO**

**(Wednesdays, 10 -11:45 am)**

This popular group benefits from seated routines to music as well as varied exercises targeting specific, essential areas. "The sessions are beautiful," says Margaret. "They touch on all the places I have pain."

Our inspiring instructor, Ann Bagnall, joined us about a year ago and is talented at delivering to a range of abilities. She also keeps attendees' minds limber with fun word games. Body & Bingo members even used their weekly bingo games to do a little fundraising for The Grove Church's building works.



"I am so glad I joined this group," says Lindsey, who joined after the Covid pandemic. "And it wasn't an easy thing for me to come along the first time. Now I never plan anything else for a Wednesday morning."

Ageing Well in Lewisham hosted several concerts this past year at the Grove Centre to which we also invited Grove Centre Church members, Homewalk House residents from across the road, and neighbours in the area. We delighted in another fabulous Christmas sing-along from Albert's Band of the Royal Albert Hall as well as young classical musicians performing as part of the SongEasel project.

Ageing Well would like to sincerely thank the Grove Centre Church and the Grove Centre's staff and trustees for the space and assistance provided to us over the years. The welcoming space The Grove Centre Church provides us allows us to offer exciting projects, events, and opportunities for older people. We would not achieve what we do without this partnership.

**Winnie Carlson**

**Project Coordinator, Ageing Well in Lewisham**

*\*Funding for our groups over the year came from Lewisham Council's Main Grants Small Partnership Fund, Trinity Laban Conservatoire, the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy fund for the Sydenham ward, and Lewisham Local's Warm Welcomes fund.*



## Friendship Group

Is it a fact that time seems to go more quickly the older you get? It does not seem that a year has passed since I last wrote about the Friendship Group's activities for the annual report.

Our numbers remain roughly the same but it's always good to have other folk dropping in now and again. Members are now being asked to take a more proactive role in planning the program and to express their preferences. Quizzes, games, Scrabble and Beetle Drives remain very popular so they will continue to be included.

We are grateful to all who come to talk to us, thus this past year we learnt about the Russian Revolution, heard about of the work and the many duties of a former Bromley Mayoress. Memories of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and holidays in the Far East, Delft and Northumbria all have been entertaining and informative. An afternoon of music is always a joy, and we are indebted to Brian and Daniella who have become regular contributors. Also films on DVD have proved popular and St Andrew's Day was celebrated in poetry and song. Birthdays are always remembered, news is shared, tea and biscuits enjoyed, and conversation always flows.



Christmas was celebrated with music, mince pies and the making of festive hats which caused much laughter. We continue to support various charities at Christmas which included a donation to the Sydenham Dementia Café.

Friendship is the key word, and much love and laughter are shared on Monday afternoons. So why not come and join us?

Hats! Not exactly Ascot but good fun!

Avril Sydee, on behalf of the members of Friendship Group

## Cherish Nursery Annual Report

The Grove Centre Church continues to be a source of support and help. We've always felt that the church has been approachable and understanding. A firm favourite with the staff team are the lunches provided by the chefs. The staff team look forward to looking at the upcoming menu's and waiting for their hot lunches! Much needed during their busy days!

The nursery continues to thrive and this year makes 10 years of Cherish Day Nursery. This wouldn't have been achieved without the wonderful staff team, many of whom have been with the nursery through this timespan, and the support of the local community. The garden, well kept by the church, is a constant source of joy for the children and the staff team alike. It is full of nature and abundant with learning opportunities for our little ones. We were very grateful that the church kept us in mind when commencing the building works, they ensured that no matter what we were given safe access to the garden. We look forward to the completion of the building works and the benefits it will bring to the church but also our small community.

Bhavisha Tailor, Director

Cherish Day Nursery & Heartwood Forest School

Email: [info@cherishdaynursery.com](mailto:info@cherishdaynursery.com)

Website: [www.cherishdaynursery.com](http://www.cherishdaynursery.com)



## Dulwich Dog School Annual Report

The Economic climate has affected all of us, times are very hard at the moment and attendance for the classes are slightly down , everyone is being understandably careful. Fingers crossed 2024 will start to improve for everyone.

The Dulwich dog school is for dogs of all ages , some are from breeders and many are now older dogs from rescues.



The courses are for nine weeks , the first night being a talk night without the dogs.

The course is called the foundation course because we are putting down the foundations for the dogs to continue to learn.

We teach owners how to teach their dogs , loose lead

walking, recall, wait / stay, leave, not jumping up, play, handling, and diet. Training is fun for owners and their dogs.

On the last course a lady contacted me after it finished to thank me for how well her puppy Jack Russell was doing, her vet had complemented her on how well behaved she was at having her ears looked at , he stated normally Jack Russells are a bit feisty and don't like to be examined.



It's so nice to know we are helping people and their dogs, we wouldn't be able to do this without the use of the lovely Grove Centre Church hall.

These pictures of the dogs and their humans are from the first class of the new course.

Di Karn ( The Dulwich Dog School )  
[www.dulwichdogschool.co.uk](http://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.

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 evening, and is open to anyone to come along and join in.

We are 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. Louise brings 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 often start our evenings with games that work for everyone playing together, before splitting into smaller groups to play a variety of games.

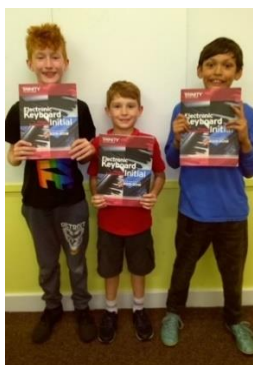


Members of the group often bring drinks and snacks to share, and we often have around 15 people enjoying friendship and fun together. We have grown such that it's getting a bit crowded and we are on the brink of moving to the bigger hall!

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

Revd Louise Polhill

## Funky Monkey Keyboard Classes



Funky Monkey Keyboard Classes have had a relatively quiet year in Sydenham with just 2 classes running on Tuesday afternoons, but the smaller classes have worked well in our temporary space in the coffee bar!

