

GRACE CHURCH MILTON KEYNES

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

Charity number: 1156871

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The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the church for the period ended 31st March 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name:	Grace Church Milton Keynes
Charity registration number:	1156871
Principal office:	The Gateway 85-101 Sankey Street Cheshire Warrington WA1 1SR
Governing Documents	CIO Foundation Registered 01 May 2014
Trustees:	Sneha Alex James Alastair Davies (Chair) Timothy John Gannon Leisl Hunter Jonathan Mark Kempster David Leslie Wyatt
Independent Examiner:	Mervyn Thomas 128 Putnoe Lane Bedford, MK41 8LS
Principal Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd.
Solicitors:	Roger Snowden

CHARITY STATUS

The Church is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered in 2014 becoming operational in 2015 with funds transferred from the previously registered trust.

AIMS AND PURPOSE

The CIO is established to:

- Advance the Christian Faith, the preaching and proclamation of the Christian gospel and the teaching of Christian doctrine and principles and the pastoral care of Christian people.
- Relieve people who are in conditions of need, financial hardship or who are aged or sick.
- Advance education, both general and vocational, but always on the basis of Christian principles. The Church's policy remains that of pursuing those objectives in an unrestricted manner.

As a church we are seeking to live our lives the way God intended. Simply put, our vision is to:

Love God, Love People and Love Life.

Grace Church operates primarily but not exclusively in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire and employs two full-time pastors and one part-time Administrator. The staff are supported by the Trustees (in their capacity as church leaders) and many volunteers who carry out pastoral work, communication of the gospel, work with children and young people, the elderly, those in need, finance, administration and other related activities. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The number of people attending Sunday services has grown steadily throughout this year and we have been able to maintain a balanced offering of services and support to our members and to the wider community in Milton Keynes. We have continued to provide an online video stream of services to serve those who are unable to attend in person.

The Trustees and the Eldership team are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at Grace Church and to benefit from all its ministries and activities provided by the church. When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees and Eldership team have taken on board the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the guidance given on charities for the advancement of religion.

The church continues to be part of a family of churches, New Frontiers, and a specific 'sphere' known as 'Catalyst' to ensure best practice is followed in all areas of church life. We have maintained our links with 'Woodside Church' in Bedford for friendship, input and accountability.

There were no serious incidents to report in this reporting period. A few events to note from the year are given below.

March 2024

A recruitment process to hire an assistant pastor began.

April 2024

One of our trustees, Donna Kapaya, resigned after a term of 5 years. The trustees noted their gratitude for her excellent and diligent service.

May 2024

We offered an online version of the free Alpha Course

August 2024

The church's youth attended the annual New Day event for teenagers

September 2024

We appointed an assistant pastor, Josh Luke, who was an external appointment.

October 2024

The church held a baptism service, celebrating declarations of faith in Jesus.

November 2024

A new trustee, Sneha Alex, joined the trustee team.

We launched a new 8 week 'Grace Course' – a new discipleship course to help people experience freedom and fruitfulness in Christ.

December 2024

From December 2024 to March 2025, we continued our Warm Place provision from the previous year, hiring a local community hall in the Fishermead Estate in Milton Keynes to provide a weekly 'Warm Place'. This service was open to anyone in the community who would benefit from a simple warm meal in a heated venue and the chance to meet and get to know others. Numbers of people attending varied each week from approximately 15 to 25 people.

January 2025

We ran an in-person Alpha Course for anyone interested in exploring the meaning of life from a Christian perspective.

We continued to give financial support to local charities such as MK Money Lifeline and Winter Night Shelter.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income generation

The church's total income for the year was £195,766 (2024: £172,757) which was generated through the voluntary giving of church members.

Expenditures

Total expenditures were £160,072 (2024: £124,965).

Funds

Overall funds are £257,934 (2024: £222,240).

Reserves policy

The church holds unrestricted and restricted funds. Transfers are made from unrestricted to restricted funds in order to prevent restricted funds from going into deficit. Our overall policy for unrestricted funds is only to increase reserves above a minimum threshold necessary to operate the organisation (not more than 3 months expenditure) or where specific projects are being planned for subsequent years.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the trust and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements conform to the charities SORP. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

James Davies as Chair on behalf of the Trustees

12/1/26

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GRACE CHURCH

on the accounts for the year to 31st March 2025 as set out on pages 7–13 in this document

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Independent examiner's statement

It is my responsibility to:

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

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- 1) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Mervyn Thomas
128 Putnoe Lane
Bedford MK41 8LS

Dated: 12/1/26

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the accounting period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund	Designated Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
Voluntary income		180,782	6,970	-	187,752	168,492
Government Grants		5,000	-	-	5,000	3,930
Charitable activities		3,014	-	-	3,014	335
Total Incoming Resources	3	188,796	6,970	-	195,766	172,757
Resources Expended						
Raising funds		930	-	-	930	896
Charitable activities		153,277	5,865	-	159,142	124,069
Total Charitable Resources Expended	4	154,207	5,865	-	160,072	124,965
Net income/(expenditure)		34,589	1,105	-	35,694	47,792
Transfers between funds			-		-	-
Net movement in funds		34,589	1,105	-	35,694	47,792
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		68,785	7,455	145,000	222,240	174,448
Total funds carried forward		103,374	8,560	145,000	257,934	222,240