David, as usual, was super helpful ensuring all our kit was both safe and easily accessible just before he retired and it's great to have the loos so close by to where the children are learning.



Our previous teacher, Armand left to return to Indonesia and luckily we quickly managed to find an awesome replacement teacher in the form of local pianist and teacher Trevor Wensley (pictured).

He has taken up the Funky Monkey mantle with great ease and professionalism and the kids are now working towards their Trinity Initial Keyboard Exam, at which point they will graduate from our scheme.



We also offer informal no fail progress exams held at the centre, and you can see the pride in the Frimpong boys from Thornton Heath as they proudly show off their certificates!

We are hoping that business will pick up again for September - it's been tricky financial times for so many in London, but hopefully our reputation and resilience will see us through as we have been in Sydenham for over 15 years now!

Ali Edwards, Director and Founder [www.funkymonkey.info](http://www.funkymonkey.info) 01732 457100

## Junior Church Annual Report

Junior Church starts at 10.30am as part of the adult church service. We then break out for our own activities, aiming to finish at the same time as the adult service. Currently we have a single mixed age group ranging from about age 5 to 13 years.



We aim to explore and nurture Christian faith through participating in activities, stories, discussion, music, art, craftwork, and games. Along with the main church we practice a progressive Christian ethos. It is usual for parents to be attending the church service. We do need contact details and any relevant medical information first.

We aim to provide a safe environment, in a ground floor hall, close to the church morning service. As a church we take our responsibilities for safeguarding seriously. Our safeguarding policies can be viewed on the website.

We are currently staffed by regular, experienced, trained leaders with support from other church members. We can cater for a range of children's abilities and ages ranging from crèche through to secondary school ages. We use published resources including "Spill The Beans" which, like the main adult services, follows the Narrative Lectionary. Approximately once a month, instead of Junior Church, there is an "All Age" church service.

### Changes during the year

For much of this year we have relocated to the Church vestibule during the building works. This has often allowed a joyful sharing with the attending adults of some of the creative work that Junior Church has been doing that morning.

### Administration

Our administrator is Richard Neal, with support from Grace Harawa.

### Example of a recent session

In a recent Junior Church session we took a healing story from early in the books of Acts. We explored what healing feels like when it happens to us. We then built some life size stick puppets from canes, coat hangers and clothes to tell the story. The stick puppets were shared with the adult service, displaying walking and leaping.

### Teenagers

Teenagers, when present, are encouraged in discussion as well as the practical activities.

### Achievements.

- There are the week by week achievements in seeing young people successfully learning and exploring together and reporting an enjoyable time, of letting young people see in the role models of the leaders an active and questioning Christian faith.

- Then there are the much longer term achievements of seeing those young people mature into adults, participating actively in many spheres, often continuing to express their faith in God, even more often taking up positive roles and careers helping to serve people and care for our planet.

### **Wider activities**

We have a range of activities through the year outside of Sunday services – including seasonal parties, sessions in members’ houses and trips. Our most recent event was a much enjoyed 10 pin bowling outing.



### **Invitation**

If you would like your children to join us then either, just come with them to a church service at the Grove Centre Church, or if you would prefer to chat to our Minister first, she can be contacted at [grove.rev@gmail.com](mailto:grove.rev@gmail.com) or on 020 82443869

**Richard Neal**

Junior Church Leader for The Grove Centre Church



## **Grove Centre Church Music Group**

Music plays an important part in 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.

At our regular 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.

We are currently preparing for the 50th Anniversary of the Grove Centre, and have been looking back at music that has been meaningful in the past.

We will often discuss whether a piece of music would enhance our worship and how best to use it; however the choice of music for worship on a Sunday is made by the preacher.

We value the service of our instrumentalists, and appreciate the quality of the music provided on a weekly basis. We have recently successfully appealed for gifts to purchase a new piano, we are delighted that this will be in place for the anniversary.

**You are welcome to come and join us and you do not have to be able to read music.**

**Anne Neal**



## Giggles After-School Club Annual Report

Giggles have been working with Lewisham Council's Healthy Activities and Food programme (HAF) for 2 years now. Our aim is to provide children with physical activities, have discussions about healthy choices and healthy foods and also to help support parents with a little respite while their child is safe and having fun.

We apply for funding each year for Christmas, Easter and summer school holidays as well as funding for the February and May half terms. The funding is for all children who receive free school meals or those families that need support. We can offer up to 50 children this great opportunity to engage in fun activities like archery, multi-sport, football skills and fencing.



We also have applied for extra funding to take the group of children on our trips. So far children have been to the cinema, bowling and we even took 45 children to the theatre to watch Jack and the Beanstalk.

We provide all the children with a hot healthy lunch. To support the understanding of healthy food and what the benefits are we buy fresh food and cook from scratch. The children help prepare chicken, mince and fish, season it and peel and chop the vegetables. The children love this. They always eat it as they took part in the preparation.

Please visit our website at: [www.giggleskidsclub.co.uk](http://www.giggleskidsclub.co.uk)

Email address: [gigglesnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gigglesnews@hotmail.co.uk)



## 9<sup>th</sup> Sydenham Beavers and Cubs Annual Report

Since the end of Covid restrictions, 9th Sydenham Scouting has grown back to full sections. Currently we have Beavers and Cubs who meet at the Grove Centre. We are looking forward to our Scouts meeting in the Grove Centre as well, as soon as the new House Hall becomes available.

We have 18 beavers, 25 cubs, 15 scouts and 2 young leaders (aged 14 – 17 years), both boys and girls. Also we have 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 include 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, cubs and scouts had weekends staying over at our local District campsite near Selsdon, which we are booked to replicate this coming year.



We have strong links with the Grove Centre. The Grove Centre church has a formal sponsorship agreement with 9th Sydenham Scout group, which includes representation on our Trustee Board. We continue to be grateful for all their support. We held church parades service in December and March, where the children have made an active contribution to the service. Also, we have delivered Christmas bulbs to older members of the



congregation in December, 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 it 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. We love to welcome new members and we also have a website and helpline that people can call.

The meeting has grown in attendance numbers this year and we are welcoming more newcomers including those at their first meeting.

Our group are very grateful for the use of the large space during the refurbishment, it was nice and warm during the winter and it's a lovely hall. We are looking forward to the completion of the house hall and getting back into there in due course.

At over 40 years old 'Jews walk Tuesday' is one of the longest running meetings in south London. We regularly have sober visitors who say I haven't been here for 20 years.

## **Additional comments**

**NHS Blood Transfusion Unit**

The Centre always supports with our bookings where possible and helps to ensure the smooth running of our bookings. Even during your refurbishment, you always found a way to confirm the bookings we requested.



I haven't had any reported issues from our Mobile team regarding the centre when they attend. You are supporting us to allow donors in the area to donate blood to help save and improve patients' lives.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

### Parents of Eliot Bank Primary School

Parents of Eliot Bank Primary School hired the Grove Centre Church hall for an end of year school disco for its Year 6 children in July 2023. We wanted to bring the two classes (60 children) together to celebrate and commemorate the end of their primary school education. We felt this was particularly important as since covid has impacted our children's education significantly over the past few years it gave us an opportunity to bring them together in a safe, accessible and appropriate space to mark this momentous occasion

All of my communication with the Grove Centre Church has been very friendly and helpful. David enabled our team of volunteer parents to access the hall for these two events and provided everything we needed e.g. kitchen access, electricity for DJ booth, chairs and tables etc..

We are lucky to have this wonderful community resource on our doorstep and hope there will be future occasions for the children of Eliot Bank school to utilise it further.

Philippa Barr





## 1.4 Financial Review

### Treasurer's Report

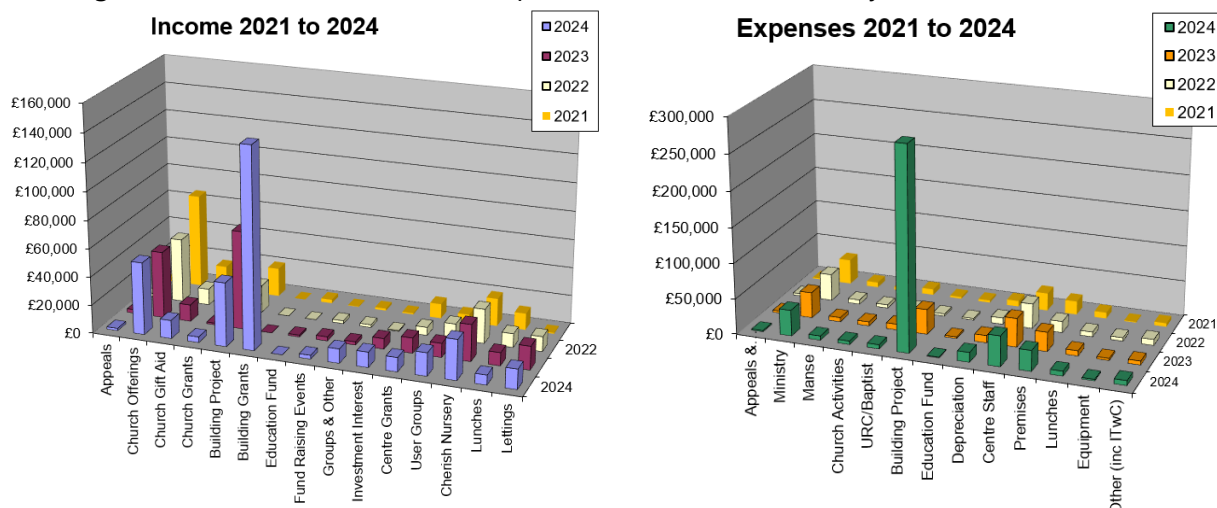
The Grove Centre Church accounts consist of the Church General Fund (shown as the "Unrestricted Fund"), the Grove Centre Management Committee ("Grove Centre Designated Fund"), a number of smaller funds and appeals, and the valuation of the premises with which the church is endowed through the Baptist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

Regular donations to the Church, through standing orders, envelope giving, and the open plate totalled £48,967 (Prior year £46,395), a 5.5% increase.

Income was supported by £2,135 of one-off donations, £100 from the Friendship Group and a grant of £4,000 towards buildings maintenance from the United Reformed Church Southern Synod. We received £12,918 of gift aid recoveries (prior year £11,859), and £606 of interest earned on accounts, bringing overall General Fund income to £68,726, up 14% from £60,210 in 2022/23.

Church expenses excluding contributions to the Centre were £52,499 (prior year £56,629), a decrease of 7.3%, due to reduced pension and denominational contributions, and a one-off legal cost in the previous year. However a contribution of £12,300 was needed towards Grove Centre costs (prior year £6,000), to offset lower income from lettings during the building project. The General Fund also transferred £40,000 to Building for the Future (prior year £51,384).

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 (Designed and Restricted Funds)

After the special appeal raising £59,424 (including gift aid recoveries) in the prior year, a further £31,955 was raised locally from donations and gift aid in the current year. We were also very grateful for a legacy gift of £13,000. Funds in our seven-day account with the Baptist Union Corporation and Nationwide Building Society earned £4,774, making £52,370 income for the year.

The following grants totalling £141,305 were also received during the year:

- URC Southern Synod - £112,430
- Benefact Trust - £23,000
- M&G Trust - £3,000
- Squire Patton Trust - £250
- City Bridge Trust - £2,625 (for access audit)

Additional grants were promised for the project and are expected to be received during 2024/25 as project expenditure is reclaimed from grant funders.

Local fund raising raised £2,641 during the year. This came from:

Coffee mornings & cakes - £43.02	David Williams fund raising - £30.00
Quiz Night April 2023 - £405.50	Quiz Night November 2023 - £1,067.64
Table Sale July 2023 - £780.05	Christmas Hamper raffle - £315.00

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

Expenses were incurred for architect work, quantity surveyors and various professional and building fees, including additional insurance. About 30% of the main building contract was delivered, with the rest due to be completed before the end of May 2024.

Legal work to execute the new Sharing Agreement and make the Baptist capital contribution from former manse sale funds available was also completed in the year.