BALANCE SHEET

At 31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Current assets						
Prepayments and Debtors	5	35,526	-	-	35,526	51,499
Cash at bank and in hand		72,222	8,560	145,000	225,782	174,758
Total current assets		107,748	8,560	145,000	261,308	226,257
Short Term Liabilities		(3,374)	-	-	(3,374)	(4,017)
Total assets less liabilities		104,374	8,560	145,000	257,934	222,240
Charity Funds						
	6					
Unrestricted funds		104,374			104,374	69,785
Restricted Funds			8,560		8,560	7,455
Designated Fund				145,000	145,000	145,000
Total funds		104,374	8,560	145,000	257,934	222,240

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

James Davies as Chair on behalf of the trustees

Dated: 12 January 2026

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Charity is a going concern. Income generation through members' donations is maintaining adequate reserves and restrictive funds are adequate.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period.

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

2.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the church. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Transfers are made from unrestricted to restricted funds as necessary to prevent restricted funds from going into deficit. Transfers are made from unrestricted to designated funds in accordance with the Churches strategy and reserves policy.

2.3 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the church becomes entitled to the income and it is more likely than not that it will receive the resources and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the SoFA when receivable. Grants are included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria above are met and in the case of performance-related grants income is recognized to the extent that the specified goods or services have been provided. Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the church where this can be measured reliably. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts. Investment income is included when received.

2.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognized on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be recovered, which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the church (as a charitable company) and include the audit fees and costs linked to the church's legal constitution.

2.5 Pension costs

Employees of the church are entitled to join a defined contribution pension scheme. The church contribution is limited to the contributions disclosed in note 3.

2.6 Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

2.7 Fixed assets

Expenditures for equipment whose cost is greater than £5,000 are capitalised and depreciated over the life of the asset. This is 25% for electronic equipment.

2.8 Creditors

Creditors (including accruals) are recognized when due at the balance sheet date.

3. ANALYSIS OF INCOME - for the current reporting period.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income				
Donations	151,222	6,243	157,465	136,633
Gift Aid	29,560	727	30,287	31,859
Total Voluntary Income	180,782	6,970	187,752	168,492
Activities for generating funds				
HMRC Employment Allowance	5,000	-	5,000	3,930
Total Activities for generating Funds	5,000	-	5,000	3,930
Charitable Activities				
Interest	3,014	-	3,014	335
Grand Total Incoming Resources	188,796	6,970	195,766	172,757

4 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
Expenditure on raising funds	£	£	£	£
Website and Publicity	930	-	930	896
Total expenditure on raising funds	930	-	930	896
Expenditure on Charitable Activities				
Employee Salaries	66,916	-	66,916	42,180
Employer's National Insurance	6,725	-	6,725	3,929
Sabbatical Expenses	3,876	-	3,876	
Pension Contributions	9,746	-	9,746	6,805
Recruitment Cost	3,136	-	3,136	
Visiting Speakers	450	-	450	574
Training and Discipleship	4,967	-	4,967	5,236
Total Staff Costs	95,816	-	95,816	58,724
Venue Hire	14,880	-	14,880	15,650
Cost of running meetings	5,311	-	5,311	3,629
Administration and Office	8,175	-	8,175	12,853
Total Establishment Costs	28,366	-	28,366	32,132
Children	339	-	339	525
Youth	2,333	-	2,333	6,781
Evangelism	1,668	-	1,668	1,453
Pastoral	108	-	108	107
Expenses and Support	537	-	537	2,277
Hardship Support	(6)	1,685	1,679	2,667
Remember the Poor	-	-	-	438
Total Ministry Costs	4,979	1,685	6,664	14,248
Debt Advice	9,999		9,999	9,999
To other charities	14,117	4,180	18,297	8,966
Total Donations Out	24,116	4,180	28,296	18,965
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	154,207	5,865	160,072	124,965

4.1 Staff

The number of paid employees is 3 (previous year 2)

4.2 Trustees Disclosures

Trustees are appointed as set out in the governing document and are not remunerated. One trustee, Mr T Gannon, receives remuneration as Pastor of the Church including pension. His salary is set by a remuneration committee composed of unremunerated trustees.

No other trustee or persons related to trustees are employed. No trustee has received expenses in connection with trustee-related matters.

5 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	4,362	5,649
HMRC Debtors	31,163	45,850
Totals	35,525	51,499

6 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accrual For Independent Examination	250	250
Short term creditors and accruals	3,124	3,767
Totals	3,374	51,499

7. CHARITY FUNDS

Details of All Funds with movements during the reporting period 2024-2025

	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward
Unrestricted General Fund	69,795	188,796	(154,207)	-	104,384
Restricted Funds					
Hardship Fund	3,706	1,351	(250)	-	4,807
Homeless	800			-	800
Remember the poor	828				828
Warm Room	1,979	1,166	(1,435)	-	1,710
Other Charities	132	223		-	355
Christmas Offering	-	4,180	(4,180)	-	-
Overseas	-	50		-	50
Total Restricted Funds	7,445	6,970	(5,865)	-	8,550
Designated Building Fund	145,000	-	-	-	145,000
Total Funds	222,240	195,766	(160,072)	-	257,934