In total £283,466 was expended during the year, towards a total project budget of £730,000. The Restricted expenditure of £281,766 was capitalised as work in progress and then written down to £1 after transfer into the Endowment Fund which owns the premises.

Building Funds have a year-end surplus of £163,128 from prior and current year funds.

An additional £24,000 is available from General Funds, £190,680 from the former manse sale, plus grants of £73,109 from URC Southern Synod, £30,000 from Garfield Weston Trust and £10,000 from Hobson Trust. **We have £327,789+£163,128 available or promised to complete Phase 1.**

### **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 were restricted gifts that could only be used for this specific purpose. £750 was provided in bursary support during the financial year, completing the planned bursaries and bringing the scheme to an end.

### **Other Charitable Appeals**

Charitable appeals raised £601 for Christian Aid Week, £401 for The Leprosy Mission and £239 towards the Baptist World Mission "Days of Plenty" Harvest Appeal supporting farmers in Uganda. £357 was donated to Lewisham Churches for Asylum Seekers and £35 to Lewisham Foodbank, both Christmas offerings, in addition to funds raised by carol singing for the Foodbank which was provided direct and not included in church accounts this year. The total donated was £1,633.

### **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 in 2022. This was used to enable Sydenham School to purchase art material to renew the art displayed on the Youth Hall. The new art installation was completed and installed in November 2023.

Paul Treece,

Church Treasurer 2023/24

### **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 £2,717 over the previous year. Within this the Church has needed to support the centre with an additional £6,300 to ensure that the Grove had sufficient funds during

the building works on House Hall, we managed to grow the income by squeezing most of our user groups into the Main Hall and by using the Church space on a Sunday afternoon for lettings. This would not be possible without the help of the volunteers and staff who open and closed 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. While the lunch service is valued by those who need it, the number of lunches being served continued to decline. We are trying to improve the menu options and meet the needs of those attending but numbers fluctuate up and down and make decisions on how to grow this quite a challenge.

Costs, excluding the major works grew overall compared to the prior year by £4,845. Increase in salaries, cost of electricity, gas, stationery, and telephone accounted for most of this. We know next year will be more challenging with the increase in the minimum wage and efforts to reach the London Living wage.

Taking this into account, the Centre made a small loss of £256 for the year. It is challenging looking forward to predict what next year has in store, as the building project completion is slightly delayed and we need to work to rebuild the revenue streams further.

Sadly, halfway through the year our Finance Secretary had to relinquish her role due to surgery leaving this role to be picked up by myself. I have been supported and am very grateful for the ongoing work of our Centre Managers/Administrators who inputs the data, and to Paul Treece who then checks and inputs the Centre accounts into the main Church/Charity accounts.

**Ian Warren, on behalf of Carole Eaton,**  
**Finance Secretary 2023/24**

## **Accounting Standards**

The Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 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 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 £223,398 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, equivalent to 17.5 months' income (excluding special funds). This is £185,208 above the minimum three-month level of £38,190. This is in addition to the £190,680 available from the sale of the former Baptist manse.

After providing for three months' reserves, the Church had £375,888 in funds that could be used towards Building for the Future. This has the agreement of both parent denominations and Church Meeting.

## **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 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](http://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:	Mr Ian Bromley (appointed 12 Nov 2023) Mrs Alison Cutts (resigned 9 July 2023)
Church Treasurer:	Mr Paul Treece
Chair of Grove Centre Management:	Mr Ian Warren
Grove Centre Financial Secretary:	Mrs Carole Eaton
Deacons:	Mr Ian Bromley (resigned 12 Nov 2023) Mrs Janet Clark-Gardiner (appointed 17 Sep 2023) Mrs Grace Harawa Dr Richard Neal Mrs Avril Sydee Mrs Judith Warren (retired 9 July 2023)
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 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	2a	68,020	55,932	152,042		275,994	146,107
Charitable activities	2b		65,490			65,490	61,729
Other trading activities	2c		2,654			2,654	3,211
Investment income	2d	606	5,012	12	5,141	10,771	7,437
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>68,626</b>	<b>129,088</b>	<b>152,054</b>	<b>5,141</b>	<b>354,909</b>	<b>218,484</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising Funds	3a						145
Charitable activities							
Grant funding of activities	3b	5,849	590	2,383		8,822	13,288
Church activities undertaken directly	3c	46,650	269		13,667	60,586	57,979
Grove Centre Church		52,499	859	2,383	13,667	69,408	71,412
Restricted Grants	3d			212		212	688
Grove Centre Management	3e		87,340			87,340	82,495
Building Project	3f		1,700			1,700	34,978
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>52,499</b>	<b>89,899</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>13,667</b>	<b>158,660</b>	<b>189,573</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		16,127	39,189	149,459	(8,526)	196,249	28,911
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		(52,200)	(88,261)	(141,305)	281,766		
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>							
Net gains/(losses) on revaluations of fixed assets	4				(667)	(667)	48,618
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	15						18,100
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		(36,073)	(49,072)	8,154	272,573	195,582	130,916
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total Funds brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023		92,543	217,715	1,457	2,413,326	2,725,041	2,629,412
<b>Total Funds carried forward 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>		<b>56,470</b>	<b>168,643</b>	<b>9,611</b>	<b>2,685,899</b>	<b>2,920,623</b>	<b>2,725,041</b>

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



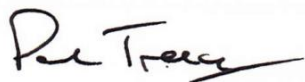
### 3. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	General	Designated	Funds	Funds		
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>							
Tangible fixed assets	4	1,715			2,495,219	2,496,934	2,230,230
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		1,715			2,495,219	2,496,934	2,230,230
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Debtors	5	12,598	7,039	1,870		21,507	23,167
Investments	6		46,742		190,680	237,422	377,507
Bank and Cash	7	42,157	118,348	7,741		168,246	98,308
<i>Total current assets</i>		54,755	172,129	9,611	190,680	427,175	498,982
<b>Current Liabilities</b>							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8		3,486			3,486	(4,171)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>							
<i>Net current assets</i>		54,755	168,643	9,611	190,680	423,689	494,811
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		56,470	168,643	9,611	2,685,899	2,920,623	2,725,041
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year							
<i>Net assets or (liabilities) excluding pension liability</i>		56,470	168,643	9,611	2,685,899	2,920,623	2,725,041
Defined benefit pension scheme (liability)							
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>		<b>56,470</b>	<b>168,643</b>	<b>9,611</b>	<b>2,685,899</b>	<b>2,920,623</b>	<b>2,725,041</b>
<b>Charity Funds</b>							
Endowment funds	9				1,636,705	1,636,705	1,645,230
Revaluation reserve	4				1,049,194	1,049,194	768,096
Restricted funds	10			9,611		9,611	1,457
<i>Total restricted funds</i>				9,611	2,685,899	2,695,510	2,414,783
Designated funds	11		168,643			168,643	217,715
Unrestricted funds	12	56,470				56,470	92,543
Pension reserve	15						
<i>Total unrestricted funds</i>		56,470	168,643			225,113	310,258
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>		<b>56,470</b>	<b>168,643</b>	<b>9,611</b>	<b>2,685,899</b>	<b>2,920,623</b>	<b>2,725,041</b>

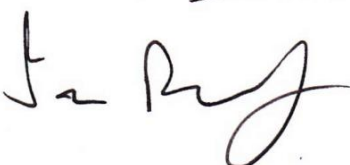
The notes on pages 29 to 43 form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and are signed on their behalf by

Church Treasurer



Church Secretary



## 4. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

Furniture and equipment in the church premises and manse purchased before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 is considered fully depreciated to zero net book value. Building renewals and improvements, furniture and equipment over at least £1,000 purchased after 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>2a Donations and Legacies</b>						
Charitable appeals			1,582		1,582	2,348
Standing order giving	41,847	60			41,907	40,860
Envelope scheme	5,848				5,848	4,625
Church collections	1,272				1,272	970
Sundry donations	2,135	917			3,052	1,789
Tax refunds under Gift Aid	12,918		51		12,969	11,977
Grants received	4,000				4,000	250
Grove Centre Church	68,020	977	1,633		70,630	62,819
Sundry donations			7,285		7,285	
Tax refunds under Gift Aid			1,819		1,819	
Organ (Piano) Fund			9,104		9,104	
Sundry donations						1,040
Tax refunds under Gift Aid						260
Education Fund						1,300
Sundry donations		25,600			25,600	47,879
Tax refunds under Gift Aid		6,355			6,355	11,545
Legacies		13,000			13,000	10,000
Grants received			141,305		141,305	10,000
Building Project		44,955	141,305		186,260	69,424
Sundry donations						900
Grants received		10,000			10,000	11,664
Grove Centre Management		10,000			10,000	12,564
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,020</b>	<b>55,932</b>	<b>152,042</b>		<b>275,994</b>	<b>146,107</b>



	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>2b Charitable activities</b>						
Lunches service		6,935			6,935	9,239
Cherish nursery		28,310			28,310	25,934
Grove Centre user groups		16,218			16,218	9,905
Grove Centre lettings		14,027			14,027	16,651
Grove Centre Management		65,490			65,490	61,729
<b>Total</b>		<b>65,490</b>			<b>65,490</b>	<b>61,729</b>
<b>2c Income from other trading activities</b>						
Building fund events		2,641			2,641	2,924
Grove Centre Church		2,641			2,641	2,924
Traidcraft & Fair Trade						118
Office services		13			13	57
Lunches social						112
Grove Centre Management		13			13	287
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,654</b>			<b>2,654</b>	<b>3,211</b>
<b>2d Investment Income</b>						
Bank interest	606	238	12		856	202
Investment interest		4,774			4,774	2,918
BUC Manse Trust TS106				5,141	5,141	4,317
<b>Total</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>5,012</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5,141</b>	<b>10,771</b>	<b>7,437</b>

### 3. Expenditure Notes

<b>3a Raising Funds</b>						
Building project (book of grants)						145
<b>Total</b>						<b>145</b>
<b>3b Grant funding of activities</b>						
Charitable appeals (10.4)			1,633		1,633	2,466
Friendship Group grants (11.6)		590			590	400
Church grants (12.4.2d)	5,849				5,849	8,172
Grants to institutions	5,849	590	1,633		8,072	11,038
Education fund (10.7)			750		750	2,250
Grants to individuals			750		750	2,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,849</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>2,383</b>		<b>8,822</b>	<b>13,288</b>
<b>3c Church activities undertaken directly</b>						
Ministry costs (12.4.2a)	36,324				36,324	36,030
Manse costs (12.4.2b)	5,712				5,712	5,980
Church activities (12.4.2c)	4,614				4,614	6,447
Endowments depreciation				13,667	13,667	9,198
Friendship Group (Monday)		269			269	324
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,650</b>	<b>269</b>		<b>13,667</b>	<b>60,586</b>	<b>57,979</b>
<b>3d Restricted grant-funded activities undertaken directly</b>						
Borough of Culture grant			212		212	688
<b>Total</b>			<b>212</b>		<b>212</b>	<b>688</b>

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>3e Grove Centre Management activities undertaken directly</b>						
Staff costs (11.5.2a)		42,612			42,612	40,256
Food costs (11.5.2b)		6,806			6,806	7,338
Equipment costs (11.5.2c)		2,101			2,101	2,910
Premises costs (11.5.2d)		28,960			28,960	27,092
Other costs (11.5.2e)		6,861			6,861	4,899
<b>Total</b>		<b>87,340</b>			<b>87,340</b>	<b>82,495</b>
<b>3f Building Project activities undertaken directly</b>						
Preparatory & minor works		343			343	2,712
Architects & professional fees						29,820
Legal fees & charges		1,357			1,357	2,446
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,700</b>			<b>1,700</b>	<b>34,978</b>

### 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 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>4.1 Cost</b>						
Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	2,259,356			62,826	2,322,182	2,260,050
Additions (major works)	281,766				281,766	13,514
Disposals	(13,338)			(1,613)	(14,951)	
Revaluation of fixed assets	(667)				(667)	48,618
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	2,527,117			61,213	2,588,330	2,322,182
<b>4.2 Accumulated Depreciation</b>						
Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	51,302			40,650	91,952	81,706
Net charge for the year	10,371			4,024	14,395	10,246
Disposals	(13,361)			(1,590)	(14,951)	
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	48,312			43,084	91,396	91,952
<b>4.3 Net Book Value</b>						
Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	2,208,054			22,176	2,230,230	2,178,344
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	2,478,805			18,129	2,496,934	2,230,230

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.

Notes	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>4.4 Tangible fixed assets by fund</b>						
Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	2,443			2,227,787	2,230,230	2,178,344
Additions (major works)				281,766	281,766	13,514
Depreciation	(728)			(13,667)	(14,395)	(10,246)
Revaluation of fixed assets				(667)	(667)	48,618
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	1,715			2,495,219	2,496,934	2,230,230
Revaluation reserve				(1,049,194)	(1,049,194)	768,096
Book value before revaluation	1,715			1,446,025	1,447,740	1,462,134

Notes	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>5 Debtors</b>						
<b>5.1 Debtors at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>						
HMRC – Gift Aid Receivable	12,598	6,355	1,870		20,823	22,208
Cherish Nursery Receivable		684			684	959
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	12,598	7,039	1,870		21,507	23,167
<b>5.2 Movements on debtors in year</b>						
Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	11,535	11,254	378		23,167	19,142
Movement in year	1,063	(4,215)	1,492		(1,660)	4,026
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	12,598	7,039	1,870		21,507	23,167
<b>6 Investments (short term)</b>						
<b>6.1 Investments at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>						
BUC Manse Trust TS106				190,680	190,680	185,539
BUC GT022 7-Day A/c		46,742			46,742	191,968
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024		46,742		190,680	237,422	377,507
<b>6.2 Movements on investments (short term) in year</b>						
Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023		191,968		185,539	377,507	242,972
Additional deposits in year						190,000
Addition of interest in year		4,774		5,141	9,915	7,235
Disposals withdrawn in year		(150,000)			(150,000)	(62,700)
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024		46,742		190,680	237,422	377,507
<b>7 Bank and Cash</b>						
<b>7.1 Bank and cash at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>						
Co-operative Church A/c	32,080	110,271	7,741		150,092	31,016
Nationwide Instant Saver A/c	10,077	5,179			15,256	64,400
HSBC Grove Centre A/c		2,505			2,505	2,395
Cash Grove Centre A/c		41			41	98
Cash Friendship Monday Group		352			352	399
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	42,157	118,348	7,741		168,246	98,308
<b>7.2 Movements on bank and cash in year</b>						
Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	78,565	18,664	1,079		98,308	214,231
Movement in year	15,186	187,707	(133,811)		69,082	(116,125)
Addition of interest in year	606	238	12		856	202
Transfers between funds	(52,200)	(88,261)	140,461			
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	42,157	118,348	7,741		168,246	98,308
<b>8 Creditors</b>						
<b>8.1 Creditors at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (falling due within 12 months)</b>						
Hall hire deposits held		1,021			1,021	2,150
Utilities accrued costs		2,465			2,465	2,021
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024		3,486			3,486	4,171
<b>8.2 Movements on creditors in year</b>						
Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023		4,171			4,171	7,177
Movement in year		(685)			(685)	(3,006)
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024		3,486			3,486	4,171



## 9. Endowment Funds

### 9.1 Movement in Endowment Funds during year

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grove Centre Church and Youth Hall, Jews Walk	1,022,080		5,730	130,149		1,146,499
Grove Centre House, 2 Jews Walk	814,971		7,778	(177,686)	281,766	911,273
Baptist Manse	576,275	5,141	159	46,870		628,127
Movement in funds for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	2,413,326	5,141	(13,667)	(667)	281,766	2,685,899

### 9.2 Assets in Endowment Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
			Gift Aid / Receivable	Investments (short term) Bank / cash	
Grove Centre Church and Youth Hall, Jews Walk	1,146,499				1,146,499
Grove Centre House, 2 Jews Walk	911,273				911,273
Baptist Manse	437,447			190,680	628,127
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	2,495,219			190,680	2,685,899
Revaluation reserve	(1,049,194)				(1,049,194)
Book value before revaluation	1,446,025			190,680	1,636,705

### 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 (Restricted)	281,766		281,766	Building Phase 1 wip	31/3/24
Total transfers in / out	281,766		281,766		

### 9.4 Movement in Endowment Funds (prior year)

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	2,356,075	4,317	(9,198)	48,618	13,514	2,413,326

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> January 1972.

The Building Fund Phase 1 asset under construction was transferred into the fund at 31/3/24 but written down to £1. When the building project is completed the asset will be re-valued based on the finished work.

### 9.7 Baptist Manse

The land and buildings of the Baptist Manse, 41 Beaulieu Avenue, purchased on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church & Centre Appeals		1,633	1,633			
Organ Fund (Restricted)	495	9,116				9,611
Education Fund (Restricted)	750		750			
Building Project (Restricted)		141,305			(141,305)	
Borough of Culture (Restricted)	212		212			
Movement in funds for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	1,457	152,054	(2,595)		(141,305)	9,611

### 10.2 Assets in Restricted Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Debtors Due within 12 months	Net Current Assets			31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
	£	£	Gift Aid Receivable	Investments (short term)	Bank / cash	£
Church & Centre Appeals			51		(51)	
Organ Fund (Restricted)			1,819		7,792	9,611
Education Fund (Restricted)						
Building Project (Restricted)						
Borough of Culture (Restricted)						
Carried forward 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2024			1,870		7,741	9,611

### 10.3 Movement in Restricted Funds (prior year)

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	2,187	4,675	(5,405)			1,457

### 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 2024	Description	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Christian Aid Week	601		601	Christian Aid Week	926
The Leprosy Mission	401		401	DEC Turkey/Syria appeal	535
BMS Harvest Uganda	239		239	BMS Harvest Good Land	343
LewCAS Christmas offering	306	51	357	LewCAS Christmas offering	242
Foodbank offering	35		35	Foodbank carols & offering	420
Total for Church Appeals	1,582	51	1,633		2,466

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 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£

### 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.

Donations to fund		7,285			7,285	1,040
Income tax recovery		1,819			1,819	260
Interest on investments		12			12	8
Total for Organ Fund (Rest)	495	9,116			9,611	495

### 10.6 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
Income tax recovery						260
Education bursaries & grants			750			(2,250)
Movement in fund for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	750		(750)			750

### 10.7 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.

Transfers in from other funds			140,461	140,461	
Grant – URC Southern Synod	112,430				
Grant – Benefact Trust	23,000				
Grant – M&G Trust	3,000				
Grant – Squire Patton Trust	250				
Grant – City Bridge Trust (for access audit)	2,625				
Total incoming resources	141,305		140,461	281,766	
Insurance for building works			1,895	1,895	
Main building contract H.Goodsell & Son Ltd.			234,035	234,035	
Architect & other professional advice & fees			45,836	45,836	
Total resources expended			281,766	281,766	
Movement in fund for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	141,305		(141,305)		

### 10.7a Transfers into and out of Building Fund (Restricted) in year

	Transfers into Fund	Transfers out of Fund	Net Transfers	Description	Date of Transfer
	£	£	£		
Building Fub (Designated)	140,461		140,461	Funds for building project	31/03/24
BU/URC Trusts (Endowment)		281,766	(281,766)	Building Phase 1 wip	31/03/24
Total transfers in / out	140,461	(281,766)	(141,305)		

### 10.8 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
Art materials & sundries			212	212	(688)
Movement in fund for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	212		(212)		212



## 11. Designated Funds

### 11.1 Movement in Designated Funds during year

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Project (Designated)	202,263	52,370	1,700		(89,805)	163,128
Grove Centre Management	(719)	75,503	87,340		12,300	(256)
Friendship Group (Monday)	399	917	859		(105)	352
Organ Fund (Designated)	635	16			(651)	-
Youth Project	15,137	282			(10,000)	5,419
Movement in funds for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	217,715	129,088	(89,899)		(88,261)	168,643

Tangible Fixed Assets	Creditors Due within 12 months	Net Current Assets			31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
		Rent/Gift Aid Receivable	Investments (short term)	Bank / cash	
£	£	£	£	£	£

### 11.2 Assets in Designated Funds

Building Project (Designated)		6,355	46,742	110,031	163,128
Grove Centre Management	(3,486)	684		2,546	(256)
Fellowship Group (Monday)				352	352
Organ Fund (Designated)				-	-
Youth Project				5,419	5,419
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	(3,486)	7,039	46,742	118,348	168,643

### 11.3 Movement in Designated Funds (prior year)

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	142,904	149,443	(118,342)		43,710	217,715

### 11.4 Building Project (Designated)

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
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		25,600		50,656	76,256	99,463
Social and fund raising events		2,641			2,641	2,924
Legacies received		13,000			13,000	10,000
Income tax recovery		6,355			6,355	11,545
Interest received		4,774			4,774	2,079
Total incoming resources		52,370		50,656	103,026	126,011

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund raising costs						145
Preparatory & minor works			343		343	2,712
Bank charges			25		25	
Architects & professional fees						29,820
Legal advice & fees			1,332		1,332	2,446
Total resources expended			1,700		1,700	35,123
Major Works (GC House Boiler)						7,194
Major Works (Building Project)				140,461	140,461	
Total resources expended			1,700	140,461	142,161	42,317
Movement in fund for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	202,263	52,370	(1,700)	(89,805)	163,128	202,263

#### 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	40,000		40,000	Funds for building project	27/11/23
Friendship Group (Monday)	5		5	Funds for building project	03/12/23
Organ Fund (Designated)	651		651	Funds for building project	31/03/24
Youth Fund	10,000		10,000	Funds for building project	27/11/23
Building Fund (Restricted)		140,461	(140,461)	Funds for building project	31/03/24
Total transfers in / out	50,656	(140,461)	(89,805)		

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£

#### 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.

##### 11.5.1 Grove Centre Income

Donations and legacies						
Sundry donations						900
Grove Centre Church				12,300	12,300	6,000
Grants received (LBL)		10,000			10,000	10,764
		10,000		12,300	22,300	17,664
Charitable activities						
Lunches service		6,935			6,935	9,239
Cherish nursery		28,310			28,310	25,934
Grove Centre user groups		16,218			16,218	10,949
Grove Centre lettings		14,027			14,027	16,651
		65,490			65,490	62,773
Other trading activities						
Traidcraft & Fair Trade						118
Office services		13			13	57
Lunches social						112
		13			13	287
Total incoming resources		75,503		12,300	87,803	80,724

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>11.5.2 Grove Centre Expenditure</b>						
<b>11.5.2a Staff Costs</b>						
Centre staff salaries			41,359		41,359	39,339
Employer pension contribution			1,253		1,253	917
			42,612		42,612	40,256
<b>11.5.2b Food Costs</b>						
Lunches service food			6,806		6,806	7,205
Traidcraft & fair trade food						133
			6,806		6,806	7,338
<b>11.5.2c Equipment Costs</b>						
Equipment purchases						299
Equipment maintenance			702		702	1,212
Equipment leasing			1,399		1,399	1,399
			2,101		2,101	2,910
<b>11.5.2d Premises Costs</b>						
Minor works / maintenance			4,829		4,829	8,828
Centre Electricity			6,594		6,594	4,846
Centre Gas			9,956		9,956	6,549
Waste Collection			1,051		1,051	1,147
Water and Sewerage			1,923		1,923	1,908
Cleaning materials/services			2,332		2,332	1,766
Insurance			2,275		2,275	2,048
			28,960		28,960	27,092
<b>11.5.2e Other Costs</b>						
Licences			551		551	231
Centre sundries & postage			751		751	1,073
Recruitment, training & volunteer expenses			250		250	53
Stationery & print / copies			1,073		1,073	583
Telephone / Internet			4,114		4,114	2,828
Bank charges			122		122	131
			6,861		6,861	4,899
Total resources exc Major Wks			87,340		87,340	82,495
Major Work (GC car park doors)						6,320
Total resources expended			87,340		87,340	88,815
Movement in fund for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	(719)	75,503	(87,340)	12,300	(256)	(719)

### 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	12,300		12,300	Church contribution to Grove Centre costs	Monthly to 31/03/24
Total transfers in / out	12,300		12,300		



	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>11.6 Friendship Group (Monday)</b>						
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		917			917	1,039
Total incoming resources		917			917	1,039
Sundries & refreshments			269		269	324
Donation to Building Fund				5	5	200
Donation to GC Church				100	100	100
Other donations (Leukaemia UK, Mercy Ships, St. Mungos, Leprosy Mission, Action for Children, Dementia cafe)			590		590	400
Total resources expended			859	105	964	1024
Movement to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	399	917	(859)	(105)	352	399

<b>11.7 Organ Fund (Designated)</b>						
The Organ Fund (Designated) is money originally set aside by the church for the replacement of the organ. The final balance was transferred into the Building Fund (Designated) at 31 March 2024.						
Investment income		16			16	10
Total incoming resources		16			16	10
Transfer to Building Fund (Designated)				651		
Movement to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	635	16		(651)		635

<b>11.8 Youth Project</b>						
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. £10,000 was transferred into the Building Fund (Designated) at 31 March 2024.						
Donations to Youth Fund		60			60	60
Interest on investments		222			222	227
Total incoming resources		282			282	287
Transfer to Building Fund (Designated)				10,000		
Movement to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	15,137	282		(10,000)	5,419	15,137

## 12. Unrestricted Funds

<b>12.1 Movement in Unrestricted Funds during year</b>						
	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Gains and Losses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church General Fund	92,543	68,626	52,499		(52,200)	56,470
Movement in funds for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	92,543	68,626	(52,499)		(52,200)	56,470

<b>12.2 Assets in Unrestricted Funds</b>						
	Tangible Fixed Assets	Creditors Due within 12 months	Net Current Assets		Bank / cash	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
			Gift Aid Receivable	Investments (short term)		
Church General Fund	1,715		12,598		42,157	56,470
C/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	1,715		12,598		42,157	56,470

### 12.3 Movement in Unrestricted Funds (prior year)

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

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£

### 12.4 Church General Fund

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

#### 12.4.1 Church Income

Standing order giving	41,847		41,847	40,800
Envelope scheme	5,848		5,848	4,625
Church collections	1,272		1,272	970
Sundry Donations	2,135	100	2,235	910
Tax refunds under Gift Aid	12,918		12,918	11,859
Grants received	4,000		4,000	250
Investment income	606		606	796
Total incoming resources	68,626	100	68,726	60,210

#### 12.4.2 Church Expenditure

##### 12.4.2a Ministry Expenses

Stipend	30,840		30,840	28,938
Employers pension contrib.	3,821		3,821	4,952
Ministry expenses	229		229	167
Training and events	819		819	1,253
Travel costs	315		315	280
Visiting preachers	300		300	440
	36,324		36,324	36,030

##### 12.4.2b Manse Expenses

Manse works & maintenance	799		799	1,441
Manse council and water	3,107		3,107	2,910
Manse telephone / internet	897		897	819
Manse building insurance	909		909	810
	5,712		5,712	5,980

##### 12.4.2c Church Activities

Worship expenses	7		7	78
Junior church	13		13	96
Licences	587		587	557
Church sundries & posters	961		961	872
Platinum Jubilee celebration				353
Equipment and maintenance	834		834	275
Minor works – new carpet	1,484		1,484	
Depreciation of assets	728		728	1,048
Legal advice & fees				3,168
	4,614		4,614	6,447

##### 12.4.2d Church Grants payable

URC Ministry & Mission	2,609		2,609	3,926
Baptist Ministry & Mission	2,810		2,810	3,926
Baptist Northern College	150		150	150
Other grants and donations	280		280	170
	5,849		5,849	8,172

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Prior Year 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church contributions to Centre				12,300	12,300	6,000
Transfer to Building Fund				40,000	40,000	51,384
Total resources expended			52,499	52,300	104,799	114,013
Movement in fund for year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	92,543	68,626	(52,499)	(52,200)	56,470	92,543

## 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 (Designated)		12,300	(12,300)	Church contribution to Grove Centre costs	Monthly to 31/03/24
Building Fund (Designated)		40,000	(40,000)	Nationwide balance transfer into Building Funds	27/11/23
Friendship Group (Monday)	100		100	Donation to Church	03/12/23
Total transfers in / out	100	52,300	(52,200)		

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

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stipend & Salaries	30,840	41,359			72,199	68,277
Employer's national insurance						
Employer's pension contribution	3,821	1,253			5,074	5,869
Manse costs	5,712				5,712	5,980
Total	40,373	42,612			82,985	80,126

Average number of employees during year 4 (3.2 FTE) 5 (3.3 FTE)

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2023 none)

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

Aggregate donations received from Trustees during year: 78,816 62,435

No sums were reimbursed to the Trustees for their work as Trustees (2023 none).

No sums were reimbursed to Saleemi Associates for their work as independent examiners (2023 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 £3,809 (Prior year £3,558).

### 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 commenced in 2023 to reflect the position as at 31 December 2022

The total pension cost for the Church for DB Plan deficiency contributions is £12 (Prior year £1,393).

### 15.3 Recovery Plan

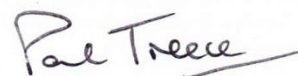
In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan. Following the 2019 valuation a Recovery Plan was signed 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.



## Treasurer's Statement

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 27 to 43 for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.



Mr Paul Treece, Church Treasurer

10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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

### Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Grove Centre Church (Charity No. 1129070) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 set out on pages 27 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

792 Wickham Road

Croydon

Surrey

CR0 8EA

Tel: 0208 777 3055

Date : 28 June 2024



